

Mark S. Fagiano

AREA of SPECIALIZATION: Ethics, History of Philosophy

AREAS of COMPETENCE: American Pragmatism, AI Ethics

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Emory University, 2013

Dissertation: “A Philosophy of Race: Pragmatism and Social Meliorism”

Committee Members: John J. Stuhr (Chair), Cynthia Willett, Paul C. Taylor, Noelle McAfee, Melvin Rogers

M.A., Philosophy, Emory University, 2010

M.A., The Cultural and Historical Study of Religions, U.C. Berkeley/G.T.U., Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, 2002.

Thesis: “The Phenomenology of Religion: From Archetypes to Oikotypes” with highest honors

B.A. Philosophy, Chaminade University of Honolulu, 1995

Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*

TEACHING/WORK

2024	Snorkel AI/ The Pareto Project/Stanford University AI Labs— L.L.M. Training/AI Ethics /SME Philosophy, Social Reasoning, Moral Decision Making, Empathy, Evidence Evaluation
2021-present	Washington State University, Philosophy Assistant Professor
2020—2022	Soochow University International Programs/Taiwan, Philosophy (remote)
2020	Xihua University/China, Philosophy Assistant Professor (remote)
2016-2020	University of Central Florida, Philosophy Lecturer
2015-2016	University of Tennessee, Philosophy Lecturer
2013-2015	Emory University, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Critical Thinking Coordinator
2007-2012	Emory University, T.A. & Instructor (as graduate student)

Courses Taught:

Introduction to Philosophy, The Philosophy of Technology, Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, Honors Introduction to Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Ancient Philosophy, Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Pragmatism, American Philosophy, 19th century philosophy, 19th & 20th Century Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, Introduction to Ethics, Bioethics, Ethical Theory, Philosophy in Film, Morality and Decision Making, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity, Philosophy of Race, Contemporary Moral Problems, Logic, Business Ethics, Narratives of the Self, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Science and Religion, Historical Perspectives, Human Nature and the Social Order, Empathy, Sympathy, and Compassion, Critical Thinking*

Online Courses Taught:

Introduction to Philosophy; The Philosophy of Law, Ethical and Moral Issues; Bioethics; Ancient Philosophy in Virtual Reality; Business Ethics; Global Ethics; Empathy 101; Empathy and Relationships

*Served as the critical thinking coordinator for Emory to create an online logic component for 12 of Emory's undergraduate courses.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2023 Seven Best New Pragmatism Books to Read in 2023
- 2020 Melekai Grant of 100K for the creation of embodied simulations and the advancement of LLMs- Vector One
- 2019 Travel Award for Recognition of Faculty Excellence, UCF
- 2019 Awarded \$5,000 for Empathy and Safety Project -- An Med Hospital
- 2019 Winner of Robert Papazian Prize on the theme of empathy.
Entry title: "Relational Empathy." Monetary Award: €1,500 and publication as one of the lead articles in a special issue on empathy in the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*.
- 2011 Selected to Emory's Gustafson Seminar on "The 'Realities' of Race" (an interdisciplinary seminar for Emory faculty and graduate students, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, 2011)
- 2009 Emory Arts and Sciences Scholarship/Fellow. Emory University Graduate Fellowships

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

--Practicing Empathy: Pragmatism and the Value of Relations (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2023)

Book--Work in Progress:

--Hyperrealism, Ethics and Artificial Intelligence. (co-edited with Eric Litwack)
--The Art of Democracy as a Way of Life

Journal Articles:

- 2025 "Communication Breakdown: The Value-Alignment Problem in Artificial Intelligence" (forthcoming)
2024 "'Moral Education: From Thought Experiments to Embodied Experience and Artificial Intelligence.'" (*accepted, publication date: December. 2024*)
2023. "The Problem of Free Will." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 36.4
2021. "Relational Empathy." Chapter for *Special Issues into Books*. Ed. Maria Baghramian
2019. "What's Wrong with Moral Principlism?" *Syndicate, Wipf and Stock*
2019. "Relational Empathy as an Instrument of Democratic Hope-in-Action." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 33.2
2019 "A Concise Guide to Business Ethics" *Virtual Speech London*, 1.2
2019. "Relational Empathy." *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 27.2
2017. "Absolutism" in *Sage Encyclopedia of Political Behavior*. Ed. Fathali M. Moghaddam (London: 2017)
2016. "Pluralistic Conceptualizations of Empathy." *Journal Speculative Philosophy*, 30.1: 27-44

Book Review:

Albert Atkins, *The Philosophy of Race* (Durham: Acumen Publishers), in *Critical Philosophy of Race*, Fall 2013

