

Ashley Atkins

Curriculum Vitæ

Department of Philosophy
Moore Hall, Rm. 3015
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5328

Cell: +1 (269) 633-0933
Office: +1 (269) 387-4384
Homepage: www.ashley-atkins.com
Email: ashley.atkins@wmich.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Fall 2022 Associate Professor, Western Michigan University
Fall 2015 Assistant Professor, Western Michigan University
2014-2015 Post-doctoral Researcher, Simon Fraser University (deferral of Assistant Professorship)

EDUCATION

2009-2014 Ph.D., Philosophy, Princeton University
Dissertation: *Modality as a Window into Cognition*
Advisors: Delia Graff Fara and Gideon Rosen
Spring 2012 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
2003-2009 B.A., Specialist in Philosophy, University of Toronto

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, Social and Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

17th and 18th Century Philosophy, History of the Analytic Tradition, Ethics, Aesthetics

PUBLICATIONS

“Empathy for the Dead,” *Philosophers’ Imprint*, forthcoming.
Review of Matthew Ratcliffe’s *Grief Worlds: A Study of Emotional Experience*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, forthcoming.
Review of Michael Cholbi’s *Grief: A Philosophical Guide*, *Ethical Theory Moral Practice*, 25, 2022, pp. 891–893. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-022-10342-4>
“Race and the Politics of Loss: Revisiting the Legacy of Emmett Till,” *Ergo*, vol. 8, no. 49, 2022, doi: <https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.2250>
“On Grief’s Wandering Thought: A Philosophical Exploration,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 103, no. 1, 2021, pp. 95-117.

“On Grief’s Sweet Sorrow,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2021, pp. 3-16.

“Love and Death in Democracy.” Critical exchange with McIvor, D. W.; Hooker, J.; Athanasiou, A.; Shulman, G. *Mourning work: Death and democracy during a pandemic. Contemporary Political Theory* 2020, pp. 1–35.

“Black Lives Matter or All Lives Matter? Color-blindness and Epistemic Injustice.” *Social Epistemology*, vol. 33, no. 1, 2018, pp. 1-22.

“Lyrical Politics: Reflections on the Role of Grief in Political Life.” *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University (Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse Project), December 17, 2018.

“Coming to Grief: Violence, Mourning, and Interracial Intimacy.” *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University (Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse Project), December 3, 2018.

“The Empathy Defense: Emmett Till, *Open Casket*, and ‘White Empathy.’” *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University (Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse Project), November 19, 2018.

PRESENTATIONS

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|----------------|---|
| September 2023 | Comments on Jennifer Saul’s “Figsleaves for Racism and Falsehood,” Harmanian Conference, Princeton University |
| March 2023 | “Lamentation and the Art of Grief,” Humanities Center, WMU |
| March 2023 | “On the Rationality of Grief: Missing Persons, Magical Thinking, and the Search for the Dead,” MAP Lecture Series, Georgia State University |
| December 2022 | “Lamentation and the Art of Grief,” Contemporary Dance History class, WMU |
| September 2022 | “Martha Graham’s <i>Lamentation</i> : Rethinking the Boundary Between Grief and Mourning,” Symposium on the Art of Grief (with Kathleen Higgins and Sandra Shapshay), British Society of Aesthetics, Oxford |
| April 2022 | Commentator at the Pacific APA Book Symposium for Michael Cholbi’s <i>Grief: A Philosophical Guide</i> (with Kathleen Higgins and Ryan Preston-Roedder) |
| October 2021 | “Empathy for the Dead,” Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU |
| October 2021 | “Empathy for the Dead,” podcast interview, Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU |
| September 2021 | “Grief at the Edge of the Living World,” colloquium talk, Texas Tech University |
| March 2020 | “Hannah Arendt and Democratic Sacrifice,” Rethinking Responses to Political Crisis and Collapse: Hannah Arendt, Edith Stein, Rosa Luxemburg, and Simone Weil, Western University |
| March 2020 | “Love and Death in Democracy,” Spring Convocation: On Being Human: Recent Work in the Humanities and the Arts, WMU |
| October 2019 | “Race and the Politics of Loss,” Public Philosophy Network Conference, MSU |

