

NICK RIGGLE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy	New York University, 2013
B.A., Philosophy, Highest Honors	University of California, Berkeley, 2006

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, University of San Diego	2026-
Associate Professor, University of San Diego	2021-2026
Assistant Professor, University of San Diego	2015-2021
Visiting Assistant Professor, Lafayette College	2014-2015
Lecturer, New York University	2013-2014

VISITING

<i>Resident, Center for Aesthetics, University of Leeds</i>	March 2019
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Aesthetics · Value Theory · Philosophy of Language · Social Philosophy · History of Philosophy (Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

USD Strategic Initiative Grant, Food Studies Initiative (with Aaron Gross & Christopher Carter) \$70k

Summer Seminar: Beauty and Why it Matters, University of British Columbia July 2018

Faculty Research Grants, University of San Diego 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21
Supported work on Aesthetic Life and Why It Matters, "Connecting Beauty and Love," and Understanding Aesthetic Life: Essays

International Opportunity Grant, University of San Diego 2016

Non-Residential Fellowship, The Experience Project (led by Laurie Paul, Yale) Fall 2016 · \$49k

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship. 2012-2013

Graduate Fellow, New York Institute of Philosophy, Project on the Nature of Taste
2009-2012

MacCracken Fellowship, New York University 2007-2012

Departmental Citation Award, Department of Philosophy, UC Berkeley 2006

BOOKS

Understanding Aesthetic Life: Essays · Oxford University Press, *forthcoming*, November 2026

This Beauty: A Philosophy of Being Alive · Basic Books, 2022

Aesthetic Life and Why It Matters: Three Views with Dominic McIver Lopes and Bence Nanay · Oxford University Press, 2022

On Being Awesome: A Unified Theory of How Not to Suck · Penguin Books, 2017

IN CONTRACT or FORTHCOMING

This is Aesthetics, with C. Thi Nguyen · Wiley-Blackwell, in progress

WORKS IN PROGRESS

All papers are available as talks.

Aesthetic Value as the Highest Good: The Very Idea(s) with Clinton Tolley · paper
Explores arguments for the claim that aesthetic value ('beauty') is the highest good

A paper on a distinctive form of collective valuing · paper

A paper on the nature of philosophy · paper

A paper on the critical genre of the 'list'

Aesthetic Attention: No Such Thing (Sort Of) · paper

I argue that there are constitutive norms of attention for specific aesthetic practices but no such norms for aesthetic valuing in general; aesthetic communitarianism explains this and captures how and why we can change the norms of attention within a given practice

The Eras Tour Through Life · paper

I argue that we can understand our lives as having structure through the notion of an 'era'; this avoids the pitfalls of self-narrative and the shortcomings of episodicity

The Canonical Snob · paper

The literature on snobbery overlooks the kind of snob who undervalues a work because they mistakenly accept an aesthetic ranking (a 'canon') in which the work ranks low. This paper explains the canonical snob and argues that it is the most fundamental kind of snob.

Art Beyond the Individual · **book**

Develops aesthetic communitarianism and applies it to problems in aesthetics

List Life: Reclaiming Taste in the Era of Content trade · **book**

On the cultural prevalence of lists and aesthetic rankings

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

"Practice, Play, and Style in Alva Noë's *The Entanglement*," *Analysis*, *forthcoming*

"Beauty and Happiness," in *Reasons and Relevance*, ed. Steven Hales, Hackett, *forthcoming*

"Aesthetic Acquaintance in Practice," *Philosophical Quarterly*, *forthcoming*

"Can't Kill the Vibe: Against Hope in Aesthetic Discourse," *Mind* 135:1, pp. 142–161, **2026**

"Connecting Beauty and Love," in *Art and Philosophy: New Essays at the Intersection*, ed. Alex King · Oxford University Press, **2025**

"Community and Conflict in Aesthetic Life: A Reply to Song," *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 83:2, pp. 183–186, **2025**

