

KATIE HARSTER

Boston College, Philosophy Department
140 Commonwealth Ave
253N Stokes Hall
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
(502) 827-4976
katie.harster@bc.edu
<https://www.katieharster.com>

Employment

Boston College, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Fall 2019 – Present

Areas of Specialty

Moral Psychology,
Philosophy of Psychiatry, Ethics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Cognitive Science,
Biomedical Ethics, Business Ethics,
Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of
Religion

Education

Ph. D. Washington University in St. Louis
Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology
(May 2019)
Dissertation: *Moral Pathology*, John Doris, Advisor

Abstract: This dissertation explores the relationship between morality and mental illness. Mental illness is often thought to impair moral functioning but careful examination reveals that mental illness offers its own insight into moral functioning. While we learn a great deal about moral responsibility and exempting conditions (psychopathy and addiction), we also discover that there are multiple ways to be moral and that many individuals act morally despite ongoing conditions (autism and borderline personality disorder). I conclude that these insights ought to shape our ethical theories.

M.A. Washington University in St. Louis
Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology
(May 2014)

B.A. Georgetown College, Georgetown KY
Honors in Philosophy & Psychology, Summa Cum Laude
(May 2012)
Honors Thesis: *An Essential Teleology of Hope*

Publications

Harster, K. “Borderline Personality Disorder and the Boundaries of Virtue.” *Neuroethics* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-021-09467-7>.

Harster, K. “Symptoms of Trauma, Kantian Natural Powers, and the Duty to Seek Treatment.” *Philosophy, Psychiatry, Psychology* (*accepted*)

Cameron, C.D.¹ & **Rapier, K.**² (2017). “Compassion is a Motivated Choice.” In W. Sinnott-Armstrong & C. Miller (Eds.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 5: Virtue and Character* (pp. 373-408). Cambridge: MIT Press.

Cameron, C. D. & **Rapier, K.** (2017). “Reply to Montgomery, Kappes, & Crockett and Goodman.” In W. Sinnott-Armstrong & C. Miller (Eds.), *Moral Psychology, Volume 5: Virtue and Character* (pp.427-438). Cambridge: MIT Press.

Works in Progress

Harster, K. “Emotion Regulation and Moral Salience” (draft, estimated submission to *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* October 2021)

Harster, K. & Glaser, P. “Agency and ASD.” (collaboration, ongoing, estimated spring 2022).

Honors & Awards

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012 – 2019 [University-wide competitive award]

Second Place (Humanities), 20th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, 2015

Excellence in Creating Community, Peer Mentoring Committee, Liberman Leadership Awards for Graduate and Professional Students, Washington University in St. Louis, 2018

Dean’s Honor Award, Georgetown College, 2012 [University-wide competitive award]

Outstanding Philosophy Graduate, Georgetown College, 2012

Outstanding Psychology Graduate, Georgetown College, 2012

Top Poster, Senior Capstone Presentation, Georgetown College, 2012

¹ Department of Psychology, Penn State University

² Compassion publications, many presentations, and teaching listings are under my former name, Katie Rapier.

Heizer Book Award in Philosophy, Georgetown College, 2011

GCPALS, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Stipend, 2010 [University-wide competitive award]

Honorable Mention, Undergraduate Poster Competition, Kentucky Psychological Association, March 2010

Refereed Presentations

“Symptoms of Trauma, Kantian Natural Powers, and the Duty to Seek Treatment.” Psychology and the Other, Boston College, September 2021

“‘Checking Out’ of Moral Responsibility: Impairment in Emotion Regulation and Substance Use Disorder.” Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Meeting, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, July 2018

“How did you feel the last time you squashed a bug?” Compassion, Moral Responsibility, and Psychopathy.” International Society for Research on Emotions, St. Louis, MO., July 2017.

3rd Global Meeting of the Empathy Project, Mansfield College, Oxford, July 2016.

“Compassion, Moral Responsibility, and the High-Functioning Psychopath.” Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting, University of Texas at Austin, June 2016.

“A Tale of Two Empathies: Lessons in Morality from Clinical Populations.” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2015.

“Reviving Empathy: Cultivating Moral Salience.” International Society for Research on Emotions, University of Geneva, July 2015.

“Why Empathy (Still) Matters.” Society for Philosophy and Psychology. University of British Columbia, June 2014.

“Empathic Emotions in Moral Motivation.” Southeast Graduate Philosophy Conference. University of Florida, March 2014.

“An Empirical Defense of the Power of Altruistic Emotions in Moral Motivation.” Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Mind, Language, and Cognitive Science. University of Western Ontario, May 2013.

“Georgetown Students Finding Their Vocation.” Lilly Fellows Regional Conference: Discerning Vocation in a Contested Religious Tradition, Georgetown College (KY), January 2016.

“Christian Compassion in Moral Motivation.” Society of Christian Philosophers – Annual Midwest Conference. Georgetown College, April 2013.

“Psychometric Properties of a New Measure of Self-Disclosure in Adolescent Friendships.” Society for Research in Child Development, Biennial Meeting. Montreal, Canada, March 2011.

