

Lacey J. Davidson

Curriculum Vitae
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California Lutheran University
Department of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Philosophy of Race, Social Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind (esp. Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science)

AREAS OF COMPETENCY: Ethics, Philosophy of Gender, Feminist Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D.

Philosophy, Purdue University, 2019

Dissertation: “That’s (Also) Racist! Entity Type Pluralism, Responsibility, and Liberatory Norms”
Committee: Daniel Kelly (chair), Leonard Harris, Taylor Davis, Ron Mallon (outside reader)

B.A.

Philosophy and Political Science, Wittenberg University, 2012

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, California Lutheran University (2 year appointment)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2019 “Epistemic Labor and The Power in (Fat) Identity: Three Fat Archetypes as Experienced in the Streets, the Local Bar, and Other Public Places.” *Fat Studies*. [co-authored with Melissa Gruver] <https://doi.org/10.1080/21604851.2019.1629806>
- 2018 “Minding the Gap: Bias, Soft Structures, and the Double Life of Social Norms.” *Journal of Applied Philosophy*. [co-authored with Daniel Kelly] <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12351>
- 2017 “Category Matters: The Interlocking Epistemic and Moral Costs of Implicit Bias.” *Teoria* 37.2: 37-52. <https://doi.org/10.4454/teoria.v37i2.16>

Book Chapters

- In Press “Epistemic Responsibility and Implicit Bias.” Invited contribution to *Introduction to Implicit Bias*, Alex Madva & Erin Beeghly (Eds), in contract with Routledge. [co-authored with Nancy McHugh]
- Forthcoming “Epistemology of HIV Transmission: The Roles of Privilege and Marginalization in the Dissemination of Knowledge.” *Making the Case: Feminist and Critical Race Theorists Investigate Case Studies*, Nancy McHugh and Heidi Grasswick (Eds.), SUNY University Press. [co-authored with Mark Satta]

- 2019 “When Testimony Isn’t Enough: Implicit Bias Research as Epistemic Exclusion.” Invited contribution to *Overcoming Epistemic Injustice*, Benjamin Sherman & Stacy Goguen (Eds.), 269-284. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Book Reviews & Replies

- 2018 Book Review of *The Construction of Human Kinds* by Ron Mallon. *Philosophical Psychology* 31.1: 143-146.
- 2015 “Intuition, Judgment, and the Space Between: A Reply to Sherman.” *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 4.11: 15-20. [co-authored with Daniel Kelly]

Papers in Preparation

- Under Review “Social Distrust.” Invited contribution to *Social Trust*, Kevin Vallier (Ed.). [co-authored with Mark Satta]
- In Prep “Pernicious Epistemically Justified Distrust.” [co-authored with Mark Satta]

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2018 Graduate Research Award, Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue University
- 2018 Graduate Teaching Award, Center for Instructional Excellence at Purdue University
- 2018 Graduate Teaching Certificate, Center for Instructional Excellence at Purdue University

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018-2019 Bilsland Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The Graduate School at Purdue University, Fall 2018-Summer 2019: \$59,064
- 2018 “When Testimony Isn’t Enough.” College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Research Travel Award: \$750
- 2017 “Implicit Bias in the Philosophy Classroom.” College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Research Travel Award: \$750
- 2016 “Bias & Philosophy.” 2016 Global Synergy Grant for Students: \$30,411
- 2016 “Informal Institutions and the Double Life of Social Norms.” College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Research Travel Award: \$1500
- 2016 “Case Studies in Feminist and Critical Race Epistemology.” College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Research Travel Award: \$750

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “Whiteness in Community Organizing: Impact Over Intention.” The Greater Lafayette Diversity Summit.
- 2018 “Implicit Bias in the Philosophy Classroom.” American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago, IL, Committee on the Status of Women Panel. [with Daniel Kelly]
- 2018 “Activism and the Armchair: Why Philosophers Need Not Stay Out of Politics.” Department Colloquium at Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH.
- 2017 “When Testimony Isn’t Enough.” Department Colloquium at University of Minnesota Duluth.

