Rachel Cicoria

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EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Doctor of Philosophy, Philosophy — Expected May 2027
Human, Social, and Cultural Interdisciplinary Studies Track

Dissertation Title: *Appearing in Political Space: Race and the Visibility of the Soul*
Committee Chair: Omar Rivera
Committee Members (Department of Philosophy): Theodore George, Kristi Sweet, Selin Islekel
Committee Members (Department of Global Languages & Cultures): Benjamin Davis

Dissertation Synopsis: In *Appearing in Political Space: Race and the Visibility of the Soul,* I adopt a phenomenological and feminist approach that draws from the history of European philosophy to argue that the corporeal appearance of the soul plays a central role in the visual organization of western social, political, and economic formations, especially in relation to assumed physiological and geoclimatic conditionings of practical reason. I also argue that the visibility of the soul, understood in its different modalities and historical transformations since Ancient Greece, has fundamental implications for understanding the 18th century co-emergence of modern determinations of race, gender, and liberal subjectivity. To do this, I analyze the influence of Aristotle's *Politics* on the 1550 just war debate between Bartolomé de las Casas and Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda; I assess the relationship between 18th century Spanish intellectual elites in New Spain and Immanuel Kant's views on race and human civilization; and, in conversation with Frantz Fanon and María Lugones, I develop a social phenomenology of racial visibility based on Kant's *Anthropology* and *Critique of Judgment*.

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL — May 2019
Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy
Minor in Medical Humanities
Summa Cum Laude

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization: Social & Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophies, 19th and 20th Century European Philosophy (esp. Phenomenology)
Areas of Competence: History of Western Philosophy (esp. early modern), Latin American Philosophy, Applied Ethics

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Remembering without Having Memorized: Technologies of Embodied Resistance," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, vol. 39, no. 3 (2025): 323–335. doi: https://doi.org/10.5325/jspecphil.39.3.0323.

"From 'Whither' to 'Whence': A Decolonial Reading of Malabou," *Philosophies*, vol. 8, no. 5 (2023): 93-111. https://doi.org/10.3390/philosophies8050093.

"The Ability System and Decolonial Resistance: The Case of the Victorian Invalid," *Journal of World Philosophies*, vol. 6, no. 2 (2021): 45-60. https://scholarworks.iu.edu/iupjournals/index.php/jwp/article/view/4916.

Revise and Resubmit

"The Mouths of Other Species: Merleau-Ponty, Viveiros de Castro, and a 'Multi-natural' Politics," *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*.

Under Review

"A Material Feminist Phenomenology of Sexual Subjectivity," *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology*.

Reference Entries

Anzaldúa, Gloria (1942–2004). In: de Warren, N., Toadvine, T. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Phenomenology*. (Springer, 2026), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-47253-5_426-1. Co-authored with Omar Rivera.

Book Reviews

"Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure," review of Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure, by Eli Clare, *The Journal of Philosophy of Disability*, vol. 2 (2022): 249-255. https://doi-org.srv-proxy2.library.tamu.edu/10.5840/jpd2022220.

Peer-Reviewed Creative Writing

"Eyes of Sea and Earth," *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*, Spring-Summer (2023). https://www.theintima.org/eyes-of-sea-and-earth-rachel-cicoria.

Blog Posts

"When Cure and Language are Inadequate, What Remains? Reflecting on Bearing Witness," Crossroads Blog, *Intima: Journal of Narrative Medicine*, November 17 (2023). https://www.theintima.org/blog/when-cure-and-language-are-inadequate-what-remains-reflecting-on-bearing-witness-by-rachel-ciccoria.

Work in Progress

"Plasticity, Phantoms, and the Limits of the Lived Body: Anzaldúa's Anti-Cartesianism and the Decolonization of Reality"
"Questioning Quijano's Anti-Cartesianism"

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

"Questioning Quijano's Anti-Cartesianism," Latinx Philosophy Conference, Texas A&M University, November 2026.