“Psychological Mindedness and Therapy Preferences”, Kentucky Psychological Association – Spring Academic Conference. Frankfort, KY, March 2011.

“Good or Godly Friends?” Center for Ethics and Culture – Annual Fall Conference. University of Notre Dame, November 2011.

“The Convoluted Consciousness of Virginia Woolf.” International Virginia Woolf Society, Annual Conference. Georgetown, KY, May 2010.

“Do the Perseverant Lead Happier Lives?”, Kentucky Psychological Association, Spring Academic Conference. Louisville, KY, March 2010.

Other Presentations

“Explaining Addiction Through Emotion Regulation: Three Philosophical Consequences.” Early Career Seminar, Jesuit Institute, Boston College, November 2019

“Borderline Personality Disorder: The Moral Superheroes Virtue Ethics Needs.” Missouri Philosophy Forum, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, May 2019.

Philosophy Department Colloquium Series. October 2018.

Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2018.

Works in Progress Weekly Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2018.

Works in Progress Weekly Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, February 2019.

Faculty Seminar, Boston College, February 2019

“Moral Pathology.” Three-Minute Thesis Competition, Washington University St. Louis, February 2018.

“‘Checking Out’ of Moral Responsibility: Impairment in Emotion Regulation and Substance Use Disorder.” Olin Fellowship Interdisciplinary Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2017.

“Substance Use Disorder.” Works in Progress Weekly Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2017.

“Empathy, Moral Responsibility, and Psychopathy.” Works in Progress Weekly Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2016.

“A Tale of Two Empathies: Insights in Moral Agency from Autism Spectrum Disorders.” Works in Progress Weekly Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2015.

“Letting the Good Guy Get Away With It: The Role of Character in Folk Psychological Explanations.” 20th Annual Graduate Research Symposium Poster Session, Washington University in St. Louis, February 2015.

“Why Empathy (Still) Matters.” Mr. & Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship Conference “How Climates Change” Poster Session, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2014.

Commentary

Thomas Ames, “Towards a Three-factor Approach to Monothematic Delusion,” Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, October 2017.

Molly Scudder, “Listening Toward Democracy,” Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2017.

Eugene Chislenko, “The Ethics of Willpower,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado Boulder, August 2015.

Grants & Funding

Pre-Tenure Research Leave (full pay), Boston College, Spring 2022 (scheduled)

Diversity Travel Award (\$100), Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Conference, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2018 [Competitive Award]

Graduate Student Travel Award (\$100), Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Annual Conference, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2018 [Competitive Award]

Young Catholic Scholars Program (\$1000), Catholic Student Center at Washington University in St. Louis, 2016-2017 [Competitive Award]

Travel Funding (\$500 per year), Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012-2018

Graduate Student Travel Funding (\$1000 per year), Department of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012-2018

Summer Research Stipend (\$24,729 total), Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012-2018

Travel Funding (\$500), Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor (solo) - Graduate

Moral Responsibility in Mental Illness (PHIL 7650), Boston College, Fall 2021

Independent Study in Philosophy of Mental Illness (PHIL 7799.11), Spring 2021

Primary Instructor (solo) - Undergraduate

Philosophy of Mental Illness (PHIL 4320), Boston College, Spring 2020, Fall 2021 and Spring 2021 [*fully online*]

Perspectives on Western Culture I (Part 2) (PHIL 1091/THEO 1091), Boston College, Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 [Biomedical Ethics Interest, *fully online*]

Perspectives on Western Culture I (PHIL 1090/THEO 1090), Boston College, Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 [Biomedical Ethics Interest, *fully online*]

Present Moral Problems (PHIL 131), University College at Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2018

Biomedical Ethics (PHIL 233), University College at Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2015 and 2016

Business Ethics (PHIL 234), University College at Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2016 and 2017 (*fully online, syllabus prepared for in-person course*)

Primary Instructor (solo) - Other

Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Psychology Institute, High School Summer Institutes at Washington University in St. Louis, Two-Week Summer Course (originally designed), 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 [*fully online*].

Theory and Reality, Middle School Summer Challenge at Washington University in St. Louis, Two-Week Summer Course (co-designed with Kate Schmidt) 2015 and 2018

Certifications & Training

Formation Teaching Cohort, Boston College AY 2020-2021 (*university-wide, competitive application*)

Interdisciplinary collaboration focused on creating and implementing assignments that foster formative education in the classroom and beyond. Motivated by student growth, inspired by Boston College's Jesuit mission of cultivating the whole person.

Center for Teaching Excellence Educational Programs, Boston College

Rethinking Assessment and Academic Integrity, Summer 2020

Building Classroom Community, Summer 2020

Adaptable Remote Instruction Workshop, Summer 2020

Junior Faculty Conversations on Teaching, Fall 2019

Teaching Citation, The Teaching Center, Washington University in St. Louis (May 2018)

Optional teaching certification that requires three course observations with feedback and discussion with faculty, six classes on teaching pedagogy, and writing and revising a teaching philosophy statement.

