BEX STANESLOW

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AREAS of INTEREST

AOS: Feminist Philosophy, Applied Epistemology

AOC: Ethics, Social Philosophy, Gender and Sexuality Studies

EDUCATION

2027 (expected) **University of Massachusetts Amherst**
PhD in Philosophy
Dissertation: *They Doubt that I Feel; I Know that They Doubt (Essays on Epistemic Advantage, Affective Injustice, and Emotional Dehumanization)*
Committee: Hilary Kornblith (chair), Sophie Horowitz, Lauren Leydon-Hardy, Laura Briggs

My dissertation draws upon standpoint theory and recent work in social psychology to defend novel connections between structural injustice and affective capacities. Chapter 1 offers an interdisciplinary historical overview of standpoint epistemology and defends the central claim that marginalized social locations contingently confer epistemic advantages on their occupants. Chapter 2 argues that dominant social locations contingently confer a specific epistemic *dis*advantage on their occupants, namely, being in a worse epistemic position to accurately perceive and interpret the emotions of others. Chapter 3 sketches a novel account of emotional dehumanization and the role it plays in worsening structural injustice.

2027 **University of Massachusetts Amherst**
Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies

2021 **University of Rochester, School of Arts and Sciences**
MA in Philosophy
Thesis: *Responding to Structural Gaslighting*
Committee: Rosa Terlazzo (chair), William FitzPatrick, Audrey Yap

2020 **University of Rochester, School of Arts and Sciences**
BA in Philosophy and Psychology, with Highest Distinction & Highest Honors in Philosophy
Honors Thesis: *Care Ethics & Responsibilities to Familiar and Distant Persons*
Advisor: Rosa Terlazzo

2019 **The Language House (Prague, Czechia)**
Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certificate

RESEARCH

In Progress

"Emotional Dehumanization and an Expanded Account of Dignity" (*complete draft available upon request*)

- In this paper, I sketch a novel account of dehumanization that makes a distinction between rational dehumanization and emotional dehumanization and argue that moral dignity can be grounded in affective capacities.

"Going Off-Script: Consent and Coercive Social Scripts" (*complete draft available upon request*)

- This paper resists recently defended moves to abandon consent as the primary normative consideration in contested sexual encounters. I argue that structured expectations of a normal interaction, social scripts, are epistemically powerful and sometimes coercive. When apparent consent is given on the basis of a coercive social script for the encounter, the consent is not fully valid.

"Functions of Moral Ignorance and Hermeneutic Gaps" (*partial draft*)

- In this paper, I argue that certain kinds of moral ignorance, including what Gail Pohlhaus (2012) terms 'willful hermeneutical ignorance' and Mills' 'white ignorance,' play a crucial function in perpetuating structural injustice. Hermeneutic gaps are non-accidentally closed within marginalized communities of knowledge before, sometimes long before, they are part of the mainstream hermeneutic resource.

PRESENTATIONS

Research Papers:

"Going Off-Script: Consent and Coercive Social Scripts"
Eileen O'Neil Workshop for Women in Philosophy (March 2026)

"Emotional Dehumanization and an Expanded Account of Dignity"
Workshop on Gender and Philosophy (WOGAP), MIT (March 2026)
Emotion and Society Lab, University of California, Riverside [virtual] (April 2026)

Comments:

On Javier Moreno, "Why is Breaching Trust Morally Wrong?"
Eastern APA Colloquium (January 2027)

On Pengbo Liu, "Preservation or Transformation: A Daoist Guide to Griefbots"
MIT/Harvard/Northeastern conference on Ethics of Technology (February 2024)

Public Philosophy:

"Care Ethics and Relational Duties"
Dean Tech High School, Holyoke, MA (November 2026)

"Holyoke, MA and Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach"
Dean Tech High School, Holyoke, MA (March 2026)

Pedagogy:

"Peeps to Pros(e): On promoting class participation"
Philosophy Teaching Workshop for Graduate Students, UMass Amherst (February 2026)

"Classroom Management" panelist
Philosophy Teaching Workshop for Graduate Students, UMass Amherst (April 2024)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR)

Philosophy Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fall 2026 **PHIL164H: Honors Medical Ethics** (~25 students)
Honors level general education course and core course for Medical Humanities certificate that surveys common ethical frameworks through their application to applied medical topics such as abortion, youth gender medicine, and medically assisted death.

Summer 2026 **PHIL160: Introduction to Ethics** (online, asynchronous)] (~12 students)
6-week, fully virtual summer intensive course that surveys normative ethical theories and their real-world applications and introduces core skills of argument interpretation, argument evaluation, and philosophical writing.

Spring 2026 **PHIL163: Business Ethics** (~40 students)
General education course that introduces students to common ethical frameworks and corporate social responsibility through their application to applied business topics such as price gouging, the gig economy, employee surveillance, and carbon markets.

Fall 2024 **PHIL160H: Honors Introduction to Ethics** (~25 students)
Honors level general education course that surveys normative ethical theories and their real-world applications and introduces core skills of argument interpretation, argument evaluation, and philosophical writing.

Career Launch Program, Charles River Campus of UMass Amherst

Fall 2025 **PHIL160CL: Introduction to Ethics for Career Launch Program** (~30 students)
General education course that surveys normative ethical theories through their applications to historical and contemporary problems in Boston and develops NACE competencies through interpretation, evaluation, construction, and presentation of ethical arguments.
One of five general education courses in a cohesive program for students in their first semester of college to integrate learning across disciplinary lines and build an understanding of career-relevant skills in each course.

Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fall 2025 **WGSS 286: History of Sexuality and Race in the United States** (~25 students)
Core course for WGSS majors/minors that introduces students to feminist methodology and provides an interdisciplinary overview of laws, activist movements, and institutional projects related to race and sexuality in the United States between 1830 and today.

Jail Education Initiative, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Summer 2026 **PHIL160 JEI: Introduction to Ethics** (Hampden County Jail) (~15 students)
8-week in-person intensive summer course for residents of Hampden County Correctional Center that surveys normative ethical theories and their real-world applications and introduces core skills of argument interpretation, argument evaluation, and philosophical writing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (TEACHING ASSISTANT)

Women, Gender, Sexuality Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring 2025 **WGSS286: History of Sexuality and Race in the United States**
[Professor Laura Briggs] (~50 students)
Core course for WGSS majors/minors that introduces students to feminist methodology and provides an interdisciplinary overview of laws, activist movements, and institutional projects related to race and sexuality in the United States between 1830 and today. Taught as a 150-seat lecture with 25-seat discussion sections led by TAs.

Philosophy Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring 2024 **PHIL164: Medical Ethics** [Professor Chris Meacham] (~50 students)
General education course and core course for Medical Humanities certificate that surveys common ethical frameworks through their application to applied medical topics such as abortion, youth gender medicine, and medically assisted death. Taught as a 100-seat lecture with 25-seat discussion sections led by TAs.

Fall 2023 **PHIL180: Death and the Meaning of Life** [Professor Julia Jorati] (~60 students)
General education course that surveys philosophical perspectives on death and the meaning of life and introduces core skills of argument interpretation, argument evaluation, and philosophical writing. Taught as a 180-seat lecture with 25-seat discussion sections led by TAs.

Spring 2023 **PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy** [Professor Hilary Kornblith] (~50 students)
General education course that surveys philosophical topics in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics and introduces core skills of argument interpretation, argument evaluation, and philosophical writing. Taught as a 100-seat lecture with 25-seat discussion sections led by TAs.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (OTHER)

Jail Education Initiative, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Summer 2024 **Digital Literacy Intern, Hampshire County Jail** (~12 students)
Independently facilitated Northstar Digital Literacy self-paced online program for residents of Hampshire County Jail and developed procedural documents for future facilitators.

Fall 2023 **HiSET Tutor (English and Social Studies), Franklin County Jail** (~4 students)
Offered weekly tutoring sessions for residents of Franklin County Jail as part of the institutions HiSET education program, which aims to offer incarcerated students the support necessary to earn a high school equivalency diploma before their release.

ESOL Associates of Rochester

2019–2021 **ENL (English as a New Language) Instructor, Maplewood Library** (8–15 students)
Independently taught weekly A1, A2, and B1-level English language classes as part of a library program that offered free classes for immigrants and refugees in Rochester, NY.

Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, University of Rochester

2017–2020 **Writing Fellow**
Received specialized training in writing techniques and offered one-on-one tutoring sessions that gave individualized writing feedback to undergraduate students at University of Rochester.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, and AWARDS

UMass Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award *(2025–2026)*
Highly competitive annual university-wide award given to two graduate students who demonstrate exemplary teaching.

Emotion and Society Lab Fellowship *(2025–2026)*
Virtual fellowship awarded to graduate students working on topics within or related to philosophy of emotion. Fellows attend a three day in-person workshop at Wake Forest University, followed by support and feedback on their research through a monthly fellow workshop series with invited academic commenters.

UMass Amherst Career Launch Program Faculty Fellowship *(Summer 2025)*

Working fellowship awarded to five general education instructors in order to adapt an existing general education course for the new UMass Amherst Career Launch program at the Charles River Campus. Fellows presented at monthly workshops as they planned and implemented the two program-specific criteria: 1) content that related to the context of the Greater Boston area; and 2) opportunities for professional development and skill-building that connect directly to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Core Competencies.

Robison Prize for Excellence in Teaching *(2022–2023)*

Awarded to the graduate student who made the most valuable contribution to the UMass Amherst philosophy department's undergraduate teaching mission that academic year.

SERVICE

Conferences and Colloquia Organized:

Co-organizer, UMass Amherst Minorities and Philosophy Colloquium	Spring 2026
Co-organizer, UMass Amherst Graduate Student Conference	Fall 2025
Organizer, Career Launch Program Guest Speaker mini-series	Fall 2025
Co-organizer, UMass Amherst Minorities and Philosophy Colloquium	Spring 2025
Co-organizer, UMass Amherst Minorities and Philosophy Colloquium	Spring 2024
Co-organizer, Method, Theory Reality Conference	Spring 2023

Department Service at University of Massachusetts Amherst

Teaching Teas Founder and Coordinator *(2025–2027)*
Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison *(2025–2026)*
Teaching Resource Manager *(2025–2026)*
Minorities and Philosophy Chapter (*president 2024–2026, vice president 2023–2024, secretary 2022-2023*)
Department Teatime Coordinator *(2023–2024)*

Department Service at University of Rochester

Collegiate Ethics Bowl Coach *(2020–2021)*

Other Professional Service

Referee for *Hypatia*
Copyeditor for Julia Jorati, *Slavery and Race: Philosophical Debates in the Seventeenth Century* (Spring 2023)
Copyeditor for Julia Jorati, *Slavery and Race: Philosophical Debates in the Eighteenth Century* (Fall 2022)

Reference

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