

Lauren Leydon-Hardy

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Updated 19 February 2023

EMPLOYMENT

2019-present Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Amherst College

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, Social Epistemology, Applied Epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Education, Metaethics, Feminist Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, 2019
Northwestern University
Dissertation: *Epistemic Infringement*
Committee: Jennifer Lackey (advisor), Baron Reed, Sanford Goldberg

M.A. in Philosophy, 2011
Brandeis University
Thesis: *Justifying Falsehoods*
Advisor: Berislav Marušić

B.A. in Philosophy with Honors, 2009
University of Calgary
Thesis: *Getting Gettier'd on Testimony*
Advisor: Jeremy Fantl

PUBLICATIONS:

- “Epistemic Infringement,” in Aidan McGlynn & Jennifer Lackey (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Applied Epistemology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Forthcoming)
- “Predatory Grooming and Epistemic Infringement,” in Jennifer Lackey (ed.), *Applied Epistemology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 119-147. (2021)
- “Some Resistance to the Idealized Thermometer Model.” *Episteme* 13: 423-426. (2016)
- Review of *Evidentialism and its Discontents*, Trent Dougherty (ed.), *Analysis*, 72 (4): 852-854. (2012)

- “Getting Gettier’d on Testimony.” *Logos & Episteme* 2: 361-369. (2010)

IN PREPARATION:

- Entry on “Epistemic Injustice” for *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* with Eric Bayruns García
- Explaining the Functional and Epistemic Unity of Propaganda

Abstract: Theorists of propaganda have long noted the difference between surreptitious propaganda, which aims at inculcating belief, and overt, or bald-faced propaganda, which is often absurd and used to express the power of the regime. At the same time, many have held that what is distinctive of propaganda as a political communications strategy, is that it is constitutively manipulative, and relies on by-passing audience-side rationality. These a-rationalist accounts of propaganda cannot explain why bald-faced propaganda really *is* propaganda. The arationalist could bite the bullet, allowing that bald-faced propaganda is propaganda in name alone. But this will depend on bald-faced propaganda’s genuine discontinuity with its more surreptitious cognate. Here, I show that the appearance of discontinuity between bald-faced and surreptitious propaganda is a façade. I defend a *functional unity thesis* and show that both kinds of propaganda aim at the mind of the audience. Propaganda is apt to *epistemically infringe*, eroding an audience’s epistemic agency, thereby illicitly constraining what is epistemically possible for them.

- Collaborative Epistemic Repair

Abstract: Suppose (1) that some experiences have distinctively epistemic dimensions, such that we sometimes owe it to others to understand what has happened to them. Suppose (2) that we sometimes have intrapersonal epistemic obligations, in that we may owe it to ourselves to understand what has happened to us. If (1) and (2) are right, then knowing one another and ourselves can be epistemically reparative.

In this paper I defend (1) and (2) and argue that there is a subcategory of epistemic repair that is essentially collaborative. These are cases in which subjects have intrapersonal epistemic obligations that they cannot discharge alone, through rumination or recollection, but which can be discharged indirectly, by bearing witness to the experiences of others. I explore the phenomenon of epistemically collaborative repair through (i) case studies of hermeneutical injustice, such as the case of Carmita Woods, (ii) case studies of epistemic infringement, such as the survivors of Larry Nassar’s predatory grooming, and (iii) studies of the efficaciousness of group therapy, specifically for patients exhibiting high psychopathy.

- Epistemic Agency and the Deep Self

Abstract: This paper articulates a jointly cognitive and conative deep-self account of epistemic agency. Building on Chandra Sripada’s “self-expression” account of practical agency, I argue that the role of

“cares” in Sripada’s model can be enriched by connecting that function to the crucial role that social relations, and the social and epistemic norms that govern those relations, play in shaping and giving rise to our cares. This allows us to tell a naturalistic story about the etiology of our cares, as well as our judgments about what we (should) care about. In this way, epistemic agency turns out to be essential, not only to epistemology, but to our understanding of practical agency itself.

PRESENTATIONS

“Collaborative Epistemic Repair”

The University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, October 6th, 2022

“Epistemic Infringement and Propaganda”

Colgate College, September 15, 2022

Episteme, August 23-24, 2021

University of Minnesota, October 15, 2021

Northwestern University, November 4, 2021

“Social Animals, Social Brains: Epistemic Health and Solitary Confinement”

Health for Humanity, Amherst College, October 19, 2020

“She was older than her years: Epistemic Infringement and Consent”

APA Pacific, *Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love*, April 2020 (canceled)

“Epistemic Infringement and the Deep Self”

PHIL 468, Seminar on Epistemic Psychology at Northwestern University, November 2, 2021

Lafayette College, October 23, 2020

Episteme, June 16-17, 2020 (canceled)

Claremont McKenna College, March 6, 2020

New York University, March 4, 2020

“Epistemic Infringement”

Northwestern University, November 3, 2021

Oakland University, February 5, 2021

Connecticut College, October 15, 2019

PeRFECT5, University of Pennsylvania, November 15-16, 2019

Prindle Institute for Ethics Applied Epistemology Workshop, DePauw University, June 17-24, 2018
Society for Exact Philosophy, University of Calgary, May 5-7, 2017

“Predatory Grooming and Epistemic Infringement”

PHIL 468, Seminar on Epistemic Psychology at Northwestern University, November 2, 2021
Amherst College, February 19, 2019
Dissertation Research Seminar, Northwestern University, March 23, 2017

“Which Things are Reasons?”