- “Kant and Cogito,” in *Kant's Lasting Legacy: Essays in Honor of Béatrice Longuenesse*, ed. Colin Marshall & Stefanie Grüne · Routledge, **2025**
- “Aesthetic Ranking: Tomatoes, Parker Points, and Pitchforks,” *Philosophical Topics* 52:1, pp. 139–160, **2024**
- “Autonomy and Aesthetic Valuing,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 109:1, pp. 391–409, **2024**
- Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing* *The Philosophical Review* 133:2, pp. 113–149, **2024**
- ★ Winner, American Philosophical Association Arthur Danto Prize
 - ★ Selected for the 2024 Philosopher's Annual (Top-Ten Essays)
- “Toward a Communitarian Theory of Aesthetic Value,” *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 80:1, pp. 16–30, **2022**
- “Convergence, Community, and Force in Aesthetic Discourse,” *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy* 8:47, **2022**
- “Artistic Style as the Expression of Ideals,” with Robert Hopkins, *Philosophers' Imprint* 21:8, pp. 1–18, **2021**
- “Schiller on Freedom and Aesthetic Value, Part II,” with Samantha Matherne, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 61:1, pp. 17–40, **2021**
- “Schiller on Freedom and Aesthetic Value, Part I,” with Samantha Matherne, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 60:4, pp. 375–402, **2020**
- ★ Selected for Commentary, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 60th anniversary
 - ★ Listed among Oxford University Press's 'Best of 2020' in Philosophy
- “Transformative Expression,” in *Becoming Someone New: Essays on Transformative Experience, Choice and Change*, eds. Schwenkler & Lambert · Oxford University Press, **2020**
- “Personal Ideals as Metaphors,” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 3:3, pp. 265–283, **2018**
- ★ Selected for author-meets-critics session, 2019 Pacific APA
- “On the Interest in Beauty and Disinterest,” *Philosophers' Imprint* 16:9, **2016**
- “Using the Street for Art: A Reply to Baldini,” *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 74:2, **2016**
- “On the Aesthetic Ideal,” *British Journal of Aesthetics* 55:4, pp. 433–447, **2015**
- ★ Voted one of the five best aesthetics articles of 2015, *Aesthetics for Birds*
- “Personal Style and Artistic Style,” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 65:261, pp. 711–731, **2015**
- “Levinson on the Aesthetic Ideal,” *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 71:3, **2013**
- “Street Art: The Transfiguration of the Commonplaces,” *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 68:3, **2010**

SELECT OTHER WORK

How Matisse and I Got a Beautiful Body, *New York Times*, **2022**

Beauty is Not an Ornament to the Good Life, *Psyche*, **2022**

The Ethics of Awesomeness, Philosophy Talk Radio, August **2021**

Discussion of Juzo Itami's Tampopo on Cows in the Field, with Justin Khoo and Laura Khoo, June **2021**

The Shaping of a Place on painter Eva Struble, *HereIn Journal*, January **2021**

YOLO Apologetics, contributor, *Hi-Phi Nation* (Slate), Season 3, Episode 10, June **2019**

The Art of Turning in Opposite: Poems, Philosophy and Coffee, eds. Aaron Meskin & Helen Mort · Valley Press, **2019**

Freedom and Hostile Design, contributor · *Hi-Phi Nation* (Slate), Season 2, Episode 4, January **2018**

How to Be Awesome, interview · *Scientific American*, **2017**

High Five! Awesomeness as the Imperative of Our Time, *Aeon Magazine*, February **2016**

Beauty and Love; Street Art and Graffiti, for Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, ed. Michael Kelly, **2014**
Review of Explaining Beauty in Mathematics, by Uliyanov Montano, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, **2016**
Review of Acts: Theater, Philosophy, and the Performing Self, by Tzachi Zamir, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, September **2015**

