

Michelle M. Dyke

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RESEARCH: My work investigates the nature of moral & epistemic normativity.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:
Metaethics, Epistemology, Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:
Bioethics, Philosophy of Mind, History of Modern Philosophy

POSITIONS HELD

2019-2022	Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Center for Bioethics (3-year fixed term) Affiliated Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy (2021-) New York University
2018-2019	Philosophy Futures Postdoctoral Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy New York University

EDUCATION

2018	PhD, Philosophy New York University
2016	Visiting Doctoral Student (non-degree, fall 2016) École Normale Supérieure & Institut Jean Nicod, Paris
2012	BA, Philosophy, <i>Cum Laude</i> with Distinction in the Major Yale University

DISSERTATION: *Groups Have Aims & That Gives Us Reasons* (2018)
Committee: Paul Boghossian (chair), Sharon Street, Paul Horwich

I draw from the growing literature on group agency in order to inform a novel approach to meta-normative theory. I propose a relativist view of the nature and sources of our different kinds of normative reasons, including moral reasons as well as reasons of self-interested practical rationality and epistemic rationality. The view is inspired by classic arguments for normative antirealism, such as epistemological concerns, while seeking to avoid some major objections to familiar forms of normative relativism. The view also seeks to provide a unified account of these three different kinds of normative reasons, according to which they are all fundamentally instrumental in nature, but are differentiated by their sources in the contingent aims of different sorts of agents.

PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ “Relativism (exact title tbd),” in David Copp and Connie Rosati (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Meta-Ethics*, Oxford University Press (in progress, forthcoming volume)
- ❖ “Could our epistemic reasons be *collective* practical reasons?”
Noûs, online first 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1017/nous.12335>
- ❖ “Bad bootstrapping: The problem with third-factor replies to the Darwinian Dilemma for moral realism”
Philosophical Studies, 177, 2115-2128 (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-019-01301-4>
- ❖ “Group Agency Meets Metaethics: How to Craft a More Compelling Form of Normative Relativism”
Oxford Studies in Metaethics Vol. 15, Ed. Russ Shafer-Landau, Oxford University Press (2020)
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198859512.003.0010>

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

NYU Faculty of Arts & Science Postdoctoral Travel Grant, Spring 2019
 ▪ Awarded preferentially to those “with an established track record of effort to diversify the academy”
 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 2017-2018
 NYU Graduate School of Arts & Science Dean’s Student Travel Grant, Spring 2018
 NYU Graduate School of Arts & Science Dean’s Student Travel Grant, Spring 2017
 New York Institute of Philosophy Conference Grant, Spring 2017
 NYU Department of Philosophy Student Travel Grant, Spring 2014
 MacCracken Fellowship for Doctoral Study at NYU, 2012-2017

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Debating Evolution & Ethics – Does Evolution Undermine Mind-Independent Morality?”
 (invited as substitute for Sharon Street) with Russ Shafer-Landau
 University of Delaware, Dept. of Philosophy
 Newark, DE, March 5, 2020

CUNY Graduate Center Colloquium, Philosophy Program
“Could Our Epistemic Reasons Be *Collective* Practical Reasons?”
 New York, NY, October 23, 2019

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

European Epistemology Network (EEN) Conference 2020
“Could Our Epistemic Reasons Be *Collective* Practical Reasons?”
 University of Glasgow, U.K. & COGITO Research Group
Invited for June 2020; Conference Postponed due to COVID-19

The 4th Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference
“Could Epistemic Reasons Be *Collective* Practical Reasons?”
 University of Southampton, U.K., June 19-21, 2019

Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
“What Do Lisa, Her College’s Chess Club, and NATO Have in Common?”
 Rethinking What it Takes to Be an Agent
 The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 1-3, 2019

Central New York (CNY) Moral Psychology Workshop
“All Day, Every Day”
 Comments from Hille Paakkunainen
 Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, May 25, 2019

The 13th Annual Madison Metaethics Workshop
“Group Agency Meets Meta-Ethics: How to Craft a More Compelling Form of Normative Relativism”
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 28-30, 2018

Social Ontology 2018
“What do Lisa, her College’s Tango Club, and the US Marine Corps have in Common?”
 Rethinking What it Takes to Be an Agent
 Tufts University, August 22-25, 2018
 In cooperation with the International Social Ontology Society

The 2018 CEPPA (Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs) Graduate Conference
“How to Avoid Three Problems for Moral Relativism: Attribute Reasons to Societies as Well as Persons!”
 University of St. Andrews, U.K., February 17-18, 2018

The 2017 Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy
“From Normative Disagreement to Normative Antirealism?”
 Harvard University, April 8, 2017

The 2017 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference: Ethical Intersections

“Ethics, Explanation and Attitude-Dependence”

Held in cooperation by Adrian College and Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI, March 24-26, 2017

The 2017 University of Oklahoma Graduate Philosophy Conference

“Bad Bootstrapping: The Problem with Third-Factor Responses to Reliability Challenges for Moral Realism”

February 25, 2017

INVITED COMMENTARY

Eastern APA (American Philosophical Association) Conference, Colloquium

Comments on Jennifer Foster’s “Normative Inference Tickets”

Baltimore, MD, January 5-8, 2022

Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference (RoME) 2021

Comments on Olof Leffler’s “Contingency, Sociality, and Moral Progress”

Boulder, CO, August 12-15, 2021 (session held virtually)