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Co-Chair with Dr. Eric Litwack, "Hyperrealism of LLMs and Artificially Intelligent Robots." 2025-2027—During this time we will hold for series of webinars,

inviting experts in the field of technology to discuss the current and growing experience of interacting with hyperrealistic AI machines and systems.
 “Ethics, AI, and Education” Washington State University with A.G. Rud (April 27th, 2024, Pullman, WA, Thompson Hall)
 “Conducting a Walkway Audit Using Virtual Reality” NFSI Symposium (Sept. 25th and 26th 2023, Hurst, Texas, Zoom)
 “A Philosophy of Technology: XR Experiences, Artificial Intelligence, and Habit Formation” AITNER (June 17, 2023, Athens Greece)
 “Practicing the Art of Democracy: How XR Simulations Can Help to Teach Democratic Behavior” AITNER (May 22, 2023, Athens, Greece)
 “Empathy and Political Polarization” Western Political Science Association (November 2022 Walla, Walla, WA)
 “Ruptures in Environmental Ethics” APF (April 2023, Charlotte, NC.).
 “A Genealogy of Free Will as a Path to Liberatory Practices,” APF (April 6-10th Atlanta, GA, 2022)
 “Creative Democracy” PPPA, Washington State (Jan. 24th, 2022, Pullman, WA)
 “Empathic Democracy as a Way of Life,” ATINER Philosophy Conference (Dec. 20-23rd, 2021, Athens, Greece) --accepted; didn’t present because of COVID.
 “Fearing the Thief as Meek as the Morning Dew,” American Philosophies Forum (April 2021, Zoom)
 “Empathy, AI, and the Healthcare Profession.” College of Nursing/U.C.F. (November 28, 2019, Orlando)
 “Empathy and Virtual Experience.” Institute for Simulation and Training/U.C.F. (October 2019, Orlando)
 “We Are All Relationalists” American Philosophies Forum (April 2019, Atlanta)
 “Core Empathy and Social Hope.” American Philosophies Forum (April 2018, New Orleans)
 “Empathy in VR: Innovations in the Healthcare Profession” U.T. Medical Center (August 2016, Knoxville)
 “Photomosaics of Democracy as an Ideal,” American Philosophies Forum (April 2016, Key West)
 “Pluralistic Conceptualizations of Empathy,” American Philosophies Forum (April 2015, Savannah)
 Creator and co-host of “Empathy, Safety, and Responsibility,” Conference held at Emory University (April 2015, Atlanta). Keynote speaker: Ralph Nader
 “The Racializing Process: Collectivity, Singularity and the Matrix of Experiential Circumstance,” The American Philosophies Forum (April 2013, Atlanta)
 Chair of the William James Prize Symposium, A.P.A. Eastern Division Meeting (December 2012, Atlanta)

“Relationalism and Social Epistemology” Graduate Colloquium (Fall 2012, Atlanta)

“Critical Race Theory as Histories of the Present,” Grinnell College (Spring 2012, Grinnell).

“James, Relationality, and Racisms,” Instytut Filozofii’s (Summer 2010, Opole, Poland).

“James, Kant, and Racial Identity,” A.P.A. Eastern Division Meeting (December 2009, New York).

“Philosophy and North African Issues,” Al Akhawayn University (Summer 2008, Ifrane, Morocco)

“The Phenomenology of Religion: From Archetypes to Oikotypes,” American Academy of Religion (May 2002, Moraga).

ADMINISTRATION AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

--Co-Chair of a Special Interest Group for the *Society of Philosophy and Technology* on Hyperrealism and Artificial Intelligence (2025-27)

--Co-editor, *Athens Journal of Philosophy* (2023-present)

--Owner and Founder, *XR Hyperlearning* (2022-present). I developed and delivered AI guided XR educational experiences

--Founder, Empathy Vision (2011-2021): As the founder of *Empathy Vision*, I oversaw the creation of our central vision, created democratically minded strategic initiatives; wrote and delivered extended reality and Extended Reality ethical experiences, and managed all daily operations.

--Co-host of conference “Empathy, Safety, and Responsibilities” (April (2015): I co-hosted this conference at Emory University and was in charge of organizing all facets of this conference, including but not limited to: booking speakers, designing the flow of the conference, raising money for our keynote speaker, Ralph Nader.

--Critical Thinking Coordinator, Emory University (June 2012-August 2015): In this role, I designed and implemented a critical thinking supplementary course for twelve undergraduate courses at Emory University.

--Assistant Editor, *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* (January 2012-2018)

--Consulting Editor for 2nd edition proposal of Emmanuel Eze’s “Race and Enlightenment,” Wiley-Blackwell Publishing

REFERENCES

Dr. John Stuhr
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