

Caleb Ward

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Academic Appointments

- 2026 – Postdoctoral Research Associate in Social Philosophy
Institute of Philosophy, Free University Berlin, Germany
- 2024 – 2026 Postdoctoral Scholar (DFG Walter Benjamin Fellow)
Project: Moral Opposition and Political Agency under Oppression
Institute of Philosophy, University of Hamburg, Germany
- 2021 – 2024 Postdoctoral Research Associate
Institute of Philosophy, University of Hamburg, Germany
- 2023 Visiting Scholar, Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender Studies
Free University Berlin, Germany

Research Areas

SPECIALIZATION

Social and Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Ethics

COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Race and Racism, History of Political Philosophy, 19th- and 20th-Century Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality

Education

- 2013 – 2020 PhD Philosophy
Stony Brook University (SUNY), Stony Brook, NY, USA
Dissertation: *Agency, Responsibility, and the Limits of Sexual Consent*
Committee: Megan Craig (advisor), Linda Martín Alcoff, Eva Feder Kittay, Mary C. Rawlinson, Amia Srinivasan
- 2016 – 2017 Visiting Scholar, Institute for Philosophy
Free University Berlin, Germany
- 2016 Advanced Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Stony Brook University (SUNY), Stony Brook, NY, USA
- 2003 – 2007 BA Political Science (with High Honors)
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, USA

Publications

AUTHORED BOOK

1. *The Unflinching Philosophy of Audre Lorde*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2027

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. “Audre Lorde’s Erotic as Epistemic and Political Practice,” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 38, no. 4 (2023): 896–917
2. “Feeling, Knowledge, Self-Preservation: Audre Lorde’s Oppositional Agency and Some Implications for Ethics,” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 6, no. 4 (2020): 463–482

PEER REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

1. “Hot for Revolution,” in *The Moral Psychology of Sexual Passion*, ed. Larry A. Herzberg (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2027)
2. “Theorizing Non-Ideal Agency,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Non-Ideal Theory*, ed. Hilke C. Hänel and Johanna M. Müller (Routledge, 2025), 327–341
3. “The Ethical Significance of Being an Erotic Object” (first author, with Ellie Anderson), in *The Palgrave Handbook of Sexual Ethics*, ed. David Boonin (Palgrave, 2022), 55–71
4. “The Ethics of Eating as a Human Organism,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Food Ethics*, ed. Mary C. Rawlinson and Caleb Ward (Routledge, 2017), 48–58

VOLUMES EDITED

1. *The Routledge Handbook of Food Ethics* (co-edited with Mary C. Rawlinson), Routledge, 2017
2. *Global Food, Global Justice: Essays on Eating under Globalization* (co-edited with Mary C. Rawlinson), Cambridge Scholars, 2015

BOOK REVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, AND INTERVIEWS

1. Review of *Sexual Ethics and Problematic Consent: When Does Yes Mean No?*, by David Boonin, in *Ethics* (forthcoming)
2. “The (Epistemic) Agency Dilemma: Commentary on *The Dynamics of Epistemic Injustice* by Amandine Catala,” in *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion* (forthcoming)
3. “Audre Lorde on the Sacred Scale of Livability: Alexis Pauline Gumbs in Conversation with Caleb Ward,” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 40, no. 2 (2025): 366–379
4. “Inheriting the Poetry of Survival: Caleb Ward reviews *Survival Is a Promise: The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs,” in *The Philosopher* 112, no. 2 (2024): 99–104
5. Review of *When Time Warps: The Lived Experience of Gender, Race, and Sexual Violence*, by Megan Burke, in *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* 20, no. 2 (2020): 30–33

6. Review of *What is Rape? Social Theory and Conceptual Analysis*, by Hilkje Charlotte Hänel, in *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* 19, no. 1 (2019): 38–40

PUBLIC AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

1. “Insiders and Outsiders in Feminist Philosophy” (in German), *CON:SOLIDA Zeitschrift für feministische Philosophie*, journal of the Feminist Philosophy Working Group, Humboldt University of Berlin, 2026
2. Online Interview Series on Audre Lorde’s Thought and Philosophical Legacy, *Hamburg Zentrum Gender & Diversity*, <https://www.calebward.xyz/audre-lorde-interviews>
3. “[Survival and Self in Audre Lorde](#),” *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*, February 18, 2022

Selected Talks

Refereed unless noted otherwise.

