

DEE PAYTON

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EDUCATION

2017-2021 (*expected*)

PhD Philosophy
Rutgers University
Dissertation: *How To Be Social*

2019-2021 (*expected*)

Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Rutgers University

2013-2017

BA Philosophy
Western Washington University, Bellingham WA

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Feminist Philosophy, Social Philosophy, Metaphysics
Philosophy of Race, Ethics (Moral Responsibility)

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2020

[“Why We Shouldn’t Compare Transracial to Transgender Identity”](#) (with Robin Dembroff), *Boston Review*,
November 2020

PAPERS

UNDER REVIEW

“Gender Metaphysics”
“Constructing Properties with Words”
“Real Definitions for Real Social Constructs”

IN PROGRESS

“Analytic Black Feminist Philosophy”
“The Ways We Are”

PRESENTATIONS

2020

“Analytic Black Feminist Philosophy”, Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies (FEMMSS), University of Waterloo. [*accepted; presentation date TBD*]

2020

“Feminism and Necessity”, MAP Flash Talks Summer Series.

- 2020 “Gender Metaphysics”, Social Metaphysics Workshop, North Carolina State University.
- 2020 “How To Be Social”, Complexity, Social Cognition, and Social Explanation Workshop, University of Cincinnati.
- 2020 “Ameliorative Projects in the Philosophy of Gender”, Arizona Feminist Philosophy Graduate Conference, University of Arizona.
- 2020 “Ameliorative Projects in the Philosophy of Gender”, Diversity Institute Alumni Program, Central APA.
- 2019 “Real Definitions for Real Social Constructs”, 6th Biennial ENSO Conference (Social Ontology), University of Tampere.
- 2019 “Real Definitions for Real Social Constructs”, Bay Area Feminism and Philosophy Workshop (BayFAP), University of San Francisco.
- 2018 “Power and Blame”, Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University.
- 2018 “Processing Blame on Fragmented Grounds”, NYC MAPWorks Workshop Series, CUNY.
- 2016 “Social Privilege and the Standing to Blame”, 10th Annual Ida B. Wells Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis.
- 2016 “Social Privilege and the Standing to Blame”, Pacific University Philosophy Conference, Pacific University.

COMMENTS

- 2020 “Giving Weight to Reasons: Toward a Feminist Conception of Deliberation” by Lisa Madura, Eastern APA.

TEACHING

Rutgers University

- 2021 Introduction to Moral and Social Issues (online)
- 2020 Introduction to Ethics (online)
- 2020 Philosophical Issues in Feminism (cross-listed with WGSS)
- 2018 Introduction to Philosophy (online)
- 2017 Introduction to Philosophy, teaching assistant (Ted Sider)

Western Washington University

2020	Feminist Metaphysics: The Metaphysics of Race & Gender
2015-2017	Introduction to Logic, teaching assistant (Daniel Howard-Snyder)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Legal Advocate with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) of Whatcom County

- Completed 40+ hours of training to become a legal advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Whatcom County, Washington (2020).

Teaching Certificate

- Completed a 15-week training program at Rutgers on philosophy pedagogy and classroom management (2019).

AWARDS

2017	Presidential Scholar Award; WWU
2017	Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy Award; WWU
2015-2016	Paul J. and Rebecca Ann Olscamp Philosophy Scholarship; WWU
2015-2016	Departmental (Philosophy) Tuition Waiver Scholarship; WWU: <i>merit-based scholarship awarded to undergraduates on the basis of academic achievement.</i>

CLIMATE AND DIVERSITY-RELATED SERVICE

- Rutgers Philosophy Graduate Student Mentor (2017-present)
- Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy (2017-2020)
- Invited panel, "Is Policing Obsolete?: Black Feminism, Abolitionism, and the Black Lives Matter Movement"; Rutgers Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department (2020)
- Invited panel, "Women in Philosophy", Colorado Summer Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder (2020)
- Rutgers Philosophy Department Climate Committee (2017-2020)
- Chair, Rutgers MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) chapter (2017-2019)
- Organizer, Rutgers Philosophy Department Climate Lecture (2019)
- Princeton COMPASS workshop, Graduate student mentor (2018)

- Presentation, “Working Towards a Racially Inclusive Writing Studio”, National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW), University of Puget Sound (2016)
- Organizer, WWU Philosophy of Race Forum (2016)