October 2019	“Race and the Politics of Loss,” Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU
September 2019	“Race and the Politics of Loss,” podcast interview, Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU
May 2019	“Shared Suffering: Compassion and Grief as Political Emotions,” NYSWIP
August 2018	“On the Legacy of the Imperfective Paradox,” Meaning Workshop (Iceland)
April 2018	“On Spectacle,” MAP Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy, WMU
January 2018	“The Aesthetics of Exposure and the Spectacle of Black Death,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
October 2017	“ <i>Black Lives Matter</i> or <i>All Lives Matter</i> ? Color-blindness and Epistemic Injustice,” MAP Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy, WMU
July 2017	“Back to the Futurate,” Meaning Workshop (Nova Scotia)
May 2017	“Minimalist Interface Explanations,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University
May 2017	“Back to the Futurate,” PhiLang, University of Lodz
May 2017	“Back to the Futurate,” Workshop on States, Northwestern/WMU/Hampshire College
April 2017	“ <i>Black Lives Matter</i> or <i>All Lives Matter</i> ? Color-blindness and Interpretive Injustice,” Lyceum Lecture Series on Racial Equity and Justice, WMU
February 2017	“ <i>Black Lives Matter</i> or <i>All Lives Matter</i> ? Color-blindness and Interpretive Injustice,” Feminist Theory Guest Lecture (for Cathryn Bailey), WMU
July 2016	“Stative Puzzles: A Case Against Hidden Modality,” Philosophy of Language Workshop, MIT
April 2016	“Stative Puzzles: A Case Against Hidden Modality,” Workshop on Aspect and Modality, WMU/Hampshire College
March 2016	“The Word ‘I’ in the Mouth of the Man Who Says It,” Prospective Lecture, WMU
December 2015	“Stative Puzzles: A Case Against Hidden Modality,” PhLing Group, Northwestern University
November 2015	“Stative Puzzles: A Case Against Hidden Modality,” colloquium talk, WMU
June 2015	“Stative Puzzles: A Case Against Hidden Modality,” Mentoring Workshop for Early Career Women, University of Massachusetts
June 2015	“Modality as a Window into Cognition,” Canadian Philosophical Association
May 2015	Comments on Rob Stainton’s “Asserting vs. Merely Communicating,” Canadian Philosophical Association
May 2015	“Modality as a Window into Cognition,” Postdoctoral Research Day, Simon Fraser University
May 2015	“Modality as a Window into Cognition,” The Fourth International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics, University of Lodz

- Nov 2015 “Modality as a Window into Cognition,” colloquium talk, Simon Fraser University
- June 2014 “Actuality Entailments and the Argument from Collapsed Duality,” NASS-LLI, University of Maryland, College Park
- June 2014 Comments on Paul Egré and Cathal O’Madagain’s “Deference and Concept Formation,” CRNAP Philosophy of Language Workshop, Oxford University
- June 2014 “Modality, Cognition, Semantic Explanation,” CRNAP Philosophy of Language Workshop, Oxford University
- April 2014 “Self-Deception,” Philosophy Dinner Table, Forbes College, Princeton University
- April 2014 Comments on Rebecca Victoria Millsop’s “Arguing for Art Concept Pluralism,” Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Princeton University
- December 2013 “Modality as a Window into Cognition,” colloquium talk, University of Düsseldorf
- December 2013 “Modality, Cognition, Semantic Explanation,” guest lecture, University of Düsseldorf
- December 2013 “Modality and Aspect,” guest lecture, Princeton University
- November 2013 “Modality Without Modals,” SWIP-Analytic Workshop, CUNY (one of two student presentations for a workshop featuring female faculty working in a formal subfield of philosophy)
- October 2013 “Modality Without Modals,” Philosophical Society of Princeton, Princeton University
- October 2013 “Modality Without Modals (II),” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University
- October 2013 “How to Cross the Atlantic Without Crossing It,” Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP) Conference and Retreat, NY
- September 2013 “Modality Without Modals (I),” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University
- July 2013 “Modality, Cognition, Semantic Explanation,” 19th International Congress of Linguists, University of Geneva
- June 2013 Comments on Yair Levy’s “Knowledge of Action,” 2nd Annual Princeton-Oxford Philosophy Conference, Oxford University
- May 2013 “Modality, Cognition, Semantic Explanation (II),” Luce Seminar on Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Princeton University
- April 2013 Comments on Renee Bollinger’s “The Pragmatics of Slurs,” Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference, Princeton University
- April 2013 “Modality, Cognition, and Semantic Explanation (I),” Luce Seminar on Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Princeton University
- April 2013 “Modality, Cognition, Semantic Explanation,” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University