"From Practical Syllogism to Active Subjectivity: the early foundations of María Lugones' decolonial feminism," Maria Lugones Archive Symposium, University of Texas, Austin, October 2026.

"Aristotle's Barbarian, Las Casas's Convert, and the Birth of Race," Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Colloquium Series, Texas A&M University, November 2025.

"Plasticity, Phantoms, and the Limits of the Lived Body: Anzaldúa's Anti-Cartesianism and the Decolonization of Reality," *philo*SOPHIA 2025: Critical Borderlands, Texas A&M University, April 2025.

"Remembering Without Having Memorized: Technologies of Embodied Resistance," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Rochester NY, September 2024.

"Remembering Without Having Memorized: Technologies of Embodied Resistance," Limits of Living: Reading Life as Biotechnology, Texas A&M University, November 2023.

"Toward a Pluritopic Multiplicity of Normative Sexual Embodiments," Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, Texas A&M University, April 2023.

"Conscience, Silence, and Friendship: Heidegger's Being and Time on Authentic Being-With-Others," 12th Annual Canadian Hermeneutic Institute, June 2021.

"Gadamer, Nihilism, and Aesthetics," Continental Philosophy Reading Group, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, March 2021.

"Being-a-Friend: Heidegger's Being and Time on Authentic Being-With," Southeastern Association for the Continental Tradition, 1st Annual Meeting, February 2020.

Invited Talks

"Plasticity, Phantoms, and the Limits of the Lived Body: Anzaldúa's Anti-Cartesianism and the Decolonization of Reality," *philo*SOPHIA Society meeting in conjunction with The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, October 2025.

"Resistance Beyond Subjectivity: Rape, Solitude, and Reciprocity," The Ethics of Humanism: Human Rights, Cosmopolitanism, and Resistance, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, May 2022, https://ethics.utoronto.ca/events/workshop-the-ethics-of-humanism-human-rights-cosmopolitanism-and-resistance/.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Graduate Residential Fellowship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, TAMU — Fall 2025
- Manuel Davenport Award for Best Graduate Paper Submitted for Publication, Department of Philosophy, TAMU — 2023
- Charles Gordone Creative Writing Award, Graduate, Non-Fiction, Department of English, TAMU — 2022
- College Graduate Summer Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts, TAMU — 2022
- Summer Research Support, Spanish Language Courses, Department of Philosophy, TAMU — 2021
- Online Writing Group Grant, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, TAMU — 2020
- University Graduate Diversity Excellence Fellowship, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, TAMU — 2019-2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University

Instructor of Record

- PHIL 251: Introduction to Philosophy — Summer 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2026, Fall 2026
- PHIL 111: Contemporary Moral Issues — Summer 2020 and Spring 2025
- PHIL 409: Studies in Gender & Philosophy — Fall 2024
- PHIL 419: Contemporary Continental Philosophy — Spring 2023
- PHIL 482: Engineering Ethics (co-taught) — Spring 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- PHIL 251: Introduction to Philosophy — Spring 2022
- PHIL 111: Contemporary Moral Issues — Fall 2021
- PHIL 482: Engineering Ethics — Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021

SERVICE

Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, TAMU
Advisory Board, Graduate Student Representative — 2025-2026

Minorities and Philosophy, Texas A&M Chapter
Co-founder — 2025

***philo*SOPHIA: a Society for Transcontinental Feminism**
Accessibility Committee, Local Member — Spring 2025

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Committee on the Status of Women, Graduate Student Representative — 2023-2024

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
Graduate Students in Philosophy, Secretary/Treasurer — 2021-2022
Latin American/Latinx/Africana Philosophy Reading Group, Convenor — Fall 2021
Climate & Inclusion Committee, Graduate Student Member — Spring 2021
Continental Philosophy Study and Reading Group, Co-convener — 2020-2021

Graduate and Professional Student Government, TAMU
Graduate Student Senator — Spring 2020

