

CHRISTINE WIESELER

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2016-2018 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, McGovern Medical School
- 2018 Lecturer, Program in Writing and Communication, Rice University
- 2017 Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology and Philosophy, Texas Southern University
- 2014-2016 Assistant Editor, *Perspectives on Science*

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of South Florida
Dissertation Title: *A Feminist Contestation of Ableist Assumptions: Implications for Biomedical Ethics, Disability Theory, and Phenomenology*
Committee: Alex Levine (co-chair), Joanne Waugh (co-chair), Lee Braver, Diane Price-Herndl, and Gaile Pohlhaus, Jr. (Miami University)
- 2014 M.A. in Philosophy, University of South Florida
- 2013 Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida
- 2011 M.A. in Philosophy, Miami University
- 2008 B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, Art Therapy, Alverno College

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Biomedical Ethics, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Disability

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Normative Ethics, Social Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

A. Journal Articles

Wieseler, C. forthcoming, "Missing Phenomenological Accounts: Disability Theory, Body Integrity Identity Disorder, and Being an Amputee," *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 11(2).

Wieseler, C. 2016, "Objectivity as Neutrality, Nondisabled Ignorance, and Strong Objectivity," *Social Philosophy Today* 32: 85-102.

Wieseler, C. 2015, "Thinking Critically about Disability in Biomedical Ethics Courses," *American Association of Philosophy Teachers Studies in Pedagogy* 1: 83-98.

Wieseler, C. 2013, "Applying Merleau-Ponty's Account of Perceptual Practices to Teaching on Disability," *Florida Philosophical Review* XIII(1): 14-28.

Wieseler, C. 2012, "A Philosophical Investigation: Interrogating Practices and Beliefs about Disability," *Social Philosophy Today* 28: 29-45.

Wieseler, C. 2012, "Phenomenology, Feminist Philosophy, and the Impairment/Disability Distinction: Incorporating the Lived Body into the Social Model of Disability," *Kinesis* 39(1), 4-17.

B. Book Chapter

Wieseler, C. forthcoming, "Challenging Conceptions of the 'Normal' Subject in Phenomenology." In *Race as Phenomena: Between Phenomenology and Philosophy of Race*, ed. Emily Lee. Lexington, KY: Rowman and Littlefield.

C. Book Review

Wieseler, C. 2017. Havi Carel: *Phenomenology of Illness*. *Hypatia Reviews Online*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor of Record:

Rice University:

Medical Communication, Spring 2018

Texas Southern University:

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2017

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, McGovern Medical School:

Biomedicalization and Enhancement, Fall 2018

Summer Humanities Seminar, Summer 2017

Ethics and Professionalism, Spring 2017

Co-facilitator for Sacred Vocation (Medical Residents), Spring 2017

Anti-Fat Bias in the Age of the 'Obesity Epidemic,' Spring 2017

Lived Experiences of Illness, Spring 2017

Illness, Disability, and Well-being, Fall 2016

University of South Florida:

Feminist Ethics (cross-listed in Women's and Gender Studies), Fall 2015

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2014, Summer 2015

Biomedical Ethics, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014, Summer 2016

Critical Thinking, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013

As Teaching Assistant:

University of South Florida:

Philosophy of Mind, Spring 2012 (under Alex Levine)

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2011 (under Michael Morris)

Miami University:

Theories of Human Nature, Spring 2011 (under Pascal Massie)
Purpose and Chance in the Universe, Fall 2010 (under Keith Fennen)
Problems of Social and Moral Values, Spring 2010 (under Gaile Pohlhaus, Jr)
Formal Logic, Fall 2009 (under Asher Seidel)

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

[Invited] Commentator on *The Biopolitics of Enhancement: Transhumanism, Disability, and Biopolitics* by Melinda Hall. *Florida Philosophical Association*, Ocala, FL, November 3-4, 2017.

“Material Anonymity and Phenomenology: A Critique of Merleau-Ponty and Some of his Successors,” *Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference*, Clearwater, FL, October 5-8, 2017.

“Wrongful Requests and Strategic Refusals to Understand: Implications for Discussions of Disabled People within Biomedical Ethics,” *Gaslighting and Epistemic Injustice Conference*, Claremont, CA, September 21-23.

“Challenging Conceptions of the ‘Normal’ Subject in Phenomenology,” *North American Society for Social Philosophy 34th International Social Philosophy Conference*, Chicago, IL, July 13-15.