OTHER SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Editorial Manager, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2019-present)
- Organizer, Rutgers Feminist Philosophy Reading Group (2018-present)
- Organizer, Rutgers Perceptual Capacities and Psychophysics Conference (2018)
- Organizer, Feminist Philosophy Reading Group, WWU (2018)
- Rapporteur, Fourth Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy (2018): *typed up summaries of talks at the workshop to be published online.*
- Commenter, 2018 Rutgers-Columbia Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (2018)
- Graduate Student Association Representative, Rutgers Philosophy Dept. (2017-2018)
- Organizer, 14th Annual Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University (2016)

REFEREE WORK

Journal of the American Philosophical Association

Journal of Social Ontology

Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* indicates audited course)

Metaphysics

- Relativism; Andy Egan (Rutgers), Spring 2019
- Causation & Laws of Nature; Ted Sider, Jonathan Schaffer, & John Hawthorne (Rutgers), Fall 2018
- Structuralism/Philosophy of Science; Ted Sider (Rutgers), Spring 2018

Social Philosophy

- African, Latinx, & Indigenous Philosophy; Alex Guerrero (Rutgers), Spring 2020*
- Social Ontology; Karen Bennett (Rutgers), Fall 2019*
- Feminist Metaphysics (Independent Study); Ted Sider (Rutgers), Spring 2019

Feminist Theory (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department)

- Feminism: Theory & Practice; Brittney Cooper (Rutgers), Fall 2019
- Feminist Genealogies; Adam Hantel (Rutgers), Fall 2019

Philosophy of Mind

- Advanced Introduction to Philosophy of Mind; David Chalmers & Ned Block (NYU), Fall 2018
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science; Eric Mandelbaum (CUNY), Spring 2018*
- Perceptual Capacities; Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers), Spring 2018

Philosophy of Language

- Essentializing Language; Katherine Ritchie (CUNY), Fall 2019*
- Advanced Introduction to Philosophy of Language; Stephen Schiffer (NYU), Fall 2018
- Formal Methods; Anthony Gillies (Rutgers), Spring 2018

Other Topics

- Medieval Theology; Brian Leftow (Rutgers), Fall 2020
- Third-year seminar; Anthony Gillies (Rutgers), Fall 2019
- Philosophy of Law; Douglas Husak & John Oberdiek (Rutgers), Spring 2019
- Spinoza's *Ethics*; Martin Lin (Rutgers), Fall 2017
- Virtue Epistemology; Ernest Sosa (Rutgers), Fall 2017
- Proseminar; Andy Egan & Elisabeth Camp (Rutgers), Fall 2017

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The claim that gender is socially constructed is plausibly the most central claim operative in feminist projects both within and outside of the academy. There are many ways to interpret this claim: some people think it means that gender is “all in our heads”, and because of this, gender is not “real” in a substantive sense. Call this position *gender anti-realism*. In contrast with gender anti-realism, many *gender realists* think that gender is real in a substantive sense. There are a number of ways to be a gender realist, but on many of these views gender is real *at least* in the sense that there are gender properties. Combine this with the claim that gender is socially constructed, and we get the view that there are real, socially constructed gender properties.

Which properties are the gender properties? What is it for a property to be socially constructed? What makes socially constructed properties *social* in the first place? My dissertation, *How To Be Social*, addresses these questions. In my dissertation, I do three things: I develop an analysis of social construction, I propose a more general condition on sociality for properties, and I make a case for the utility of metaphysics in projects about the nature of gender.

In a bit more detail, first I argue that a property is socially constructed just in case the real definition (“essence”) of that property includes social things. This raises a question: which things are the social things? Here, it seems that a more general condition on sociality for properties would be useful. Roughly, I argue that social properties (e.g., the property of being a woman) bear a special relationship to the predicates we use to talk about them (e.g., the predicate ‘woman’), and that is what makes those properties social. In the third part of my dissertation I draw on these insights about the nature of socially constructed properties, and apply them to discussions in the philosophy of gender. I argue that when we ask questions like *What is it to be a woman?*, those can be interpreted as questions about language (e.g., what does ‘woman’ mean?) or as questions about metaphysics (e.g., which property is the woman property?). In the philosophy of gender, the prominence of questions of the first sort has eclipsed the fact that there is even a question about metaphysics to be asked. I make a case for asking the metaphysics question by arguing that doing so can help us solve certain difficulties that arise from the language-first approach.

While my research interests are in feminist topics more broadly, *How To Be Social* is primarily a project in social metaphysics. In this dissertation I am largely concerned with developing and motivating metaphysical tools that can be put to work in service of feminist projects. To this end, the views I develop are assembled with the help of concepts routinely employed in mainstream metaphysics (e.g., essence, grounding, metaphysical explanation), and I apply these views to discussions in feminist philosophy regarding the social construction of properties and social kinds.