

Curriculum Vitae

Amanda Evans

Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS)
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Employment

Teaching Assistant Professor (2024-Present)

University of Pittsburgh
Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS)

James S. McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow (2022-2024)

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 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 psychiatry, philosophy of mind, biomedical ethics

AOC

Applied ethics, metaphysics

Publications

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

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

—Recognized as one of the Top 10 Most Cited Papers from 2022-2023

In *Mind & Language*

Articles Under Review

[A paper about medical paternalism in the context of pathological values]
[Minor Revisions at [REDACTED]]

[A paper about pathological loss of control]

[A paper about the ethics of deep brain stimulation for neurological versus psychiatric disorders]

**Articles in Preparation
For Submission**

[A paper about the quantitative impact of values-based medicine]
(Co-authored paper with Ogan Gurel, M.D. (primary co-author), Venkatesh Veginati, M.S. (secondary), and Srujana Guggilla, M.S. (secondary))

[A paper about the phenomenology of cognitive dissonance]

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 Talk: Can Values-Based Medicine Cure Psychiatry?

University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, Texas, March 2024

Invited Talk: Is there a phenomenology of the will?

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Edwardsville, Illinois, December 2022

Invited Talk: "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

Comments Given**“Stubborn Social Emotions and Their Harms”**

Presentation by Kaitlyn Creasy (Cal State San Bernardino)
 APA Pacific Division Meeting, April 2023

Teaching Experience**As Instructor (With full control of syllabus and course design):**

- ◆ Mind and Medicine (3 Sections) — Spring 2025 (Pitt HPS)
- ◆ Morality and Medicine (3 Sections)—Fall 2024 (Pitt HPS)
- ◆ Biomedical Ethics—Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024 (WashU)
- ◆ Problems in Philosophy—Spring 2023 (WashU)
- ◆ Mind and Body (Intro to Philosophy of Mind)—Spring 2020 (UT Austin)
- ◆ Contemporary Moral Problems—Fall 2019 (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
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Mentorship, Service, and Organizational Duties**Departmental Teaching Committee Member**

University of Pittsburgh (HPS), Fall 2024-Present

Teaching Assistant Professor Search Committee Member

University of Pittsburgh (HPS), Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member

Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2022-Spring 2024

History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine Colloquium Series

Series Organizer, Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2022-Spring 2024

Journal Referee

For Mind & Language, Synthese, Review of Philosophy and Psychology,
Philosophy and the Mind Sciences

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**Michelle Montague (University of Texas at Austin)**

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Galen Strawson (University of Texas at Austin)

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Bence Nanay (University of Antwerp)

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

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Tim Bayne (Monash University)

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David Sosa (University of Texas at Austin)

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Nicholas Koziolk—First Teaching Reference (Washington University in St. Louis)

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

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