

Rebecca Victoria Millsop, Ph.D.

Lecturer in Ethics

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Academic Appointments

University of Rhode Island / Lecturer in Ethics
fall 2017 - present

University of Rhode Island / Adjunct Instructor
spring 2017

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology / Ph.D., Philosophy
fall 2010 - summer 2016, Cambridge, MA

Dissertation Title: *Precisifying Art Pluralism*

Committee: Sally Haslanger (chair), Bradford Skow, Paul Guyer (Brown University)

Brown University / Visiting Research Fellow
fall 2015 - spring 2016, Providence, RI

University of California, Berkeley / B.A., Philosophy
with Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*) and the Departmental Citation
fall 2007 - spring 2010, Berkeley, CA

Honors Thesis Title: *Normativity in Kant's Philosophy of Logic*

Advisor: John MacFarlane

Community College of San Francisco / Concentration: Philosophy
fall 2005 - spring 2007, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Art Institute / Concentration: New Genres
fall 2003 - spring 2005, San Francisco, CA

Areas

Specialization: Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art, Formal and Philosophical Logic, Metaphysics, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

Competence: Classics of Western Philosophy, Ethics (Applied, Environmental, & Theoretical), Philosophy of Food, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Technology

Works in Progress

“Complex Kinds & Varieties of Pluralism”

“Another Problem -- Tarski & Extensional Logicity”

“The Importance & Efficacy of Non-Traditional Assignments in General Education Philosophy Courses” -- SoTL project

“Utility of Instructor Created Course Materials in Philosophy Classrooms” -- SoTL project co-investigation with Kayon Murray-Johnson, School of Education and the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning

Courses

Primary Instructor, University of Rhode Island

- ▽ PHL 101 -- Critical Thinking: fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- ▽ PHL 212 -- Ethics: spring 2017 through spring 2021
- ▽ PHL 212H -- Honors Ethics: spring 2020, 2021
- ▽ PHL 314 -- Ethical Issues in Society & Medicine: spring 2017
- ▽ PHL 323 -- Modern Philosophy (Descartes to Kant): spring 2019, 2020, 2021
- ▽ PHL 341 -- Introduction to Metaphysics: spring 2018
- ▽ PHL 451 -- Symbolic Logic: spring 2019, 2021

Undergraduate Independent Study Supervision, University of Rhode Island

- ▽ PHL 401-0008 -- Evolutionary Ethics, spring 2020

Substitute Instructor, University of Rhode Island

- ▽ PHL 212 -- Ethics: November-December 2016
- ▽ PHL 323 -- Modern Philosophy (Descartes to Kant): Nov.-Dec. 2016

Teaching Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- ▽ Classics of Western Philosophy, Dan Hagan: spring 2014
- ▽ Justice, Lucas Stanczyk: spring 2013
- ▽ Good Food: The Ethics & Politics of Food, Sally Haslanger: fall 2013
- ▽ Moral Problems, Oliver Sensen: spring 2012
- ▽ Minds & Machines, Alex Byrne: fall 2011

Courses Under Development

- ▽ Exploring Evidence: Ethics and AI -- Workshop Developed for the Dean of University Libraries, University of Rhode Island: spring 2020
 - ▽ Mind & Machines (100-level course)
 - ▽ Philosophy of Mind (300-level course)
 - ▽ Philosophy of Food (100-level course)
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Awards, Grants, & Honors

Teaching Awards

- ▽ URI College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence for Lecturers, 2019

Grants

- ▽ John Hazen White Center for Ethics and Public Service - Summer Workshop for Integrating of Ethics in Grand Challenge Course Design - with Dr. Douglass Reed -- Funded 2020

- ▽ American Philosophical Association Small Project Grant - written for Philosophers for Sustainability -- Funded 2020
- ▽ National Science Foundation, "Future of Work" Planning Grant - coPI with multiple faculty across disciplines at URI, 2019 - Not Funded

Graduate Fellowships

- ▽ Presidential Scholar Fellowship, MIT, 2011-2015
- ▽ Ida Green Fellowship, MIT, 2010-2011
- ▽ Presidential Scholar Fellowship, Harvard University[☆]
- ▽ Henry H. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University[☆]
- ▽ Berkeley Fellowship, UC Berkeley[☆]
- ▽ The Ralph Johnson Bunche Distinguished Graduate Award, Rutgers University[☆]
- ▽ Beinecke Scholarship for Graduate Education in the Arts and Humanities, 2010-2013

[☆] indicates declined to attend MIT

Undergraduate Awards & Honors

- ▽ Dept. of Philosophy Commencement Speech, UC Berkeley, May 2010
- ▽ The Departmental Citation Award, UC Berkeley Philosophy Dept. 2010
- ▽ Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*), UC Berkeley Philosophy Dept. 2010
- ▽ Highest Distinction in General Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 2010
- ▽ Phi Beta Kappa, 2010
- ▽ David Everall Prize for Best Short Essay in Philosophy, City College of San Francisco, 2006

