

Rose Fonth

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RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization

Social Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Ethics

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Race

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy

Expected May 2026

Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Dissertation: *The Policing of Selfhood: Names, Sounds, and Identity*

Committee: Alex Guerrero (chair), Elisabeth Camp, Jonathan Schaffer, Talia Bettcher (external)

M.A., Philosophy

Awarded May 2020

California State University, Los Angeles

Comprehensive Exams: Logic, Metaphysics, Social and Political Philosophy

B.A., Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, Honors College

Awarded May 2018

California State University, Los Angeles

Educational Opportunity Program

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

Spring 2024 – Spring 2026

Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Course: Current Moral and Social Issues (Spring 2026, Spring 2024)

Teach two weekly lecture sessions where I introduce course material on various topics in current social and moral philosophy, such as the ethics of abortion, the nature of racism, the morality of sexual objectification, and the nature of social construction.

Course: Introduction to Ethics (Summer 2025)

Teach an online asynchronous course where I introduce course material on various topics in ethics, such as the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the objectivity of ethics, the morality of abortion, and the ethics of end-of-life care.

Course: Current Moral and Social Issues (Summer 2024)

Teach an online asynchronous course where I introduce course material on various topics in current social and moral philosophy, such as the ethics of abortion, the nature of racism, the morality of sexual objectification, and the nature of social construction.

Recitation Instructor

Fall 2022 – Fall 2025

Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Course: Rhymes and Reasons: Hip-Hop and Philosophy (Fall 2025, Fall 2023)

Teach biweekly recitation sections where I review the lecture course material on various topics in sociology, hip hop culture, and moral philosophy. Create supplemental material (e.g., PowerPoints, worksheets) for my students to grasp the course concepts. Grade multiple papers and exams.

Course: Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2023, Fall 2022)

Create supplemental material (e.g., PowerPoints, worksheets) for my students to grasp the course concepts.
Grade multiple papers and exams.

Recitation Instructor

Fall 2019

California State University, Los Angeles

Course: Quantitative Reasoning: Proof and Probability (Lab)

Teach a weekly three-hour lab where I review the course material on symbolic logic and probability theory.
Create supplemental material (e.g., PowerPoints, worksheets) for my students to grasp the course concepts.

PAPERS

Under Review

Intimate Kinds of Double Binds

Under Construction

The Ethics of Misnaming

Naming and Conferring: Why We Care About What We're Called By
Acoustic Injustice

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lecture: *Theorizing at Rowan* Lecture Series, September 2025

Rowan University, "Intimate Kinds of Double Binds"

Conference: International Social Ontology Society, August 2025

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, "Naming and Conferring: Why We Care About What We're Called By"

Conference: Thinking Trans // Trans Thinking Conference, March 2025

Lafayette College, "Intimate Kinds of Double Binds" (written in program as "*You Lied to Me: Transphobia, Intimacy, and Intimate Deception*")

Conference: Pitt-CMU Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 2025

University of Pittsburgh, "Intimate Kinds of Double Binds"

Conference: Arizona Feminist Philosophy Graduate Conference, February 2025

University of Arizona, "Intimate Kinds of Double Binds"

Conference: American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, January 2025

Sheraton Times Square, New York City, "The Ethics of Misnaming" (written in program as "The Derogatory Force and Moral Contestability of Deadnaming Utterances")

Conference: International Social Ontology Society, July 2024

Duke University, "The Social Significance of Sounds"

Workshop: Athena in Action, June 2024

University of Notre Dame, Discussion Chair & Participant

Conference: Harvard-MIT Philosophy Graduate Conference, April 2024

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Derogatory Force and Moral Contestability of Deadnaming Utterances"

Workshop: CEU Contemporary Issues in Ontology and Social Ontology, July 2023

Central European University, Hungary, “Gender Identity Pluralism”

Conference: 24th Annual CUNY Graduate Student Conference, “Feminist Crisis? Philosophical Interventions”, October 2022

City University of New York, “The Inclusion Problem Persists: Accounting for Resistant, Cross-Context Gender Identifications”

Conference (COVID-Cancelled): Annual Student Research And Creative Arts Conference on Genders and Sexualities, March 2020

California State University, Los Angeles, “The Moral Difference between Treating Body Integrity Identity Disorder and Gender Dysphoria”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Rutgers University, Philosophy Department

Chair – Climate Committee

Fall 2023 – Spring 2025

Chair the climate committee, which focuses on issues of departmental inclusion, marginalization, and empowerment. Oversee subcommittees on gender/racial minority events, guest lecture events, and climate surveys.

Co-Organizer – Metaphysics Reading Group

Fall 2023 – Spring 2025

Lead and co-organize the metaphysics philosophy reading group. Lead weekly discussions on papers ranging from mereology, time, fundamentality, grounding, social ontology, normativity, and modality.

Co-Organizer – Metaphysical Mayhem

Spring 2025

Co-organize Metaphysical Mayhem, a bi-annual metaphysics conference, by assisting speakers and commentators with lodging, travel, and special accommodations and with general logistics during the conference.

Co-Organizer – 5th Annual Social Metaphysics Workshop

Spring 2024

Co-organize the 5th annual Social Metaphysics Workshop conference by refereeing submitted papers, assisting speakers and commentators with lodging, travel, and special accommodations, and with general logistics.

