

# KATIA VAVOVA

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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION** Epistemology, Metaethics

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE** Ethics, Philosophy of Action, Moral Psychology, Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy

## APPOINTMENTS

2018 - present Mount Holyoke College, Associate Professor of Philosophy  
2021-2022 Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at  
Stanford University, Visiting Scholar  
2012 - 2018 Mount Holyoke College, Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
2010 - 2012 Amherst College, Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy

## EDUCATION

2005 - 2010 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ph.D. in Philosophy  
Dissertation: “Rational Humility and Other Epistemic Killjoys”  
Committee: Roger White (Chair), David Christensen, Caspar Hare  
2002 - 2005 Mount Holyoke College  
B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in Philosophy; Economics minor.  
2000 - 2002 West Valley Community College

## PUBLICATIONS

“The Limits of Rational Belief Revision: A Dilemma for the Darwinian Debunker” in *Noûs*, 55(3): 717-734, 2021; first published *early view* February 24, 2020.  
“Irrelevant Influences” in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 96(1): 134-152, 2018; first published *early view* May 5, 2016.  
“Deliberation and Prediction: It’s Complicated” in *Episteme*, 13(4): 529–538, 2016.

“Evolutionary Debunking of Moral Realism” in *Philosophy Compass*, 10(2): 104–116, 2015.

“Moral Disagreement and Moral Skepticism” in *Philosophical Perspectives*, 28(1): 302-333, 2014.

“Debunking Evolutionary Debunking” in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, R. Shafer-Landau (ed.), 9: 76–101, 2014.

“Confidence, Evidence, and Disagreement” in *Erkenntnis*, 79(1): 173-183, 2014.

- REVIEWS -

“Berislav Marušić’s *Evidence and Agency: Norms of Belief for Promising and Resolving*” in *Ethics*, 128(3): 687-695, 2018.

“Hilary Kornblith’s *On Reflection*” with Nishi Shah in *Ethics*, 124(3): 632-636, 2014.

AWARDS

Spring 2021 Meribeth E. Cameron Faculty Fellowship, Mount Holyoke College

Spring 2021 The 1905 Fellowship, Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association

2005-2006 Kenan Sahin Graduate Presidential Fellowship, MIT

PAPERS PRESENTED

Upcoming:

Colloquium Talk, Princeton University (delayed due to COVID)

“Yeah, you would say that, wouldn’t you?” (Previously: “What’s so bad about indoctrination?”)

Oxford Epistemology Group, Oxford University (June 2021)

Colloquium Talk, Stockholm University (May 2021)

Colloquium Talk, Bowling Green State University (March 2021)

“Moral Responsibility without Blame”

Invited talk, The University of Saint Andrews Philosophy Society (October 2020)

Colloquium Talk, University of Connecticut, Storrs (February 2020)

Colloquium Talk, University of Toronto (October 2019)

Colloquium Talk, Macalaster College (September 2019)

Colloquium Talk, Connecticut College (May 2019)

“A Dilemma for the Darwinian Debunker”

Keynote, 2017 University of Texas-Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference (April 2017)

MITing of the Minds (January 2017)

Uppsala University (November 2016)

*Keynote*, Science vs Common Sense Conference, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (March 2016)  
Colloquium Talk, Brandeis University (April 2015)  
Colloquium Talk, Graduate Student Speaker Series, Cornell University (March 2015)  
Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop (December 2014)  
Metaethics Conference, Institut Jean Nicod (June 2014)  
The Science of Ethics Project, University of Michigan (June 2013)

“Cultures of Conviction”

*Public Lecture*, NYU Abu Dhabi (January 2015)

“Moral Disagreement and Moral Skepticism”

The Fordham Ethics & Epistemology Workshop (October 2014)

“Debunking Evolutionary Debunking”

The 9th Annual Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison (September 2012)

The Australian National University (July 2012)

The Australian Association of Philosophy, University of Wollongong (July 2012)

The University of Sydney (June 2012)

“Irrelevant Influences”

Colloquium Talk, University of Vermont (October 2015)

*Keynote*, Etiology of Belief Workshop, Oxford University (March 2015)