CONFERENCES, TALKS & PANELS

† = invited · * = refereed

UPCOMING

† TBD, Rutgers Philosophy Department Colloquium	September 2026
† TBD, Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China	October 2026
† TBD, Peking University, Beijing, China	October 2026
† TBD, UC San Diego Philosophy Department Colloquium	November 2026
* <i>The Hype is Real</i> , ASA Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City	November 2026
† TBD, UC Riverside Philosophy Department Colloquium	May 2027
† TBD, MIT Philosophy Department Colloquium	February 2027
† TBD, Harvard Philosophy Department Colloquium	March 2027
† <i>Comments on Kenneth Walden's The Imperative of Genius</i> (OUP), ASA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia	April 2027
† TBD, UC Riverside Philosophy Department Colloquium	May 2027

PAST

† <i>Aesthetic Attention: No Such Thing (Sort Of)</i> Workshop on Imagination, Beauty, and Attention, Canterbury, England	May 2026
† <i>The Hype is Real</i> Oberlin College Philosophy Colloquium	February 2026
† <i>Response to Robbie Kubala and Kenneth Walden</i> Author-Meets-Critics Prize Session, APA Eastern, Baltimore	January 2026
† <i>The Hype is Real</i> Chapman University Philosophy Colloquium	November 2025
† <i>Street Art as Aesthetic Practice: Community, Conflict, Critique</i> Keynote, Painting the Town Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta	October 2025
† <i>Comments on Alva Noë's The Entanglement</i> Author-Meets-Critics, Pacific APA, San Francisco	2025
† <i>Aesthetic Ranking</i> University of Manitoba Philosophy Colloquium	March 2025
† <i>Author-Meets-Critics for This Beauty (with James Ryerson & Jonathan Fine)</i> APA Eastern, New York City	January 2025
† <i>Can't Kill the Vibe</i> Conference on Aesthetic Discourse, Umeå, Sweden	December 2024
† <i>Comments on Sherri Irvin's Immaterial: Rules in Contemporary Art</i>	

American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Chicago	October 2024
† <i>Series of Talks on Beauty, Happiness, and Aesthetic Community</i>	
Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest, Hungary	May 2024
† <i>Theories of Aesthetic Discourse</i> , with Zed Adams & Nat Hansen	
New School for Social Research, New York	April 2024
† <i>Aesthetic Acquaintance in Practice</i>	
Tulane University Center for Ethics and Public Affairs	January 2024
† <i>Panel on Social Theories of Aesthetic Value</i> , with C. Thi Nguyen, Samantha Matherne & Anthony Cross	
ASA Annual Meeting, Arlington VA	November 2023
† <i>Aesthetic Acquaintance in Practice</i>	
UCLA Philosophy Department Colloquium	October 2023
† <i>Putting Aesthetic Communitarianism to Work: Aesthetic Testimony</i>	
Keynote, ASA Rocky Mountain Division Meeting	July 2023
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
University of Pennsylvania Philosophy Department Colloquium	December 2022
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
University of Southern California, Philosophy Department Colloquium	November 2022
† <i>Aesthetic Value as the Highest Good</i> , with Clinton Tolley	
ASA Summer Virtual Seminar	August 2022
† <i>Comments on Richard Moran, 'Swann's Medical Philosophy'</i>	
NYU Conference on Issues in Modern Philosophy	May 2022
† <i>Panel on Fitting Attitudes and Aesthetic Value</i> , with Louise Hanson & Alex King	
Pacific APA	April 2022
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
University of Victoria Philosophy Colloquium	April 2022
† <i>This Beauty: A Philosophy of Being Alive</i>	
UNC Chapel Hill, Parr Center for Ethics	March 2022
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
Kansas State Philosophy Colloquium	February 2022
† <i>Comments on C. Thi Nguyen's Games: The Art of Agency</i>	
ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal	November 2021
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
CUNY Graduate Center Philosophy Colloquium	November 2021
† <i>Aesthetic Value and the Practice of Aesthetic Valuing</i>	
UT Austin Philosophy Colloquium	October 2021
† <i>Convergence, Community, and Force in Aesthetic Discourse</i>	
New York Philosophy of Language Workshop	Spring 2021
† <i>Artistic Style as the Expression of Ideals</i> , with Rob Hopkins	
Aesthetics Permanent Seminar (Aresmur), Universidad de Murcia	2020
† <i>Panel on Aesthetic Discourse</i> , with Quill Kukla & Tim Sundell	
ASA Annual Meeting	November 2020
† <i>Invitation and Aesthetic Discourse</i>	

