

DWIGHT K. LEWIS JR.

Emory University

James Weldon Johnson Institute

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Mellon Fellow at *The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference in Philosophy*, 2018 – present
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Adjunct and Graduate Assistant in Philosophy, 2017 – present
Fellow in Philosophy, 2015 – 2018
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

EDUCATION

Doctoral Candidate in Philosophy [ABD], April 2017 - present
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Dissertation Title:

Anton Wilhelm Amo's Philosophy and Reception: From the Origins through the Encyclopédie

Major Professor: Roger Ariew

Committee: Douglas Jesseph, Alex Levine, Justin EH Smith, Colin Heydt

Dissertation Summary: Diversity and the concept of race are, or should be, central concerns both for the history of philosophy and for our current political reality. In my research, I relate Anton Wilhelm Amo (c. 1700 – c. 1750), Europe's first African Ph.D. in philosophy (c. 1734), to philosophy through Descartes and religion through Pietism, Orthodox Lutheranism, and the *Aufklärer* together with the treatment of human difference in the work of Robert Boyle, Leo Africanus, Diderot and their contemporaries. My project aids in addressing (1) the lack of diversity in the philosophical canon and (2) the insufficient historical analysis of various designations of human difference.

Defense Date: 25 March 2019

M.A. in Philosophy, May 2017

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

B.A. in Liberal Arts focused in Religion, May 2010

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

Spiritual Thought Certificate, May 2010 [24 hrs]

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Early Modern History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Anton Wilhelm Amo, Africana Philosophy (which includes African and African/Black American)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Women Philosophers in the Early Modern Period, Theology, Religion, Ethics, Negritude, History of Philosophy, History of Philosophy of Science, Underrepresented Philosophers

PUBLICATIONS

“Anton Wilhelm Amo”, *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*, Springer 2021 – editors Dana Jalobeanu and Charles T. Wolfe (in revision)

“Anton Wilhelm Amo: the African Philosopher in 18th Century Europe”, *The Lantern*, University of West Georgia’s Philosophy Newsletter (Forthcoming)

“Racial Evolution *via* The Royal Society”, Brill Edition – Edit Volume *I Think, Therefore I Teach: Evolutions in Early Modern Education* (Forthcoming)

“Anton Wilhelm Amo: the African Philosopher in 18th Century Germany” APA Blog Post (Winter 2017-8) <https://blog.apaonline.org/2018/02/08/anton-wilhelm-amo-the-african-philosopher-in-18th-europe/>

“Race in Early Modern Philosophy” a Book Review of Justin EH Smith *Nature, Human Nature, and Human Difference*, *Society and Politics* (Fall 2016)
<http://socpol.uvvg.ro/docs/2016-1/6.pdf>

“Advice for Philosophy Undergrads from Underrepresented Groups”, *American Philosophical Association* (Fall 2015)
http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.apaonline.org/resource/resmgr/diversity/Advice_for_Undergrads.pdf

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

“MLK and His Lockean Foundations”

“Power, Society and Racism Intersected”

“From Lost to Found: Amo's *De Iure Maurorum in Europa*”

“Racial Implications of Amo’s Dualism”

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS/

Title TBD, *The First International Conference on Women of Modern Philosophy*, Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 2019)

“Women’s Autonomy in Jacqueline Pascal”, *17th and 18th Century Philosophy*, APA Pacific, Vancouver, British Columbia (April 2019)

Title TBD, *Furman University*, Greenville, South Carolina (March 2019)

Title TBD, *University of Texas*, San Antonio, Texas (March 2019)

“The Importance of Early Modern Philosophy to MLK’s Thought”, *Early Modern Women and Dr. Martin Luther King*, APA Central, Denver, Colorado (February 2019) – Session Chair and Presenter Dwight Lewis and Organizer Jill Hernandez

Title TBD, *University of Ghana*, Accra, Ghana (November 2018)

“From Lost to Found: Amo's *De Iure Maurorum in Europa*”, *Anton Wilhelm Amo: an African philosopher in Early Modern Europe*, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle, Germany (October 2018) – Co-organized w/ Falk Wunderlich

“Don't Waste A Free Education”, *BelieveInMe Foundation Inc. Football and Education Community awareness Camp*, Nathaniel Traz Powell Stadium, Miami, Florida (June 2018) – could not attend.