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
Diversifying the Philosophical Canon Workshop, Dr. Jessica Gordon-Roth and Dr. Nancy Kendrick — 2022
The Fasken Pedagogy Workshop in Community of Philosophical Inquiry — 2020

Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University
BASIC Level G.R.A.D. Aggies Professional Development Certificate — 2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
Graduate Research Assistant, Kristi Sweet — Summer 2021
Graduate Research Assistant, Omar Rivera — 2020-2021

Graduate Research Assistant, Glen Miller Summer 2020

Department of English, Texas A&M University
Graduate Research Assistant, Jessica Howell 2021-2023

SKILLS
Languages: English (native), Spanish (Reading competency: beginner)
SPAN Intensive Beginning Spanish Summer 2021

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

PHIL Aesthetics: Black Aesthetics, Dr. Amir Jaima	Fall 2019
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: Heidegger's Being and Time, Dr. Theodore George	Fall 2019
PHIL Directed Study: Kant's Practical Philosophy, Dr. Kristi Sweet	Fall 2019
PHIL Philosophy of Language, Dr. Michael Hand	Spring 2020
PHIL Seminar in History of Philosophy: Eighteenth-Century Aesthetics, Dr. Emily Brady	Spring 2020
PHIL Seminar in Ethics and Value Theory: Philosophy of Privacy, Dr. Linda Radzik	Spring 2020
PHIL Modern Philosophy: Survey Course, Dr. Stephen Daniel	Fall 2020
PHIL Philosophical Authors: María Lugones and Latinx Philosophy, Dr. Omar Rivera	Fall 2020
PHIL Directed Study: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy, Dr. Theodore George	Fall 2020
ENGL Topics in Gender, Literature and Culture: The Healthy Victorian Woman, Dr. Jessica Howell	Spring 2021
PHIL Mathematical Logic I, Dr. Christopher Menzel	Spring 2021
PHIL Seminar in History of Philosophy: Kant's Critique of Judgment, Dr. Kristi Sweet	Spring 2021
ENGL Topics in Creative Writing: Narrative Medicine, Dr. Suzan Stabile	Fall 2021
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: Current issues in phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics, Dr. Theodore George	Fall 2021
PHIL Directed Study: Merleau-Ponty, Dr. Omar Rivera	Fall 2021
ENGL Topics in History and Theory of Rhetoric: Material Rhetorics of Health and Medicine, Dr. Sara DiCaglio	Spring 2022
PHIL Directed Study: Non-Western Cosmologies, Dr. Omar Rivera	Spring 2022
PHIL Special Topics: Resistance beyond Gender, Dr. Omar Rivera	Spring 2022
FREN Legacies of Poststructuralism in French and Francophone Thought: Technology and the Human, Dr. Adam Rosenthal	Fall 2022
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: Toward a 'globalist' theory of interpretation, Dr. Theodore George	Fall 2022
SOCI Black Feminist Theory & Intersectionality, Dr. Sarah Gatson	Fall 2022
HISP Seminar in Hispanic Cultural Studies: Mexicans and Mexican Americans in the US, Dr. Alberto Moreiras	Spring 2023
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: Biopolitics and Necropolitics, Dr. Selin Islekel	Spring 2023
PHIL Directed Studies: Material Feminisms, Dr. Omar Rivera	Spring 2023

Audited Courses

PHIL Directed Study: Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit, Dr. Theodore George	Fall 2023
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: The Spatial Turn, Dr. Don Deere	Fall 2023
PHIL Latin American Philosophy: Decolonial Philosophies, Dr. Omar Rivera	Fall 2025
PHIL Seminar in History of Philosophy: Descartes and 17th Century Ethical and Political Thought, Dr. Jordan Lavender	Fall 2026
PHIL Contemporary Philosophy: Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenological Ontology, Dr. Benjamin Decarie-Daigneault	Fall 2026

REFERENCES
Dissertation Advisor:
Dr. Omar Rivera, Associate Professor
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Dr. Kristi Sweet, Full Professor
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Africana Studies and Hispanic Studies
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