UC Santa Cruz Philosophy Colloquium	May 2020
* <i>Panel on Aesthetic Life and Why It Matters: Three Views</i>	
ASA Pacific Division Meeting, Berkeley	March 2020
† <i>Murals in the Aesthetic State</i>	
Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama	March 2020
† <i>Invitation and Aesthetic Discourse</i>	
Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas	November 2019
* <i>Invitation and Aesthetic Communication</i>	
ASA Annual Meeting, Phoenix	October 2019
† <i>Aesthetic Value and Community: Comments on Dominic McIver Lopes's Being for Beauty</i>	
British Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Oxford	2019
† <i>Roles and Rules in the Ethics of Style</i>	
Rubinfoff Sculpture Garden, Hornby Island, BC	June 2019
† <i>Artistic Style as the Expression of Ideals</i> , with Robert Hopkins	
Harvard Workshop on Aesthetic Normativity	May 2019
† <i>Schiller on Freedom and Aesthetic Value</i>	
UCSD History of Philosophy Roundtable	May 2019
† <i>Personal Ideals as Metaphors — Response to Critics</i>	
Invited Author-Meets-Critics, Pacific APA, Vancouver	April 2019
† <i>Aesthetic Judgments as Invitations; Invitation and Aesthetic Communication</i>	
Uppsala University, Sweden	March 2019
† <i>Two Talks: Aesthetic Judgments as Invitations and Schiller on Freedom and Aesthetic Value</i>	
Leeds University	March 2019
† <i>Aesthetic Judgments as Invitations</i>	
London Aesthetics Forum	March 2019
† <i>Schiller on Freedom and Aesthetic Value</i> , with Samantha Matherne	
Harvard European Philosophy Workshop	December 2018
† <i>Transformative Expression</i>	
Yale Workshop on Experience and Transformation	November 2018
† <i>Participant, Aesthetics Reborn Conference</i>	
Florence, Italy	June 2018
† <i>Transformative Expression and Social Art</i>	
Keynote, Philosophy & Representation, San Diego State University	April 2018
† <i>Author Meets Critics for On Being Awesome (with Gillespie, Matthes & Nguyen)</i>	
APA Eastern, Savannah	January 2018
† <i>You Only Live Once</i>	
Hunter College	December 2017
† <i>Personal Ideals as Metaphors</i>	
Wayne State University Colloquium	October 2017
† <i>Aesthetic Necessity</i>	
Conference on Aesthetic Normativity, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art	May 2017
† <i>Transformative Expression</i>	

