

Erica Holberg

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Education

Ph.D., University of Chicago, Philosophy, 2011
B.A., Pennsylvania State University, Philosophy and English, *magna cum laude*, 2001

Areas of Specialization

Ethics, Moral Psychology, History of Ethics, Aristotle, Kant

Areas of Competence

Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Action, Feminist Philosophy

Publications

- “Kant's Quasi-Eudaimonism”, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, September 2018, Vol 56, No. 3, pp. 317-341.
“Kant, Oppression, and the Possibility of Non-Culpable Failures to Respect Oneself”, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, September 2017, Vol 55, No. 3, pp. 285-305.
“An Anscombian Approach to Pleasure”, *Klēsis Revue Philosophique* 35, 2016, pp. 164-179.
“The Importance of Pleasure in the Moral for Kant's Ethics”, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, June 2016, Vol. 54 No. 2, pp. 226-246.

Forthcoming

“Gilead vs. the Self”, in *The Handmaid's Tale*, Open Court Publishing, Popular Culture and Philosophy series, pp. 159-170.

Accepted for Publication

- “Aristotle on the Pleasure of Courage”, *Polis*.
“Blowing Off Steam: Freud, Smut, and Samantha Bee's Political Comedy”, in *Ethics in Comedy*, McFarland.

Works in Progress

- Pleasure and the Virtues in Aristotle*, under contract, Lexington Books.
“First and Second Natures in Kant's Ethics” (invited contribution to the May 2019 issue of *Philosophical Inquiries* on The Virtues and Practical Reason)
“Kant, Virtue, and the Cultivation of Pathological Pleasures” (under review)
“Pleasurable Eating and Aristotle's Energeia-Kinēsis Distinction”
“Kant on Mistaking Pleasures”
“Pleasure as a Transformative Good and the Three Character Formations of Appetitive Soul in *Republic* 8 and 9”
Why Pleasure Matters: Ethical Theories of Virtue, Vice, and Pleasures Erotic, Exotic, and Mundane

Reviews

Review of Michael Rosen's *Dignity: Its History and Meaning*, *The Hedgehog Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Summer 2013), pp. 93-5.

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

- “Kant’s Quasi-Eudaimonism”
North American Kant Society, Women Scholars Mentoring Workshop,
Washington University, November 2017
- “Aristotelian Temperance and the Quasi-Reasoning of Appetites”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle,
April 2017
- Responsibility and Non-Rational Aspects of Agency Symposium Participant
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Kansas City,
March 2017
- “Pleasure as a Transformative Good and the Three Character Formations of
Appetitive Soul in *Republic* 8 and 9”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Weber State University,
November 2016
- “Kant’s Pleasure in the Agreeable and Empiricist Conceptions of Pleasure”
Fifth Annual Tennessee Value and Agency Conference: Pleasure and Pain,
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, September-October 2016
- “Getting to Virtuous Agreement with the Agreeable for Kant”
Kant and Aristotle in Conversation, Auburn University, March 2016
- “Aristotle on Temperance and the Reasons of Appetite”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Idaho State University,
November 2015
- “The Pleasures of Temperate Eating”
Utah Valley University, March 2015
- “Pleasurable Eating: How Aristotle’s *Energeia-Kinesis* Distinction Distinguishes the
Pleasures of the Virtuous Foodie from Those of the Gluttonous Gourmand”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver,
March 2015
- “The Unenlightened Sex: Kant, Feminism, and Culpable Failures of Moral
Imagination”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Utah State University,
November 2014
- “Self-Respect, Responsibility, and the Unenlightened Sex”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego,
April 2014
- “Does Aristotle’s Vicious Person Wish to be Otherwise?”
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago,
February 2014
- “The Unenlightened Sex: Kant, Feminism, and Moral Imagination”
Bard College, February 2014
- “Self-Respect, Responsibility, and the Unenlightened Sex”
Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy, Arizona State University,
November 2013
- “Vicious Pleasures, Apparent Goods”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Utah Valley University,
November 2013
- “An Anscombean Approach to Pleasure”
University of Utah, September 2013

- “Errant Pleasures”
Weber State University, April 2013
- “Kant on the Pleasures of Virtue”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, March 2013
- “Aristotle on the Pleasure of Courage”
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting,
New Orleans, February 2013
- “Why Bother with Merely Apparent Pleasures?”
University of Illinois at Chicago, January 2013
- “Kant on Pleasure and the Good Life”
University of Memphis, January 2013
- “The Pleasures of Virtue in Kant’s Ethics”
Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy, Cal Poly Pomona, November 2012
- “Pleasurable Eating and Aristotle’s *Energeia-Kinēsis* Distinction”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, University of Utah, October 2012
- “Pleasure, Power, and Appetite in Plato’s *Republic*”
International Plato Society, University of Michigan, October 2012
- “Is Plato’s Philosopher a Political Prude?”
Intermountain Philosophy Conference, Brigham Young University,
November 2011

Dissertation

Pleasure and the Nature of the Ethical Subject

I argue there is an important neglected truth in hedonism: the attainment of our good is pleasant. I show how this truth structures the moral philosophies of Aristotle, Sidgwick, and surprisingly, Kant. The difficulty all three face is to hold fast to this truth while avoiding the undesirable aspects of hedonism. Because Aristotle and Kant utilize a resource Sidgwick forswears, a metaphysically rich conception of the ethical agent, both philosophers can explain why the pleasures of vice are not of value in making the ethical subject’s life go well. I argue that the tasks of moral philosophy, which include accounting for the substantive role pleasure plays in orienting the virtuous person towards virtuous conduct, demand a more robust conception of the ethical agent and also of pleasure than that found in Sidgwick’s moral theory.

