

# Ashley Atkins

*Curriculum Vitæ*

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## 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: <i>Modality as a Window into Cognition</i> 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, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Language

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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

## MAJOR AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2025	National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship in support of a book project: "A Philosophical Exploration of Grief Through the Lens of Contemporary Memoir"
2024-2025	Philosophy in Media Fellowship, sponsored by the Marc Sanders Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and Princeton University
2013-2014	Whiting Foundation Fellowship for "Modality as a Window into Cognition," Princeton University

## PUBLICATIONS

Symposium on the Art of Grief, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, in-progress.

“Review of Kathleen Higgins’s *Aesthetics in Grief and Mourning: Philosophical Reflections on Coping with Loss*.” *Analysis*, forthcoming.

“Review of Jonathan Lear’s *Imagining the End: Mourning and Ethical Life*.” *Ethics*, vol. 134, no. 4, 2024, pp. 578-584, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1086/729706>.

“Empathy for the Dead.” *Philosophers’ Imprint*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2024, pp. 1-21, doi: <https://doi.org/10.3998/phimp.2996>.

“Race and the Politics of Loss: Revisiting the Legacy of Emmett Till.” *Ergo Blog*, February 10, 2024, doi: <https://ergoblog.org/category/social-and-political-philosophy/>.

“Review of Matthew Ratcliffe’s *Grief Worlds: A Study of Emotional Experience*.” *Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 74, no. 2, 2023, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqad085>.

“Review of Michael Cholbi’s *Grief: A Philosophical Guide*.” *Ethical Theory Moral Practice*, vol. 25, 2022, pp. 891–893, doi: <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, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/papq.12350>.

“On Grief’s Sweet Sorrow.” *European Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2021, pp. 3-16, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejop.12649>.

“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, <https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/openfordebate/lyrical-politics-reflections-on-the-role-of-grief-in-political-life/>.

“Coming to Grief: Violence, Mourning, and Interracial Intimacy.” *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University (Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse Project), December 3, 2018, <https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/openfordebate/coming-to-grief-violence-mourning-and-interracial-intimacy/>.

“The Empathy Defense: Emmett Till, *Open Casket*, and ‘White Empathy.’” *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University (Changing Attitudes in Public Discourse Project), November 19, 2018, <https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/openfordebate/the-empathy-defense-emmett-till-open-casket-and-white-empathy/>.

## PRESENTATIONS

April 2025	Comments on Jelena Markovic's, "Loving, Recovering: The Resilience Problem for Grief," American Philosophical Association
January 2025	"Speaking Ill of the Dead," International Association for the Study of Death and Dying, American Philosophical Association
March 2024	"Grief and Tragic Overliving," St. Norbert College
February 2024	"The Idea of Prison Abolition: A Conversation with Tommie Shelby," podcast interview (host), Center for the Study of Ethics in Society
February 2024	"Like a Dead Man Walking Behind His Own Coffin": Grief, Forgiveness, and Tragedies of Overliving, Central APA
September 2023	Comments on Jennifer Saul's "Figsleaves for Racism and Falsehood," Harman 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,” 19 <sup>th</sup> International Congress of Linguists, University of Geneva
June 2013	Comments on Yair Levy’s “Knowledge of Action,” 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Princeton-Humboldt Graduate Philosophy Conference, Humboldt University

August 2012	Comments on Julia Zakkou's "(Not So Many) Varieties of Disagreement," 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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

#### CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA

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

#### SERVICE

2023-present	University Center for the Humanities Board Member
2023-present	Ethics Center Affiliate

2022-present	Philosophy Department Writing Intensives Coordinator
2022-present	Higher Education for the Justice-Involved Working Group Member
2022-present	Department Policy Statement Committee
2017-present	Founder and Advisor of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), WMU
Fall 2024	Chair of the Socially Engaged Aesthetics session, American Society for Aesthetics
2023-2024	Referee for <i>Synthese</i> , <i>European Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>International Journal of Philosophical Studies</i> , <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> , and <i>Philosophers' Imprint</i>
Spring 2023	Judge for the Selma Jeanne Cohen Prize in Dance Aesthetics, American Society for Aesthetics
Fall 2023	Ethics Center Reading Group Facilitator: <i>The Idea of Prison Abolition</i>
Spring 2023	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>Death in Venice</i>
2022-2023	Graduate Admissions Committee
2022-2023	Referee for the <i>European Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>
Fall 2022	Chair of the (Un)Fitting Design Session, American Society for Aesthetics
Fall 2021	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>The Tragic Tradition</i>
2020-2021	Referee for <i>Philosophical Studies</i> and <i>Synthese</i>
Fall 2019	Reading Group Facilitator: <i>Goodness and the Literary Imagination</i>
2019-2020	Faculty Advisor to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club
Spring 2018	Reading Group Facilitator (with Alec Sculley): <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>
2017-2020	College of Arts and Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Committee member
2017-2018	Faculty Advisor to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club
2017-2018	Referee for <i>Social Epistemology</i>
Fall 2017	Ethics Center 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 the WMU-AAUP
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> and <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i>
Spring 2016	Substitute Member of the Executive Committee of the WMU-AAUP
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 <i>Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Language</i> , 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

## TEACHING

Fall 2023	PHIL 3120: Philosophy of Art: The Art of Grief
Fall 2023	PHIL 6000: Grief, Illness, and Psychopathology
Summer II 2023	PHIL 5980: On Guilt and Shame (independent study)
Summer I 2023	PHIL 5980: The Phenomenology of Grief (independent study)
Spring 2023	PHIL 3120: Philosophy of Art: On Disinterested Attention
Spring 2023	PHIL 6000: Self-Knowledge and the Transparency of Mind
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 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)