

ELENA COMAY DEL JUNCO

Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut
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Employment

Assistant Professor, Philosophy, University of Connecticut, affiliated with Race, Ethnicity and Politics
Graduate Certificate; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2020-present.
Post-doctoral fellow, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, 2019-20.

Areas of specialization

Ancient philosophy

Areas of competence

Islamic philosophy; philosophy of race; feminist philosophy; Early Modern philosophy

Languages

English, French, German (fluent); Ancient Greek, Latin, Classical Arabic (advanced reading and research); Spanish, Lebanese Arabic (intermediate), Italian (reading), Persian (beginner)

Education

Degrees

University of Chicago, PhD, Social Thought and Philosophy (Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy), 2020
University of Chicago, MA, Social Thought and Philosophy, 2017
McGill University, BA (Hons., First Class), Philosophy and German Studies, 2013

Other education

Qasid Institute, Amman, Jordan, Intensive Advanced Classical Arabic, 2022
American University of Beirut, Intensive Arabic, 2017, 2018
CUNY Latin and Greek Institute, Upper-Level Greek, 2015
Freie Universität Berlin, DAAD Exchange Studies, Philosophie und vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft, 2011-12

Academic Publications

Published articles

- “[Ibn Sina’s Commentary on Aristotle, *Metaphysics* Λ](#),” translation, introduction and notes, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2024.
- “[Just Kidding](#),” in *Psychoanalysis, Gender and Sexuality: From Feminism to Trans**, edited by Patricia Gherovici and Manya Steinkoler, Routledge, 2023. (Revised version of “Killing the joke” (under reviews and criticism).
- “[Aristotle on Comparison](#),” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 2022
- “[Foreground and Background](#)” in *C4E Journal* special issue on *Racial Inequality During a Pandemic: Philosophical and Historical Perspectives*, edited by Elena Comay del Junco 2020.
- “[Aristotle on Multiple Demonstration](#),” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2019.

“Four Types of Racism,” in *The Empire of Disgust: Prejudice, Stigma and Discrimination in the U.S. and India*, edited by Zoya Hasan, Aziz Huq, Martha C. Nussbaum and Vidhu Verma. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Translation of Jean Hyppolite’s “Language and being. Language and thought,” *Pli* 24 (2013) Original: “Langage et être. Langage et pensée,” *Figures de la pensée philosophique*, 1971.

Books in progress

The Ethics of Nature (under contract with Oxford University Press)

Articles in progress/under review

“Aristotle Goes to Egypt”

“Aristotle in Love”

“Can Animals Be Immoral?”

“Love in Ibn Sina”

“The mystical Avicenna and the rationalist Ibn Sina (and vice versa)”

Selected Non-Academic Publications

Poetry/literary

“[What Women Want](#)” *Pioneer Works Broadcast*, April 2024.

Second Nature, mo(o)n/IO, 2023. Chapbook. Excerpts published at [verse.press](#)

“[On being hysterical](#),” *3am Magazine*, July 2020.

Selected essays, reviews and criticism (for a full list see [ecdelj.com/selectedwriting](#))

“[Neither Sexy, Cool, Nor Smart](#),” *Post45*, June 2024.

“[Tickled Pink](#),” *Texte zur Kunst*, March 2023.

“[Living in the world: Peter Brooks on Balzac](#),” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, November 2021.

“[Who Needs a World View?](#)” *The Point*, February 2021.

“[Final Fantasy](#),” *The New Inquiry*, May 2020.

“[Freud: A Star is Born](#),” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, May 2020.

“[Hope and Shamelessness](#),” (with Gal Katz), *The Point*, May 2020.

“[Killing the Joke](#),” *The Point*, February 2020. Reprinted in *Psychoanalysis, Gender and Sexuality* (see above, academic publications)

“[Cool Women](#),” *The New Inquiry*, February 2020.

Presentations

Academic talks (*=refereed)

“Love in Ibn Sina,” Hopkins Seminar in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, December 2024.

