

REBECCA LEIBY

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RESEARCH AREAS

AOS Social and Political Philosophy, Moral Philosophy
AOC 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Native American Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Elon University 2023-present
Faculty Fellow, Hoffberger Ethics Center, University of Baltimore 2022-2023

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Boston University 2022
Graduate Certificate: Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights, Boston University 2019
M.A. Philosophy, Boston University 2016
B.A. Philosophy / Music, Lock Haven University 2012

DISSERTATION

Towards a Contractualist Theory of Transitional Justice (2022)

Readers: Daniel Dahlstrom, Colleen Murphy, Susanne Sreedhar

Transitional justice addresses legacies of social and political wrongdoing by coming to terms in some sense with the past and charting a path forward. In my dissertation, I introduce the complementary notion of ‘transitional ethics.’ Whereas transitional justice asks how we can dispense justice in the aftermath of widespread violence, transitional ethics asks how we can meet wider demands of morality in the aftermath of widespread violence. Although the formulation of the concept of transitional ethics is novel, its deployment is not. In fact, nearly all transitional projects of the past several decades have included an implicit appeal to consequentialist transitional ethics. In my dissertation I make the case instead for a contractualist model of transitional ethics, one that both acknowledges the shared nature of the transitional project and affirms the agency of previously silenced individuals.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- [6] “On the ‘Allowables’ of Violence in a Civic Crisis.” In *The Moral Psychology of Fear*. Edited by Ami Harbin. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming.
- [5] “Moral Injury, Punishment, and Blame.” In *Philosophical Perspectives on Crime, Violence, and Justice* (Criminal Justice and Philosophy Series). Edited by M. Blake Wilson. Budapest: Trivent, 2025.
- [4] “Repotting Transitional Justice.” *Social Philosophy Today* (Special Issue: Conflict, Crisis, and Catastrophe) Vol. 40, (2024): 127-140.
- [3] “The Case for Rage in Transitional Justice: Lessons from the Anti-Racist Struggle.” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* (Special Issue: Race, Racism, and Transitional Justice) Vol. 18, No. 1 (March 2024): 18-31.
- [2] “Why Settle for Hobbes’s Sovereign When You Could Have a God Emperor?” In *Dune and Philosophy* (The Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series). Edited by Kevin Decker; Series Editor William Irwin. New York: Blackwell, 2022.
- [1] “The Banality of Evil: Hannah Arendt and Jules-Pierre Mao.” In *The Expanse and Philosophy* (The Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series). Edited by Jeffrey Nicholas; Series Editor William Irwin. New York: Blackwell, 2021.

INVITED TALKS

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| “No Transitional Justice Without (Transitional) Ethics”
Guest Lecture, Elon University, POL3706 Ethics of War and Peace | 2024 |
| “The State of Nature (Ultimate Survival Mode)”
Pedagogy Conference, Hamilton College Summer Program in Philosophy | 2023 |
| “Radical Disembodiment as Pedagogy: On Building a Commonwealth in a Pixelated World”
Reynolds Lecture, Elon University | 2023 |
| “Transitional Justice and the International Turn Towards Prevention”
Hoffberger Ethics Fellow Lecture, University of Baltimore | 2022 |

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

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| “No Transitional Justice Without (Transitional) Ethics”
Special Workshop: Conceptualizing Transitional Justice, IVR World Congress | 2024 |
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“Remaking a (Political) Self” 17 th Annual Meeting, philoSOPHIA	2024
“‘How can you hate those who are so repulsive?’: Abandoning Hatred After Mass Violence” Virtuous and Vicious Responses to Tragedy, Christopher Newport University	2024
“Resisting the Return to Narrative” Symposium, APA Eastern Division Main Program	2024
“Making Space for Mothers of Children ‘Born of War’ in Transitional Justice Theorizing” Women and War (Challenging War Series), Temple University	2022
“Political Compassion” 15 th Annual Hannah Arendt Circle Meeting, Loyola University	2022
“ <i>Ubuntu</i> and the Blurring of Lines Between Wrongdoer and Wronged” Self & Society Graduate Conference, Fordham University	2022
“Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Compassion” Colloquium, APA Central Division Main Program	2019
“Conjugal Right and Conjugal Access: Towards a Compatibilization of Pateman and Wright” International Hobbes Association Session, APA Eastern Division	2019
“Positive Peace and the State of Nature” 31 st Annual Conference, Concerned Philosophers for Peace	2018
“The Artist as Sacrificial in Schopenhauer’s Philosophy” 4 th Annual Conference in Philosophy, Lehigh University	2016
“Sublime Terror and the Danger of Serenity” Reading Terror: Representations and Resistance, CUNY	2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elon University

