

MAGNUS FERGUSON, PH.D.

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AREA OF SPECIALIZATION: 20th-Century European Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Social Epistemology, Philosophical Hermeneutics, Feminist Philosophy, Moral Psychology

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the University of Chicago Society of Fellows 2023–present
University of Chicago

Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Humanities Collegiate Division 2023–present
University of Chicago

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy (2023)

Boston College, Morrissey School of Arts and Sciences

Dissertation: “On Responsibility for Others’ Harm”

Committee: Richard Kearney (Director), Richard Atkins, Sally Haslanger

B.A. Religion (2014)

Columbia University, Columbia College

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

5. (2024). “**Does Forward-Looking Responsibility Have an Accountability Problem?**” *Social Theory and Practice* [Forthcoming].
4. (2022). “**“Wonder at what is as it is’: Arendtian Wonder as the Occasion for Political Responsibility.**” *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* 53 (3): 261-275.
3. (2022). “**Natality and Tradition: Reading Arendt with Habermas and Gadamer.**” *Arendt Studies* 6: 119–138.
2. (2021). “**Joycean Hermeneutics and the Tyranny of Hidden Prejudice.**” *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* 26 (1): 153-164.
1. (2020). “**Hermeneutical Justice in Fricker, Dotson, and Arendt.**” *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* 25 (1): 21–34.

Book Chapters and Reviews

3. (2022). “**On John Huston’s *The Dead*.**” In *Thinking Film: Philosophy at the Movies*, edited by Richard Kearney and M. E. Littlejohn (London: Bloomsbury Publishing).
2. (2022). “**Political Hermeneutics and Social Interpretation: A Review of Lorenzo C. Simpson’s *Hermeneutics as Critique: Science, Politics, Race, and Culture*.**” *Research in Phenomenology* 52 (1):137-145.
1. (2020). “**Language, Alienation, and World-Disclosure: A Review of Carolyn Culbertson’s *Words Underway: Continental Philosophy of Language*.**” *Research in Phenomenology* 50 (2):283–289.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Research Awards and Fellowships

- (2023) **Donald and Hélène White Dissertation Award in the Humanities** for “On Responsibility for Others’ Harm: Wonder, Regret, and Accountability”
- (2022) **Robert Merrihew Adams – Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellow in Philosophy**: dissertation fellowship awarded by the Institute for Citizens & Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation). Sole recipient of the joint Adams – Newcombe Fellowship in Philosophy.
- (2022) **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Engelhard Pingree Fellow**: awarded to the single graduate student across all departments deemed to have made the greatest contribution to the research mission of the Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- (2022) **Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences Internal Dissertation Award** (2022) [Declined]
- (2021) **Runner-Up for the Wolfe Mays Essay Prize** by the *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* for “‘Wonder at what is as it is’: Arendtian Wonder as the Occasion for Political Responsibility”
- (2021) **Visiting Scholar Fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities**
- (2021, 2022) **Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Summer Research Grant**
- (2020, 2021) **Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy Fellow**
- (2019, 2020) **Hans-Georg Gadamer Essay Prize** from the North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics
- (2021) **Departmental Distinction** (Dissertation Proposal Exam)
- (2020) **Departmental Distinction** (Doctoral Comprehensive Exam)
- (2018) **Departmental Distinction** (First Year Comprehensive Exam)
- (2014) **Departmental Honors** (Columbia University Religion Department)

Teaching Awards and Fellowships

- (2019, 2021) **Donald J. White Award for Teaching Excellence**
- (2022) **Boston College Dean of the Summer School Teaching Fellow**
- (2021) **Tisch College Social-Emotional Learning & Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow**
- (2021) **Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute Graduate Assistant**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

EXP014 **Political Emotion**: Seminar on Political Theory and Moral Psychology
Instructor of Record – 20 students (Tufts University, Spring '23)

EXP004 **Ethics of Ignorance**: Undergraduate Ethics/Epistemology/Hermeneutics Seminar
Instructor of Record – 16 students (Tufts University, Fall '20)

