

# ☼ Sunshine (Sunny) Williams Heenen ☼

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. (spring 2024)**  
**ABD**

*Southern Illinois University Carbondale*  
Philosophy / *GPA 3.95*  
AOS: Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy, Pragmatism,  
Feminism, Philosophy of Race  
AOC: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Thought  
(esp. Nietzsche), Rhetoric, Metaphysics  
Advisor: Matthew J. Brown

**Relevant**  
**Coursework**

*University of Oxford*  
Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind—Summer 2021

**M.A. (2018)**

*Queen Mary, University of London, Russel Group*  
English: Literature and Critical Theory / *GPA 3.7*  
Thesis: “The Republic of Heaven: A Return to Mother  
Earth in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*”  
Advisor: Margaret Reynolds

**B.A. (2017)**

*California State University Northridge*  
English: Creative Writing / *GPA 3.96*

**A.A. (2000)**

*Northeast Texas Community College*  
Arts: Vocal Performance / *GPA 3.75*

## CERTIFICATIONS

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TEFL Level 5 Certification, The TEFL Academy of London, England  
Lic# 601/5234/5  
Distinction (*GPA 4.0*)

Advanced Graduate Teaching Certification  
The University of Texas at Dallas

Online Teaching Certification  
The University of Texas at Dallas

Equity Certificate in Equitable Teaching Practices  
Austin Community College Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Poynter ACES Certificate in Editing

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Instructor of Record**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
*PHIL 309 – Peace, Law, and Justice*

August 2023 – Dec 2023  
Carbondale, IL

- Creating curriculum, planning lessons, compiling instructional materials, and preparing syllabus for upper-class philosophy course
- Managing students in the classroom to ensure a conducive learning environment
- Mitigating sensitive subject matter and maintaining a safe, diverse, and inclusive space that allows for authentic participation from students of all identities
- Grading to assess student performance and evaluate student learning outcomes

### **Instructor of Record**

The University of Texas at Dallas  
*PHIL 4332 – Philosophy of Race*

May 2022 – July 2022  
Dallas, TX

- Creating curriculum, planning lessons, compiling instructional materials, and preparing syllabus for upper-class course on Philosophy of Race
- Managing students in the classroom to ensure a conducive learning environment
- Mitigating sensitive subject matter and maintaining a safe, diverse, and inclusive space that allows for authentic participation from students of all identities
- Grading to assess student performance and evaluate student learning outcomes

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

The University of Texas at Dallas  
*Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics*

August 2021 – Dec 2022  
Dallas, TX

- Guest lectures in fields of specialty, such as philosophy of race and feminism
- Communicating with and mentoring undergraduate students
- Designing and facilitating discussion sections
- Grading to assess student performance and evaluate student learning outcomes

*Hybrid teaching, utilizing eLearning, Blackboard Collaborate, Microsoft Teams*

### **Instructor of Record**

The University of Texas at Dallas  
*First-Year Writing/Rhetoric*

August 2019 – May 2021  
Dallas, TX

- Creating curriculum, planning lessons, compiling instructional materials, and preparing syllabi for each section
- Managing students in the classroom to ensure a conducive learning environment
- Meeting and communicating with and mentoring undergraduate students
- Designing and facilitating discussion sections
- Grading to assess student performance and evaluate student learning outcomes

*Online and hybrid teaching, utilizing eLearning, Blackboard Collaborate, Microsoft Teams, and PowerPoint; ADA compliance proficient*

## **FELLOWSHIPS / RESEARCH POSITIONS**

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### **Mellon Foundation Fellow**

June 26-30, 2023

Third Annual Ethnic Studies Educators' Academy – Democratizing Racial Justice  
The University of Texas at San Antonio

- Selected as a fellow for the 2023 scholarship

### **Graduate Assistant**

Jan 2022 – present

Center for Dewey Studies – Southern Illinois University Carbondale

- Analyzing and organizing archival documents and materials in fragile condition
- Compiling, organizing, and editing digital archival databases

### **Research Assistant**

June – Aug 2022

aXh Uncertain Futures Archival Intern – African American Museum of Dallas

- Reading and analyzing archival documents and materials in fragile condition
- Compiling a final report featuring detailed lists of these materials for digitization
- Maintaining Zotera research database with key terms

## **WRITING and EDITING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Associate Editor, *The Pluralist***

The Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, University of Illinois  
February 2021 – Present