Presentations, Commentaries, & Guest Lectures

Invited/Refereed Presentations

"In Your Own Voice: Using Written Dialogue Assessments to Promote Engagement & Inclusivity"

- ▽ American Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial Conference, July 2021

"Growth Mindset: Strategies for Student Success"

- ▽ URI Office of ATL Conversation, August 2020

"Reading Engagement Activities"

- ▽ URI Teaching & Learning Showcase -- Poster Session, April 2020 -- Postponed due to COVID-19

"In Their Own Voices -- Assessments Built for Genuine Engagement"

- ▽ Annual Gateway Course Experience Conference, Gardner Institute, May 2020

"Sustainability in Philosophy"

- ▽ Eastern APA, January 2020 with Eugene Chislenko (Temple University)

"Successfully Engaging Gen-Ed Ethics Students in Philosophical Argumentation & Dialogue"

- ▽ URI Teaching & Learning Showcase -- Poster Session, April 2019
- ▽ URI Philosophy Department, March 2019
- ▽ Eastern APA/AAPT Teaching Hub, January 2019

"Complex Kinds & Varieties of Pluralism"

▽ Gonzaga University Graduate Conference, April 2016

▽ MITing of the Minds Conference, January 2016

“Arguing for Art Pluralism”

▽ Rutgers-Princeton Graduate Conference, April 2014

“Normativity in Kant’s Philosophy of Logic”

▽ Branden Fitelson’s Epistemology Graduate Seminar, UC Berkeley, March 2010

Invited Commentaries

Bay Area Feminism and Philosophy Conference, May 2019

▽ Comments on “Standpoint Aesthetics & the Disinterested Thesis” by Katherine Tullman

Invited Guest Lectures

▽ “Ethics & The Digital Age,” in Peter Cornillon’s GCH 101G: Envisioning the Future, University of Rhode Island, spring 2020

Other

“Precisifying Art Pluralism”

▽ MIT Public Dissertation Defense, September 2016

▽ MIT Graduate WIP Presentation, May 2016

“Arguing for Art Pluralism”

▽ MIT Departmental WIP Presentation, February 2014

“Thinking About What Art Could Be”

▽ MIT Graduate WIP Presentation, November 2013

“If Tarski Cared About the Rest of Us”

▽ MIT Graduate WIP Presentation, May 2012

Pedagogy Training

Researching Across the Disciplines, URI Faculty Development, summer 2020

Teaching for Learning Seminar, URI Faculty Development, fall 2019

American Association of Philosophy Teachers Workshop, summer 2017

Public Engagement/Philosophy

Publications

▽ “The Heavy, Unseen Labor of Writing Reference Letters,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/2019 -- co-authored with Cheryl Foster and Douglass Reed

▽ “Why Can’t Paintings Just Be Paintings?” -- *Aesthetics for Birds* blog post, February 2015

Media Showcasing

▽ Research Showcasing -- Profile/Interview with *MIT News*, July 2016

Service

Professional

- ▽ Reviewer for: *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Teaching Philosophy*
- ▽ Co-Chair, Eastern American Philosophical Association/American Association of Philosophy Teachers Teaching Hub -- spring 2020-spring 2022
- ▽ Co-Founder -- Philosophers for Sustainability, 2019-present
- ▽ Teaching Committee Facilitator -- Philosophers for Sustainability, 2019-present
- ▽ E-Event Committee Member -- Philosophers for Sustainability, 2020-present
- ▽ Web Design/Manager -- Philosophers for Sustainability, 2019-present
- ▽ Planning Committee, Keynote Selection Committee -- American Association of Philosophy Teachers 2020 Biennial Conference, 2018-present
- ▽ Teaching & Learning Committee, American Association of Philosophy Teachers, 2019-present
- ▽ Contributing Editor -- *Aesthetics for Birds*, a popular aesthetics blog, spring 2016-fall 2019
- ▽ Web Design/Manager -- *The UP Directory*, a directory of philosophers from underrepresented groups, spring 2013-spring 2018

University of Rhode Island

- ▽ Member, AI/Big Data Ethics Group with Harrison Dekkler (University Library), Cheryl Foster (Philosophy), Bohyun Kim (University Library), and Joan Peckam (Computer Science and Statistics), fall 2018-present

Departmental, University of Rhode Island

- ▽ Ethics Curriculum Exploration Committee, fall 2018-present
- ▽ Philosophy Lecture/Speaker Series Committee, spring 2018-present
- ▽ Philosophy Curriculum Committee (facilitator), fall 2017-spring 2018

Departmental, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- ▽ MIT Philosophy Colloquium Committee, fall 2012-spring 2013
- ▽ Prospective Student Visit Committee, fall 2011-spring 2012
- ▽ MITing of the Minds Conference Committee, fall 2010-spring 2011

Professional Memberships

American Association of Philosophy Teachers

American Philosophical Association

American Society for Aesthetics