UNC Chapel Hill Conference on Transformative Experience	May 2017
† <i>Transformative Expression</i>	
Themes in Transformative Experience, Seattle	2017
† <i>The Normative Structure of Self-Presentation</i>	
Bled Conference on Ethics, Bled, Slovenia	June 2016
† <i>The Normative Structure of Self-Presentation</i>	
Moral and Political Philosophy Seminar, UC San Diego	May 2016
† <i>Using the Street for Art</i>	
Workshop: From City Streets to Museum Galleries, NYU Abu Dhabi (via Skype)	November 2015
* <i>Poetic Self-Conceptions</i>	
ASA Annual Meeting, Savannah GA	November 2015
† <i>Beauty and Love</i>	
University of British Columbia Colloquium	September 2015
† <i>On Being Awesome and Not Sucking</i>	
Lafayette College	April 2015
* <i>Aesthetic Properties and Mathematical Beauty</i>	
Conference on Aesthetics in Mathematics, University of East Anglia	December 2014
† <i>Individual Artistic Style: Three Views</i> , with Robert Hopkins	
Aesthetics Reading Group, Columbia University	November 2014
* <i>Individual Artistic Style: Three Views</i> , with Robert Hopkins	
ASA Annual Meeting, San Antonio TX	November 2014
† <i>Panel Discussion: Art and Illegality</i>	
Columbia Law School	October 2014
† <i>The Street in Street Art</i>	
Brooklyn Public Philosophers	September 2014
† <i>The Street in Street Art</i>	
Keynote, Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne, Australia	August 2014
* <i>Ideals as Metaphors</i>	
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), Boulder CO · comments by Julia Staffel	August 2014
* <i>Kant and Cogito</i>	
APA Pacific Division, San Diego · comments by Lucy Allais	April 2014
* <i>Sibley on the Unity of Narrow Aesthetic Properties</i>	
ASA Annual Meeting, San Diego · comments by Alan Goldman	October 2013
* <i>Personal and Artistic Style</i>	
British Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Cambridge University	September 2013
† <i>Commentator on 'Imagination and Film'</i>	
APA Central Division, New Orleans	February 2013
† <i>Aesthetic Perfection</i>	
Conference on the Nature of Taste, Paris · comments by Jerrold Levinson	October 2011
† <i>Street Art and Public Space; Panel Discussant, Pseudo-Public Space</i>	
Parsons The New School for Design	October 2011
* <i>Aesthetic Perfection</i>	

GRADUATE TEACHING

The Department of Philosophy at University of San Diego does not have a graduate program, but I have served on graduate committees and invite graduate students to reach out to me about serving on theirs.

- Ethan Higginbotham, UC Davis, TBD
- Sparrow LoCurto, CU Boulder, TBD
- Cody Hatfield-Meyers, *Taste, Care, and Coherence in Aesthetic Life*, 2026
- Noam Tiran, UC San Diego, *Self-Articulation and Self-Formation*, 2026
- Alexandra Grundler, UC Santa Cruz, *The Life of the Aesthetically Virtuous*, 2021

SELECT SERVICE

Committee Member, APA Committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research	2026–2029
Aesthetics Area Editor, Philosophy Compass	2018–2025
Director and Co-founder, USD Food Studies Minor	
Co-lead, USD Food Studies Initiative	
Academic Review Committee, University of San Diego	2024–
Health Sciences Committee Member, University of San Diego	2017–
Member, Dean's Advisory Council on the Arts, University of San Diego	2019–2020
Founder and Director, Southern California Aesthetics Forum	
Co-organizer (with C. Thi Nguyen), Camp Aesthetics Retreat, Capitol Reef, Utah	July 2019 & August 2018
Co-organizer (with Clinton Tolley), Southern California Student Conference in Aesthetics, USD	November 2018
Organizer, Notes on the Aesthetics of Grunge, ASA Annual Meeting, Seattle	2016
Program Committee Member, ASA Annual Meeting, Seattle	2016
Consulting Editor, Journal of the American Philosophical Association	
Editor, PhilPapers.org: Art and Artworks; Philosophy of Visual Art	
Conference Co-organizer, Philosophy of Street Art: Art in and of the Streets	March 2015
with Christy Mag Uidhir & Gregg Horowitz; supported by ASA, The Pratt Institute & NY Institute of Philosophy	

Referee for: The Journal of Philosophy, The Philosophical Review, Mind, Philosophers' Imprint, Oxford University Press, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Ergo, The Philosophical Quarterly, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, British Journal of Aesthetics, Estetika, Philosophical Papers, The American Society for Aesthetics, and many others.

REFERENCES

Paul Boghossian

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