

# Michelle M. Dyke

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**RESEARCH:** My work investigates the nature of moral & epistemic normativity. I am especially interested in how our moral and epistemic reasons are shaped by the characteristic aims of contingent social groups.

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**  
Metaethics, Ethics, Epistemology

**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 position) Affiliated Faculty, Dept. of Philosophy (2021-) New York University
2018-2019	Post-Doctoral Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy New York University

## EDUCATION

2018	PhD, Philosophy New York University
2016	Visiting Doctoral Student (non-degree) 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 propose an original relativist theory of the nature and sources of our different kinds of normative reasons, including reasons of morality and of practical and epistemic rationality. I draw from the growing literature on group agency in order to inform a novel approach to meta-ethics that is inspired by some of the classic arguments for antirealist views, including epistemological objections to value realism, while also seeking to avoid some of the drawbacks of familiar relativist views.

## 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/os0/9780198859512.003.0010>

## 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; Conference Postponed due to COVID-19*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (CSSPE), 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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”

Held at Tufts University, August 22-25, 2018, in cooperation with the International Social Ontology Society (ISOS)

**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 Miles Tucker’s “A Quiet Moral Ontology”

New York, NY, January 4-7, 2021

**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 (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)**

**BIOETHICS, GRADUATE (MA) SEMINAR:**

Advanced Introduction to Bioethics (x2, Fall 2019 & Fall 2020)

Topics in Bioethics: Controversies & Politics (x2, Spring 2020 & Spring 2021)

Advanced Introduction to Public Health Ethics (Summer 2020)

**BIOETHICS, UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR:**

Ethics & Identity: Disability, Gender, and Race (x2, Spring 2020 & Spring 2021)

**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 (x3, Summers 2015, 2016, and 2017)

## PHILOSOPHY, AS TEACHING ASSISTANT:

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, AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

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

## TEACHER 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)

## BIOETHICS MA THESES ADVISED (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

Co-Organizer, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 NYC 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 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)