

Michelle M. Dyke

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Academic Employment

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow New York University Center for Bioethics	2019- (fixed term)
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Post-Doctoral Lecturer New York University Dept. of Philosophy	2018-2019
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Education

New York University New York, NY	PhD in Philosophy, 2018
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École Normale Supérieure & Institut Jean Nicod Paris, France	Visiting Doctoral Student, Fall 2016 (non-degree)
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Yale University New Haven, CT	BA in Philosophy, 2012 <i>Cum Laude</i> & Distinction in the Major
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Area of Specialization: Normativity, including:

Meta-Ethics, Ethics, Epistemology

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind, History of Modern Philosophy (Descartes-Kant), Bioethics

Dissertation: *Groups Have Aims & That Gives Us Reasons*

Committee: Paul Boghossian (chair), Sharon Street, Paul Horwich

What makes it the case that we have different kinds of normative reasons for action (or belief)? We have e.g. *moral* reasons to treat our neighbors respectfully, as well as *practical* reasons to get enough sleep, and *epistemic* reasons to believe claims on the basis of available evidence. My dissertation defends an original relativist theory of these different kinds of reasons and of the nature of the normative facts. I draw from the growing literature on *group agency* in order to inform a novel approach to meta-ethics that is consistent with some of the most important motivations for antirealist and relativist meta-ethical views, including epistemological objections to realism. On the view I defend, facts about different kinds of reasons are grounded in facts about the aims held contingently by distinct sorts of agents – including ourselves as individuals as well as a variety of social groups of which we are members.

Publications

“Group Agency Meets Meta-Ethics: How to Craft a More Compelling Form of Normative Relativism”
Oxford Studies in Metaethics, Vol. 15, Ed. Russ Shafer-Landau, forthcoming (2020)

“Bad Bootstrapping: The Problem with Third-Factor Replies to the Darwinian Dilemma for Moral Realism”
Philosophical Studies, forthcoming in print, Online First 08 May 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-019-01301-4>

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

The 4th Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference

University of Southampton, U.K., June 19-21, 2019

- ❖ “Could Epistemic Reasons Be *Collective* Practical Reasons?”

Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE)

2019 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 1-3, 2019

- ❖ “What Do Lisa, Her College’s Chess Club, and NATO Have in Common? Rethinking What it Takes to Be an Agent”

Central New York (CNY) Moral Psychology Workshop

Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, May 25, 2019

with Comments from Hille Paakkunainen

- ❖ “All Day, Every Day”

The 13th Annual Madison Metaethics Workshop

University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 28-30, 2018

- ❖ “Group Agency Meets Meta-Ethics: How to Craft a More Compelling Form of Normative Relativism”

Social Ontology 2018

Tufts University, August 22-25, 2018

In cooperation with the International Social Ontology Society (ISOS)

- ❖ “What do Lisa, her College’s Tango Club, and the US Marine Corps have in Common? Rethinking What it Takes to Be an Agent”

The 2018 CEPPA (Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs) Graduate Conference

University of St. Andrews, U.K., February 17-18, 2018

- ❖ “How to Avoid Three Problems for Moral Relativism: Attribute Reasons to Societies as Well as Persons!”

The 2017 Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy

Harvard University, April 8, 2017

- ❖ “From Normative Disagreement to Normative Antirealism?”

The 2017 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference: Ethical Intersections

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

- ❖ “Ethics, Explanation and Attitude-Dependence”

The 2017 University of Oklahoma Graduate Philosophy Conference

February 25, 2017

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

Invited Talks

CUNY Graduate Center Colloquium

New York, NY, October 23, 2019

- ❖ “Could Our Epistemic Reasons Be *Collective* Practical Reasons?”

Invited Commentary

Central APA (American Philosophical Association) Conference

Chicago, IL, February 26-29, 2020

Colloquium session

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

Eastern APA

New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019

Colloquium: Ethics of Collectives

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

Teaching Experience

Graduate Seminar (NYU Center for Bioethics)

Fall 2019	Advanced Introduction to Bioethics
Spring 2020	Current Controversies and Politics

Undergraduate Lecture (NYU Dept. of Philosophy)

Fall 2018	Central Problems in Philosophy
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Undergraduate Seminar (NYU Dept. of Philosophy)

Spring 2019	Topics in Metaphysics & Epistemology: Moral Epistemology and the Debate Over Moral Realism
Summer 2018	Central Problems in Philosophy
Summer 2017	Philosophy of Mind
Summer 2017	History of Modern Philosophy
Summer 2016	History of Modern Philosophy
Summer 2015	History of Modern Philosophy

Undergraduate Seminar (NYU Center for Bioethics)

Spring 2020	Ethics and Identity: Race, Gender & Disability
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As Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Lecture Course (NYU Dept. of Philosophy)

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

As Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Lecture Course (NYU College Core Curriculum)

Spring 2018

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

Teacher Training Completed

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

Professional Activities & Service

Normal departmental and advising duties, NYU Center for Bioethics, Fall 2019-

Session Chair, Pacific APA Conference

Seattle, WA, April 12-15, 2017, Colloquium: Philosophy of Mind (II)

Graduate Student Peer Mentor (2016 - 2018)

- In the academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, joined a new peer mentorship program to meet one-on-one twice a semester with a beginning student in NYU's Graduate School of Arts & Science to discuss academics and student life
(<https://gsas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/gsas/academic-and-professional-development/gsas-mentorship-program.html>)
- In the year 2017-2018, joined as a mentor to establish a new, similar program run exclusively by and for the graduate students of NYU's Philosophy Department

Graduate Assistant, 12th Annual Conference on Issues in Modern Philosophy: God

Held at NYU on November 6-7, 2015

- Managed conference registration, coordinated communication with invited speakers regarding their presentation and travel needs, and assisted in preparing the conference venue

Co-Organizer, Washington Square Circle (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)

- Organized, in cooperation with one other graduate student, a monthly forum for the presentation of graduate work in progress in philosophy at NYU

NYU Philosophy Dept. Graduate Student Representative (Fall 2013 - Spring 2014)

- Organized graduate student meetings and represented graduate students' interests at departmental faculty meetings

Session Chair, Eastern APA Conference

Baltimore, MD, December 27-30, 2013, for the Group Session meeting of The Hume Society

Committee Member, Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in Philosophy

Held at NYU on April 6, 2013

- Cooperated with a small team to direct a peer review of graduate student paper submissions, invite a faculty keynote speaker, and coordinate a one-day conference, dinner, and reception

Volunteer Service & Public Outreach

Volunteer, “Corrupt the Youth,” East Side Community High School, NYC public schools (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>)

Volunteer, High School for Environmental Studies, NYC public school (Fall 2018)

- Led small-group classroom discussions of issues in Applied Ethics as part of a team of four visiting volunteers from New York University

Volunteer Judge, New York City High School Ethics Bowl

- Held at Columbia Teachers College on January 26, 2019
- Held at New York University on January 27, 2018
- Held at Columbia University on February 4, 2017 (<https://highschoolethicsbowl.com>)

Fellowships & Grants Awarded

NYU Faculty of Arts & Science Postdoctoral Travel Grant

(awarded preferentially to those “with an established track record of effort to diversify the academy”)

Spring 2019

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

Foreign Language

French, advanced

References

Paul Boghossian

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Silver Professor of Philosophy

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Sharon Street

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Don Garrett

(Teaching Reference)

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