“Confrontation in/about/of/for Women in Early Modern Philosophy”, *Attending to Women 2018*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee (June 2018)

“Recreating the Canon: Anton Wilhelm Amo”, *University of Western Ontario*, London, Ontario (April 2018)

“Power, Society and Racism Intersected”, *Martin Luther King Commemorative Week*, University of South Florida, Tampa (January 2018)

“Doctoral Student Panel”, *Office of Graduate Studies*, University of South Florida, Tampa (August 2017)

“Opinion or Informed Position? The Elements of a Sound Academic Argument” w/ Dr. Vernetta Williams, *Office of Graduate Studies*, University of South Florida, Tampa (April 2017)

“Amo and Causation”, *Southeast Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of South Florida, Tampa (March 2017)

“The Identity and Philosophy of Anton Wilhelm Amo: *the African Philosopher in 18th Century Germany*”, *Morehouse College*, Atlanta, GA (October 2016)

“Amo's Reading of Descartes' Correspondence”, *Descartes on Shaky Ground Workshop*, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (October 2016)

“Diversity in the Academia” Panel Participant w/ Dr. Christine Grant, *13th Annual USF System Diversity Summit*, Tampa, FL (March 2016)

EARLY MODERN

“Autonomy in Jacqueline Pascal”, *APA Pacific*, Vancouver, British Columbia (April 2019)

“*Intensive Semnar in Teaching New Narratives in the History of Philosophy*”, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia (June 2018) – FUNDED BY SEMINAR: [This seminar met to create a new early modern anthology by Broadview Press.](#)

“Anton Wilhelm Amo: His Narrative and Cartesian Diss[ertation]”, *Inclusive Philosophies*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana (April 2018) – Accepted did not attend because of university funding.

“Early Modern Authority: Jacqueline Pascal on the Preservation of Women's Autonomy” w/ Dr. Daniel Collette, *Women in Early Modern Philosophy*, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (October 2017)

“Anton Wilhelm Amo – His Narrative and Philosophy”, *Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia (August 2017) – Accepted did not attend because of university funding.

“Anton Wilhelm Amo – The Philosopher, The African, The Unnoticed”, *Minorities and Philosophy @ Florida State University*, Florida State University, Tallahassee (March 2017)

“Amo’s Critique of Descartes”, *Halle Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle, Germany (November 2016)

RACE AND JUSTICE

“Robert Boyle’s Rejection of Human Difference”, *Scientiae 2018: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World*, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (May 2018) – Accepted did not attend because of university funding.

“Cartesian Influence on Biological Racism”, *Natures and Spaces of Enlightenment*, Griffith University & University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (December 2017) – Accepted did not attend because of university funding.

“Racial Evolution *via* The Royal Society”, *I Think, Therefore I Teach: Evolutions in Early Modern Education*, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (October 2017)

“Introduction to Minorities and Philosophy”, *University of South Florida Graduate Conference*, Tampa, FL (March 2015)

RELIGION

“Feminist & Womanist Perspectives on Reformed Dogmatics”, *Reformed Theological Seminary - Reformed Blacks of America*, Orlando, FL (August 2011)

“A Critical Review of James Cones’ Liberation Theology”, *Reformed Theological Seminary - Reformed Blacks of America*, Orlando, FL (August 2010)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Anton Wilhelm Amo: an African philosopher in Early Modern Europe, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle, Germany (October 2018) – Co-organized w/ Falk Wunderlich [Funded by: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [DFG], Prorektorat für Forschung und wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchs at the IZEA, and Dekanat der Philosophischen Fakultät I]

https://www.phil.uni-halle.de/lehrende/falk_wunderlich/amo2018/

Southeast Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of South Florida, Tampa (March 2017)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Emory University Visiting Fellowship in The James Weldon Johnson Institute, 2018 – 2019

USF Travel Grant [\$750 Stipend], Spring 2019

Minorities and Philosophy Grant, Fall 2018

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [DFG], Fall 2018

USF International Travel Grant [\$1,375 Stipend], Fall 2018

USF’s Student Diversity Award, Spring 2018 – only recipient of 50,000+ students

USF Travel Grant [\$500 Stipend], Summer 2018

USF Travel Grant [\$1,500 Stipend], Fall 2017

USF Travel Grant [\$750 Stipend], Fall 2016

USF GSS Fellowship [Tuition & \$12,000 yearly Stipend], 2015 - 2018

USF Rod Hale Scholar [Tuition & \$2,000 Stipend], Summer 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Philosophy Department, Summer 2017 – present

Course: Undergraduate – Science and Society (Summer 2017); Intro to Philosophy:
Early Modern Focused (Summer 2018); Intro to Philosophy (Spring 2019 online)
Philosophy Department, Fall 2015
Course: Graduate – Advanced Logic [Taught while professor, Dr. Eric Winsberg,
was out of the country.]

