

CARA REI CUMMINGS

Curriculum Vitae

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JHU Philosophy Department
3400 N Charles St
281 Gilman Hall
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University (Projected Spring 2021)
M.A. in Philosophy, University of Florida (2014)
B.A. in Philosophy, University of Central Florida (2012)

AREAS of SPECIALIZATION

Ancient Greek Philosophy (especially Aristotle), Ethics

AREAS of COMPETENCE

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

LANGUAGES

Attic Greek

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

In contrast to the dominant view, I argue that Aristotle cannot consider the *enkrates* (self-controlled person) and *akrates* (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 akratic 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 mainly enkratic. This means that healing morally bad character is easier than it is usually thought to be, even on Aristotle's account.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “The Contemptuous Attitude of Aristotle’s *Megalopsuchos*”
Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop in Ancient Philosophy (October 31, 2020)
Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy (March 24, 2019)
- “The Proper Scope of *Akrasia*”
North Carolina Philosophical Society (March 28, 2020) Cancelled due to Covid-19
- “Aristotle’s Akratic and the Drunk”
Minnesota Philosophical Society (October 26, 2019)

“Answering the Situationist Critique: What Social Psychology Reveals about Virtue”
University of North Florida Student Philosophy Conference (March 28, 2015)
University of Nevada, Reno Graduate Philosophy Conference (October 25, 2014)

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“The Proper Scope of *Akrasia*”, Under Review
“Aristotle’s Akratic and the Drunk”, Under Review
“The Contemptuous Attitude of Aristotle’s *Megalopsuchos*”, Under Review

DEPARTMENT TALKS

“The Proper Scope of *Akrasia*”
Johns Hopkins University Hammond Society (September 6, 2019)
“Aristotle’s Akratic and the Drunk”
Johns Hopkins University Hammond Society (February 22, 2019)
“In What Sense Privations are Forms for Aristotle”
Johns Hopkins University Hammond Society (October 6, 2017)
“Answering the Situationist Critique: What Social Psychology Reveals about Virtue”
Johns Hopkins University Hammond Society (April 1, 2016)
“Against Epistemic Contextualism”
Johns Hopkins University Hammond Society (October 9, 2015)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Towson University as Primary Instructor

Introduction to Ethics (Summer 2020)
Race, Class, and Gender (Spring 2020, Fall 2020)
Ancient Greek Philosophy (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2019)

Johns Hopkins University as Primary Instructor

Plato’s Myths (Fall 2020)
What Is Knowledge? (Summer 2020)
The Trial of Socrates (With Austin Heath) (Intersession 2020)
Temptation and Desiring the Bad (Intersession 2019)
Prometheus Editorial Workshop (Spring 2017)

Johns Hopkins University as Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Formal Logic (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)
Introduction to Greek Philosophy (Fall 2018)
Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Spring 2018)
Introduction to Bioethics (Fall 2017, Fall 2019)

University of Florida as Primary Instructor

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

University of Florida as Teaching Assistant

Contemporary Moral Issues (Fall 2014)
Symbolic Logic (Spring 2014, Spring 2015)
Existentialism (Fall 2013)
What is the Good Life? (Summer 2013)
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer 2013, Spring 2015)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

2019-2020: Student/Faculty Liaison

2018-2019: Hammond Society Colloquium Coordinator
Conference Planning Committee Member & Referee
Graduate Student Advisor, Prometheus Undergraduate Journal

2017-2018: Student/Faculty Liaison
Graduate Student Advisor, Prometheus Undergraduate Journal

2016-2017: President, Hammond Society
Conference Planning Committee Member & Referee
Graduate Student Advisor, Prometheus Undergraduate Journal

2015-2016: Department Representative, Graduate Representation Organization
Graduate Student Advisor, Prometheus Undergraduate Journal

REFERENCES

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