

CARA REI CUMMINGS

Curriculum Vitae

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Johns Hopkins University
3100 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21211

EMPLOYMENT

2022-2024 Postdoctoral Fellow, KSAS Society of Fellows, Johns Hopkins University Office of Undergraduate Research

EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D. in Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University

Dissertation: "Aristotle's *Akratēs*: Healing Morally Bad Character"

Committee Members: Richard Bett (advisor), Hilary Bok, Howard Curzer, Lucy Allais, and Karen ní Mheallaigh

2014 M.A. in Philosophy, University of Florida

2012 B.A. in Philosophy, University of Central Florida

AREAS of SPECIALIZATION

Ancient Greek Philosophy (especially Aristotle), Ethics

AREAS of COMPETENCE

Bioethics, Introductory Logic, Epistemology, Philosophy of Race, Philosophy of Gender

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

In contrast to the dominant view, I argue that Aristotle cannot consider the *enkratēs* (self-controlled person) and *akratēs* (person lacking self-control) to be different kinds of people. Instead, the difference between them can only be one of degree. First, *akrasia* proper is only about the pleasures of food and sex. Second, the specific epistemic failure of the *akratēs* is that she fails to know that what she wants to do is wrong, even though she can recognize that actions of the same sort are wrong. Because her mistakes are so few and narrow, she is more like the *enkratēs*. This means that healing morally bad character is easier than it is usually thought to be, even on Aristotle's account.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jul 2023 Selected Participant. The Honesty Project Summer Seminar. Wake Forest University.

Mar 2023 "Aristotle on Melancholia: The Discovery of Bipolar Depression." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Louisville, Kentucky.

- Feb 2023 “An Aristotelian Defense of Violent Video Games.” Video Games and Ethics Conference. Florida Atlantic University.
- Feb 2023 “The Uncanny Valley of Horror.” Florida Philosophical Association. New College of Florida.
- Nov 2022 “Aristotle on Melancholia: The Discovery of Bipolar Depression.” Fuge of Melancholy. Pedagogical University of Krakow (Online).
- Nov 2022 “The Uncanny Valley of Horror.” Illinois Philosophical Association. Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.
- Apr 2022 “Healing *Akrasia* and Vice.” Long Island Philosophical Society. Molloy College.
- Oct 2020 “The Contemptuous Attitude of Aristotle’s *Megalopsuchos*.” Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop in Ancient Philosophy (Online).
- Mar 2020 “The Proper Scope of *Akrasia*.” North Carolina Philosophical Society. University of North Carolina, Asheville. (Awarded Best Graduate Student Essay)
- Oct 2019 “The *Akratēs* and the Drunk.” Minnesota Philosophical Society. Anoka-Ramsey Community College.
- Mar 2019 “The Contemptuous Attitude of Aristotle’s *Megalopsuchos*.” Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy. Villanova University.

COMMENTS

- Nov 2022 Grant Sterling: “Coercion, Free Will, and Two Kinds of Moral Responsibility.” Illinois Philosophical Association. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

- “The Uncanny Valley of Horror,” Under Review
- “Aristotle on Melancholia: The Discovery of Bipolar Depression,” Under Review
- “How Many Kinds of *Akrateis* are There?” Under Review
- “In What Sense Privations are Forms for Aristotle,” Under Review
- “An Aristotelian Defense of Violent Video Games,” Draft in Progress
- “Why be Aristotelian: Shopping Around for an Ancient Ethical Theory,” Draft in Progress
- “Gorgias: The First Sophist?” Draft in Progress

“How to Be Honest about Things We Dislike” Draft in Progress

DEPARTMENT TALKS

- Apr 2023 “The Uncanny Valley of Horror.” Department Colloquium. Morgan State University.
- Mar 2023 “How to Be Honest about Things We Dislike.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Oct 2022 “The Uncanny Valley of Horror.” Prometheus Undergraduate Club. Johns Hopkins University.
- Oct 2022 “Aristotle on Melancholia: The Discovery of Bipolar Depression.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Nov 2012 “Healing *Akrasia* and Vice.” Prometheus Undergraduate Club. Johns Hopkins University.
- Sep 2019 “The Proper Scope of *Akrasia*.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Feb 2019 “The *Akratēs* and the Drunk.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Nov 2018 “The Contemptuous Attitude of Aristotle’s *Megalopsuchos*.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Sep 2018 “Unconscious Rape and the Harm Principle.” (With Ryan Ross) Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Oct 2017 “In What Sense Privations are Forms for Aristotle.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Apr 2016 “Answering the Situationist Critique: What Social Psychology Reveals about Virtue.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.
- Oct 2015 “Against Epistemic Contextualism.” Hammond Society. Johns Hopkins University.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor at Morgan State University:

