

# Arianna Falbo

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## Education

- 2017-2022 PhD in Philosophy, Brown University (expected)  
Dissertation: *Inquiring Minds*  
Committee: David Christensen (Chair), Elizabeth Miller, Joshua Schechter
- 2022 Doctoral Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Brown University (expected)
- 2014-2017 MA in Philosophy, Simon Fraser University
- 2010-2014 HBA in Philosophy, University of Toronto, *Summa Cum Laude*

## Publications

### PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Forthcoming “Inquiring Minds Want to Improve”  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- Forthcoming “Hermeneutical Injustice: Distortion and Conceptual Aptness”  
*Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*
- 2021 “Inquiry and Confirmation”  
*Analysis* (Advanced Article: <https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anab037>).
- 2021 “Slurs, Neutral Counterparts, and What You Could Have Said”  
*Analytic Philosophy*, 62(4): 359-375.
- 2017 “Analyzing the Wrongfulness of Lying: A Defense of Pluralism”  
*Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review/Revue canadienne de philosophie*, 56(3): 431-454.  
(Winner of the 2017 Canadian Philosophical Association Student Essay Prize)

### REVIEW

- 2018 “Spitting Out the Kool-Aid: A Review of Kate Manne’s *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*”  
*Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 7(8), 12-17.

### PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- 2021 “Fitting in is human: forcing someone to fit in is oppression”  
*Aeon+Psyche Magazine*

### AS EDITOR

- 2021 Guest Editor (with Heather Stewart)  
“Outsiders Within: Reflections on Being a First-Generation and/or Low Income Philosopher”  
*Special Issue: APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*, 3 (20): 1-6.

## IN PROGRESS

A paper on epistemic oppression, code-switching, and AI. (with Travis LaCroix) (R&R)

A paper on the relationship between inquiry and normative epistemology.

A paper on inquiry and epistemic oppression.

## Teaching

### INSTRUCTOR, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2021 Feminist Philosophy (synchronous, online)

Sum 2019 Critical Reasoning

### PRE-COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR, BROWN UNIVERSITY: SUMMER@BROWN

Sum 2019 Moral Philosophy: Trust, Lies, Deception, and Conspiracy

Sum '20, '21 Moral Philosophy: Trust, Lies, Deception, and Conspiracy (x2, online)

Sum '20, '21 Nevertheless, She Persisted: Current Issues in Feminist Philosophy (x2, online)

### INSTRUCTOR, CORRUPT THE YOUTH (CTY): SUMMER PROGRAM\*, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

*\*CTY is an outreach program for high school students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.*

Sum 2019 Moral Philosophy

Sum 2019 Critical Reasoning and Argumentation

### TEACHING ASSISTANT, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2020 Ancient Philosophy (Emily Kress, online)

Spring 2020 Place of Persons (David Christensen, transitioned online mid-semester)

Fall 2019 Existentialism (Bernard Reginster)

Spring 2019 Philosophy and Psychology of Happiness (Bernard Reginster and Joachim Krueger)

Fall 2018 Free Speech (Dave Estlund)

### TEACHING ASSISTANT, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Fall 2016 Knowledge and Reality (Martin Hahn)

Sum 2016 Introduction to Philosophy (Jason Leardi)

Spring 2016 Knowledge and Reality (Jennifer Warriner)

Fall 2015 Ancient Philosophy (Rosemary Twomey)

Spring 2015 Knowledge and Reality (Jillian McIntosh)

Fall 2014 Critical Thinking (Dai Heide)

### GUEST LECTURES, BROWN UNIVERSITY

10/2020 "How to Educate a Philosopher - Plato's *Republic*: 514a-521a"  
For Emily Kress' Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

11/2020 "Slurs and Appropriation"  
For Scott AnderBois' Pragmatics Seminar

11/2019 "Slurs and Expletives"  
For Scott AnderBois' Pragmatics Seminar

06/2018 "The Ethics of Eating: Non-Human Animals and Moral Status"  
For Anna Brinkerhoff's Contemporary Moral Issues Class (Pre-College)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHING