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| | “Feelings and Epistemic Resistance” (invited) |
| 6/2026 | <i>Emotional Aspects of Resistance and Solidarity</i> Conference, Bologna |
| | “Insiders and Outsiders in (Black) Feminist Philosophy” (invited) |
| 5/2026 | Lecture Series: <i>Feminist Philosophy</i> , Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany |
| 4/2025 | Speaker Series: <i>Feminist Philosophy</i> , Philosophical Society of Basel, Switzerland (in German) |
| | “Using and Abusing ‘the Master’s Tools’” |
| 4/2026 | APA: American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, symposium, online |
| 11/2025 | Roundtable for Black Feminist and Womanist Theory, Univ. of Rhode Island, USA |
| 8/2025 | Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA (invited) |
| | “A Change of Seasons: Survival, Inheritance, and Generational Change” |
| 4/2026 | PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, Philadelphia, USA |
| 10/2023 | SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Toronto, Canada |
| 6/2023 | Caribbean Philosophical Association, online |
| 10/2022 | FEAST: Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory, Tampa, USA |
| | “Sexual Agency and Moral Vernaculars of Sex” (invited) |
| 12/2025 | Philosophy Colloquium, Universität Oldenburg (lecture and podium discussion) |
| 3/2025 | Interdisciplinary Lecture Series <i>#MeToo and now? Sexualized Violence from Interdisciplinary Perspectives</i> , University of Zurich, Switzerland |
| | “Audre Lorde Inventing New Patterns for Relating” |
| 10/2025 | FEAST: Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory, Tampa, USA |
| 10/2025 | SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, online |
| | “What Does a Poem Do to You?” (invited workshop) |
| 8/2025 | Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA |
| | “Imperial Conditioning: Audre Lorde against Complicity with Empire” |
| 2/2025 | APA: American Philosophical Association Central Division, online |
| 11/2023 | Roundtable for Black Feminist and Womanist Theory, Dartmouth College, USA |

- 6/2023 PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, Charlotte, USA
- “I Feel therefore I Can Be Free? Attitudes of the Heart in Political Action” (invited)
- 7/2024 *Attitudes of the Heart: Themes from the Work of Stephen Darwall*,
Center for Ethics and Philosophy in Practice, LMU Munich, Germany
- “To Give Name to the Nameless: Poetry as Revolutionary Imagination”
- 3/2024 PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, Calgary, Canada
- “Revisiting the ‘Agency Dilemma’ for Political Agency under Oppression”
- 10/2023 FEAST: Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory, online
- “Exploring the Limits of Agency Ascription” (invited lecture)
- 7/2023 *Critical Agency Workshop*, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
- “The Problem of the Face for Critical Phenomenology”
- 6/2022 International Summer Conference in Continental Ethics: Levinas, online
- 9/2021 SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, online
- “Pursuing Self-Preservation over Security: Audre Lorde and the Thick Necessity of Survival” (**Winner of the 2022 APA William James Prize**)
- 1/2022 APA: American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, online
- 11/2020 Roundtable for Black Feminist and Womanist Theory, online
- “Coalitional Distrust and Distortions of Difference” (invited lecture)
- 11/2021 *Roundtable on Black German Political Organizing and Audre Lorde*,
JFK Institute for North American Studies, Free University Berlin, Germany
- “Coalition-Building and Audre Lorde’s Erotic Practice”
- 9/2021 MANCEPT Political Theory Workshop: *Politics of Intimate Life*, online
- “Consent, Feminist Structural Critique, and Responsibility to a Sexual Partner”
- 1/2020 APA: American Philosophical Association Eastern, symposium, Philadelphia, USA
- 11/2019 SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Pittsburgh, USA
- 5/2019 PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, St. John’s, Canada
- “Living toward Self-Preservation: Audre Lorde’s Agency and Sexual Ethics”
- 11/2019 NWSA: National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, USA
- 10/2019 FEAST: Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory, Tampa, USA
- “Responsibility and Responding to Sexual Consent”
- 1/2019 Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love, APA Eastern, New York, USA
- “Beyond Reciprocity: Levinas, Audre Lorde, and the Sexual Ethics of Alterity”
- 10/2018 SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Penn State U., USA
- 10/2018 Hugh J. Silverman Award Lecture, Stony Brook University, USA (invited)
- “Limits of the Ideal of Consent for Sexual Ethics: Insights from Queer Phenomenology”
- 9/2018 European Feminist Research Conference, Göttingen, Germany
- “Audre Lorde’s Erotic Ethics: Courage, Feeling, and Ambiguity”
- 3/2016 PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, Denver, USA
- “Is Consent Commensurable with Desire? An Intervention into Sexual Ethics”
- 6/2015 Public Philosophy Network, San Francisco, USA