PHIL5527 **Philosophy of Language**: Graduate/Undergraduate Philosophy of Language Seminar
Co-Instructor of Record – 10 students (BC Spring '20)

PHIL1070 **Philosophy of the Person I**: Core Undergraduate Course (Ancient and Medieval)
Instructor of Record – 32 students (BC Fall '18, Fall '19, Fall '20)

PHIL1071 **Philosophy of the Person II**: Core Undergraduate Course (Early Modern to present)
Instructor of Record – 32 students (BC Spring '19, Spring '20, Spring '21, Summer '22)

Academic Societies

- (2023–present) *The Hannah Arendt Circle*, Director
(2021–23) *The Boston Phenomenology Circle*, Co-Director

Diversity and Inclusion

- (2023–present) *Corrupt the Youth*, National Board of Directors
(2021–23) *Corrupt the Youth Boston Chapter*, Director (previously Co-Director)
(2021) *Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI)*, Graduate Assistant
(2020–22) *Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement*, Program Mentor
(2020–22) *History of PhilosophHERs Symposium Series*, Co-Founder and Organizer
(2021) *Workshop on Teaching First Generation Boston College Students*, Participant

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

23. (2023) **“Emotional Readiness for Responsibility: Hans Jonas and the Normativity of Political Emotion”** (Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, Division 24 of the American Psychological Association, Chestnut Hill, MA)
22. (2023) **“Does Forward-Looking Responsibility Have an Accountability Problem?”** (The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Main Program, Montreal, Canada)
21. (2023) **“Moral Emotion, Practical Identity, and Regret for Another’s Harm”** (The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY)
20. (2023) **“What are Hermeneutical Resources? Non-Discursive Hermeneutical Injustice and Gendered Embodiment”** (Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, Boston, MA)
19. (2022) **“How Epistemic is Hermeneutical Injustice?”** (Canadian Hermeneutic Institute, Calgary, Canada)
18. (2022) **“Does Forward-Looking Responsibility Have an Accountability Problem?”** (Social Ontology & Collective Intentionality XIII, Vienna, Austria)
17. (2022) **“Wonder, Horror, and Political Emotion in Arendt”** (Arendt Circle, Chicago, IL)
16. (2022) **“Moral Emotions Can Express Social Entanglement”** (Kinds of Expression, University of Connecticut, CT)
15. (2021) **“Social-Regret: On Responsibility for Others’ Harm”** (The American Philosophical Association, Central Division Main Program, New Orleans, LA)
14. (2021) **“Individual Epistemic Obligations for In-Group Epistemic Wrongdoing”** (MANCEPT Workshop “Epistemic Responsibilities of Democratic Citizens” at the Manchester Centre for Political Theory, Manchester, UK)
13. (2021) **“The Global Refugee Crisis, Statelessness, and Epistemic Injustice”** (38th International Social Philosophy Conference of the NASSP (North American Society for Social Philosophy, Philadelphia, PA)
12. (2021) **“Arendt on Natality: Between Gadamer and Habermas”** (The Arendt Circle, Chicago, IL)
11. (2021) **“Amor Mundi: Arendt on Statelessness and Radical Love”** (Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality at MIT, Cambridge, MA)
10. (2020) **“Joycean Hermeneutics and the Tyranny of Hidden Prejudice”** (North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Fort Meyers, FL)