2017 “Implicit Bias and Educator Responsibility.” Diversity Workshop at Indiana University Kokomo.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized

2019 Third Annual Purdue Graduate Conference: Inclusive Philosophies
2018 Second Annual Purdue Graduate Conference: Inclusive Philosophies
2017 First Annual Purdue Graduate Conference: Inclusive Philosophies

Papers Presented

2019 “Seizing the Means of Production: Zines as Public Philosophy.” Public Philosophy Network, Michigan State University. [with Melissa Gruver]
2019 “Remaking Epistemic Systems: Lessons from Activist Communities.” Association for Lutheran College Faculty, Wittenberg University.
2019 “Pernicious Epistemically Justified Distrust.” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, Vancouver, BC. Colloquium Paper. [with Mark Satta]
2019 “Epistemic Violence, Failures to Understand, and Implicit Bias Research.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Columbus, OH.
2018 “When Testimony Isn’t Enough: Implicit Bias Research as Epistemic Injustice.” The Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics and Science Studies, Oregon State University.
2018 “Justified Social Distrust.” The Bowling Green Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy: Social Trust, Bowling Green State University. [with Mark Satta]
2018 “Minding the Gap: Individual Biases, Soft Structures, and the Psychology of Social Norms.” Symposium: The Logic of Racial Practice, University of Pittsburgh. [with Daniel Kelly]
2017 “When Testimony Isn’t Enough: Implicit Bias Research as Epistemic Injustice.” Purdue Graduate Conference: Inclusive Philosophies, Purdue University.
2017 “Activism and the Arm Chair: Why Philosophers Need Not Stay Out of Politics.” CUNY Graduate Conference, CUNY.
2016 “Between Individuals and Structures: Informal Institutions and the Double Life of Social Norms.” Moral Psychology Research Group, The University of Pittsburgh. [with Daniel Kelly]
2016 “The Epistemic Costs of Bias and Systems (Non-)Evaluation.” The Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics and Science Studies, University of Norte Dame.
2016 “Informal Institutions and the Double Life of Social Norms.” Bias in Context: Psychological and Structural Explanations, The University of Sheffield. [with Daniel Kelly]
2016 “Epistemology of HIV Transmission: The Roles of Privilege and Marginalization in the Dissemination of Knowledge.” Annual Values in Medicine, Science and Technology and Consortium for Socially Relevant Philosophy of/in Science and Engineering Conference, University of Texas. [with Mark Satta]

- 2016 “Implicit Bias and Ecological Control.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY.
- 2016 “Epistemology of HIV Transmission: Advancement, Uncertainty, and Dissemination of Information.” Bioethics: Preparing for the Unknown, Western Michigan University. [with Mark Satta]

Comments

- 2019 “Audiential Injustice” by Josué Piñeiro. American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver, CO.
- 2019 “Individualism, Functionalism, and Racial Inequality” by Sahar Heydari Fard. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2018 “Moral Ignorance” by James Lincoln. American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL.
- 2018 “The Challenge to Race Eliminativism From Implicit Bias Research” by Timothy Fuller. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Savannah, GA.
- 2017 “Familiar Races, Familiar Races: A Familiarity-Based Account of Early Racial Cognition” by Kamuran Osmanoglu and Armin Schulz.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Savannah, GA.

Chair

- 2019 “The Politics of Feminist Knowledge Production.” Public Philosophy Network, Michigan State University.

