

Curriculum Vitae

Amanda Evans

Washington University in St. Louis

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Employment

James S. McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow (Fall 2022-Present)

Washington University in St. Louis

Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2021-2022)

University of Antwerp, Centre for Philosophical Psychology

PI: Bence Nanay

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

AOS

Philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychiatry, biomedical ethics

AOC

Applied ethics, action theory, metaphysics

Publications

“**Anorexia Nervosa: Illusion in the Sense of Agency**” (2023)

Mind & Language, 38(2), 480-494

Articles Under Review

[A paper about pathological loss of control] (Title redacted for blind review)

[A paper about paternalism in anorexia nervosa treatment in the context of pathological values] (Title redacted for blind review)

Articles In Preparation

“The Passion-First Account of Anorexia Nervosa”

“Alienation and Identification in Pathological Loss of Control”

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***Presentations*****Invited Colloquium Speaker: Is there a phenomenology of the will?***

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Edwardsville, Illinois, December 2022

Invited Speaker: "Self-improvement, pathology, and passions: What can we learn from anorexia nervosa?"

University of Notre Dame

(Scheduled for February 2022, postponed due to COVID-19)

Gender Studies and Center for Philosophy of Religion Colloquium Series

"It's Worse Than You Think: Facing the Issue of Conflicting Values in Anorexia Nervosa Treatment Head-On"

York University, May 28, 2023

Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science

"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", July 2022

"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

Teaching Experience**As Instructor** (Courses I designed marked with “*”)

- ◆ *Problems in Philosophy*—Spring 2023 (WashU)*
- ◆ *Biomedical Ethics*, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2023 (WashU)*
- ◆ *Contemporary Moral Problems*, Fall 2019 (UT Austin)*
- ◆ *Mind and Body*, Spring 2020 (UT Austin)*

As Teaching Assistant

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

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

Mentorship, Service, and Organizational Duties**Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member**

Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2022-Present

History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine Colloquium Series

Series Organizer, Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2022-present

Journal RefereeFor *Mind & Language*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology***First-Year Interest Group (FIG) Invited Speaker (UT Austin)**

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

Graduate Student Department Representative (UT Austin)

2020-2021 academic year

Prospective Students Committee Member (UT Austin)

2017-2018, 2018-2019 academic years

AGENT Conference Referee (UT Austin)

2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

University of Texas at Austin Graduate Conference (UT Austin)

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

References**Rebecca “Becko” Copenhaver (Washington University in St. Louis)**

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Michelle Montague (University of Texas at Austin)

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Galen Strawson (University of Texas at Austin)

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Tim Bayne (Monash University)

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David Sosa (University of Texas at Austin)

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Josh Dever—Second Teaching Reference (University of Texas at Austin)

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