

EMILY C. MCWILLIAMS

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Epistemology, Ethics, Feminist Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Social & Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Director of the Ethics and Leadership Initiative, University of Dayton (2025-present)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Duke Kunshan University (2018-2024)

Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar, The Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University (2017-2018)

Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, M.I.T. (2016-2017)

EDUCATION

August 2016 **Ph.D. in Philosophy**
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dissertation: “Belief and Ameliorative Epistemology”
Committee: Susanna Siegel, Mark Richard, Susanna Rinard

May 2005 **B.A.; triple major in Philosophy, Linguistics, and Psychology**
Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, *Summa Cum Laude*

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming **Testimonial Injustice and the Nature of Epistemic Injustice** In *Blackwell Companion to Epistemology*, Third Edition. Ed. Kurt Sylvan. Blackwell.

2024 **Testimonial Withdrawal and the Ontology of Testimonial Injustice**, *Southwest Philosophy Review*

2023 **Evidentialism and Epistemic Duties to Inquire**, *The Philosophical Quarterly*
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqad061>
⇒ Featured on *New Work in Philosophy* [[Link](#)]

2022 **Ameliorative Inquiry in Epistemology** In *The Political Turn in Analytic Philosophy*. Eds. D. Bordonaba Plou, V. Fernández Castro, & J. Torices Vidal. De Gruyter

2021 **Affective Polarization, Evidence, and Evidentialism** In *The Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology*. Eds. M. Hannon & J. de Ridder. Routledge

2021 **Evidentialism and Belief Polarization**, *Synthese*

2019 **Can Epistemic Virtues Help Combat Epistemologies of Ignorance?** In *Overcoming Epistemic Injustice: Social and Psychological Perspectives*. Eds. S. Goguen & B. Sherman. Rowman & Littlefield

EDITORSHIPS

- 2024 Co-editor (with Miroslava Trajkovski) of the Balkan Analytic Forum, 1. Normativity & normativity of art: Conference proceedings. 255. University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy; Center for Contemporary Philosophy.
https://www.f.bg.ac.rs/files/Balkan_Analytic_Forum_Normativity_2024.pdf

WORKS IN PROGRESS, UNDER REVIEW, & UNDER CONTRACT

- Commissioned **Epistemic Injustice in Inquiry** In *Inquiry: Philosophical Perspectives*, edited by Jon Matheson and Aaron Creller
- Under Review **A paper on testimonial injustice (title omitted for anonymous peer review)**
- In Preparation **Papers on epistemic normativity**
Papers on epistemic oppression
Papers on collective inquiry, intellectual humility, and epistemic care

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 **Visiting Research Fellow**, The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, The University of Edinburgh
- 2022-23 **Visiting Faculty Fellowship**, University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics
- 2017 **Collaborative Visiting Fellowship**, University of Oslo, ConceptLab

GRANTS

- 2024 **Summer Research Program Grant**, for RMB 100,000, Duke Kunshan University
- 2022-23 **Caring for Animals Research Lab, DKU Humanities Research Center Grant**, for \$11,940; co-director with Claudia Nisa
- 2021 **DKU Humanities Research Center, Small Events Grant** (*co-organized by 4 professors & 9 students, for "Body Liberation and Feminism: A Series"*)
- 2021 **DKU Humanities Research Center, Teaching Cohorts Grant** (*awarded to a cohort of 13 professors to promote collaboration around teaching on gender & sexuality*)

TEACHING-RELATED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

- 2019 **DKU Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching** (*awarded to one faculty member annually across the university*)
- 2018 **Learning Innovation Fellowship**, Duke Kunshan University
- 2012 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (*The Romance: From Jane Austen to Chick Lit*)
- 2012 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (*Rationality and The Emotions*)
- 2011 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (*Philosophy of Mind*)

PAPER PRIZES

- 2019 **Minorities and Philosophy Ethicist Prize** (Awarded by *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress* for “Testimonial Injustice: Beyond Credibility Deficits”)
- 2015 **Graduate Student Paper Prize** (Awarded by *Mississippi Philosophical Association* for “Evidential Rationality and Belief Polarization”)

OTHER AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 **Faculty Scholarship and Travel Award**, Duke Kunshan University
- 2021 **DKU Pre-Tenure Sabbatical** (*5 of 12 project proposals funded in application year*)
- 2019 **Faculty Scholarship and Travel Award**, Duke Kunshan University
- 2015 **Dissertation Completion Fellowship**, Harvard University
- 2014 **Departmental Martin Prize Fellowship** (*Harvard departmental research merit fellowship*)
- 2013 **Term Time Research Award**, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2012 **Pre-Dissertation Summer Fellowship**, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2008 **Graduate Prize Fellowship**, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

