

Jen Foster

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
Social and Political Philosophy, Epistemology,
Philosophy of Language, Metaethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE
Feminist Philosophy, Aesthetics, Moral Philosophy

Training

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Southern California Expected: Spr. 2023
B.A. Philosophy, English, Spanish, *with Linguistics minor.* May 2016
West Virginia University, *Summa cum laude.*

DISSERTATION

“Courage, Cowardice, and Conflict: Roles of Doxastic Anxiety in Our Political Lives”
Supervised by Mark Schroeder, Robin Jeshion, Ralph Wedgwood, Sharon Lloyd, & Ann Crigler.

Awards

2020 Summer Research and Writing Grant, University of Southern California.
2019 Michael McCann Prize in History of Philosophy, USC Philosophy Department.
for “‘Persuade-or-Obey’ as Terms of Agreement: Reconciling Plato’s *Crito* and *Apology*”
2019 General Education Teaching Assistant Award, University of Southern California.
Awarded to four graduate assistants across University of Southern California Dornsife
College of Arts & Sciences for distinguished teaching during 2017-2018 academic year.
2016 Carl & Carolyn Franklin Endowed Fellowship, University of Southern California.

Research

PUBLICATIONS

forthcoming “Busting the Ghost of Neutral Counterparts.” *Ergo*. ([Public draft](#))
forthcoming “Normative Inference Tickets,” with Jonathan Ichikawa. *Episteme*. ([Public draft](#))
forthcoming “Defining Moral Realism,” with Mark Schroeder. In P. Bloomfield & D. Copp
(Eds), *Oxford Handbook on Moral Realism*, Oxford University Press.

PAPERS UNDER SUBMISSION

“Are Women ‘Free and Equal’ in Rawls’s Well-Ordered Society?”
“Not-At-Issue: The Normative ‘Flavor’ of Instrumental Necessities”
“The Good, The Sad, & The Ugly: A Challenge for Aesthetic Expressivism”

Research (cont.)

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “Doxastic Anxiety and Doxastic Courage: When It’s Scary (Not) To Believe.”
Work In-Progress Series, Lingnan University, Hong Kong.
- 2022 “Doxastic Courage vs Epistemic Humility: Too Much of A Good Thing”
Epistemic Courage Workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2022 “Normative Inference Tickets” with Jonathan Ichikawa
Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, University of Connecticut. Online.
- 2021 “Normative Inference Tickets” with Jonathan Ichikawa
Work In-Progress Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Online.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Normative Inference Tickets” with Jonathan Ichikawa (Symposium)
American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- 2022 “Normative Inference Tickets” with Jonathan Ichikawa (Symposium)
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Online.
- 2021 “Are Women ‘Free and Equal’ in Rawls’s Well-Ordered Society?”
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia, Canada.
- 2021 “How Fake News Makes It Harder To Be Doxastically Courageous”
Public Philosophy Network 6th Annual Conference. (Online)
- 2019 “Are Women ‘Free and Equal’ in Rawls’s Well-Ordered Society?”
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado, Boulder, USA.
- 2019 “Not-At-Issue: the Normative ‘Flavor’ of Instrumental Necessities”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division. Vancouver, Canada.
- 2019 “Busting the Ghost of Neutral Counterparts”
Mid-Atlantic Philosophy of Language Workshop (MAPL), West Virginia University, USA.
- 2018 “Busting the Ghost of Neutral Counterparts”
The German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP.10), Cologne, Germany.
- 2018 “Busting the Ghost of Neutral Counterparts”
Cognitive Structures 2018, Heinrich Heine University, Dusseldorf, Germany.
- 2018 “Not-At-Issue: the Normative ‘Flavor’ of Instrumental Necessities”
Austin Graduate Ethics & Normativity Talks (AGENT), University of Texas, Austin, USA.
- 2018 “Are Women ‘Free and Equal’ in Rawls’s Well-Ordered Society?”
MANCEPT Workshop: Theories of Public Reason, University of Manchester, England.
- 2018 “The Good, the Sad, and the Ugly: A Challenge for Aesthetic Expressivism?”
SoCal Student Conference in Aesthetics (SCSCA), University of San Diego, USA.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

- 2022 Shmuel Gomes’s “Moral Standing Beyond Consciousness”
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
- 2021 Teresa Bruno-Niño’s “Limits of the Pragmatic Account of Moral Categoricity”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Online.

