

Alisabeth Ayars

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Research Interests

AOS: Metaethics, Normative Ethics

AOC: Moral Psychology

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia, 2021–

Education

PhD in Philosophy, *Princeton University* (2021)

Dissertation Advisors: Gideon Rosen, Johann Frick, Michael Smith

MA in Psychology, *University of Arizona* (2016)

BA in Psychology, *New College of Florida* (2012)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. An Explanation of the Essential Publicity of Practical Reasons
Oxford Studies in Metaethics Vol. 19, forthcoming.
2. Deciding for Others: An Expressivist Theory of Normative Judgment
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 105(1), 2022: 42-61.
3. Non-Cognitivism and Agent-Centered Norms
Co-authored with Gideon Rosen.
Philosophical Studies, 179, 2022: 1019–1038.

4. Blaming for Unreasonableness: Accountability without Ill Will
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, 19(1), 2021: 56-79.
5. Rational Learners and Metaethics: Universalism, Relativism, and Evidence from Consensus
Co-authored with Shaun Nichols.
Mind and Language, 35(1), 2020, 67-89.
6. Can Model-free Reinforcement Learning Explain Deontological Moral Judgments?
Cognition, 150, 2016: 232-242.
7. Moral Empiricism and the Bias for Act-based Rules
Co-authored with Shaun Nichols.
Cognition, 167, 2017: 11-24.
8. Rational Learners and Moral Rules
Co-authored with Shaun Nichols, Shikhar Kumar, Theresa Lopez, and Hoi-Yee Chan, H. (2016).
Mind and Language, 31(5), 2016: 530-554.
9. Spatially Rearranged Object Parts Can Facilitate Perception of Intact Whole Objects
Co-authored with Laura Cacciamani and Mary Peterson.
Frontiers in Psychology, 5, 2014: 482.

Book Chapters and Invited Articles

1. Learnability and Moral Nativism: Exploring Wilde Rules
Co-authored with Tyler Millhouse and Shaun Nichols.
Methodology and Moral Philosophy, Routledge, 2018
2. Terror Management Theory
Co-authored with Uri Lifshin.
Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, May 2015:
1-16.
3. A Terror Management Analysis of Films from Four Genres: The Matrix, Life is Beautiful, Iron Man 2, and Ikiru

Co-authored with Jeff Greenberg.

Death in Classic and Contemporary Film, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Discussion Pieces

1. Note on Definition and Impossibility
Analytic Philosophy, 58(4), Dec 2017: 413-417.
2. Can Skeletomotor Action Integration Occur Without Consciousness? Evidence from Unconscious Action Inhibition
Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 39, 2016.

Professional Presentations

1. 'Attraction, Aversion, and Meaning in Life', Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, Summer 2022
2. 'Affect and Moral Worth', Online Workshop on Moral Responsibility, Summer 2022 (Invited Talk)
3. 'An Explanation of the Essential Publicity of Practical Reasons', Madison Metaethics Workshop, Fall 2021
4. 'Contractualism and the Scope of Morality', Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals (pre-Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress symposium), Summer 2020
5. 'Contractualism and the Scope of Morality', Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Summer 2020
6. 'Non-Cognitivism and Agent-Centered Norms' (with Gideon Rosen), Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, Spring 2020
7. 'Normative Judgment as Decision', Center for Values and Social Policy at University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2020 (Invited Talk)
8. 'Promising Against the Evidence by Changing the Evidence', Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Spring 2017

9. 'Essentialism and the Concept of Mind' (with Shaun Nichols), Sedona Philosophy Conference at Arizona State University, Spring 2016 (Invited Talk)
10. 'Looking Beyond the Means: Rapid Learning of Prime-Display Relationship in a Semantic Priming Experiment', (with Andrew Mojica and Mary Peterson), Vision Science Society Annual Meeting, Summer 2014

Commentaries

1. Ryan Lam's 'Realism, Inquiry, and the Two Faces of Morality', APA – Pacific Division, Vancouver, April 2022
2. Margaret Shea's and Rowan Mellor's 'What are We to Do: The Ethics and Semantics of the Joint 'Ought'', Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, April 2023

Awards

Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship, 2020-2021

Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, 2019-2020