PRESENTATIONS

“Epistemic Injustice and Inquiry”

- 2025 Tulane University, Ethics of Academic Inquiry Workshop Series (online)
- 2024 University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy Serbia

“Hijacking and Relational Intellectual Humility”

- 2024 Balkan Analytic Forum 2, University of Belgrade, Serbia (*Invited Keynote*)

“Grim Tidings: Emotion and Agency in a Worsening Climate” Co-authored with Kyle Fruh

- 2024 Emotion, Responsibility, and Agency, Zhejiang University, China*
- 2024 Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

“Testimonial Withdraw and The Ontology of Testimonial Injustice”

- 2023 Southwestern Philosophical Society, Waco, U.S.A.*

“Hijacking Joint Inquiry”

- 2024 American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting (Symposium)*
- 2023 Goethe Epistemology Meeting, Frankfurt, Germany*
- 2023 Inquiry Network Work-in-progress series, online*

“Reasons for Belief, Reasons for Action, and Two Kinds of Agency”

- 2023 Balkan Analytic Forum on Normativity, University of Belgrade*

“Epistemic Hijacking and The Role of Motivation in Joint Inquiry”

- 2023 Work in Progress talk at The Applied Epistemology Project, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2023 Work in Progress Seminar, IASH, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2023 Applied Epistemology: Virtue, Vice, and Bias, Slovenia

“Relational Intellectual Humility in Joint Inquiry”

- 2023 Ethics @noonish Lecture Series, University of Toronto

“Evidentialism and Epistemic Duties to Inquire”

- 2023 Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, Chapel Hill, U.S.A.*

“Testimonial Injustice: Beyond Credibility Deficits”

- 2022 Epistemic Injustice Meets Asia, Online
- 2019 Public Philosophy Network, Michigan State University, U.S.A.*¹
- 2019 Social Ontology Network, Tampere University, Finland*
- 2019 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, U.S.A. (*awarded Minorities & Philosophy Ethicist Prize*)*
- 2019 Social Epistemology Network Event, Yonsei University, South Korea*
- 2019 Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy, Japan
- 2019 Social Epistemology and The Politics of Knowing, Slovenia

“Market Regulation and Moral Considerations”

- 2021 Fudan University School of Finance, China

“Evidentialism and Epistemic Reasons for Action”

- 2021 Wuhan University, China
- 2020 Humboldt Normativity Conference, Germany (*moved online for COVID-19*)*
- 2019 Knowledge and Decision Conference, University of Hamburg, Germany*

“Ameliorative Inquiry in Epistemology”

- 2020 European Society for Analytic Philosophy, Netherlands (*moved online for COVID-19*)*
- 2020 SWIP Ireland (*cancelled due to COVID-19*)*

“What is Testimonial Withdraw?”

- 2019 SWIP Ireland*
- 2019 Epistemic Injustice Workshop, University of Johannesburg, South Africa*
- 2018 Applied Epistemology Retreat, DePauw University, U.S.A.

“Designing Innovative Assignments for PWOL Courses”

- 2019 Plenary with Paul Blaschko & Steven Angle at Philosophy as a Way of Life Workshop, U.S.A.

“Evidentialism and Political Polarization”

- 2019 Ignorance and Irrationality in Politics, University of Nottingham, U.K.

“Can An Epistemic Virtue Approach Help Combat Epistemologies of Ignorance?”

- 2018 The Society for Applied Philosophy, Netherlands*
- 2017 Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills, Slovenia

“What is Epistemic Injustice?”

- 2018 Humanities Research Center Launch Event, Duke Kunshan University, China

“In Favor of Epistemic Reasons for Action”

- 2018 The Latin American Association for Analytic Philosophy, Colombia*
- 2018 Ohio Philosophical Association, University of Cincinnati, U.S.A.*
- 2018 Kentucky Philosophical Association, Thomas More College, U.S.A.*
- 2017 Illinois Philosophical Association, Northern Illinois University, U.S.A.*
- 2017 ConceptLab, University of Oslo, Norway
- 2017 Alabama Philosophical Society, U.S.A.*

“Epistemic Oppression and Ameliorative Epistemology”

¹ * Denotes a peer-reviewed presentation.

- 2017 ConceptLab, University of Oslo, Norway
- 2017 Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, U.S.A.*
- 2016 Midwest SWIP Conference, Centre College, U.S.A.*
- 2015 SWIP Ireland*
- 2015 The Kentucky Philosophical Association Summer Workshop, Centre College, U.S.A.*

“What is Epistemic Oppression?”