### **Senior Editing Intern (Paid), *The Rectangle* and *The Review***

Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society Journals, Summer Internship Winner  
May – August, 2022

### **Managing Editor (Paid), *Reunion: The Dallas Review Literary Journal***

The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX  
Fall 2020 – present

### **Copywriter and Editor (Paid), CSUN Pathways Career Center**

California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA  
Dec 2016 – June 2017

- Design and produce content and guides for online career planning portal and social media, in coordination with creative team, serving 40,000 students

### **Managing Editor, *C.A.P.T.U.R.E.D.* Literary Journal**

Africana Studies Dept. of California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA  
Dec 2016 – July 2017

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Travel Agent

*L&B Travel, LLC*

April 2015 – August 2019

Sherman Oaks, CA

- Conferred with clients to determine travel needs and budgets
- Advised clients regarding destinations, cultures, weather, and activities
- Sold, strategized, and coordinated transportation, accommodations, travel insurance, tours, and activities
- Built and maintained relationships with travel, hospitality, and tour vendors
- Navigated travel issues, conflicts, complaints, cancellations, and refunds
- Attended travel seminars and conferences to network with vendors, promote the agency, and gain education on new vendors, locations, and options
- Maintained accurate records of itineraries, bookings, and payments

### Transcriptionist / Editor / Proofreader

*Sunshine Transcription, DBA*

August 2012 – June 2019

North Hollywood, CA

- Provided transcription, editing, proofreading, and quality control services for closed captioning purposes in television, film, radio, and journalism
- Maintained ongoing professional relationships with TLC, MTV, VH1, BBC, HGTV, A&E, TBS, Food Network, and others

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Heenen, Sunny, Danielle Lake, and Judy Whipps. “Pragmatist Feminist Praxis.” *The Bloomsbury Companion to Pragmatism*. Bloomsbury, 2023.
- Heenen, Sunny. “The John Dewey Society Outstanding Graduate Paper Award Prize-winning Essay: ‘From Isolated to Integrated – Pragmatic Participatory Politics in Rawls, Dewey, and Follett.’” *Education and Culture*, Forthcoming.
- Heenen, Sunny Williams. “Harris-Jones Prize-winning Essay: ‘Sodalism as Worldview: Conspiring to Dismantle the White Franchise.’” *The Pluralist*, Volume 18, No. 1, Spring 2023, p. 32-40.
- Heenen, Sunny Williams. “How to Become a Philosopher from the (dis)Comfort of Your Own Home.” *The Pluralist*, Volume 17, No. 2, Spring 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “The Republic of Heaven: A Return to Mother Earth in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*.” *IAFOR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual European Conference on Arts & Humanities*, 2020.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Heenen, Sunny Williams and Matthew J. Brown. “Keynote Address: Dewey, Follett, and the Role of Experts in Democracy.” **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophical Collaborations Conference**, March 2023.
- Heenen, Sunny Williams and Matthew J. Brown. “Invited Special Session for the Dewey Center: The Future of Dewey Studies at SIU.” **Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy SAAP Conference**, March 2023.
- Heenen, Sunny Williams. Discussant: “Feminist Resistances” featuring Marilyn Fischer and Amanda Dubrule. **Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy SAAP Conference**, March 2023.
- Heenen, Sunny Williams. “From Isolated to Integrated: Habits for Creating Radical Democracy.” **John Dewey Society Annual Meeting**, March 2023.
- Williams, Sunny. “From Isolated to Integrated: Pragmatic Participatory Politics in Rawls, Dewey, Follett.” **University College London: European Pragmatism Conference**, August 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “From Isolated to Integrated: Pragmatic Participatory Politics in Rawls, Dewey, Follett.” **John Dewey Society Annual Meeting**, April 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “Sodalism as Worldview: Conspiring to Dismantle the White Franchise.” **American Philosophies Forum “Freedom and Liberation” Conference**, April 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “Sodalism as Worldview: Conspiring to Dismantle the White Franchise.” **Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy SAAP Conference**, March 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “An American Problem: Du Bois on Black Striving.” **Sigma Tau Delta 2022 International Conference**, March 2022.
- Williams, Sunny. “Savages and Slums: Racializing the Poor and the Victorian Colonization of London.” **Rice University Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium**, July 2021.
- Williams, Sunny, Alana King, and Kriss Kirk. “Unapologetically Inclusive in Unapologetically Alienating Academia.” **Building Bridges/Dismantling Racism for the Common Good**, June 2021.
- Williams, Sunny. “Reterritorializing Religion: How *The Book of Mormon the Musical* Resists the Colonizer via Mimicry and Hybridity.” **Sigma Tau Delta Southwestern Symposium**, Nov 2020.
- Williams, Sunny. “The Republic of Heaven: A Return to Mother Earth and Ancient Pagan Religions in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*.” **8<sup>th</sup> Annual European Conference on Arts & Humanities - London**, July 2020.