“*Prior Analytics* II.22 as a theory of erotic love,” Emotions in the Aristotelian Tradition, Providence College, November 2024.

“Aristotle in Love,” New England Symposium in Ancient Philosophy, October 2024.

“Do you condemn?” APA Eastern, January 2024.

“Aristotle goes to Egypt,” Workshop on Ancient Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity, University of Chicago, June 2023.

- “Aristotle in Love,” Yale University, January 2023.
- * “*Eros* in Aristotle, *Metaphysics* Λ,” Sixteenth Annual Conference on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition, Marquette University, June 2022. (Missed due to illness)
 - * “Human and divine love in Ibn Sina,” Incubator Conference on Philosophy in the Islamic World, Princeton University, May 2022.
 - * “Non-ideal theory as ideology,” *The Concept of Utopia and its Function*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum/Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania (online), March 2022.
- “Aristotle and his others,” *The New England Symposium on Ancient Philosophy*, November 2021.
- * “Aristotle’s erotic theology” Rackham Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, University of Michigan, October 2020.
- “Fixation,” *Malcontents: A Convergence of Trans Scholars*, Concordia University, April 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID)
- “Aristotle on Comparison,” New York University, February 2020.
- “Aristotle on Comparison,” University of Connecticut, January 2020.
- * “Aristotle’s erotic theology,” *Conference on Eros in Ancient Philosophy*, Cambridge University, May 2019.
 - * “Ancient Lessons from Cicero on the norms of grief,” *International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying Biennial Conference*, Uppsala, Sweden, August 2018
 - * “Racial Trauma Care in the Twentieth Century,” with Corey Garibaldi, *Workshop on the Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideology*, University of Chicago, May 2018
- “The Varieties of Racism,” *Prejudice, Stigma, Discrimination*, University of Chicago in New Delhi, December 2016; *Practical Philosophy Workshop*, University of Chicago, November 2016
- Comments on Sarah Jansen, “Aristotle’s Celestial Teleology.” *39th Annual Ancient Philosophy Workshop*, Rice University, February 2016
- ** “Nature, craft and teleology in the *Politics*,” *Workshop on Teleology in Plato and Aristotle*, University of Dayton, April 2015
 - ** “Multiple demonstration in Aristotelian epistemology and Aristotelian science,” *38th Annual Ancient Philosophy Workshop*, University of Texas at Austin, February 2015

Selected literary readings

- Poetry Project* New Years Marathon, 50th Anniversary Edition. New York, January 2024.
- Woolsey Heights Series. Reading with Brandon Brown, Corina Copp, Rainer Diana Hamilton. Berkeley, CA. June 2023.
- Poetry reading in conversation with Tacita Dean, Brigitte Lacombe, Catherine Opie and Helen Molesworth. *The Brooklyn Rail* New Social Environment Series, online, April 2023.
- Reading with Kay Gabriel and Benedict Nguyen, Littlepuss Press, NY, December 2022. (Coverage in [The New York Times](#))
- Poetry reading with Rainer Diana Hamilton, Violet Spurlock, and Cat Fitzpatrick, Unnamable Books, NY, October 2022.
- Curator/host, *Poetics/Ethics: New Work in Queer Poetry* reading series, University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics, 2019-20.

Teaching

Graduate courses at the University of Connecticut

Love in Greek and Arabic Philosophy, graduate seminar, Fall 2023

PhD proseminar, Fall 2021; Fall 2024

Aristotle on Nature, graduate seminar, Spring 2021

Undergraduate courses at the University of Connecticut

Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Spring 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2023; Spring 2024

Early Modern Philosophy, Spring 2024

Feminist Theory, Spring 2022; Fall 2022

Philosophy and Social Ethics, Spring 2021; Fall 2021; Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2024

Courses at other institutions

Contemporary Moral Problems, University of Toronto, Winter 2020

Philosophy of Race, University of Toronto, Fall 2019

Classics of Social and Political Thought, (Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Rousseau, Cugoano, Wollstonecraft),
University of Chicago, Winter 2017