December 2012	“Actuality, Possibility, Progress,” Philosophical Society of Princeton, Princeton University
October 2012	“Compositionality,” Lecture for LIN 201: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, Princeton University
September 2012	“Actuality, Possibility, Progress,” New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, New York University
September 2012	“Actuality, Possibility, Progress,” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University
August 2012	“Actuality, Possibility, Progress,” 3 rd Annual Princeton-Humboldt Graduate Philosophy Conference, Humboldt University
August 2012	Comments on Julia Zakkou’s “(Not So Many) Varieties of Disagreement,” 3 rd Annual Princeton-Humboldt Graduate Philosophy Conference, Humboldt University
April 2012	“Making Progress,” First Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium on Events, University of Maryland, College Park
March 2012	“Making Progress,” Philosophical Society of Princeton, Princeton University
February 2012	“Making Progress,” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University
October 2011	“Making Progress,” Luce Seminar on Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Princeton University
July 2011	Comments on Richard Chappell’s “Knowing What Matters,” Dissertation Seminar, Princeton University
July 2011	“Davidsonian Event Semantics and the Progressive,” with Alex Silk, NEH Seminar on 20 th Century American Philosophy: Quine and Davidson, Princeton University
April 2011	“Acting out of Concern: An Explanation of the Puzzle of Moral Deference,” Philosophical Society of Princeton, Princeton University

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Spring 2022	MAP Award for WMU’s Social and Political Philosophy Reading Group
Spring 2019	College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Research Assistantship Award (Truth and Sincerity Project)
Summer 2018	College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Research Assistantship Award (Political Solidarity Project)
Spring 2018	MAP Award for the Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy at WMU (with additional funding support from the Center for the Study of Ethics and the Department of Philosophy at WMU)
Fall 2017	MAP Award for the Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy at WMU (with additional funding support from the Center for the Study of Ethics and the Department of Philosophy at WMU)
Summer 2017	College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Research Assistantship Award (Black Lives Matter Project)

Spring 2016	Global Engagement Fund Award, WMU
Fall 2015	Discovery and Dissemination Award, College of Arts and Sciences, WMU (with additional funding support from the Department of Philosophy at WMU) for the workshop “Aspect and Modality,” Spring 2016
Fall 2014	Canadian Journal of Philosophy Grant for the conference “Language at the Interface,” Simon Fraser University, April 2015 (with additional funding support from the Philosophy Department, Linguistics Department, the Program in Cognitive Science, and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)
2013-2014	Whiting Fellowship, Princeton University Whiting Fellowships are awarded annually to the very best scholars among all the humanities departments in recognition of outstanding performance and professional promise
Summer 2014	Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant, Princeton University
Fall 2013	Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant, Princeton University
Summer 2013	Philosophy Department Travel Fellowship, Princeton University
Fall 2012	Cooperative Research Network in Analytic Philosophy (CRNAP) Grant for the conference, “Semantics: Mathematics or Psychology?” Princeton University, Fall 2013
Summer 2012	Philosophy Department Travel Fellowship, Princeton University
2009-2013	Graduate School Fellowship, Princeton University
2009-2013	Graduate School Summer Stipend, Princeton University
2008	UTAA Scholar and one of four finalists for the John H. Moss Scholarship, the most prestigious award given by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toronto for the pursuit of graduate studies
2003	Governor General’s Academic Medal for highest graduating GPA