[Invited] “Disability, Illness, and Embodied Existence,” Lecture in Andrea Pitts’ Philosophy of Mind Course, University of North Carolina. Charlotte, NC. March 22, 2017.

“Troubling Thought Experiments: Assumptions about Disability and Gender within Biomedical Ethics,” *6th International Health Humanities Conference*, Houston, TX, March 9-11, 2017.

“Theorizing Embodied Subjectivity: Merleau-Ponty, Disability, and Social Identity,” *Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences*, Salt Lake City, UT, October 20-22, 2016.

“A Critique of Assumptions about Impairment within Discussions of Body Integrity Identity Disorder,” *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities 18th Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C., October 6-9, 2016.

“Material Anonymity and Phenomenology: A Critique of Merleau-Ponty and Some of his Successors,” *Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy*, Halifax, NS, September 29-October 1, 2016.

“A Phenomenological Approach to the Desire to Be an Amputee,” *North American Society for Social Philosophy 33rd International Social Philosophy Conference*, Ottawa, ON, July 21-23, 2016.

“Heidegger’s Hesitance to Touch the Body: Implications of Bodily Particularities for Being,” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division*, San Francisco, CA, March 30-April 3, 2016.

“Epistemic Issues in Biomedical Ethics: Ignorance, Knowledge, and Disability,” *North American Society for Social Philosophy 32nd International Social Philosophy Conference*, Liberty, MO, July 16-18, 2015.

“Thinking Critically about Disability in Biomedical Ethics Courses,” *Exploring Collaborative Contestations and Diversifying Philosophy*, Philadelphia, PA, May 28-30, 2015.

[Invited] “Epistemic Issues in Biomedical Ethics: Ignorance, Knowledge, and Disability,” Phi Org, Undergraduate Philosophy Organization Meeting, March 19, 2015.

“Performativity, Phenomenology, and Theorizing Embodied Subjectivity,” *The Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences*, New Orleans, LA, October 23-25, 2014.

“Perspectives on Disability in Biomedical Ethics,” *American Association for Philosophy Teachers International Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy*, Collegeville, MN, July 30-August 3, 2014.

“Feminist Phenomenology and Disability Theory: Incorporating the Lived Body,” *Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference*, Tempe, AZ, October 17-20, 2013.

“Feminist Phenomenology and the Social Model of Disability: Incorporating the Lived Body,” *Eastern Society for Women in Philosophy*, Little Rock, AR, May 10, 2013.

“A Critique of Cadwallader’s Classroom Approach to Embodied Ableism,” *Florida Philosophical Association*, Orlando, FL, November 2-3, 2012.

“Disruption of Embodied Ableism,” *North American Society for Social Philosophy, 29th International Social Philosophy Conference*, Boston, MA, July 26-28, 2012.

“Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy: The Value of Graduate Student Teacher Training for the Profession of Philosophy,” *American Philosophical Association Central Division 109th Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, February 15-18, 2012.

“A Philosophical Investigation: Interrogating Practices and Beliefs about Disability,” *Society for Women in Philosophy, Pacific Division*, Long Beach, CA, November 4-5, 2011.

“A Philosophical Investigation: Interrogating Practices and Beliefs about Disability,” *North American Society for Social Philosophy, 28th International Social Philosophy Conference*, Milwaukee, WI, July 21-23, 2011.

GRADUATE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Epistemic Issues in Biomedical Ethics: Ignorance, Knowledge, and Disability,” *10th Annual Society for Women’s Advancement in Philosophy Conference*, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, March 27, 2015.

“Implicit Anti-Disability Attitudes and the Conceptual Inflation of Ableism,” *1st Global Governance and Sustainable Communities Interdisciplinary Conference*, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, April 12, 2013.

“Articulating the Unacknowledged Frameworks for Interpreting Physical Disability,” *10th Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Symposium: Building Bridges, Creating Coalition*, Miami University, Oxford, OH, February 25, 2011.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association for Philosophy Teachers
American Philosophical Association
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities
Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory
North American Society for Social Philosophy
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2016-2017, University of South Florida, Declined.

American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Graduate Student Travel Stipend, 2016.

American Philosophical Association Diversity Institute Alumni Fund Travel Stipend, 2016.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of South Florida Philosophy Department, 2011-2016.

