

MAXIMILIANA JEWETT RIFKIN

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Department of Philosophy, City University
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EDUCATION

PhD	CUNY Graduate Center, Philosophy	Exp. May 2026
PhM	CUNY Graduate Center, Philosophy	February 2025
MA	Georgia State University, Philosophy	May 2022
BA	University of Rochester, Philosophy	May 2020
AS	Monroe Community College, Psychology	May 2018

RESEARCH AREAS

AOS: Philosophy of biology, philosophy of neuroscience, philosophy of gender

AOC: Philosophy of science, social and political philosophy

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Rifkin, M. J., & Garson, J. (2023). Sex by design: a new account of the animal sexes. *Biology and Philosophy*, 38, (2):1-17.

Rifkin, M. J., & Schecter, E. (2025). Gender Identity, Self-Deception, and Respect. Forthcoming in *Ethics*.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Garson, J., and Rifkin, M. J. (2023). Is a person's sex socially constructed? And what would that even mean? *Psychology Today*. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-biology-of-human-nature/202302/is-a-persons-sex-a-social-construct>

Rifkin, M. J. (2025). The Trans Spectre. In Willow Starr's Eds., *Being Trans in Philosophy*, 1, (1): 31-32

ACADEMIC PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Rifkin, M. J., & Bluhm, R. (Unpublished manuscript). Structural Scientific Malpractice: The Case of Sex as a Biological Variable. Under revision for *Biology and Philosophy*.

Rifkin, M. J. (Unpublished manuscript). The Cognitive Science of Gender Identity is Unstable. Under review at *Synthese*.

Rifkin, M. J. (Unpublished manuscript). Trans Genocide. Under review at *Hypatia*.

PRESENTATIONS

‘The Cognitive Science of Gender Identity is Unstable’, presented at:

The Georgia Philosophical Society Conference on Contemporary Problems, March 2021, Virtual Meeting.

The 113th Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, April 2022, Mobile AL.

The University of Rochester, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, July 2022.
The joint meeting of the European and American Societies for Philosophy and Psychology, July 2022, Milan, Spain, virtual presentation.

The Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Working Group’s ‘Philosophy and Neuroscience in the Gulf V’, September 2022, Pensacola FL.

‘Explicating Scientific Notions of Gender Identity’, presented at:

The group Session of the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2023, San Francisco CA.

Yale University, Applied Philosophy in Neuroscience (APHINE), June 2023, New Haven CT.

The Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Working Group’s ‘Philosophy and Neuroscience in the Gulf VI’, September 2023, Pensacola FL.

‘What Counts as Ideological Domination?’, presented at:

The Georgia Philosophical Society Conference on Rights, Obligations, and Freedom, December 2021, Virtual Meeting.

‘Trans Genocide’, presented at:

The Canadian Society for Trans Philosophy and the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy’s conference on Trans/feminist Philosophy: Pasts, Presents, and Futures, August 2024, Virtual Presentation.

‘Sex Pluralism’, presented at:

The International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Porto, Portugal, July 2025.

Commentary on Michael Sechman’s ‘Implicit Attitudes: States, not traits?’, presented at:

The Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2023, San Francisco CA.

Commentary on Rowan Bell's 'Playful Resistance: Gender Norms as Games', presented at:

The Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 2025, New York City, NY.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Ralf F. Munster Fellowship for Excellence in Research

Spring 2022

Awarded to a single member of the graduating cohort of the philosophy master's program at Georgia State University based on excellence in philosophical research.

GRANTS

Commission on Women and Gender in History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Grant

Spring 2025

Awarded to support research relevant to the commission.

International Society for the History, Psychology, and Social Studies of Biology Grant

Spring 2025

Awarded to defray the cost of attending the ISHPSSB conference.

CUNY Doctoral Student Research Grant

Spring 2025

Awarded by the CUNY Graduate Center to support research.

Kent State Brain Health Research Institute Grant

Spring 2023, 2024

Awarded to further study of approaches to sex and gender in neuroscience.

CUNY Graduate Student Travel Stipend

Fall 2022, Spring 2025

Awarded to CUNY graduate students admitted to professional conferences to defray the cost of attendance.

**Ralf F. Munster Graduate Student
Travel Stipend**

Spring 2021, 2022

Awarded to graduate students admitted to professional conferences to defray the cost of attendance.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Institution	Role	Course	Tasks	Date
City College of New York	Instructor	PHIL 34905 Biomedical Ethics	Lecture, grading, office hours	Spring 2025- Fall 2025
City College of New York	Instructor	PHL 101 Introductory Philosophy	Lecture, grading, office hours	Fall 2023 to Fall 2024, Fall 2025
Georgia State University	Instructor	PHIL 1010 Critical Thinking	Lecture, grading, office hours	June 2021 to May 2022
Georgia State University	Supplemental Instruction Leader	PHIL 1010 Critical Thinking	Lecture	January 2021 to May 2021
Georgia State University	Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant	Introductory philosophy of science	Commented on drafts of student writing	August 2020 to December 2020

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Institution	Training	Dates
Georgia State University, Center for Teaching and Learning	Affective Learning: Mindset, Motivation, and Metacognition’.	October 29 th 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Organization	Dates
American Philosophical Association	2021-Present
Minorities and Philosophy	2021-2023
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology	2022-2024
Corrupt the Youth	2022-2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Organization	Locations and Dates	Services
Minorities and Philosophy	Georgia State University, 2021-2022	President
	CUNY Graduate Center, 2022-2023	Treasurer
Corrupt the Youth	CUNY Graduate Center, 2022-2023	Volunteer Instructor
The Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Working- Group	CUNY Graduate Center, 2022-Present	Organizer
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee	CUNY Graduate Center, Dept. of Philosophy, Fall 2025-Spring 2026	Officer
Philosophy of Science	Fall 2025	Reviewer
Biology and Philosophy	Fall 2025	Reviewer
Synthese	Fall 2025	Reviewer

REFERENCES

Dr. Justin Garson, Professor
Department of Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center,
365 5th Avenue New York, NY, 10016
Email: jgarson@hunter.cuny.edu

Dr. Muhammad Ali Khalidi, Presidential Professor
Department of Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center,
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Email: makhalidi@gc.cuny.edu

Dr. Talia Mae Bettcher, Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy, California State University, Los Angeles
Email: tbettch@exchange.calstatela.edu

Dr. Carl Craver, Professor of Philosophy and Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Psychology
Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis
Email: ccraver@wustl.edu

Dr. Asta, Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Duke University, Durham
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Dr. Willow Starr, Associate Professor of Philosophy,
Department of Philosophy, Cornell University
Email: w.starr@cornell.edu