CAMPUS TALKS (Purdue University)

- 2019 That’s Racist! Descriptive and Explanatory Accounts of Human Rights Violations. Purdue Human Rights Lab
- 2018 Lightning Talk: “A Pluralistic Account of Racism.” College of Liberal Arts Research Expo.
- 2017 “Activism and the Armchair.” Purdue Graduate Student Symposium.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2018 Research Assistant (Reviewing & Editing, Citations, & Indexing) to Michael Brownstein (*The Implicit Mind* published with OUP in 2018).
- 2018 Research Assistant (Indexing) to Carrie Figdor (*Pieces of Mind* published with OUP in 2018).
- 2018 Research Assistant to Daniel Kelly.
- 2017 Moral Psychology Research Seminar with Mark Alfano, Delft University of Technology, November 5-9.
- 2016-2017 Research Assistant, Purdue Philosophy Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
- 2016 Research Assistant (Indexing) to Jennifer Saul & Michael Brownstein (*Implicit Bias and Philosophy*, Volume 1, published with OUP in 2016).
- 2015-2016 Coordinator & Research Assistant, Purdue Lectures in Ethics, Policy, and Science
- 2014-2015 Brewer Research Assistant in Applied Ethics to Dr. Mark Bernstein

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- 2019 Problems in Philosophy, California Lutheran University
- 2019 Metaphysics, California Lutheran University
- 2018 Global Moral Issues, Purdue University
- 2017 Critical Thinking, Purdue University

Adjunct Faculty

- 2016 Introduction to Philosophy, University of Indiana at Kokomo
- 2015 Introduction to Ethics, Ivy Tech Community College

Teaching Assistant (Purdue University)

- 2015 Environmental Ethics, Mark Bernstein
- 2014 Ethics and Animals, Mark Bernstein
- 2014 Introduction to Philosophy, Jan Cover
- 2013 Religions of the West, Thomas Ryba

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019 Book Reviewer: MIT Press, Routledge
- 2016-2019 Journal Referee: *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Mind and Language*, *Synthese*
- 2017 Graduate Assistant, Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**California Lutheran University**

- 2019 FOCUS Mentor Program

Purdue University

- 2017-2018 Social Media Contributor, Purdue Philosophy Department & Graduate Program
- 2016-2017 Co-Coordinator, Philosophy of Mind Reading Group
- 2016-2017 Purdue Philosophy Department Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
- 2016 Graduate Student Member, Philosophy Department Head Search Committee
- 2014-2016 Coordinator, Purdue Lectures in Ethics, Policy, and Science
- 2014-2015 Graduate Representative, Purdue Philosophy Department

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2016-2019 Founding Member & Director of Finance/Membership, Younger Women's Task Force of Greater Lafayette
- 2015-2019 Steering Committee and Facilitator, Lafayette Diversity Round Table Conversation Circles
- 2012-2013 AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Springfield Promise Neighborhood
- 2012-2013 Literacy Volunteer, Warder Literacy Center
- 2012 Teaching Assistant/Writing Fellow, "The Art of Living Ethically" at Inside-Out Program/Clark County Juvenile Detention Center

- 2011-2013 Community Coordinator, Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI) with the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center & Project Jericho
- 2010-2012 Volunteer, The Rock Youth Center
- 2010-2011 Developer/Coordinator, Stand Up for Ethics Program (StEP) with the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center & Project Jericho

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2016-Present American Philosophical Association
- 2016-Present Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
- 2018-2019 Founding Member, Purdue Minorities in Philosophy (MAP)
- 2016-2019 Founding Member, Purdue Women in Philosophy

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (Purdue University)

Metaphysics

- Studies in Philosophy of Mind: Evolution and Externalism, Daniel Kelly and Daniel Smith
- Studies in Philosophy of Mind: Mental Illness, Daniel Kelly
- Philosophy of Mind (audit), Daniel Kelly
- Studies in Philosophy of Mind: Social Norms (audit), Daniel Kelly and Taylor Davis

Epistemology

- Recent Analytic Philosophy: Epistemology, Matthias Steup
- Studies in Theory of Knowledge, Michael Bergmann

Ethics

- Seminar in Ethics: Kant, Patrick Kain
- Contemporary Ethics (audit), Patrick Kain

Logic, Language, and Science

- Metalogic, Dana Tulodziecki
- Philosophy of Science, Dana Tulodziecki
- Philosophy of Social Science, Leonard Harris

History of Philosophy

- Studies in Greek Philosophy: Aristotle, Pat Curd
- Existentialism, William McBride
- Phenomenology, Jacqueline Mariña