USF Conference Presentation Grant 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Miami University Philosophy Department, (2009-2011)

Outstanding Student Leader Award, Alverno College, (2008)

Above and Beyond Award for Student Leadership, Alverno College (2007)

Recipient of Layton Foundation Endowed Scholarship, (2007-2008)

Wingspread Scholar, Alverno College, (2006-2008)

Recipient of Rath Distinguished Scholarship, (2006-2007, 2007-2008)

Recipient of Carrie Crystal Stuckert Memorial Scholarship, (2006)

Recipient of Alverno Merit Scholarship, (2003-2007)

PROFESSIONAL AND CONFERENCE SERVICE

Reviewer, Routledge (U.K. and U.S.), 2017-

Graduate Student Representative, University of South Florida Graduate Council, Curriculum Committee, 2014-2015.

Conference Organizing

Accessibility Chair, *Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Association*. December 2015-2020

Local Arrangements, *6th International Health Humanities Conference*, Houston, TX, March 9-11, 2017.

Local Arrangements/Accessibility Coordinator, *Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Association*, Clearwater, FL October 1-4, 2015.

Assistant to On-site Coordinator, *Florida Philosophical Association*, Tampa, FL November 14-15, 2014.

Accessibility Coordinator, *48th Annual Heidegger Circle Meeting*, St. Petersburg, FL, May 8-11, 2014.

Facilitating Sessions for High School Students

Facilitator, Hillsborough County Public Schools Darwin Day Celebration, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, February 13-15, 2014.

Facilitator, Hillsborough County Public Schools Darwin Day Celebration, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, February 9-11, 2012.

Other

Member, University of South Florida Philosophy Graduate Student Organization (2011-present)

President, Women of Wisdom, Alverno College, (2006-2008)

President, Artourage, Alverno College, (2007-2008)

Co-President, Artourage, Alverno College, (2004-2007)

REFERENCES

Dr. Alex Levine, Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of South Florida
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Dr. Joanne Waugh, Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of South Florida
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Dr. Gaile Pohlhaus, Jr., Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
Miami University

Dr. Charles Guignon, Professor Emeritus
Department of Philosophy
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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

My dissertation, *A Feminist Contestation of Ableist Assumptions: Implications for Biomedical Ethics, Disability Theory, and Phenomenology*, argues that the dominant ways of thinking about the body within philosophy—through the lens of biological or cultural determinism—are inadequate for theorizing experiences of disability because they cannot begin to capture the complexity of embodied subjectivity. The former gives too much explanatory weight to particular aspects of the body, while the latter gives too little. Both miss the negotiation between the embodied subject and her social milieu and fail to account for the role of the individual in making sense of her situation. I contend that the experiences and knowledge of disabled people must be included for epistemic practices related to disability to be just. Finally, I demonstrate how philosophical inquiry within biomedical ethics and phenomenology is radically transformed when experiences of disability are taken seriously.

In the first two chapters, I focus on epistemological and ontological concerns surrounding disability within biomedical ethics. Although disabled people and their advocates have been quite vocal regarding their views on disability and in critiquing bioethicists' approaches to issues that affect them, the interests, knowledge, and experiences of disabled people have had minimal impact on discussions within biomedical ethics textbooks. The risks of making problematic assumptions about disability are high within this subfield insofar as bioethicists impact practices within medical facilities, public policy, and, through student engagement with their texts in biomedical ethics courses, the views of potential health care professionals. All of these, in turn, affect the care provided to disabled people and potential/actual parents of disabled children. Chapter three raises ontological issues related to disability theory, examining the role of the impairment/disability distinction in framing discussions of the body as well as the status of experience. I discuss two approaches to incorporating subjective experiences of the body in disability, arguing that neither is sufficient. I examine debates within feminist theory on questions related to experience. I argue that a feminist phenomenological approach that builds on Merleau-Ponty's work offers the best way to address bodily experiences in disability theory. The assumptions that disability theorists and Merleau-Ponty make about disability are often at odds. Chapter four points out the ableism in Merleau-Ponty's use of a case study and considers some of the oversights within *Phenomenology of Perception*. In spite of my critique, I argue that his approach to phenomenology—with appropriate modifications—is useful not only for theorizing the experiences of disabled people but also for addressing other types of marginalized embodiment. Chapter five applies this method to body integrity identity disorder (BIID), arguing that combining Merleau-Ponty's insights with those of disability theory allows us to address lived experiences of BIID and to identify assumptions about disability within research on this condition.