Co-Organizer – Feminist Philosophy Reading Group

Fall 2022 – May 2024

Lead and co-organize the feminist philosophy reading group. Lead weekly discussions on papers ranging from gender, race, decolonialism, social metaphysics, disability, sexual ethics, and related areas.

Member – Climate Committee

Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

Participate in discussions concerning the social climate of the department. Co-lead a subcommittee that covers gender marginalization issues in the department.

Chapter Representative – Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)

Spring 2021, Fall 2022

Organized events tailored to marginalized members of the discipline.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Fall 2025 (Declined)

University-wide fellowship selectively offered to five doctoral candidates on the basis of having an exemplary dissertation proposal.

summa cum laude, Spring 2018

Honor received as a result of graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.9 or above.

Honors College Program Graduate, Spring 2018

Honor received as a result of completing the Honors College program curriculum.

Outstanding Thesis Award, Spring 2018

Award given each year to three Honors College students for exceptional work on the honors thesis.

James Bright Wilson Scholarship, Spring 2018

Scholarship given each year to one undergraduate philosophy student for excellence in philosophy.

Honors College Scholars Scholarship, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

Scholarship given each year to Honors College students that have demonstrated great potential, motivation, and a commitment to education.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Feminist Philosophy

History of Feminist Philosophy, Louise Antony and Alex Guerrero (Rutgers)

Metaphysics of Gender, Louise Antony (Rutgers)

Issues in Feminist Philosophy, Talia Bettcher (Cal State LA)

Social and Political Philosophy

Rights, Frances Kamm and Alex Guerrero (Rutgers)

Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy, Mohammed Abed (Cal State LA)

Ethics

Philosophy of Race (Independent Study w/Alex Guerrero) (Rutgers)

Topics in Moral Theory, Larry Temkin and Mike Otsuka (Rutgers)

Language

Linguistics and Philosophy of Pejorative Language, Ernie Lepore (Rutgers) and Una Stojnic (Princeton)

Metaphysics

Physicalism, Karen Bennett and Jonathan Schaffer (Rutgers)

Time, Ted Sider (Rutgers)

Seminar in Metaphysics, Mark Balaguer (Cal State LA)

Material Constitution, David Pitt (Cal State LA)

Philosophy of Mind

Seminar in Philosophy of Mind, Brian McLaughlin (Rutgers)

Seminar in Philosophy of Mind, David Pitt (Cal State LA)

Epistemology

Seminar in Epistemology, Ernest Sosa and Matthew McGrath (Rutgers)

History of Philosophy

Medieval Philosophy, Brian Leftow (Rutgers)

Logic

Logic for Philosophers, Kit Fine (NYU)

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

My dissertation, “**The Policing of Selfhood: Names, Sounds, and Identity**”, argues that the names we use, the sounds we make, and the intimate identities we share are often sites of social injustice. In **Chapter 1** (“The Ethics of Misnaming”), I introduce a framework for understanding the wrongness of what I call *misnaming* utterances, or utterances that use a target’s rejected name, such as trans people’s “deadnames”, to refer to them. I argue that misnaming is a widespread phenomenon, affecting individuals beyond the transgender community (e.g., wives, monks, estranged family members, victims of pejorative name-calling) and that it is *pro tanto* wrong because it can linguistically derogate, psychologically offend, or unjustly ontologically constrain its target. Defending a speech act theory of pragmatic derogation, I argue that misnaming is wrong in virtue of being an authority-challenging speech act that violates what I call our *onomastic* authority, or the *prima facie* authority we have to name ourselves.

I further expand on this research program in **Chapter 2** (“Naming and Conferring: Why We Care About What We’re Called By”), where I argue that names function not just to refer, but also to confer robust social properties onto their targets. Using a conferralist theory of social properties as conferred social statuses, I argue that uses of names can assign social statuses, signaling to others how the target is to be treated. This conferralist theory explains why misnaming is a wrong of unjust ontological constraint: it is an act of conferral where the assigned social status is one the target rejects, violating their *prima facie* authority to self-determine their own social treatment. Expanding the scope of inquiry, in **Chapter 3** (“Acoustic Injustice”) I argue that the *sound* of a name or of speech—its acoustic articulation—can also gain social import and be the site of moral harm. I identify what I call *acoustic injustice* as a wrong arising when a sound that ought not to have a social function does (e.g., the sound of an “offensive” slur or of a “too feminine” vocal pitch) or when a sound that should have a social function instead lacks one (e.g., the acoustic silencing of marginalized voices).

Expanding the scope even further, in **Chapter 4** (“Intimate Kinds of Double Binds”) I isolate a distinct form of structural harm faced by members of marginalized identity groups: the unjust policing of their intimate social identities. Focusing on the case of gender identity among transgender people, I argue that widely shared, yet false, beliefs about social identities generate a specific kind of identity-based double bind that unjustly frames them as either “identity deceivers” or “identity make-believers”. I then demonstrate that this mechanism of unjust identity policing is not unique to the trans community, but extends to other marginalized sexual, religious, and ethnic identities where similar false premises operate.