As course intern and TA at University of Chicago

TA for Jonathan Lear, *Philosophy and Psychoanalysis*, W 2018

TA for Ben Callard, *History of Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy* (Augustine, Aquinas, Anselm, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume), Winter 2016 and 2018

Course intern for Chiara Cordelli, *Classics of Political Thought III* (Tocqueville, Mill, Marx, DuBois, Arendt), Spring 2016

Course intern for Jared Holley, *Classics of Political Thought II* (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau), Winter 2016

Course intern for Lisa Wedeen, *Classics of Political Thought I* (Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas Machiavelli),
Fall 2015 (taught five classes)

TA for Gabriel Richardson Lear, *History of Ancient Philosophy* (Plato and Aristotle), Fall 2015

Other teaching

German Language Tutor, McGill University, 2012-13.

Awards and prizes

Balzan Junior Scholar Award, 12,000 USD, 2024-5

CLAS Summer Research Funding, University of Connecticut, 12,327 USD, 2022

Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship, 29,000 USD, 2018-19

John U. Nef Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago. 26,000 USD, 2018-19 (declined)

John U. Nef Fellowship for Summer Language Study, University of Chicago. 7,000-11,000 USD, 2015,
2017, 2018

Social Sciences Five-Year Fellowship. University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division. 25,000 USD,
2013-2018.

Angela C. Kramer Memorial Award (awarded to best graduating student in German Studies). McGill University, Faculty of Arts. 1,500 CAD, 2015
Undergraduate Scholarship, DAAD (Deutscher akademischer Austausch Dienst). For study at the FU Berlin. 6,500 EUR, 2011-12
Arts Internship Undergraduate Research Award, McGill University, Faculty of Arts. For work with Prof. Andrew Piper. 4,000 CAD, 2011
A.S. Hill Entrance Scholarship, McGill University, Faculty of Arts. 3,000 CAD, 2009-10

Academic service

At University of Connecticut

Curriculum and Courses committee, College of Liberal Arts and Science, 2022-present
Grade Appeals committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2022-present
Philosophy Department Brown Bag coordinator (internal weekly speaker series), 2021-present
Search committee member, Applied Ethics search, 2023
Colloquium committee, Philosophy Department, 2021-present
Graduate committee, Philosophy Department, 2021-present
Search committee member, senior hire in philosophy, 2021-22
Search committee member, Catalyzing Anti-racist and Diverse Futures hiring initiative, 2021
Graduate admissions committee, Philosophy Department, 2021

At other institutions

External examiner for the College of Letters, Wesleyan University, 2021.
Curator/host, *Poetics/Ethics: New Work in Queer Poetry* reading series, University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics, 2019-20
Graduate Student Representative, Early Modern Philosophy Search Committee (2016-17) and Islamic Philosophy Search Committee (2017-18), University of Chicago, Philosophy
Organizer, Workshop on *Reasoning and Inquiry in Ancient Philosophy*, University of Chicago, May 2016
Gender and Academia Working Group, University of Chicago, 2013-14

Other professional experience

Digital Humanities Fellow, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, 2013-14
Research Assistant, Prof. Andrew Piper, Department of German Studies, McGill University. 2011-13
Research Assistant, Prof. Karin Bauer, Department of German Studies, McGill University, 2011-2013
Gallery Assistant, YYY Artists Outlet. Toronto, ON, 2008-9

References

Martha C. Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, University of Chicago, martha_nussbaum@law.uchicago.edu

Gabriel Richardson Lear, Professor, Department of Philosophy and Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, grlear@uchicago.edu

Christopher Shields, UC Distinguished Professor, Henry E. Allison Endowed Chair in the History of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, cjshields@ucsd.edu

Marta Jiménez, Senior Research Scholar, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, martji24@ucm.es

Markus Dubber, Professor of Law and Criminology and Director, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, markus.dubber@utoronto.edu