PHL3340	Political Philosophy
PHL3560	Restorative Justice
PHL3706	Philosophy of Home
PHL3708	Video Games and Philosophy
PPE1100	Wealth, Power, and the Public Good
PHL1120	How Should We Live?
PHL1100	What Can We Know?
COR1100	The Global Experience

Independent Studies:

Native American Philosophy

Elsewhere

The State of Nature: Ultimate Survival Mode	Hamilton College (HCSPiP)
Philosophy of Gender & Sexuality	Boston University
Introduction to Ethics	Boston University
Ethical Issues in Business & Society	University of Baltimore
Philosophers that Changed the World	University of Baltimore
Introduction to Philosophy	University of Baltimore
Contemporary Moral Issues	Suffolk University
Business Ethics	King's College
Introduction to Philosophy	Cedar Crest College
World Philosophies	Cedar Crest College

REFEREED WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

“African Social and Political Philosophy”		
Northeast Workshop to Learn About Multi-Cultural Philosophy (NEWLAMP)		2025
“Native American, Indigenous, and Land-Based Social and Political Philosophy”		
Northeast Workshop to Learn About Multi-Cultural Philosophy (NEWLAMP)		2024
“Prevention and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence: The Role of Transitional Justice”		2022
International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)		
“Teaching and Learning in Philosophy”		2018
American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), MIT		
“Kierkegaard and the Happy Life”		2017
Program on Integrative Knowledge and Human Flouring, Harvard University		

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

New Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, Elon University	2024
Dissertation Fellowship, Boston University	2021-2022
Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize, Boston University	2021
Angela J. and James J. Rallis Award, Boston University	2021
Teaching Fellowship, Boston University	2017-2021
Dean's Fellowship, Boston University	2016-2017
Women's Council Graduate Scholarship, Boston University	2014

AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association (APA)
American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT)
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy (ASPLP)

SERVICE

Service to Elon University

Member, Data Nexus Data Infusion Community of Practice	2024
Member, German Studies Advisory Board	2025-present
Member, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Minor Advisory Board	2023-present
Member, Peace and Conflict Studies Minor Advisory Board	2023-present
Faculty Panelist, Unions and Labor in the Entertainment Industry Panel	2023

Advising

Faculty Advisor, Honors Thesis (Zoe Richardson, “For the Love of Fate: Observing Friedrich Nietzsche’s Concept of <i>Amor Fati</i> as a Political Tool for German National Memory”)	2023-present
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Service to the Profession

AAPT-APA Teaching Hub 2026 Eastern Division Co-Organizer	2025-2026
Section Editor (Transitional Justice), Encyclopedia of Global Justice (2 nd Ed)	2023-present
Moderator & Panelist, Maryland Regional High School Ethics Bowl	2021-2022

Event Organization

“Video Games in the Philosophy Classroom,” TH Session Organizer AAPT-APA Eastern Division Teaching Hub 2025	2025
“Teaching Narratives and Narrative Teaching,” TH Session Organizer AAPT-APA Eastern Division Teaching Hub 2023	2023
“Symposium on Immigration, Human Rights, and Displacement” University of Baltimore	2022

Selected Graduate School Service

Co-President, Philosophy Graduate Student Association, Boston University	2019-2020
Co-Organizer, Prospective PhD Student Open House, Boston University	2020
Graduate Rep, Humanities Curriculum Committee, Boston University	2020

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Google Data Analytics Certificate Cert Verification No: QDWJXQ4UBUV2	2023
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Basic Reading Proficiency

German
Latin

REFERENCES

Daniel Dahlstrom *John R. Silber Professor of Philosophy*, Boston University

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Colleen Murphy *Roger and Stephany Joslin Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy and Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
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Susanne Sreedhar *Professor of Philosophy, Boston University*
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Steven Scalet *Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Hoffberger Center for Ethical Engagement, University of Baltimore*
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