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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**Board Member**, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Feb 2021 – present

- Attend board meetings, both virtual and in person
- Represent board at annual SAAP conference
- Participate in voting, planning, and society discussion

**Founder / President**, Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society May – Dec 2022  
The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Pi Chapter

- Preparing and submitting chapter petition paperwork, establishing founding officers and faculty advisor/members, authoring founding constitution
- Facilitate meetings, events, communications, and ceremonies
- Establishing and managing membership, social media, and chapter visibility

**President**, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Jan – Dec 2022  
The University of Texas at Dallas, Alpha Psi Nu Chapter

- Facilitate meetings, events, and ceremonies
- Design society merchandise for fundraising purposes
- Communication with members and the public regarding current events
- Attend conferences and enter competitions to represent and promote chapter
- While President, our chapter won Outstanding Chapter of the Year 2022 (out of 900 international chapters.)

**Research Assistant** June – Aug 2022  
aXh Uncertain Futures Archival Intern – African American Museum of Dallas

- Reading and analyzing archival documents and materials in fragile condition
- Compiling a final report featuring detailed lists of these materials for digitization
- Maintaining Zotera research database with key terms

**SIAP Planning Committee** Jan – Aug 2022  
SAAP 2022 Summer Institute in American Philosophy

- Co-creative planning, marketing, and networking for SAIP's August 8-13, 2022 conference in Eugene, Oregon
- Reviewing and selecting conference paper and panel proposal submissions

**Graduate Representative** Spring 2021  
Faculty Search Committee – Philosophy Department

- Assisted in reviewing candidate profiles and comprising interview questions
- Assisted in interviewing, deliberating, and hiring philosophy faculty for The University of Texas at Dallas

**Senator for the College of Humanities** Jan – May 2017  
California State University Northridge, Associated Students

- Participated in student government legislature and voting, event leadership
- Worked on the behalf of constituents to improve campus life

- Served on the board for the MataCare Emergency Grant program to review applications and award grants to students in need
- Introduced and passed innovative policy to include preferred pronouns in student registration systems

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

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Mellon Foundation Fellow: Ethnic Studies Educators' Academy (ESEA) Scholarship, Democratizing Racial Justice grant at The University of Texas San Antonio – June 2023

Winner: The John Dewey Society Outstanding Graduate Paper Award – Fall 2022

Nominee: President's Teaching Excellence Award – 2021/2022 Academic Year

Recipient: Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award – Fall 2022

Winner: Sigma Tau Delta's Lambda Iota Tau Research Grant – Spring 2022

Winner: Sigma Tau Delta's Edwin L. Stockton, Jr. Graduate Scholarship \$4,000 – Spring 2022

Winner: Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harris-Jones Award for essays relevant to Philosophy on the Black Experience – March 2022

Recipient: John Dewey Society Graduate Student Travel Stipend – April 2022

Recipient: Mabel H. Bremer Travel Award (for presentation of research) – Jan. 2022

Fellow: Dr Roger N. & Adrienne T. Rosenberg Graduate Fellowship – Spring 2021

Nominee: President's Teaching Excellence Award – 2019/2020 Academic Year

Winner: Outstanding Senior Award – California State University Northridge (1 of the top 4 achievers of 11,500 graduating students, 2017)

Winner: Linda Nichols Joseph English Merit Scholarship – California State University Northridge (top student in the English Department, 2017)

Recipient: Academic Special Recognition Award for 3.5 or higher GPA – Associated Students, California State University Northridge

Honoree: Dean's List California State University Northridge – Fall 2015, Spring/Fall 2016, Spring 2017

## **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

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- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
- Phi Sigma Tau International Honor Society for Philosophers
- Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
- Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
- Golden Key International Honour Society
- The National Society of Leadership and Success
- The John Dewey Society
- The Friedrich Nietzsche Society
- The Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP)
- The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)