Introduction to Online Teaching, Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2016 (*four-week intensive course to prepare for teaching an online class*)

Advising

Boston College

Philosophy Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Evelyn Soto, 2020

Pre-Major Advisor, 2020-2021

Philosophy Master's Student Mentor, 2019-Present

Philosophy Major Advisor, 2020-Present

Philosophy Qualifying Paper, Cody Sandschafer, Summer and Fall 2020 (Pass)

Philosophy Qualifying Paper, Alyssa Frey, Spring and Summer 2021 (Pass)

Professional & Community Service

Boston College

MA Qualifying Paper Seminar, Coordinator, Fall 2021

Taught six, two-hour sessions on crafting a clear, compelling essay centered around an argument to foster proficiency in philosophical writing in our masters' student.

McNair Exploratory Program, Mentor, AY 2021

Boston College Ethics Bowl Team, Coach, January 2021 – Present

Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl, Judge, December 2020

Chair's Advisory Committee, Assistant Professor Representative, July 2020 – Present

Philosophy Graduate Student Professionalization Seminar, Presenter:

Writing a Successful MA Qualifying Paper, Fall 2020

How to Get Good Advice, Fall 2020

Jesuit Early Career Seminar, Fall 2019 – Present

Job Market Advising Group, Alexander Montes, Summer 2020

Job Market Panel, Panelist, Graduate Student Retreat, October 2019

Diversity Reading Group, Participant, Summer 2020

Journal Referee

Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019

Philosophical Psychology, Taylor & Francis, 2018

dialectica, Blackwell-Wiley, 2015

Washington University in St. Louis

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Peer Mentoring Committee, Chair, 2015-2018

Led the committee directing all PhD programs at the university (including the medical school) in programming to foster community for first year students and other vulnerable populations. Coordinated an annual transition meeting attended by over 100 students.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Peer Mentoring Committee, Member, 2014, 2018-2019

Department of Philosophy, Women in Philosophy, Coordinator, AY 2018-2109
Planned social and professional development events for female faculty and graduate students in the philosophy department to foster mentorship and create a supportive environment for a group that is underrepresented in the field.

Liberman Graduate Center, Advisory Board, Member, 2016-2019

PNP Undergraduate Club, Graduate Advisor, 2013-2016
Managed academic and social programming for WUSTL PNP Majors. Events included talks from psychologists and philosophers, career and thesis panels, movie nights with discussion, and psychology lab fair.

Philosophy and PNP First Year Programming, Peer Mentor, AY 2013-2014

Formal Epistemology Workshop, Graduate Student Assistant (Coordinator: Julia Staffel), Washington University in St. Louis, May 2015

Teaching Center at Washington University in St. Louis, Mentored Teaching Orientation Discussion Leader, 2016 and 2018

Olin Fellowship, Annual Conference Planning Committee Member, 2013-2016

High School Summer Institutes, Residential Supervisor, 2014

Catholic Student Center, Contemplatives in Action, Graduate Student Leader, 2013-2014 (*Community engagement program*)

Catholic Student Center, “The God Debate: Does God Exist? Does it Even Matter?”, Moderator, February 2017

American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, Kansas City, MO, Chair 2017

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, Chair 2015

Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls, St. Louis, MO, Volunteer Presentation Mentor and Judge, February 2017

De La Salle Middle School, St. Louis, MO, Classroom Volunteer 2012-2014

Research Experience

Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA), Boston College School of Social Work, Theresa Betancourt, (*collaboration and discussion*), 2020-Present

Substance Use Disorder Clinic Observation, Bridgeway Behavioral Health, Dr. Paul Glaser (Supervisor, Washington University School of Medicine), 2016

Iowa Morality Lab, Graduate Affiliate, University of Iowa, C. Daryl Cameron, 2015

Independent Psychological Research on Hope, Georgetown College, Jennifer Price (Supervisor), August 2011 – May 2012

Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, The Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Somer Bishop, March 2011 – August 2011

Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Ryan Adams, June 2010 – September 2010

Independent Research, Happiness and Perseverance in College Students, Georgetown College, Jennifer Price (Supervisor), January 2010 – December 2011

Group Research, Psychological Mindedness and Therapy Preferences, Georgetown College, Jennifer Price (Supervisor), January 2011 – June 2011

Professional Associations

American Philosophical Association

International Society for Research on Emotion

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Graduate Coursework

Philosophy Coursework

Philosophy of Psychology

Seminar: Moral Emotions

Seminar in Ethics:
Constructivism

Topics in History of
Philosophy: Happiness, Virtue,
Vice, and Evil (Kant)

Advanced Philosophy of
Science

Current Controversies in
Cognitive Science

Philosophy of Biology

Thomistic Personalism

Philosophical Writing

History of Analytic
Philosophy

Advanced Epistemology

Psychology/Neuroscience Coursework

Advanced Psychopathology

Genes, Brains, and Behavior:
Pathways to Psychopathy

The Cognitive Neuroscience
of Film

Quantitative Methods I & II