Valencia College, Orlando, FL
Humanities and Philosophy Department, Fall 2017 – present
Courses: Intro to Philosophy (Fall 2017, 4 courses); (Spring 2018, 3 courses);
(Summer 2018, 2 courses); Intro to Ethics (Summer 2018)

Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL
Philosophy Department, Summer 2017
Courses: Intro to Philosophy

Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers, FL
Philosophy Department Preceptor, Spring 2016 – present
Courses: Intro to Philosophy (7+ courses)

Hillsborough County Substitute, Hillsborough County, FL
K-12, Fall 2014 – Spring 2017
Courses Taught:
Certified for all Courses

The Master's Academy, Oviedo, FL
Religious Studies Teacher, Summer 2011 – Spring 2014
Courses Taught:
Doctrines of the Christian Religions
Survey of the Old Testament
Survey of the New Testament

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Journal Reviewer – Undisclosed (2018 – present)
Run Trek Mind Student Organization
Founding Faculty Advisor at USF (2018 – present)
USF Tampa Strategic Planning Team, 2018-2023
INVITED Associate (2017-2018) **only graduate student*
USF Philosophy Graduate Student Organization
President (2016 – 2017)
Secretary (2015 – 2016)
Minorities and Philosophy
Chapter Founder at University of South Florida (2014)
President (2014 – Present)
National Organization Mentor (2014)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
Florida Philosophical Association
The Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory

USF Philosophy Graduate Student Organization
Minorities and Philosophy
Black Graduate & Professional Student Association
The Intersection of Gender, Race, and Sexuality
The Australian and New Zealand Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Hillsborough Young Black Progressives, Inc.
Society for the Study of Early Modern Women

ACADEMIC RESEARCH – RACE

Philosophy of Race – Emory University, Atlanta, GA (Spring 2018) – taught by George Yancy

Black Feminism Research Group - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2017 – present)

Latino Feminism Research Group – University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2016 – Fall 2017)

Thirty-Second Annual McKnight Fellows Meeting – Tampa, FL (Winter 2016) – INVITED AS GUEST

Race and Racialisation: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives – Université de Genève, Genève (Fall 2016)

Race in 20th Century America (9 hours - Directed Study) - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2015)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH – EARLY MODERN

18th Century Germany Philosophy – Western University (Skype: Spring Seminar 2019)

Anton Wilhelm Amo: an African philosopher in Early Modern Europe – Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle, Germany (October 2018)

Early Modern Logic Research Group - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2018)

Kant Research Group – University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Fall 2015 – Spring 16)

Leibniz Society of North America - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Fall 2014)

Learned Philosophy and Séminaire Descartes - École normale supérieure, Paris, and the Université de Paris IV, Sorbonne (Winter 2015)

Early Modern Circle - University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2014 – Spring 2018)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH – TEACHING

Online Teaching Workshop – University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Spring 2018)

LANGUAGES

Latin (reading intermediate; grammar strong), French (reading intermediate), German (reading fair)

REFERENCES

Dr. Roger Ariew, University of South Florida – *Distinguished University Professor*
Contact Information: rariew@usf.edu

Dr. Justin EH Smith, Université Paris 7 Diderot – *Full University Professor & Dept. Director*
Contact Information: jehsmith@gmail.com

Dr. Jill Graper Hernandez, University of Texas – *Associate Professor*
Contact Information: jill.hernandez@utsa.edu

Dr. Alex Levine, University of South Florida – *Full University Professor & Dept. Chair*
Contact Information: levineat@usf.edu

Dr. Doug Jesseph, University of South Florida – *Full University Professor*
Contact Information: djesseph@usf.edu

Dr. Tom Schwanda, Wheaton College – *Associate Professor*
Contact Information: tom.schwanda@wheaton.edu