Midsummer Philosophy Workshop (July 2014)

Symposium Paper, Eastern APA Meeting (December 2012)

“Easy Knowledge, Junk Knowledge: Knowledge Nonetheless”

University of Sydney (August 2012)

Amherst College (March 2011)

“Confidence, Evidence, and Disagreement”

Colloquium Paper, Pacific APA Meeting (April 2012)

**OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

“A Dilemma for the Darwinian Debunker” Seminar visit in PHIL524, “Systematic Ethics” at Princeton University, co-taught by Harman and McGrath (February 2019)

“Bias and Irrationality” Comments on Kelly and McGrath’s “Bias: Some Conceptual Geography” at Princeton-Brown Moral Epistemology Conference (May 2018)

“Trust, Difficulty, and Reliability” at author meets critic session on Marušič’s *Evidence and Agency*, Central APA (March 2017)

“What comes first? The values or the rankings?” Comments on Wedgwood’s “Values First” at Dartmouth Ethics and Practical Reasoning Workshop (April 2016)

“Against Absolute Belief” Comments on Pasnau’s “After Certainty” at The Philosophical Significance of Conceptual History, Arché Center, Saint Andrews University (June 2015)

“Deliberation and Prediction: It’s Complicated” Comments on Hájek’s “Deliberation Welcomes Prediction” at the 11th Annual *Episteme* Conference (June 2015)  
 “Why Intrinsic Plausibility Can’t Help” Comments on Rice’s “Evolution and our Ultimate Reasons for Action” at Eastern APA Meeting (December 2011)  
 “What is manipulation anyway?” Comments on Gorin’s “Interpersonal Manipulation” at Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (August 2011)  
 “Reconciling Modesty and Closure” Comments on Yablo’s “Knowing about Things” at MITing of the Minds Conference, MIT (January 2009)

**COURSES TAUGHT** - at Mount Holyoke College, unless otherwise noted -

**INTRODUCTORY**     *Introduction to Philosophy* (PHIL111 at Amherst College) - Spring 2012  
*God, Free Will, & Morality* (FYS 110GF, first year seminar) - Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020  
*Ethics* (PHIL205) - Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2020, Spring 2021  
*Women & Philosophy* (PHIL249/GNDST210) - Spring 2013, Spring 2015  
*Political Philosophy* (PHIL242) - Spring 2014

**MID-LEVEL**         *Normative Ethics* (PHIL310 at Amherst College) - Spring 2011, Fall 2011  
*Epistemology* (Phil270) - Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

**ADVANCED**         *Beyond the Western Canon* (PHIL350CA, seminar) Spring 2019  
*Reasons for Belief & Action* (co-taught with Nishi Shah, seminar at Amherst College) - Fall 2017  
*Freedom & Responsibility* (PHIL350, seminar) - Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2021  
*Rationality & Responsibility* (PHIL591, graduate seminar at UMass Amherst) - Spring 2015  
*Disagreement* (PHIL350, seminar) - Fall 2010 (at Amherst College), Spring 2014  
*Moral Epistemology* (PHIL334, seminar) - Spring 2013, Spring 2020  
*Beyond the Western Canon* (PHIL350, seminar) - Spring 2019

**SELECTED SERVICE**

2013-present         Mount Holyoke College Philosophy Lecture Series, Co-Organizer  
 2012-present         Associated Graduate Faculty at UMass, Amherst (duties include graduate teaching and advising)  
 2020-2021             Mount Holyoke COACHE review committee, Co-Chair  
 2014-2015             Mount Holyoke College Appeals Committee, member  
 2011-2012             Amherst College Lectures on Rationality & Religious Belief, Organizer  
 2007                     MITing of the Minds Conference, Co-organizer

2005-2006 MIT Philosophy Colloquium Series, Co-organizer  
Various Session Chair: Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (2010, 2011), Pacific APA (2012), Practical Reason & Metaethics Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2012), SLACRR (2013), Midsummer Philosophy Workshop (2013), Conceptual Engineering Workshop at the University of Oslo (2016)  
Various Referee: *Noûs*, *Philosophical Studies*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Erkenntnis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, *Philosophy Compass*, and others