

## Curriculum Vitae

### Amanda Evans

Washington University in St. Louis

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#### Employment

##### **James S. McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow (As of Fall 2022)**

Washington University in St. Louis, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program

##### **Postdoctoral Fellow (2021-2022)**

University of Antwerp, Centre for Philosophical Psychology

PI: Bence Nanay

Funded through the ERC Consolidator Grant “Seeing Things You Don’t See: Unifying the Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience of Multimodal Mental Imagery”

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#### Education

##### **Ph.D. in Philosophy (2016-2021)**

*The University of Texas at Austin*

**Dissertation:** “Loss of Control and Phenomenology in Mental Disorder”

**Committee:** Michelle Montague (Chair), Galen Strawson, David Sosa, Tim Bayne (Monash University), Hanna Pickard (Johns Hopkins University)

**Dissertation Abstract:** The dissertation aims to make sense of philosophical issues that arise from the so-called “loss of control” that occurs in mental disorder. First, I develop a model of the sense of agency that can explain how individuals with anorexia nervosa can sincerely experience their disordered actions as being effortful and within their full control when this is not the case. Then, I propose a “horseshoe model” of loss of control that accurately captures the complex web of similarities and dissimilarities between disorders marked by extreme rigidity (e.g., anorexia) and extreme impulsivity (e.g., addiction). Finally, I pursue a question that arises out of the horseshoe model, namely: Why is one “half” of the model associated with the phenomenology of loss of control while the other “half” is associated with the phenomenology of extreme self-control? This line of inquiry ultimately leads to an understanding of how actions flowing from one’s pathological desires can be accompanied by drastically different phenomenology depending on the contents of one’s self-image.

##### **B.A. in Philosophy (2012-2016)**

*University of Notre Dame, Honors Track*

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#### AOS

Philosophy of mind (including philosophy of psychology and cognitive science), philosophy of psychiatry (including neuroethics and moral psychology), action theory

#### AOC

Applied ethics (including bioethics), metaphysics

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#### Publications

##### **Anorexia Nervosa: Illusion in the Sense of Agency (2022)**

Forthcoming in *Mind & Language*, DOI: 10.1111/mila.12385

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#### Honors and Awards

##### **Provost’s Graduate Excellence Fellowship**

*The University of Texas at Austin, 2016-2021*

Competitive five-year recruitment package totaling \$44,000 of support per year, including three years of full (non-teaching) fellowship funding and summer funding

**Selected Commencement Speaker for the Undergraduate Philosophy Major**

*University of Notre Dame, May 2016*

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**Presentations**     ***Invited Speaker: “Self-improvement, pathology, and passions: What can we learn from anorexia nervosa?”***

University of Notre Dame (February 2022)

Gender Studies and Center for Philosophy of Religion Colloquium Series

**“Agentive Awareness and Anorexia Nervosa”**

Colloquium presentation, APA Pacific Division Meeting

San Francisco, April 2020 (rescheduled and presented via Zoom in 2021)

**“Passions, Anorexia, and the Inescapable Normativity of Psychopathology”**

International Society for Research on Emotion Conference 2022

Speaker and co-organizer for Pre-Conference: “Norms and Deviations in Emotion” (to be held in Los Angeles, California, U.S.)

**“Addiction and Willpower: Solving the Mismatch Problem”**

University of Texas at Austin

MindWork pre-read colloquium series, March 2020

**“Cognitive Penetration of Shape Experience”**

University of Toronto

“Psy-Phi: Philosophy meets Psychology” Conference, May 2018

**“An Indirect Mechanism for Cognitive Penetration”**

The University of Texas at Austin

Departmental “Flash” Conference, September 2017

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**Teaching Experience**

**As Lead Instructor** (Courses I designed marked with “\*”)

- ◆ Biomedical Ethics, Fall 2022 (WashU)\*
- ◆ Contemporary Moral Problems, Fall 2019 (UT Austin)\*  
(Applied ethics course with special emphasis on bioethics and mental illness)
- ◆ Mind and Body, Spring 2020 (UT Austin)\*  
(Introductory philosophy of mind course with transition to an online format)

**As Teaching Assistant**

- ◆ Mind and Body, Fall 2018  
(for Michael Tye)
- ◆ Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2019  
(For Michelle Montague, including guest lectureship)

**Teaching Preparation Series Certificate** (May 2021)

- ◆ Awarded by the UT Austin Faculty Innovation Center upon completion of series aimed at furthering pedagogical best practices and fostering diversity and inclusion
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**Mentorship and Professional Service****Graduate Student Representative**

2020-2021 academic year

**First-Year Interest Group (FIG) Invited Speaker**

October 2019 (Pre-Law FIG), November 2019 (Liberal Arts FIG)  
 Student-selected instructor chosen to speak at meeting focused on mentorship and fostering academic success in a liberal arts major

**Prospective Students Committee Member**

2017-2018, 2018-2019 academic years

**AGENT Conference Referee**

2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**University of Texas at Austin Graduate Conference**

Organizer 2017, Referee 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**Graduate Coursework**

(Audited courses marked with “\*”)

**Philosophy of Mind**

- ◆ Objective Reference (Fall 2016)—Michelle Montague and Katherine Dunlop
  - ◆ Consciousness and Intentionality (Spring 2017)—Michael Tye and Mark Sainsbury
  - ◆ Independent Study on Cognitive Penetration (Summer 2017)—Michelle Montague and Galen Strawson
  - ◆ Independent Study on Disorders of Volition (Fall 2018)—David Sosa
  - ◆ Perception and the Evolution of Consciousness\* (Spring 2019)—Michael Tye and Mark Sainsbury
  - ◆ Classics in Philosophy of Mind\* (Fall 2019)—Michael Tye and Mark Sainsbury
  - ◆ Mind\* (Spring 2020)—Michelle Montague
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**Metaphysics***At University of Texas at Austin:*

- ◆ Neo-Aristotelianism (Fall 2016)—Rob Koons
- ◆ Metaphysics of Modality (Fall 2017)—Jon Litland

◆ Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Fall 2018)—Ian Proops and Katherine Dunlop

◆ Metaphysics/Mind (Fall 2020)—Michelle Montague

*Graduate Courses at University of Notre Dame:*

◆ Contemporary Neo-Aristotelianism (Fall 2015)—Chris Shields

◆ Aristotle's Metaphysics (Spring 2016)—Chris Shields

### **Additional Coursework**

◆ First-Year Seminar (Fall 2016)—Galen Strawson and Michelle Montague

◆ Making an Effort (Fall 2017)—David Sosa

◆ Core Logic (Spring 2017)—Josh Dever

◆ Virtue Ethics (Spring 2017)—Matt Evans and Paul Woodruff

◆ Supervised Teaching in Philosophy (Spring 2018)—Michael Tye

◆ Expression\* (Fall 2018)—David Sosa

◆ Dissertation Seminar (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)—Josh Dever, Galen Strawson

### **References**

**Michelle Montague (University of Texas at Austin)**  
michellemontague@mac.com

**Tim Bayne (Monash University)**  
tim.bayne@gmail.com

**Bence Nanay (University of Antwerp)**  
bence.nanay@uantwerpen.be

**Galen Strawson (University of Texas at Austin)**  
gstrawson@mac.com

**David Sosa (University of Texas at Austin)**  
david\_sosa@austin.utexas.edu

**Josh Dever—Teaching Reference (University of Texas at Austin)**  
dever@austin.utexas.edu