### *As Workshop Facilitator*

2021-2022 Head Teaching Consultant, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University  
Fall 2020 Teaching Consultant Program, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University

### *As Participant*

01/2021 American Association of Philosophy Teachers: Teaching Hub, APA Central  
Fall 2019 Certificate in Reflective Teaching, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University  
10/2019 Inclusive Teaching Workshop, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University  
02/2018 Mentoring the Mentors Workshop, APA Central, Denver, Colorado

### *Teaching Related Presentations*

01/2021 “Building Effective TA/Instructor Relationships”  
Graduate Voices in Teaching: Teaching Hub, APA Central  
06/2018 “Writing with a Purpose! Thesis Construction in Philosophical Writing”  
Mentoring Workshop for Women in Philosophy, SWIP-Analytic Mexico, Panamerican University

## Awards & Fellowships

2018-19 Manning Graduate Fellowship, Brown University  
2017-18 Professor R. Bruce Lindsay Graduate Fellowship, Brown University  
2017 Graduate Research Award (for best paper), Simon Fraser University  
2017 Student Essay Prize, First Place, Canadian Philosophical Association  
2016 Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP-Analytic) Essay Prize, New York Chapter  
2015-16 Canadian Graduate Scholarship: Joseph-Armand Bombardier, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)  
2014, 2016 Summer Graduate Fellowship (x2), Simon Fraser University  
2016 Dean of Graduate Studies Travel and Research Award, Simon Fraser University  
2014 Gombay Prize in Philosophy, University of Toronto

## Presentations

### RESEARCH PAPERS

01/2022 “Inquiry and Confirmation”  
Eastern APA, Baltimore  
12/2021 “Should Epistemology Take the Zetetic Turn?”  
The Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference  
07/2021 “Est-ce que Vous Compute? Code-Switching, Cultural Identity, and AI” (with Travis LaCroix)  
Feminism, Social Justice, and AI Workshop, University of Waterloo  
06/2021 “Inquiry, Ignorance, and Epistemic Improvement”  
Canadian Philosophical Association, Online  
01/2021 APA Eastern, Symposium Session, Online  
06/2020 Canadian Philosophical Association, Western University (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)  
05/2021 “Hermeneutical Injustice Without Gaps” (*Presented under various different titles.*)  
The Words Workshop, University of Pittsburgh  
04/2021 APA Pacific, Colloquium Session  
08/2020 The Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies (FEMMSS) (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)

- 09/2020 Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSS) Department Colloquium, Brown University  
 04/2020 APA Pacific, San Francisco, CA (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)  
 11/2019 Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy, University of Cincinnati
- “Permissive Epistemic Standards and Rational Isolation”  
 10/2018 Arché Graduate Conference, University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom  
 06/2018 Athena in Action Workshop, Princeton University  
 06/2018 Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal
- “Analyzing the Wrongness of Lying: A Defence of Pluralism”  
 05/2017 Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University  
 03/2017 Pitt-CMU Graduate Philosophy Conference, Carnegie Mellon University  
 11/2016 Austin Graduate Ethics and Normativity Talks (AGENT), UT Austin  
 11/2016 Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Western Michigan
- “Non-Inferential Reductionism in the Epistemology of Testimony”  
 04/2016 Philosophy Graduate Conference: Memory and Social Cognition, York University
- “The Epistemic Force of Counterfactual Dissenters”  
 06/2015 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Ottawa