Canadian Society for Epistemology Symposium on Epistemic Reasons, Université de Sherbrooke (Québec), November 7-8, 2014

“A Non-Factive Dual-Aspect Theory of Reasons”

III Colombian Conference on Logic, Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, La Universidad de los Andes and La Universidad del Rosaria, February 12-14, 2014
Dissertation Research Seminar, Northwestern University, February 7, 2014

“Justifying Falsehoods”

University of Calgary Graduate Student Conference, University of Calgary, March 9, 2013
Syracuse University Graduate Student Conference, Syracuse University, April 16, 2013

“Context Sensitive Semantics & Testimony”

Northwestern-Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference, Northwestern University, April 16, 2010

COMMENTARIES (*Invited)

*Aidan McGlynn, “Objects or Others? Epistemic Agency and the Primary Harm of Testimonial Injustice,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* at PEA Soup, August 11, 2020

*Commentator-at-large, *PeRFECT3* (3rd Annual Penn Reasons and Foundations of Epistemology Conference), University of Pennsylvania, November 4, 2017

Kathryn Lindeman, “Think You've Found a Case of No True Scotsman Reasoning? Look Again.”
Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference (VSPC), University of British Columbia, July 30-
August 3, 2017

David Sosa, “Standard Bearers.” *Episteme*, Mpumalanga, South Africa, July 30-31, 2016

Ryan Hebert, “Epistemic Norms, Criticizability, and Impropriety.” Central APA, Chicago, IL, March
4, 2016

David Christensen, “Disagreement, Drugs, Etc.: From Accuracy to Akrasia.” *Episteme*, June 12-13,
2015

Remco Heesen & Pieter Van der Kolk, “A Game Theoretic Approach to Peer Disagreement.”
Central States Philosophical Association, Northwestern University, October 10-11, 2014

Jeremy Goodman, “Disagreement, Difference Splitting, and Level Connections.” Brandeis University
Graduate Conference, 2010

AWARDS

2016-2017 *Thomas A. McCarthy Award for Teaching Excellence in Philosophy* (\$500), Northwestern University

2013-2014 TGS Graduate Research Grant (\$3000), Northwestern University

TEACHING (*Cross listed with Education Studies)

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:

2022-2023	Post-reappointment sabbatical
Spring, 2022	PHIL 111: Philosophical Questions, Amherst College PHIL 301*: Education for Democracy with Jyl Gentzler, Amherst College
Fall 2021	PHIL 410*: Seminar on Epistemic Agency, Amherst College PHIL 335*: Theory of Knowledge, Amherst College
Spring 2021	PHIL 335: Theory of Knowledge, Amherst College PHIL 111: Philosophical Questions, Amherst College
Fall 2020	PHIL 218: Early Modern Philosophy, Amherst College (x2)
Spring 2020	PHIL 341: Freedom and Responsibility, Amherst College

	PHIL 218: Early Modern Philosophy, Amherst College
Fall 2019	PHIL 335: Theory of Knowledge, Amherst College
	PHIL 111: Philosophical Questions, Amherst College
Spring 2019	Building Analytical Competencies, Cook County Department of Corrections (Division 10)
Spring 2018	Values, Cook County Department of Corrections Division 10 (co-instructed with Jennifer Lackey and Bonnie Ernst)
Summer 2010	Introduction to Philosophy, Brandeis University

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2017	Early Modern Philosophy, Baron Reed, Northwestern University
2016	Theory of Knowledge, Jennifer Lackey, Northwestern University
2014	Philosophical Paradoxes, Sean Ebels-Duggan, Northwestern University
2013	Bioethics, Mark Sheldon, Northwestern University
2013	Scientific Reasoning, Fabrizio Cariani, Northwestern University
2012	Introduction to Philosophy, Sanford Goldberg, Northwestern University
2011	Introduction to Philosophy, Berislav Marušić, Brandeis University
2010	Introduction to Ethics, Kate Moran, Brandeis University
2009	Introduction to Philosophy, Andreas Teuber, Brandeis University

TUTORING AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITATING

2016-2019	Stateville Correctional Center
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SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL

2020-2023	Canadian Philosophical Association Organizing Committee, Chair of Epistemology & Metaethics
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REFEREE

Ethics, Hypatia, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Social Epistemology, Synthese

AMHERST COLLEGE

- 2021-2022 Community Standards and Review Board
2021-2022 Committee for Untenured Faculty

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

- 2018-2019 Northwestern Prison Education Program (NPEP) Graduate Student Advisory Council
2018-2019 Department of Philosophy Climate Committee (Chair)
March 2016 Co-organizer, Pre-Central APA Epistemology Workshop
March 2012 Co-organizer, Workshop on Knowing How with Jason Stanley
2011-2014 Organizer, Northwestern-Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference
2011-2013 Webmaster for the Northwestern LEMMings website: sites.northwestern.edu/lemmings

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

- 2009-2011 Brandeis Graduate Student Brown Bag Colloquium Series, Founder and Co-Organizer

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association (Central Division)
Canadian Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

Jennifer Lackey
Wayne and Elizabeth Jones Professor of Philosophy
Director, Northwestern Prison Education Program
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1880 Campus Drive
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