Committee: Candace Vogler (director), Jonathan Lear, Gabriel Richardson Lear

Research Languages

German, Ancient Greek

Academic Awards and Fellowships

- Wilfred Sellars Essay Prize Winner for the North American Kant Society, 2016
Faculty Undergraduate Advisor of the Year, 2013
Tave Teaching Fellowship, 2011
Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation-Year Fellowship, 2007-8
Witherspoon Institute Grant, Thomistic Seminar, 2007
Travel Grant, University of Toronto Conference on Agency and Identity, 2007
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2002-7
University of Chicago Century Fellowship, 2002-7 (declined)
Honors Medal in English, Schreyer Honors College, 2001

National Merit Scholarship, 1997

Teaching Experience

Utah State University:

Instructor

Business Ethics – Spring 2012, Spring 2013

Designed and taught a depth humanities class for 30 students.

Contemporary Ethical Theory – Fall 2012, Spring 2018

Designed and taught an advanced seminar for undergraduate philosophy majors.

Ethics – Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016

Designed and taught a general education class for 40-70 students.

Ethics and Economic Life – Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Designed and taught a new depth humanities class for 25 students.

Political Philosophy – Fall 2015, Fall 2017

Designed and taught a depth humanities class for 25 students.

Social and Political Philosophy – Fall 2011, Fall 2013

Designed and taught a depth humanities class for 30 students.

Social Ethics – Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017,

Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Designed and taught a general education class in applied ethics for 50 students.

Theories of Sex and Gender – Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018

Designed and taught a new depth humanities class for 25 students.

Virtue Ethics - Spring 2019

Designed and taught a new depth humanities class for 25 students.

Advisor

Senior Capstone Thesis Project – Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2018

Worked independently with five students writing a senior thesis paper.

Global Communication Practicum – Summer 2014

Helped a student summarize and analyze his practicum experience required for the Global Communications Major.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for a student in the Technical Communication and Rhetoric Program, English Department

University of Chicago:

Instructor

Philosophy Department:

Ethics and Utopian Dreaming – Winter 2011

Designed and taught an advanced philosophy course open to all undergraduates.

Pleasure and the Good Life – Spring 2007

Designed and taught an advanced seminar for undergraduate philosophy majors.

Humanities Core:

Human Being and Citizen – Fall, Winter, Spring 2010-11 and 2009-10

Greek Thought and Literature – Fall 2008

Philosophical Perspectives – Summer 2008

Taught courses in the humanities core for freshmen.

Advisor

Senior Year B.A. Thesis Seminar – Fall, Winter, Spring 2008-9
Led year-long work-in-progress workshops for philosophy majors writing B.A. theses.

Course Assistant

Theories of Sex and Gender – Professor Candace Vogler, Winter 2009
Spiritual Exercises and Moral Perfectionism – Professor Arnold Davidson, Fall 2006
Metaethics – Professor Candace Vogler, Spring 2006
The Meaning of Life – Professor Charles Larmore, Fall 2005
Introduction to Ethics – Professor Candace Vogler, Spring 2005

Humanities Core Writing Intern

Philosophical Perspectives – Fall, Winter, Spring 2006-7 and 2004-5
Greek Thought and Literature – Fall, Spring 2005-6 and Fall 2008
Human Being and Citizen – Fall, Winter, Spring 2010-11 and 2009-10, and Winter, Spring 2009

Teaching Training

Empowering Teaching Excellence Conference, Utah State University Center for Innovative Design Instruction, August 2015
New Faculty Teaching Academy, Utah State University Provost Office, Fall Semester 2011
Workshop on Teaching in the College, Center for Teaching and Learning, September 2006
Pedagogies of Writing, University of Chicago Writing Program, Summer 2004

Academic Service

Panel Participant and Organizer for Star Wars Symposium, Zombie Zymposium, “How to Think Philosophically when Politics Goes Crazy” Symposium, Superhero Symposium, Comedy and Philosophy Symposium, Are Students Snowflakes? Symposium, Meaning and #MeToo, Politically Irrational Animals: Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
Faculty Sponsor of US-SWIP (Utah State Society for Women in Philosophy): Fall 2018—
Organizer and Panel Participant for Wising Up: Gangster Movies and Action: Fall 2018
Speaker for Supreme Stakes: Understanding Sexual Violence Teach-In: Oct. 9th, 2018
Member, Discussant, and Mentor for Women's Leadership Initiative, Center for Women & Gender: 2018-19
Search Committee Member for Philosophy Postdoc: Spring 2018
Search Committee Member for Philosophy Lecturer: Spring 2016
Search Committee Member for Classics Postdoc: Spring 2016
Coach. Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl: Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2018
Coach. National Ethics Bowl Competition: Spring 2016, Spring 2013
Organized Viewing of *Fed Up* and Discussion of Ethical Implications, USU Tanner Event Series: March 2015
Departmental Awards Committee Member: Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Panel Organizer, “Information and Access: Sharing Knowledge Across Virtual Communities”, USU Tanner Event Series: October 2013
Planning Committee Member for new minor concerning citizenship, ethics, and civil discourse: Fall 2012
Panel Participant, “Do We Have a Right to Knowledge?”, Panel on Open Access, USU Merrill-Cazier Library: Oct. 26th, 2011
Co-Director, Prospective Student Recruitment: 2006
Coordinator, Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy Workshop: 2006-7
Student Representative, Ethics Hiring Committee: 2006-7

References

Candace Vogler

David B. and Clara E. Stern Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago
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Jonathan Lear

John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor at the Committee on Social Thought and in the Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
jlear@uchicago.edu

Gabriel Richardson Lear

Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago
grlear@uchicago.edu

Charlie Huenemann

Professor of Philosophy, Utah State University
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