#### COMMENTS

- 03/2020 Dennis Whitcomb’s “Epistemic Injustice and Question-Asking”  
 Nature of Inquiry Conference, Agnes Scott College
- 08/2019 Robin Dembroff’s “The Real Gender Assumption”  
 Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy (SIPP) Conference, Brown University
- 01/2019 Elise Woodard’s “Gaslighting, Implicit Bias, and Higher-Order Evidence”  
 APA Eastern (Symposium Session), New York
- 06/2018 Whitney Lilly’s “Constitutive Reasons and the Suspension of Judgment”  
 Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal
- 05/2018 Eric Hubble’s “Meta-Semantics and Normative Reliability”  
 Brown-Princeton Workshop in Moral Epistemology
- 04/2018 Federica Liveriero’s “The Epistemic Basis of Political Equality,”  
 Rationality and Reasonableness Conference, University of Cologne
- 11/2017 Taylor Rogers’ “Epistemological Resilience”  
 The 12th Annual Shapiro Graduate Philosophy Conference, Brown University
- 11/2017 Graduate student “commentator-at-large,”  
 Penn Reasons and Foundations of Epistemology Conference (PeRFECT3)
- 04/2017 Jonathan Ellis’ “The Reverberating Impacts of Motivated Reasoning-Lite”  
 APA Pacific, Seattle
- 05/2016 Sarah Stroud’s “Relational Wrongs”  
 Workshop on the Direction of Moral Duties, Simon Fraser University
- 03/2016 Caleb Cohoe’s “The Case for Pluralism about Testimony”  
 APA Pacific, San Francisco
- 05/2013 Andreas Schmidt’s “Consequentialism and the Evaluation of Actions”  
 Graduate Conference: What’s Virtue Got To Do With It?, University of Toronto

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION: CONFERENCES, PANELS, & WORKSHOPS

- 01/2022 Co-Organizer & Chair (with Heather Stewart), Panel Discussion  
*Barriers to Belonging*, APA Eastern, Baltimore
- 2/2022 Co-organizer (with Jennifer Gammage), Panel Discussion  
*Finding Our Way: Graduate Student Mental Health in Times of Crisis*, APA Central, Chicago
- 01/2021 Chair & Co-organizer (with Heather Stewart), Panel Discussion  
*Diversity is Not Enough: Cultivating Inclusivity in Academic Philosophy*, APA Eastern (Online)
- 2020, 2021 Invited Panelist (x2), The Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy  
*Women and Graduate School*, University of Colorado Boulder
- 01/2020 Chair & Co-Organizer (with Heather Stewart), Panel Discussion  
*Reflections on Being a Low-Income and/or First-Generation Philosopher*, APA Eastern, Philadelphia
- 01/2020 Invited Panelist, Minorities and Philosophy Workshop  
*The Distribution and Recognition of Service Work*, APA Eastern, Philadelphia

## Service

### REFEREE

*Erkenntnis*, *Philosophia* (x2), *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* (x2), *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting* (2019, Vancouver, BC)

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 - Organizer (with David Thorstad), Early Career Inquiry Network: Online Work in Progress Series
- 2019 - 2021 Appointed Member, APA Graduate Student Council
- 2020 - 2021 Vice Chair (elected), APA Graduate Student Council
- 2020 - 2021 Series Editor: *The Covid Chronicles* (with Danielle Clevenger and Heather Stewart)  
*A special series at the Blog of the APA dedicated to recording the experiences, concerns, and advice of graduate students during the course of the pandemic.*
- 2015 - 2019 Copy Editor, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- 06/2018 Mentor, Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP-Mexico), Panamerican University

### AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

- 2020 - 2021 Member of the Climate Committee Working Group
- 2017 - 2021 Co-Founder and Organizer, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter
- 2017 - 2021 Coach, Rhode Island High School Ethics Bowl
- 2019, 2020 Graduate Director, Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy (SIPP@Brown)  
*SIPP is a 2-week diversity institute for undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups. (SIPP 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.)*
- 2019-2021 Organizer, Brown Epistemology Reading Group (BERG)
- 2018 Admissions Review Committee and Mentor, Summer Immersion Program in Philosophy (SIPP@Brown)
- 03/2017 Organizer, Prospective Student Visiting Days
- 04/2018 Judge, Hicks Debate Tournament

### AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

- Spring 2017 Research Assistant for Endre Begby, The Epistemology of Social Prejudice Project
- 2016 - 2017 Research Assistant for Lisa Shapiro, New Narratives in the History of Philosophy

- 2015 Co-organizer of the Graduate Student Colloquium
- 2015 - 2017 Philosophy Café Moderator, Burnaby Public Library, Continuing Studies Program
- 2014 - 2015 President of the Philosophy Graduate Caucus

AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (MISSISSAUGA)

- 2013 - 2014 Founder and Organizer, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter for Undergraduates
- 11/2013 Organizer, Interdisciplinary Panel on Québec's Proposed Charter of Values
- 2013 - 2014 Executive Member, Philosophy Caucus

PROFESSIONAL BLOG POSTS

- 2020 "Reflections on Being a First-Generation and/or Low-Income Graduate Student"  
*The Blog of the APA* (with Heather Stewart)
- 2020 "Supporting Graduate Students During COVID-19"  
*The Blog of the APA* (with Emma McClure, and Heather Stewart)  
(Re-posted on the APA's Website, and featured on *Daily Nous* and *The Philosophers' Cocoon*)
- 2020 "Graduate Teaching in a Time of Crisis"  
*The Blog of the APA* (with Emma McClure, and Heather Stewart)
- 2020 "How to Support Graduate Student Teaching in the Time of COVID-19"  
*The Blog of the APA* (with Emma McClure, and Heather Stewart)

## Graduate Coursework (\* = audit)

METAPHYSICS, EPISTEMOLOGY, & PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

- Higher Order Evidence (David Christensen, Brown University)
- Skepticism\* (David Christensen and Joshua Schechter, Brown University)
- Inquiry (Joshua Schechter, Brown University)
- Reductionism (Elizabeth Miller, Brown University)
- Social Epistemology (Endre Begby, Simon Fraser University)
- The Intellect and its Philosophical Limits (Gurpreet Rattan, Simon Fraser University)
- Epistemology of the A Priori (Philip Hanson, Simon Fraser University)
- Epistemology of Perception (Rosemary Twomey, Simon Fraser University)

FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS, SOCIAL, & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

- Proseminar: Moral Philosophy (Nomy Arpaly, Brown University)
- Moral Psychology (Nomy Arpaly, Brown University)
- Moral Epistemology (Joshua Schechter and Jamie Drier, Brown University)
- New Themes in Democratic Theory (Dave Estlund, Brown University)
- Topics in Critical Social Theory: Standpoint (Sally Haslanger, MIT)
- Method, Evidence, Critique: Gender and Sexuality Studies (Denise Davis, Brown University)
- Speech and Pornography (Richard Kimberly Heck, Brown University)
- Independent Study: Epistemic Injustice (Ashley Atkins, Simon Fraser University)
- The Direction of Moral Duties (Ariel Zylberman, Simon Fraser University)

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE, LOGIC, & LINGUISTICS

- Proseminar: Philosophical Logic (Justin Broackes, Brown University)
- Syntax (Pauline Jacobson, Brown University)
- Independent Study: Slurs and Expletives (Scott AnderBois, Brown University)

Pragmatics\* (Scott AnderBois, Brown University)  
Philosophy of Language: Language at the Interface (Ashley Atkins, Simon Fraser University)  
Philosophy of Language: Philosophy as Analysis\* (Martin Hahn and Nicolas Fillion)  
Semantics\* (Chung-hye Han, Simon Fraser University)  
Modal Logic\* (Nicolas Fillion, Simon Fraser University)  
First Language Acquisition\* (Dean Mellow, Simon Fraser University)

#### HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

20th Century Analytic Philosophy (Joshua Schechter, Brown University)  
Plato's *Theaetetus* (Mary Louise Gill, Brown University)  
Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Dai Heide, Simon Fraser University)

