

Mary Townsend, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Classical Studies
Loyola University New Orleans
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Tulane University, 2015

Dissertation: "The Problem of Women and Philosophy in *Republic V*"

Dissertation Committee: Ronna Burger (advisor), Richard Velkley, Oliver Sensen

Abstract: In *Republic V* Socrates does not set out to prove the weakness of women; rather he concedes what is originally his interlocutor's idea in order to further his initial plan of educating women and offering them political rule as philosopher-queens. Plato presents an incisive psychological portrayal of what it would take to argue successfully for women's inclusion at the highest level, while giving careful thought to the desires of women themselves. The *Republic* stands as an appeal to women to take up philosophy, regardless of the regime they inhabit.

M.A., Philosophy, Catholic University of America, 2010

Thesis: "The Common Hunt: Philosophy under the Patronage of Artemis at *Republic* 449a-547b"

B.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis, MD, 2004

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ancient Greek Philosophy
Social and Political Philosophy
Philosophy of Sex and Gender

AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Ethics, Existentialism
Philosophy of Religion
Metaphysics

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor,

Classical Studies, Loyola University New Orleans, 2017-2018

Visiting Assistant Professor,

Philosophy, Loyola University New Orleans, 2016-2017

Visiting Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities,

Bard Early College in New Orleans, Fall 2015

Instructor of Record,

Tulane Honors Program, Fall 2012-Spring 2016

Tulane Philosophy Department, Fall 2013-Spring 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

The Woman Question in Plato's Republic. Lanham: Lexington Books, August 2017.

Book Chapters, invited:

"The Drama of Women and Philosophy in Plato's *Republic*." In *Otherwise Than the Binary: Towards Feminist Readings of Ancient Philosophy, Magic, and Mystery Traditions*, Danielle Layne and Jessica Elbert Decker eds., Brill Publishers, under contract.

Reviews, invited:

Review of *Ladies' Greek* by Yopie Prins, Princeton, 2017,
for *Education and Culture*, July 19th, 2017.

Public Philosophy:

"The Day No One Would Say the Nazis Were Bad: Pedagogy and Moral Relativism." *The Hedgehog Review*, Institute of Advanced Culture Studies at the University of Virginia, forthcoming Spring 2018.

"The Walking Wounded: Walker Percy's Existentialism and the Rhetoric of Health." *The Hedgehog Review*, March 1st, 2017.

"Housecleaning and Heidegger: a defense of the thoughtfulness of domestic work." *The Hedgehog Review*, March 1st, 2016.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Teleology, Money, and Democracy in Aristotle's *Politics I*," article in preparation.

"Aristotle, Diotima, and the Metaphysics of Motherly Love," article in preparation.

"Hegel and the Quarrel between Religion and Philosophy," draft complete.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Summer 2017, Summer Research Fellow, The Hong Kierkegaard Library,
St. Olaf's College, Northfield, MN

Fall 2016, Scholarly Residency awarded, A Studio in the Woods, program sponsored by the Tulane-Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research

Fall 2015, grant awarded for Faculty Symposium for Anthropology and Philosophy, sponsored by the Tulane-Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research

Summer 2013 and Summer 2011, Summer Merit Fellowship, School of Liberal Arts, Tulane University

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

“Walker Percy on the Ex-Suicide,” The Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, July 27th, 2017

Invited Panelist, student-organized conference on Student Mental Health, Tulane University, April 23rd, 2016

Presenter of independent research on core curricula in Honors programs, funded by Tulane Honors, February 27th, 2014

PRESENTATIONS

“‘Only a joke’: de Beauvoir and Aristophanes on Female Revolution,” Association of Core Texts and Courses, April 19-22nd, 2018, Framingham, MA

“Teaching Julia Ward Howe’s 1887 Speech on Plato’s *Republic*,” Women in Core Conference, sponsored by Temple University’s Intellectual Heritage Program, March 17th-18th, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