9. (2020) **“Social-Regret: On Responsibility for Others’ Harm”** (Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston, MA)
8. (2020) **“Feeling Our Limits: Hesitation as a Catalyst for Third-Order Epistemic Change”** (Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Social Sciences, Waterloo, Canada) [Conference Cancelled]
7. (2020) **“Statelessness as Epistemic Injustice in Hannah Arendt”** (philoSOPHIA, Nashville, TN) [Conference Cancelled]
6. (2019) **“Hermeneutical Justice in Miranda Fricker and Hannah Arendt”** (North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Hans-Georg Gadamer Essay Prize Presentation, Eugene, OR)
5. (2019) **“Hannah Arendt: Towards Self-Resistant Hermeneutical Justice”** (Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Città di Castello, Italy)
4. (2019) **“A Return to ‘The Lass of Aughrim’: Hospitality and Visitation in Joyce’s ‘The Dead’”** (North American James Joyce Symposium, Mexico City, Mexico)
3. (2019) **A Response to Dennis Schmidt’s “Thinking and Painting: Some Reflections on Plato, Heidegger, and Klee”** (Boston Phenomenology Circle Symposium, Boston, MA)
2. (2019) **“Silence, Communication, and Suspicion in Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*”** (Mystical Theology Network, Boston, MA)
1. (2018) **“Babel and the Command to Translate: Reading Derrida’s ‘Des Tours de Babel’”** (Crossing Fronteras: Iterations of Cultural Identity, Boston, MA)

INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

6. (2022) **“Gendered Embodiment, Knowledge-How, and Self-Interpretation”** (Philosophy Forum, Boston College)
5. (2022) **“Active-Learning Strategies for Introductory Philosophy”** (Guest Lecture for Graduate Teaching Seminar, Boston College)
4. (2021) **“Epistemic Injustice, Medical Diagnosis, and Scientific Knowledge of ‘Hysteria’”** (Core Integration Senior Seminar: Science and Society, Gonzaga University)
3. (2021) **“Individual Responsibility for Collective Failures to Address Structural Injustice”** (Young Philosophers Series, Boston College)
2. (2021) **“Teaching as an Ally at Boston College”** (BC Graduate Student Teaching Conference Panel)
1. (2020) **“Empirical Support for Incorporating Active-Learning Approaches in the Philosophy Classroom”** (Guest Lecture for Graduate Teaching Seminar, Boston College)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED

15. (2023) **Boston Phenomenology Circle Spring Symposium: Phenomenology and Emotion** (Co-Director, Organizer)
14. (2023) **The Hannah Arendt Circle**, Verona, Italy (Organizing Committee)
13. (2022) **History of PhilosophERS Symposium: *Gloria Anzaldúa*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
12. (2022) **Boston Phenomenology Circle: The Margins of Phenomenology** (Co-Director, Organizer)

11. (2022) **History of PhilosopHERs Symposium: *Émilie du Châtelet*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
10. (2022) **Phenomenology, Embodiment, and Empathy Workshop** (Organizer)
9. (2022) **History of PhilosopHERs Symposium: *Christine de Pizan*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
8. (2022) **History of PhilosopHERs Symposium: *Women in the Neoplatonic Academy*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
7. (2021) **History of PhilosopHERs Symposium: *Teresa of Ávila*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
6. (2021) **APA Eastern: Colloquium on Higher Order Evidence** (Chair)
5. (2020) **History of PhilosopHERs Symposium: *Edith Stein*** (Co-founder and Organizer)
4. (2020) **Modeling Critical Pedagogy: Boston College Graduate Philosophy Conference** (Organizer)
3. (2019) **Contemporary Philosophy Workshop in Honor of Richard Cobb-Stevens** (Organizer)
2. (2018) **Contemporary Philosophy Workshop in Honor of William J. Richardson, S.J.** (Organizer)
1. (2017) **Educating for Modern Democracy: An Exploration of Philosophical and Religious Resources** (Co-Organizer)

AD-HOC PEER REVIEW

Arendt Studies

Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology

Review of Philosophy and Psychology

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial Assistant for *Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger*, David W. Johnson, Northwestern University Press, 2019.

Editorial Assistant for *Of Gods and Minds: In Search of a Theological Commons*, Jim Heisig, Nanzan Institute Press, 2019.

LANGUAGES

French: Speaking and Reading Knowledge

German: Reading Knowledge

Spanish: Reading Knowledge

REFERENCES

RICHARD KEARNEY

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