- 5/2015 Conference of *Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, Villanova U., USA
 5/2015 PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, Emory University, USA

Grants and Fellowships

- 2024–2026 Walter Benjamin Program Grant, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
 Awarded for project “Moral Opposition and Political Agency under Oppression”
 2022 Project Grant, Joint Commission Gender and Diversity of Hamburg Universities
 Awarded for Interview series on Audre Lorde’s social theory
 2021 Project Grant, Uni Hamburg Equal Opportunity Fund for the Humanities
 Awarded for International Feminist Political Philosophy Speaker Series
 2019 Joyce Turner Dissertation Fellowship Award (Stony Brook University)
 Awarded for outstanding research on race, class, gender, sexuality, or ethnicity
 2016–2017 Max Kade Foundation Fellowship (funded research year in Germany)
 2013–2018 Graduate Council Fellowship (Stony Brook University, merit-based grant)

Teaching

FREE UNIVERSITY BERLIN

- Intro to Practical Philosophy/Einführung in die praktische Philosophie* (English/Deutsch, intro seminar, 2024)
The Philosophy of Audre Lorde (BA/MA seminar, 2024)

UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

- Sally Haslanger’s Social Constructionism* (BA/MA seminar, 2023–24)
Methods of Feminist Philosophy (BA/MA seminar, 2023–24; 2022; online 2021)
Feeling and Knowing (BA seminar, 2023)
Social Movements (BA/MA seminar, 2023)
Agency and Non-Ideal Theory (BA seminar, 2022–23)
The Philosophy of Audre Lorde (BA/MA seminar, 2022–23)
Racism (BA seminar, 2022)
Feminist Coalitional Politics and Social Change (MA/BA seminar, 2021–22)
Feminist Phenomenology (BA seminar, 2021–22)
Agency and Resistance to Overlapping Oppressions (online MA/BA seminar, 2021)

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

- Intro to Moral Reasoning: Ethics of Equality and Ethics of Difference* (BA course, 2016)
Intro to Moral Reasoning: From Autonomy to Ambiguity (BA course, 2015)

Service

EVENT CONVENING AND ORGANIZATION

- 2025–2026 Universität Hamburg Philosophy Institute Colloquium, two events
 2024 Co-Organizer and Program Co-Chair, 2024 Joint Conference of *FEAST: Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory* and *Roundtable for Black Feminist and Womanist Theory*
 2024 FU Berlin Philosophy Institute Colloquium, two events
 2023 Podium discussion on “Borders, Anti-Racism, and Abolition in Europe” with scholars and activists, Uni Hamburg
 2023 Guest lectures on social movements, Uni Hamburg, three events
 2022–2023 Uni Hamburg Philosophy Institute Colloquium, seven events
 2022 Guest lectures on racism and Islamophobia, Uni Hamburg, two events
 2021–2022 Feminist Political Philosophy Speaker Series, Uni Hamburg, six events
 2015–2016 Graduate Colloquium in Philosophy, Stony Brook University (elected role)

MENTORSHIP AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- 2022–2026 Advisor for BA and MA Theses, Uni Hamburg Institute of Philosophy
 2023–2024 Faculty advisor, student-organized “Young Minds” Conference for structurally disadvantaged students studying Philosophy in Germany
 2024 Small group moderator, FU Berlin Institute of Philosophy Student–Faculty Exchange on the Middle East conflict
 2022 Contributor to Uni Hamburg Dialog Day on Effective Teaching Practices
 2021 Public seminar organizer, Uni Hamburg Diversity Days
 2014 LGBTQ Safe Space Members Training Program, Stony Brook University

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES

- 2022–2026 Steering Committee Member, *FEAST: Assn. for Feminist Ethics & Social Theory*
 2015–2016 Founding Member, Stony Brook Philosophy Committee for Inclusion and Parity
 2014–2015 Graduate Representative to Doctoral History Exam Committee (elected role)
 2014 Graduate Representative to Philosophy Department (elected role)

REFEREEING AND PEER REVIEW

- 2026 Remote referee, European Research Council
 2019–2026 Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *Ergo*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Hypatia*, *IJFAB*, *Journal of Politics*, *Meridians*, *Oxford Bibliographies*

Membership in Professional Associations

American Philosophical Association • Deutsche Gesellschaft für Philosophie e.V.
 Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory • Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love
 Association for Political Theory • Society for Women in Philosophy Germany (Supporter)
 Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy • Caribbean Philosophical Association

Languages

English: Native speaker
 German: Upper-intermediate (CEFR level C1)