Social and Political/ Oppression and Liberation

- 19th Century African American Literature: Slave Narratives (English), Venetria Patton
- Philosophy of Liberation (sat in), Leonard Harris
- Recent American Philosophy: Pragmatism, Leonard Harris
- Philosophy of Race (audit), Leonard Harris
- Studies in Social and Political Philosophy, William McBride
- Race and Ethnicity (American Studies) (audit), Bill Mullen

Other

- Dissertation Seminar, Daniel Kelly
- French for Reading and Translation, Allan Wood
- Human Evolution (Biological Anthropology) (audit), Amanda Veile
- Digital Humanities (Library Sciences) (audit), Matthew Hannah

REFERENCES

Please contact Vickie Sanders, sanders@purdue.edu, to request letters of recommendation.

Daniel Kelly, Associate Professor
Purdue University
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For questions specific to teaching:
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DISSERTATION SUMMARY

“That’s (Also) Racist! Entity Type Pluralism, Responsibility, and Liberatory Norms”

Charles Mills (2000) claims, “That race should be irrelevant is certainly an attractive ideal, but when it has not been irrelevant, it is absurd to proceed as if it had been” (41). I’ve constructed my project with the specter of this absurdity very firmly in mind, and the dissertation proceeds by addressing two sets of longstanding questions about race. The first set concern methodological questions within accounts of racism. Specifically, I intervene on the longstanding individualist/structuralist debate and conclude that the best way forward is to reject the dichotomy. Those in the second concern issues of moral responsibility for racism, as well as the best or most effective locations for interventions into racism. For both sets of questions, I home in on the use and function of the predicate ‘racist’.

I begin by exploring claims (Blum 2002 and Anderson 2010) that ‘racism’ and ‘racist’ have been used so widely that they have lost their conceptual potency and are no longer effective moral evaluations. Due to conceptual inflation, one might conclude that we should use other terms to identify racial injustices. The motivating goal of my dissertation is to argue against this conclusion.

After laying out the stakes of the debate, I develop conceptual tools for diagnosing the individualist versus structuralist debate within philosophical accounts of racism. I argue that the debate has been persistent because we haven’t developed the right kinds of tools for understanding the locations of agreement and disagreement between the accounts. I then use these tools to show that both individualists and structuralists are committed to entity type monism or the view that only certain kinds of entities can be racist. In other words, a very deep *agreement* among both sides of the views is what results in seemingly irresolvable *disagreement* among the views. I argue that the best way forward is to reject the agreement. Instead of accepting entity type monism, we should adopt entity type pluralism. From here, I move from entity type pluralism to develop an account of the application conditions for the predicate ‘racist’ that tell us when and why we should apply the predicate to particular entities. These two chapters serve to clarify the concept RACISM.

After these clarifications have been made, I develop new resources for understanding moral responsibility for racism, specifically for how agents can be held accountable for intervening upon racist non-agential entities like norms, policies, and institutions. I call these resources “oblique blame” and “intervention-sensitive moral responsibility.” But, intervention-sensitive moral responsibility gives way to a problem. Given the ways in which our current epistemic practices exclude the testimony of People of Color, we will have a hard time knowing when we are responsible in this intervention-sensitive way. I call this the Knowledge Problem. To address this problem, I bring together the literature on epistemic oppression and the empirically-informed norms literature to show that interventions into epistemic norms help solve this problem. I provide four candidate norms from activist and organizing communities as examples. Taken together, this dissertation shows that we need not discontinue our use of ‘racism’ and ‘racist’ and that the terms can be used effectively to hold each other accountable toward anti-racist aims and a liberated future. My dissertation aims not only to make significant contribution to several areas of academic research, but also to articulate and clarify the implications of that research for social movements, public policies, and individual strategies for mitigating bias. I bring a philosopher’s eye to bear on these kinds of possibilities. By paying close attention to the psychological mechanisms that support certain attitudes and behaviors, my framework provides many resources for identifying effective strategies for intervention.