“The Drama of the Woman Question,” for *Otherwise Than the Binary*, online workshop for forthcoming edited collection, hosted by Gonzaga University, August 14-18th, 2017

“The Woman Question in Plato’s *Republic V*,” Ancient Philosophy Society, April 27-29th, 2017, Waco, TX

“Aristotle versus Diotima on Motherly Love,” Association of Core Texts and Courses, April 20-22nd, 2017, Dallas, TX

“Julia Ward Howe and Plato’s *Republic*,” Association of Core Texts and Courses, April 14-17th, 2016, Atlanta, GA

“The Drama of the Woman Question in *Republic V*,” Society for the History of Political Philosophy, APA Eastern Division, January 7th, 2016, Washington, DC

“Plato on the Origin of Cities: The Socratic Methodology of the City of Pigs”,
Symposium for the Departments of Anthropology and Philosophy, Tulane University,
December 3-4th, 2015

TEACHING

Loyola University, New Orleans

Department of Classical Studies:

“Topics in Greek Thought: Plato and Herodotus,” Honors Course, Spring 2018

“Classical Mythology,” Spring 2018

“Women in Ancient Thought,” Honors Course, Fall 2017

“Citizenship and the Ideal State,” Fall 2017

Philosophy Department:

“Philosophy and Feminism,” Spring 2017

“Philosophy and Literature,” Honors Course, Fall 2016

“Philosophy of the Human Person,” Spring 2017- Fall 2015

Tulane University

Tulane Honors Program:

“Honors Freshmen Seminar,” Fall 2012-Fall 2015

“Ways of Inquiry,” methodology seminar for Tulane Scholars Program, Spring 2015, Spring 2016

Department of Philosophy:

“Classics of Ancient Political Philosophy,” Spring 2016

“History of Ancient Philosophy,” Fall 2015

“Ethics,” Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015

“Existentialism,” Fall 2014

Bard Early College in New Orleans

“Aristotle on Biology and the Nature of Causation,” Fall 2015

Organization for Liberal Education, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

“Interdisciplinary Seminar,” “Interdisciplinary Tutorial,” Summer 2009, 2011

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Co-organizer of the 2018 *Anthrosophia* conference, sponsored by Loyola University and the Center for Human-Environmental Research in New Orleans, LA, March 7-10th

Research Associate, Center for Human-Environmental Research, New Orleans, LA,
2016-present

Referee, *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2017

Research Advisor, to awardee of the Jean Danielson Memorial Scholarship,
Undergraduate Research on Philosophy of Music, Summer 2016

Co-organizer, “Articulating Political Philosophy and Anthropological Theory, Method,
and Evidence,” Symposium for the Departments of Anthropology and Philosophy at
Tulane, December 3-4th, 2015 (Funded by grant from Tulane-Xavier Center for
Bioenvironmental Research and A Studio in the Woods, Fall 2015)

COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

Community Reading Group, June 2013 – present

Discussion and close reading of original texts in philosophy for non-academic professionals

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Online Faculty Training Course participant, five-week course funded by Loyola
University New Orleans, October 2017

Pedagogy of writing workshop participant, sponsored by Bard’s Institute for Writing and
Thinking, led by Alfred Guy, director of the Yale Writing Center, August 10-11th, 2015

LANGUAGES

Advanced reading in Ancient Greek

Graduate course at Tulane University, 2010

Worked as private instructor in intensive grammar, 2006-2007

Undergraduate intermediate coursework at Catholic University, 2004-05

Undergraduate beginning coursework at St. John’s College, 1999-2001

Reading competency in French

Department Exam, School of Philosophy, Catholic University, 2008

Basic reading in Latin

UC Berkeley Intensive Summer Session, 2001

Basic reading in German

Reading Competency Course, Catholic University, 2008

REFERENCES

Karen Rosenbecker
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Loyola University New Orleans
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ancient Philosophy Society

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

American Philosophical Association

American Political Science Association