- 2015 The Intersection of Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind, Slovenia
- 2015 The Philosophers’ Cocoon Conference, University of Tampa, U.S.A.*
- 2015 Northern New England Philosophical Association, Bates College, U.S.A.*

“Evidential Rationality and Belief Polarization”

- 2015 Mississippi Philosophical Association, Millsaps College, U.S.A.* (*awarded graduate student paper prize*)
- 2014 Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Mind, Language, and Cognition, University of Western Ontario, Canada*

“Ameliorative Inquiry in Epistemology”

- 2015 Understanding Value Conference, University of Sheffield, U.K.*

“Belief Polarization, Re-Visited”

- 2014 The Senses Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, U.S.A.*
- 2014 Northwestern/Notre Dame Epistemology Conference, Northwestern University, U.S.A.*
- 2013 Evidence, Reliability, and Group Epistemology, Slovenia

CONFERENCE RESPONSES

Respondent to Giulia Napolitano’s ‘Conspiracy Theories, Resistance to Evidence, and Propaganda: How Conspiracy Theories Advance Political Causes’ APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montreal, 2023

Respondent to Kunimasa Sato’s ‘Transformative Injustice’ Asian Epistemology Network, Online, 2021

Respondent to Nick Bochenek’s ‘Knowing in the Face of Power’ American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Online, 2021.

Respondent to Nicole Dular’s ‘Constructivism’s Own Epistemology’ Pre-Tenure Mentoring Workshop for Women in Philosophy, Boston University, U.S.A., 2019.

Respondent to Lani Watson’s ‘What Are Epistemic Rights?’ Social Epistemology Network Event, University of Oslo, Norway, 2018.

Respondent to Ben Rossi’s ‘Internalism, the Agony Argument, and Blindspot Reasons’ Kentucky Philosophical Association, Thomas More College, U.S.A., 2018.

Respondent to Luke Golemon’s ‘Why Tolerate Religious Claims of Conscience?’ Illinois Philosophical Association, Northern Illinois University, U.S.A., 2017.

Respondent to Amy Flowerree’s ‘Parity of Belief and Intention’ Athena in Action Workshop, Princeton University, U.S.A., 2016.

Respondent to Jason Chen’s ‘The Core of Oppression’ Philosophers’ Cocoon Conference, University of Tampa, U.S.A., 2015.

Respondent to Enoch Lambert’s ‘Higher-Order Intentionality and Animal Mindreading: Against a Dennettian Conjecture’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, U.S.A., 2015.

Respondent to Thiemo Breyer’s ‘Visibility, Embodiment, and Empathy’ The Mahindra Humanities Center/Mellon Violence and Non-Violence Seminar, Cambridge, U.S.A., 2014.

Respondent to Chase Wrenn’s ‘Defending Epistemic Teleology’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, U.S.A., 2014.

Respondent to Nalini Ambady’s ‘Social Judgments from Thin Slices of Behavior’ The Network for Sensory Research Workshop on Perceptual Learning and Perceptual Recognition, University of Toronto, Canada, 2012.

WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SEMINARS

Philosophy as a Way of Life Network Workshop, University of Notre Dame, USA, June 2019.

Mentoring Workshop for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy, Boston University, USA, June 2019.

Applied Epistemology Research Retreat and Workshop (Organizer), DePauw University, July 2018.

Athena in Action: Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy, Princeton University, August 2016.

Neuroscience Bootcamp, University of Pennsylvania, USA, July 2012.

TEACHING

University of Dayton	‘Ethics’ (x2)
Duke Kunshan University	‘Ethics, Citizenship, and the Examined Life’ (x8) *Core curriculum; I lead the team of 11 instructors who teach it ‘Introduction to Ethics and Leadership’ (x4) ‘Non-Human Animal Ethics’ (x6) ‘Psychology of Justice’ ‘Introduction to Western Philosophy’ (x2) ‘What is the Right Thing to Do? Ethics and Justice in the Modern World’ ‘‘Mad’ Women in Literature & Film (<i>Mini-Term</i>)’ (x2) ‘Villainess: Women ‘bad guys’ in literature, film, and philosophy’ <i>Co-taught with Lindsay Mahon Rathnam</i> <i>Signature Work (Capstone) Projects Supervised:</i> Yutong Lu, “Epistemological Foundations of Interdisciplinarity: Investigations from Individual and Social Epistemic Levels” Jingying Yao, “Why Do Men Take Jokes Personally? A Case Study of Misogyny in China” Yixuan Cao, “Polyamory as a Viable Choice: A Supportive Exploration Inspired by Luke Brunning’s ‘The Distinctiveness of Polyamory’” Michelle Tom, “Race as a Social Construct” Gwen Jiang, “The Guardian”
DePauw University	‘Reasoning Under Oppression’ ‘How to Live: Moral Issues in Public and Private’
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	‘Minds and Machines’ ‘Theory of Knowledge’