TEACHING

Spring 2023	PHIL 6000: First-Person Authority and the Transparency of Mind
Spring 2023	PHIL 3120: Philosophy of Art: On Disinterested Attention
Fall 2022	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Fall 2022	PHIL 3120: Philosophy of Art: On Disinterested Attention
Fall 2022	PHIL 5980: Philosophy of Sex (independent study)
Fall 2022	PHIL 7100: Philosophy of Sex (independent study)
Summer 2022	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2022	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2022	PHIL 3140: Grief, Death, and Dying
Fall 2021	PHIL 6000: On Tragedy
Fall 2021	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: On Grief
Fall 2021	PHIL 7100: Philosophy of Film: The Female Gaze (independent study)
Spring 2021	PHIL 3120: Philosophy of Art: On Beauty and Terror

Spring 2021	PHIL 3140: Philosophy and Public Affairs
Spring 2021	PHIL 5980: On Grief (independent study)
Fall 2020	PHIL 5700: Philosophy of Mind: Grief, Death, and Dying
Fall 2020	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: Grief, Death, and Dying
Summer I 2020	PHIL 7100: Philosophy of Language: The Language Animal (independent study)
Summer I 2020	PHIL 7100: Political Philosophy: On Human Rights (independent study)
Spring 2020	PHIL 2010: Intro to Ethics, Honors College
Spring 2020	PHIL 6000: Philosophy of Mind: On Fellow Feeling
Fall 2019	PHIL 3140: Philosophy and Public Affairs
Fall 2019	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: On Fellow Feeling
Summer II 2019	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Summer I 2019	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Summer I 2019	PHIL 5980: Metaphysics and Politics of Gender (independent study)
Spring 2019	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2019	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: On Fellow Feeling
Spring 2019	PHIL 5980: On Grief (independent study)
Fall 2018	PHIL 6000: Philosophy of Mind: On the Transparency of Mind
Fall 2018	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: On Fellow Feeling
Summer II 2018	PHIL 5980: Ethical Formation (independent study)
Spring 2018	PHIL 6200: Philosophy of Language: Philosophical Investigations
Spring 2018	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2018	PHIL 5980: Philosophy of Language: Frege and Wittgenstein (independent study)
Fall 2017	PHIL 6000: Philosophy of Mind: The Psychoanalytic Tradition
Fall 2017	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Fall 2017	PHIL 5980: Intentional Action and the Nature of Reason (independent study)
Spring 2017	PHIL 6200: Philosophy of Language: The Essential Indexical?
Spring 2017	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: Self-blindness
Fall 2016	PHIL 5400: Philosophy of Mind: Self-Knowledge and First-person Authority
Fall 2016	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2016	PHIL 4800: Senior Seminar: Self-Knowledge and First-person Authority
Spring 2016	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues
Spring 2016	PHIL 5980: Philosophical Methodology (independent study)
Fall 2015	PHIL 6200: Philosophy of Language and Logic: Foundations of Meaning
Fall 2015	PHIL 3150: Race and Gender Issues

Fall 2015	PHIL 7100: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Moral Grammar and the Linguistic Analogy (independent study)
Summer 2015	PHIL 331: Race and Gender, Simon Fraser University
Summer 2015	PHIL 825: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Epistemic Injustice (independent study), Simon Fraser University
Spring 2014	PHIL 806: Topics in the Philosophy of Language: Language at the Interface, Simon Fraser University
Fall 2014	PHIL 343: Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind, Simon Fraser University
Fall 2013	ENG 024b: Introduction to Composition, Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, New Jersey (with Carl Adair and Omar Bashir)
Fall 2012	LIN 201: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, Princeton University (teaching assistant for Professor Christiane Fellbaum)
Summer 2012	PHI 102: Introduction to Philosophy, Mercer County Community College, (with James Martin)
Spring 2012	PHI 202: Introductory Logic, Princeton University (teaching assistant for Professor Hans Halvorson)
Spring 2010	PHI 203: Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology, Princeton University (teaching assistant for Professor Gideon Rosen)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA

2022-2023	Symposium on the Art of Grief, British Society of Aesthetics, Oxford
2019-2020	MAP Workshop on the Emotions in Political Life, WMU
2019-2020	Workshop on Grief and Politics (co-organized with Adam Waggoner), Public Philosophy Network, MSU
2017-2018	MAP Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy (co-organized with Bret Donnelly), WMU
2017-2018	MAP Workshop on Social and Political Philosophy, WMU
2016-2017	Workshop on States (co-organized with Daniel Altshuler and Alexis Wellwood), WMU/Hampshire College/Northwestern
2016-2017	Minimalism and the Philosophy of Language, Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University
2015-2016	Workshop on Aspect and Modality (co-organized with Daniel Altshuler), WMU/Hampshire College
2014-2015	Language at the Interface (co-organized with James Martin), Simon Fraser University
2013-2014	Semantics: Mathematics or Psychology? (co-organized with James Martin), Princeton University

SERVICE

2023-2024	Referee for <i>Synthese</i> , <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , and <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>
2022-2023	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>Death in Venice</i>
2022-2023	Graduate Admissions Committee
2022-2023	Department Policy Statement Committee
2022-2023	Philosophy Department Writing Intensives Coordinator
2022-2023	Referee for the <i>European Journal of Philosophy</i>
2021-2022	Reading Group Facilitator: The Tragic Tradition
2020-2021	Referee for <i>Philosophical Studies</i>
2020-2021	Referee for <i>Synthese</i>
2019-2020	Reading Group Facilitator: Goodness and the Literary Imagination
2019-2020	Faculty Advisor to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club
2019-2020	Budget Committee Member
Spring 2018	Reading Group Facilitator (with Alec Sculley): <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>
2017-2020	Member of the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Committee
2017-2023	Faculty Advisor to MAP (Minorities and Philosophy)
2017-2018	Faculty Advisor to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club
2017-2018	Referee for <i>Social Epistemology</i>
Fall 2017	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>Wisdom Won from Illness</i>
Fall 2017	Member of the Philosophy Department Search Committee
Spring 2017	Founder of MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) at WMU
Spring 2017	Member of the Executive Committee of WMU's AAUP chapter
2016-2017	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>The Blue Book</i>
2016-2017	Member of the Graduate Admissions Committee
2016-2017	Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Philosophy Conference Committee
2016-2017	Referee for <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i>
2016-2017	Referee for <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>
Spring 2016	Substitute Member of the Executive Committee of WMU's AAUP chapter
2015-2023	Departmental Brown Bag Coordinator
2015-2023	Departmental Colloquium Coordinator
Summer 2014	Website Designer for the Networking and Mentoring Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy (co-directors Elisabeth Camp, Elizabeth Harman, and Jill North)
2013-2014	Moderator for the Philosophical Society of Princeton
2013-2014	Member of the Princeton chapter of MAP, an inter-university group addressing issues of minority participation in philosophy
Summer 2013	Indexer for <i>A Companion to W.V.O. Quine</i> , Gilbert Harman and Ernie Lepore (eds.)

- Spring 2013 Moderator for the Lectures in Honor of Ruth Barcan Marcus, a conference celebrating women working on formal philosophy, organized by the New York Society of Women in Philosophy (NYSWIP)
- Spring 2013 Referee for the Second Annual Princeton-Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference
- Fall 2012 Indexer for the *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Language*, Gillian Russell and Delia Graff Fara (eds.)
- 2011-2013 Organizer of Paper Tigers, Philosophy Department faculty lecture series, Princeton University
- Summer 2011 Assistant for the NEH Seminar on 20th Century American Philosophy: Quine and Davidson, Princeton University
- 2009-2011 Co-organizer of the Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Conference