Research (cont.)

CONFERENCE COMMENTS (cont.)

- 2021 Gözde Yildirim's "Rough Heroes Revisited"
American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Online.
- 2021 Adrienne Takaoka's "The Social Value of Insults"
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Online.
- 2019 Gretchen Ellefson's "The Cooperative Principle Revisited"
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, University of British Columbia, Canada.
- 2019 Aleksy Tarasenko-Struc's "Objectification and Domination"
Bay Area Feminism and Philosophy Workshop, San Francisco, California, USA.
- 2019 Dan Zeman's "Self-Identificatory Uses of Slurs & Their Semantics"
American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver, Colorado, USA.
- 2018 Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini's "Slurs are Directives"
USC/UCLA Graduate Conference, University of Southern California, USA.

Teaching

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

- Spr. 2023 Capstone Project Supervisor, Lingnan University
Master of Arts in Creative and Media Industries
Supervising two student projects in VSP512 Capstone Project (Aesthetics)
- Sum. 2019 Co-instructor, The Discovery Project, *with Mark Schroeder*
University of Southern California
Creating and conducting Philosophy mini-course for gifted eighth & ninth graders

INVITED LECTURES

- Spr. 2022 "Libertarianism"
Phil 174, Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice
University of Southern California
Instructor: Jonathan Quong
- Spr. 2020 "Socialism"
Phil 174, Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice
University of Southern California
Instructor: Jonathan Quong
- Fall 2019 "Simone de Beauvoir and Existentialism"
Phil 168g, The Meaning of Life
University of Southern California
Instructor: Stephen Finley

Teaching (cont.)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Fall 2023	Phil TBA Course Name TBA University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> TBA
Spr. 2022	Phil 174 Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Jonathan Quong
Spr. 2021	Phil 246 Foundations of Cognitive Science University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Alexis Wellwood
Spr. 2020	Phil 174 Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Jonathan Quong
Fall 2019	Phil 168g The Meaning of Life University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Stephen Finley
Spr 2018	Phil 168g The Meaning of Life University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Stephen Finley
Fall 2017	Phil 174 Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice University of Southern California	<i>Instructor:</i> Jonathan Quong

WRITING CONSULTING

2017–2020	Writing Center <i>Director:</i> Cory Nelson	University of Southern California
2014–2016	Eberly Writing Studio <i>Director:</i> Nathalie Singh-Corcoran	West Virginia University

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORING

2017–2020	Philosophy Department <i>Supervisor:</i> Kenneth Enoch	West Virginia University
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Public Engagement and Outreach

INITIATIVES

- Jan. 2021
2021–Present
- Cogtweeto Philosophy Workshop Series www.cogtweeto.com
Co-Founder, with Cassie Finlay
Lead Organizer, with Cassie Finlay
- Virtual workshop series developed to make academic philosophy “radically more accessible.” Leverages existing, decentralized networks of Twitter and other social media sites and tools like Zoom and YouTube to bring those traditionally excluded from academic spaces into the philosophical conversation. Seeks to provide free, low-stakes opportunities to graduate students, independent scholars, and others with few or no institutional resources to present ongoing philosophical research.
- 2019–2022
2023–Present
- Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project www.philosophy.academy
Graduate Fellow
Senior Graduate Fellow
- Brings together foundational philosophical work from ethics, epistemology, philosophy of language, political philosophy, feminist philosophy, philosophy of race, and other areas with translational applications to interpersonal conflict.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023
- “Cogtweeto’s Radical Accessibility: Expanding Public Philosophy Online” (Panel)
Public Philosophy Network 2023 Conference: “Facing Technology.”
with Cassie Finley, A.G. Holdier, and Jonathan McKinney
- 2021
- “The Inhumanity of Fake News” (Panel)
Public Philosophy Network 2021 Conference: “Engagement, Policy, & Practice.”
with A.G. Holdier, Megan Fritts, and Seth Goldwasser
- 2021
- “Can Social Media Help Political Discourse?” (Panel)
Cambridge Social Media x Politics Convention.
with Thi Nyugen and Diana Owen