- Fall 2023 Introduction to Critical Thinking x2, Ethics & Values x2
Spring 2023 Introduction to Critical Thinking x3
Fall 2022 Ethics & Values

Primary Instructor at Towson University:

Spring 2023	Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2022	Introduction to Ethics x3
Fall 2021	Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2021	Ancient Greek Philosophy, Independent Study: Plato's <i>Republic</i>
Fall 2020	Race, Class, and Gender
Summer 2020	Introduction to Ethics
Spring 2020	Ancient Greek Philosophy; Race, Class, and Gender
Fall 2019	Ancient Greek Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy

Primary Instructor at Johns Hopkins University:

Summer 2023	Humanities Collaboratory (Co-Taught)
Spring 2023	Prometheus Editorial Workshop
Summer 2022	Humanities Collaboratory (Co-Taught)
Spring 2022	Prometheus Editorial Workshop
Fall 2020	Plato's Myths (Awarded a Dean's Teaching Fellowship)
Summer 2020	What Is Knowledge?
Winter 2020	The Trial of Socrates (Co-Taught)
Winter 2019	Temptation and Desiring the Bad
Spring 2017	Prometheus Editorial Workshop

Primary Instructor at University of Florida:

Summer 2015	Introduction to Logic
Summer 2014	Introduction to Logic, Introduction to Philosophy

Teaching Assistant at Johns Hopkins University:

Fall 2021	Introduction to Bioethics
Spring 2021	Introduction to Formal Logic
Spring 2020	Introduction to Formal Logic
Fall 2019	Introduction to Bioethics
Spring 2019	Introduction to Formal Logic
Fall 2018	Introduction to Greek Philosophy
Spring 2018	Introduction to Moral Philosophy
Fall 2017	Introduction to Bioethics

Teaching Assistant at University of Florida:

Spring 2015	Symbolic Logic, Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2014	Contemporary Moral Issues
Spring 2014	Symbolic Logic
Fall 2013	Existentialism
Summer 2013	Introduction to Philosophy, What is the Good Life?
Spring 2013	Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2012 Introduction to Philosophy

OTHER TEACHING

Aug 2021-Jan 2023 Logic/Critical Thinking Tutor, Varsity Tutors

Nov 2015-Dec 2016 Study Consultant, Johns Hopkins University Office of Academic Advising

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2022-2023: Judge, Northeastern Regional Ethics Bowl, NDMU
Managing Editor, *Macksey Journal*, JHU
Planning Committee, Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities
Research Symposium, JHU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2021-2022: Judge, Northeastern Regional Ethics Bowl, NDMU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2019-2020: Student/Faculty Liaison, JHU

2018-2019: Hammond Society Colloquium Coordinator, JHU
Conference Planning Committee Member & Referee, JHU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2017-2018: Student/Faculty Liaison, JHU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2016-2017: President, Hammond Society, JHU
Conference Planning Committee Member & Referee, JHU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2015-2016: Department Representative, Graduate Representation Organization, JHU
Advisor, *Prometheus Undergraduate Journal* and Philosophy Club, JHU

2014-2015: Incoming Teaching Assistant Facilitator, UF
Referee, Southeastern Graduate Philosophy Conference, UF
Referee, Florida Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, UF

2013-2014: President, Graduate Student Philosophical Society, UF
Coordinator/Referee, Southeastern Graduate Philosophy Conference, UF

2012-2013: Vice-President, Graduate Student Philosophical Society, UF
Coordinator, FSU/UF Conference, UF
Referee, Southeastern Graduate Philosophy Conference, UF

LANGUAGES

Attic Greek

REFERENCES

Richard Bett (Professor at Johns Hopkins University)
rbett1@jhu.edu (410) 516-6863

Hilary Bok (Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University)
hbok@jhu.edu (410) 516-7020

Howard J. Curzer (Professor at Texas Tech University)
howard.curzer@ttu.edu (806) 834-3506