Boston College	‘Introduction to Feminisms’ ‘Colloquium: Teaching Women’s Studies’	
Harvard University	‘Social Epistemology’ ‘Pedagogy: Instructional Styles in Philosophy’, <i>Co-taught with Bernhard Nickel</i> ‘Rationality and The Emotions’	

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Referee for: <i>Asian Journal of Philosophy; Episteme; Erkenntnis; Estudios de Filosofia; Philosophical Quarterly; Philosophical Studies; Synthese; Theoria; Philosophical Topics; Oxford Studies in Epistemology; Balkan Journal of Philosophy; American Philosophical Quarterly</i>	ongoing
External Reviewer for The Young Philosophers Lecture Series at DePauw University	2018
Director of Applied Epistemology Summer Research Retreat at DePauw University	2018
Book Proposal Reviewer for Routledge	2017-present
Copy Editor for <i>Noûs</i> and <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>	2005

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Dayton

Undergraduate Research Council	2025-present
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Duke Kunshan University:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Faculty Committee, *Co-Chair (<i>*elected</i>)	2023-2024
Faculty Assembly Executive Committee	2023-2024
Co-advisor to the Animal Protection Academic Club	2023-2024
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	2023-2024
Gender Studies Committee	2023-2024
Strategic Planning Group for research on “Culture, Communication, and Leadership”	2022-2024
Review Committee for Student Academic Awards	2022
Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2022
Search Committee for VAP in Philosophy	2022
Women’s, Gender, and Diversity Initiative (faculty co-director)	2021-2024
Sexual Misconduct Review Board	2021-2024
Curriculum Realignment Committee (Chair) for Ethics & Leadership	2021-2023
Social epistemology reading group (co-founder/co-lead)	2021-2022
Curriculum Committee Member (<i>*elected</i>)	2021-2022
Major Coordinator for Ethics and Leadership major	2019-2024
Co-Developed and Led Third Year Core Curriculum (required of all 3 rd year students)	2019-2024
Search Committee for Lectureship in Philosophy	2020
Affiliate Faculty Member, Freedom Lab	2020-2024
Reviewer for Undergraduate Humanities Conference	2018-2020
Signature Work Committee Member	2019-2020
Sexual Misconduct Policy Task Force Member	2019-2020
Academic Advisor to 12 undergraduate students	2018-2024
Study Abroad Task Force Member	2018-2020

Advisor to the Philosophy Club	2018-2024
Co-Advisor to the GSRM (Gender, Sexual, and Romantic Minorities) Club	2018-2024
Archive and Records Management Librarian Search Committee Member	2018-2024
Facilitated panel on “Diversity in Higher Education” for The Diversity Series	2018
Led “Seeing Sexual and Romantic Diversity at DKU” workshop for ‘ ’	2018

DePauw University:

Indiana High School Ethics Bowl Judge	2018
Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics Advisory Board Member	2017-2018
“Understanding Epistemic Injustice” presentation to the philosophy club	2018

M.I.T.:

Ask a Philosopher Booth volunteer at the M.I.T. “Day of Action”	2017
“On Epistemic Oppression” presentation to the philosophy club	2017

Harvard University:

Harvard-M.I.T. Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter	2013-2016
Graduate Representative to the Faculty (two terms)	2011-2015
Graduate-Faculty Curriculum Reform Committee	2014
Research Assistantships: for Stanley Cavell (2014); for Mark Richard (2014); for Christine Korsgaard (2012)	2012-2014
Assistant Head Tutor, Harvard Department of Philosophy	2012-2013
Metaphysics and Epistemology Dissertation Workshop Coordinator	2011-2012
Student Coordinator for Philosophy and Classics Department Conference	2011
Philosophy Department Representative to the Graduate Student Council	2009-2010
Student Coordinator for Philosophy of Perception Conference (x2)	2008, 2009

MEDIA OUTREACH

“ Philosophy and #MeToo ” on the Examining Ethics Podcast Listen: http://examiningethics.org/2018/03/28-philosophy-metoo-emily-mcwilliams/	2018
“ What’s the Deal With Philosophers? ” on the Examining Ethics Podcast Listen: http://examiningethics.org/2017/12/25-whats-deal-philosophers/	2017

REFERENCES

Susanna Siegel ssiegel@fas.harvard.edu	Mark Richard Richard4@fas.harvard.edu	Susanna Rinard susannarinard@fas.harvard.edu
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