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021
- [“Jumping to conclusions? The hidden shortcuts in ‘he-said–she-said’ and ‘sexual harassment’”](#), with Jonathan Ichikawa. *Blog of the APA*.

PRESS

- 2021
- [“New Workshop Series to Bring More Philosophy to Philosophy Twitter.”](#)
Daily Nous.

Leadership and Service

USC PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2020–2021	President
2018	Co-Founder, Graduate Student Climate Committee, <i>with Christa Peterson</i>
2018–2019	Co-Chair, Climate Committee, <i>with Christa Peterson and Vishnu Sridharan</i>
2018–2019	Co-Chair, Grad Lounge Beautification Project, <i>with Daniel Pallies</i>
2018–2019	Organizer, Philosophy Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program
2016–Present	Voting member

USC PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

2020–2021	Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Climate Committee
2019	Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Hiring Committee
2018	Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Student Recruitment Committee
2017–2019	Prospective Student Host, Graduate Student Recruitment Committee
2016	Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Diversity and Outreach Committee

SPECULATIVE SOCIETY, USC GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP SERIES

2017–2018	President
2016–Present	Regular attendee

CONFERENCE REFEREEING

2020–Present	Cogtweeto Philosophy Workshop Series
2017–Present	USC/UCLA Philosophy Graduate Student Conference

JOURNAL REFEREEING

Present	Ergo, Erkenntnis, Hypatia, Thought
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Other Affiliations and Memberships

2016–Present	American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division
2020–Present	Words Workshop (Feminist Philosophy of Language Workshop Series)
2016 (Inducted)	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
2013 (Inducted)	Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
2013 (Inducted)	Sigma Delta Pi National Spanish Honor Society

Selected Graduate Coursework

COURSES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) WERE AUDITED

LOGIC & PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC

- 492 Modal Logic
 Fall 2016, Gabriel Uzquiano
- 551 Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic (Frege Puzzles & Identity Confusion)
 Fall 2016, Jeff Sanford Russell & Andrew Bacon

LANGUAGE & MIND

- 500 Introduction to Contemporary Philosophical Literature (Frege-Lewis)
 Fall 2016, Scott Soames & Jeremy Goodman
- 565 Seminar in the Philosophy of Language (Semantics and Pragmatics of Slurs)
 Fall 2016, Jeff Sanford Russell & Andrew Bacon

ETHICS, META ETHICS, & AESTHETICS

- 503 Introduction to Contemporary on Literature on Value
 Spring 2017, Jake Ross, with guest lectures from Mark Schroeder, Stephen Finley,
 Gary Watson, Ralph Wedgwood, Jonathan Quong, & Robin Jeshion.
- 445 Philosophy of the Arts
 Fall 2017, James Van Cleve
- 540 Seminar in Ethics (The Nature of Normativity)
 Spring 2018, Stephen Finley
- *501 Seminar in the Recent Philosophy (Themes in Feminist Philosophy)
 Fall 2018, Robin Jeshion

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY & PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

- 530 Seminar in the Philosophy of Law (Property Rights & Social Contract Theory)
 Spring 2017, Jonathan Quong & Gary Watson
- 411 Plato (including the Apology, the Crito, & the Republic)
 Fall 2018, Ralph Wedgwood
- 537 Seminar in Social & Political Philosophy (Hobbes and Rawls)
 Spring 2018, Sharon Lloyd

Summer Seminars

- Sum. 2018 CEU Ontology and Metaontology
 Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.
 Directors: Mark Balaguer and Ned Markosian