## References

David Christensen (Chair): david\_christensen@brown.edu  
Royce Family Professor of Teaching Excellence and Professor of Philosophy, Brown University

Joshua Schechter: joshua\_schechter@brown.edu  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Brown University

Elizabeth Miller: elizabeth\_miller@brown.edu  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Brown University

Sally Haslanger: shaslang@mit.edu  
Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, MIT

Emily Kress (Teaching): emily\_kress@brown.edu  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Brown University

## Inquiring Minds

Here's a fact about life. It's often *really* important to figure out the answers to our questions. Where are my keys? Is the tumor benign or malignant? Should I have children? Is this love or just lust? Am I doing my part to combat climate change? Inquiry is a ubiquitous part of everyday life. Before many of us walk and talk, we inquire: we explore and learn about the world around us and our place within it. My dissertation is an investigation into the nature of inquiry. What is the relationship between inquiry and normative epistemology? How do the norms of inquiry relate to more traditional epistemic norms on rational belief? What is the aim of inquiry? What rationalizes inquiry and when is it successful? What unique challenges arise when inquiring into deeply fraught and controversial topics, especially those involved in philosophical inquiry? Can we rationally believe our preferred philosophical views that result from inquiry?

The chapters of the dissertation take the form of three self-standing but related chapters.

**Should Epistemology Take the Zetetic Turn?** examines meta-epistemological issues involving the place of inquiry in normative epistemology. A growing number of philosophers have begun to take the "the zetetic turn", arguing that epistemic norms are the norms governing rational inquiry. I defend three distinct sources of resistance against zetetic epistemology. What emerges is an important theoretical division between doxastic norms, on the one hand, and norms of inquiry, on the other. Zetetic Epistemology—the view that epistemic norms *just are* the norms of inquiry—is unable to capture a crucial relationship between rational belief and truth that is at the heart of normative epistemology. Despite the recent movement towards a zetetic revolution, the zetetic turn should be resisted: epistemic norms are not the norms that guide us qua inquirers.

**Inquiring Minds Want to Improve** defends an expansive framework for theorizing about inquiry, which rejects two positions that have gained significant support in recent literature: (i) that rationally inquiring into a question is incompatible with believing an answer to that question, and (ii) that knowledge is the aim of inquiry. I develop a series of cases which indicate that inquiry is not as narrow as these views suggest. These cases can be accommodated if we adopt a broader perspective on inquiry as aiming at *epistemic improvement* more generally. We may improve epistemically in a variety of ways: by gaining certainty, knowledge, rational belief, understanding, or a more accurate credence. The epistemic improvement framework captures a wider range of inquiring phenomena because it's appropriately flexible and recognizes forms of epistemic improvement that fall short of, and go beyond, coming to know the answer to a question.

**Does Philosophy Have an Attitude Problem?** investigates the rationality of inquiry into controversial subject matters, with a focus on philosophical inquiry. According to a prevalent conciliatory position, given widespread disagreement, it's irrational to believe one's preferred philosophical theories. But, if so, then philosophical inquiry seems unmotivated: if rational belief isn't the product of philosophical investigation, then why inquire? A strategy for overcoming this (and related worries) describes an alternative attitude, other than belief, that philosophers can rationally hold towards their views. Building upon the concept of *epistemic improvement* developed in the previous chapter, I argue that there can be rational philosophical inquiry within a conciliatory framework. Further, I argue that there is no need to appeal to alternative attitudes to rationalize philosophical inquiry. Philosophical inquiry yields epistemic improvements, besides rational belief. I defend two such improvements: *productive puzzlement* and *interrogative sensitivity*.

Taken together, the dissertation motivates a novel framework for theorizing about the nature of inquiry, with far-reaching implications for how to understand the relationship between inquiry and normative epistemology, the inquiring attitudes, different species of epistemic improvement, as well as our own inquiring practices as philosophers.