

Leonel Alvarez Ceja

The Sage School of Philosophy,
Cornell University
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Education

*The Sage School of Philosophy,
Cornell University*

2024- Present: Ph.D. Philosophy

Committee: Nicholas Silins (advisor), Willow Starr, Kate Manne, Edward (Ned) J. Hall (Harvard University), Achille C. Varzi (Columbia University)

University of California, Los Angeles

2019-2022 BA Philosophy

Research Interests

Metaphysics (mereology, composition, fundamentality, modality, formal ontology, space, time, higher-order metaphysics); Logic (philosophical, mathematical, higher-order); Philosophy of Physics; Philosophy of Mathematics.

Employment

September 2022 - September 2023

Researcher for Calvin Normore

Department of Philosophy,
University of California, Los Angeles

Mesoamerican Philosophy: On the History of Indigenous Philosophy in the Americas Before 1700

I compiled a comprehensive list of primary sources from Mesoamerica, including Aztec, Mixtec, and Mayan Codices. I conducted in-depth analyses of their philosophical content, including translating the original Nahuatl texts and drawing on my proficiency in both Nahuatl and Spanish for accurate interpretation.

Picturing Knowledge in a Historical Perspective

I conducted research on the use of images and depictions from the medieval to the modern period in epistemology. I also actively participated in and facilitated graduate seminars.

June 2022 - September 2022

Research Assistant to Katrina Elliott

Department of Philosophy,
University of California, Los Angeles

Metaphysics of Space and Time

My research focused on the contemporary philosophical issues surrounding spacetime and its connection to Zeno's paradoxes.

Presentations

(† As Keynote Speaker)

Mereological Voids

2025 (Higher-Order) Metaphysics of Time, University of Bergen (Accepted)

2025 American Association of Mexican Philosophers, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

† 2025 Los Angeles Valley College Philosophy Conference, LAVC

The Basic Principles of Aztec Causation

2024 History Seminar Series, Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University

Chicanx Triangulation: Distinct from Double Consciousness?

2025 Society of Mexican American Philosophy, Portland State University

2024 Creighton Club Conference, University of Syracuse (*winner of the Graduate Student Presentation Award*)

2024 International Social Ontology Society Conference, Duke University

2024 Binghamton University 7th Annual Philosophy Graduate Conference (Accepted)

2024 UCI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, UCI DoP, & LPS

La Raza Will Survive: Race-Conscious Multicultural Education and the Survival of the Chicanx Identity

2023 North American Association for Philosophy and Education International Conference (Accepted)

Whose Future? An Indigenous and Social Constructionist Critique on the Exclusionary Nature of Longtermism's Future

2023 American Association of Mexican Philosophers, CUNY John Jay

2023 MAP at UCLA

Comments and Chairing

2024 Chair for Laura Engel's "Group Agents and Reasons Internalism", International Social Ontology Society

2024 *Invited* Author Meets Critic: Comments on Desiree Lim's *Immigration and Social Equality*

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2025 (Upcoming) Early Modern Philosophy (Cole Mitchell)

Fall 2025 Philosophy of Mind: Mind and Machines (Willow Starr)

Honors and Awards

2024 Creighton Club, Winner of the Graduate Student Presentation Award

2024 Cornell University Graduate School Dean's Scholar

2024 International Social Ontology Society Inaugural Summer School, Participant

2022 Book Prize Recipient, UCLA Philosophy Department

2022 Open Door Philosophy Academy at The University of Pittsburgh, Participant
Advisors: Martin Abreu-Zavaleta (Syracuse University), David Wallace (University of Pittsburgh)

2022 Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, Participant

2022 Philosophy in an Inclusive Key (PIKSI) - Rock, Accepted, 2022

2022 Accepted for a Third Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)
Advisor: Katrina Elliott Topic: Philosophy of Space and Time

2022 Accepted for a Second Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)
Advisor: Calvin Normore, Topic: Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy

2021 Accepted Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)
Advisor: Calvin Normore, Topic: Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy

2019 Distinguished Student in Philosophy
Nominated by Pete Murray, Chair of Philosophy at *Saddleback College*

2019 Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

Grants and Fellowships

2023 George Kabango Fellowship, North American Association for Philosophy and Education

2023 Diversity Recruitment Fellowship, UCI

2022 Bess F Raab Scholarship, UCLA

2022 Richard and Gerrie Leeds Study Abroad Scholarship, UCLA

2019 Saddleback College Foundation Scholarship, Saddleback Community College

Professional Service

Referee: *Hypatia, Crítica. Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía*

2024-Present Graduate Mentor, Rutgers Summer Institute For Diversity In Philosophy