Eastern APA Conference, Colloquium

Comments on Miles Tucker’s “A Quiet Moral Ontology”

New York, NY, January 4-7, 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)

Central APA Conference, Colloquium: Debunking in Epistemology

Comments on Luke Kallberg’s “Third-Factor Defenses of Moral Knowledge”

Chicago, IL, February 26-29, 2020

Eastern APA Conference, Colloquium: Ethics of Collectives

Comments on Robert Gruber’s “Harmless Torturers, Accumulation Cases, and a Solution to the Mismatch Problem”

New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019

COURSES TAUGHT AS SOLE OR PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

BIOETHICS, GRADUATE (MA) SEMINAR:

Advanced Introduction to Bioethics (3 times: Fall 2019, Fall 2020 [hybrid format] & Fall 2021)

Topics in Bioethics: Controversies & Politics (2 times: Spring 2020 & Spring 2021 [hybrid format])

Advanced Introduction to Public Health Ethics (Summer 2020 [virtual format])

BIOETHICS, UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR:

Ethics & Identity: Disability, Gender, and Race (2 times: Spring 2020 & Spring 2021 [hybrid format])

PHILOSOPHY, UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE COURSE:

Central Problems in Philosophy (Fall 2018)

PHILOSOPHY, UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR:

Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology:

Moral Epistemology and the Debate Over Moral Realism (Spring 2019)

Central Problems in Philosophy (Summer 2018)

Philosophy of Mind (Summer 2017)

History of Modern Philosophy (3 times: Summers 2015, 2016, and 2017)

COURSES TAUGHT AS TEACHING ASSISTANT (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

PHILOSOPHY:

History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2016) for Anja Jauernig
 History of Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2015) for Jessica Moss
 History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2015) for Kristin Primus
 Existentialism & Phenomenology (Fall 2014) for John Richardson

NYU COLLEGE CORE CURRICULUM:

Texts & Ideas: Attachment, Loss and the Passage of Time (Spring 2018) for Sharon Street

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING COMPLETED

Workshop on *Teaching Large Lectures*, NYU Center for the Advancement of Teaching (November 29, 2018)
 Workshop on *Improving Student Writing*, NYU Center for the Advancement of Teaching (October 5, 2018)

MA THESES ADVISED, CENTER FOR BIOETHICS (as primary academic advisor)

Nicholas Tilmes (2020)
 “The Limits of Fair Machine Learning: An Analysis of Structural Ableism in Algorithmic Hiring”
 Madeleine Boyle (2020)
 “Species Moral Capacity: An Alternative to Moral Individualism”
 Joseph Adams (2020)
 “To What Extent Can MDMA Facilitate Authentic Interpersonal Intimacy?”
 Tania Sleman (2020)
 “Conscientious Objection and Physician-Assisted Suicide: The Applications of a Compromise Approach and its Complexities”
 Cara Hunt (2020)
 “How Do Ethical Risks of Psychiatric AI Impact the Informed Consent Process?”

SERVICE (TO THE UNIVERSITY AND TO THE PROFESSION)

Session Chair, 16th Annual Madison Metaethics Workshop
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 17-19, 2021

Co-Organizer, 1st NYU Philosophical Bioethics Workshop
 Held virtually from the NYU Center for Bioethics, November 6-7, 2020

Substitute member of the Teaching Excellence Committee, NYU School of Global Public Health
 (Spring 2020)

Session Chair, Pacific APA Conference, Colloquium: Philosophy of Mind (II)
 Seattle, WA, April 12-15, 2017

Graduate Student Peer Mentor
 NYU Graduate School of Arts & Science (2016-2018)
 NYU Department of Philosophy (2017-2018)

Graduate Assistant, 12th Annual Conference on Issues in Modern Philosophy: God
 Held at NYU on November 6-7, 2015

Co-Organizer, “Washington Square Circle” (2015-2016)
 Organized, in cooperation with one additional graduate student, a monthly forum for the presentation of graduate work in progress in philosophy at NYU

Graduate Student Representative, NYU Department of Philosophy (2013-2014)

Session Chair, Eastern APA Conference, Group Session Meeting of The Hume Society
Baltimore, MD, December 27-30, 2013

Organizing Committee Member, Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in Philosophy
Held at NYU on April 6, 2013

REFeree

Oxford University Press
The Philosophical Quarterly

VOLUNTEERING IN NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

High School for Environmental Studies, New York City
(Fall 2018 & 2019 in person, Fall 2020 virtually)

Led small-group classroom discussions of issues in Applied Ethics (e.g. collective responsibility for historical injustices) as part of a team of 3-4 visiting volunteers from New York University

“Corrupt the Youth,” East Side Community High School, New York City
(Spring 2019)

Participated in the team-teaching of an elective course in philosophy for high school students, following the “Corrupt the Youth” curriculum directed by Briana Toole: <https://corrupttheyouth.weebly.com/about.html>

Judge, New York City High School Ethics Bowl, <https://highschoolethicsbowl.com>, held at

High School for Environmental Studies (January 18, 2020)
Columbia Teachers College (January 26, 2019)
New York University (January 27, 2018)
Columbia University (February 4, 2017)

REFERENCES

Paul Boghossian

Department Chair; Silver Professor of Philosophy
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Sharon Street

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Paul Horwich

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Don Garrett (Teaching Reference)

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Russ Shafer-Landau

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