2023 Ethics Bowl Coach, UCI

2023 Graduate Student Mentor, Ph.D. Summer Camp for Women and Marginalized Groups, UCI

2023 Undergraduate Mentor, MAP, UCLA

2023 Co-Organizer, MAP Colloquium, UCLA:
“Against Philosophy, Against Inquiry,” with Jonathan Flowers

2022- 2023 Co-Founder/Signatory of the MAP Chapter at UCLA

2022 Associate Editor, UCLA Undergraduate Journal *Meditations*

Volunteer Service

2016-2022 Bilingual Spanish Immigration Translator for the Undocumented Latino Community in Orange County and the Greater Los Angeles Area

2015- 2022 Philosophy Instructor and College Mentor for Previously Incarcerated Students

2015-2022 Undocumented Community Advocate
2018 College Mentor and Speaker for Latino Youth Leadership Academy

2015-2018 Mathematics and Philosophy Tutor for Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association, 2022-Present

American Association of Mexican Philosophers, 2022-Present

Philosophy of Science Association, 2021- Present

Society for Mexican-American Philosophy 2022-Present

Society for the Metaphysics of Science, 2021-Present

Philosophy Courses

Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University

(†Indicates Graduate Seminar)

Spring 2025 † Higher-Order Logic, Independent Study, (Harold Hodes)
(Upcoming) † Philosophy of Mind: Self-Knowledge (Nicholas Silins and Nilanjan Das)

Fall 2025 † Mathematical Logic, Independent Study, *Department of Mathematics* (Justin Tatch Moore)
† Philosophy of Language: Communication and Social Conflict (Willow Starr)

Spring 2025 † Political Philosophy: Punishment (Benjamin Yost)
† Philosophy of Mathematics (Willow Starr)
† Moral Philosophy: Ethics of the Family (Julia Markovits and Kate Manne)

Fall 2024
† Ancient Philosophy (Rachana Kamtekar)
† Proseminar in the History of Philosophy (Tad Brennan)
† First-Year Seminar (Nicholas Silins)

University of California LPS & DoP

Spring 2024 † History of Philosophy: Carnap to Sellars, LPS
† Decision Theory: Evolving Games, LPS (Brian Skryms and Jeffrey Barrett)

Winter 2024 † Political Philosophy: Money, DoP (Aaron James)
† History of Philosophy: Enlightenment and Pain, DoP (Christophe Litwin)
† Epistemology: Understanding, DoP (Marc Fiocco)

Fall 2023 † First-Year Seminar, DoP (Sven Bernecker)
† Moral Philosophy: Blameless Wrongs, DoP (Jeff Helmreich)
† Metaphysics: Structures and Stereotypes, DoP (Kate Ritchie)

(†Indicates Graduate Seminar)

Department of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles
(†Indicates Graduate Seminar, *Indicates Audit)

Spring 2023

†* Philosophy of Mathematics (Sean Walsh)

Winter 2023

†* Topics on Metaphysics: Truth (Calvin Normore)

†* Philosophy of Science (Hayley Clatterbuck)

†* Philosophy of Psychology (Josh Armstrong & Carlota Pavese)

†* Topics on Political Philosophy (Pamela Hieronymi)

Fall 2022

†* Topics in Medieval Philosophy (Calvin Normore & Brian Copenhaver)

†* Problems in Moral Philosophy (Barbara Herman & Seana Shiffrin)

†* Spinoza (John Carreiro)

†* Theory of Knowledge (Carlotta Pavese)

Spring 2022

Individual Research Seminar, Philosophy of Spacetime: Zeno's Paradox,
Advisors: Katrina Elliott

†Philosophy of Science (Katrina Elliott)

Descartes (Josh Kardosh & Calvin Normore)

Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Katrina Elliott)

Winter 2022

Individual Research Seminar, Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy
Advisor: Calvin Normore

†Philosophy of Mind, Emotions, and their Expression (Gabriel Greenberg)

Metaphysics of Science for the Social World (Katrina Elliott)

Nietzsche: Thus Spoke Zarathustra (Mark Johnson)

Fall 2021

Individual Research Seminar, Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy
Advisor: Calvin Normore

†*Philosophical Research in Ethics and Value Theory (Pamela Hieronymi)

Philosophy of Language and Communication (Josh Armstrong)

Normative Ethics Love (Andrew Flynn)

Global Poverty and Aid (Brad Mchose)

Spring 2020

Philosophy of Science Contemporary (Katrina Elliott)
Modern Philosophy 1650-1800 (John Carreiro)

Winter 2020

Moral Philosophy Emotivism Good and Evil (Janelle DeWitt)
Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy (Calvin Normore)

Fall 2019

Greek Philosophy (Calvin Normore)
Philosophy of Mind (Gabriel Greenberg)

Languages

English, Native Speaker

Spanish, Native Speaker

Nahuatl, Reading working proficiency

References

Achille Varzi

John Dewey Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Columbia University
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Nicholas Silins

Professor of Philosophy
Sage School of Philosophy
Cornell University
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Edward (Ned) J. Hall

Norman E. Vuilleumier, Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Harvard University
ehall@fas.harvard.edu

Calvin Normore

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Willow Starr

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