

Mary Townsend, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

St. John's University
Department of Philosophy
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Tulane University, 2015
M.A., Philosophy, Catholic University of America, 2010
B.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis, MD, 2004

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Social and Political Philosophy
Ancient Greek Philosophy
Feminist Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Existentialism, Ethics, Metaphysics
Philosophy of Religion
19th-20th- c. European Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor

St. John's University, Queens, NY, 2018- present.

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

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; paperback edition May 2019.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

"Justice for All Without Exception: Julia Ward Howe's 1887 Speech on Plato's Republic," accepted with minor revisions to *Hypatia*, May 8th, 2020

Book Chapters in edited collections:

“Sophistry, Rhetoric, and the Crimes of Women: Plato’s Gorgias and Protagoras on Female Injustice.” In edited volume collecting papers on Plato and tyranny, Charlotte Thomas, ed. Macon: Mercer University Press, forthcoming 2020/21.

“The Argument of the Action in Plato’s *Republic* V.” In *Otherwise Than the Binary: Toward Feminist Rereadings of Ancient Philosophy and Culture*. Danielle Layne and Jessica Elbert Decker eds., collection under review at SUNY Press.

Reviews, invited:

Review of *Socrates and Divine Revelation* by Lewis Fallis and *Becoming Socrates: Political Philosophy in Plato’s Parmenides* by Alex Priou for *Review of Politics*, Spring 2020, vol 82(2), 331-336.

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

Public Philosophy:

“The Home is the School,” *Plough Quarterly*, May 4th, 2020.

“Seeing Everyday Beauty,” response to Roger Scruton’s “The Beauty of Belonging,” *Plough Quarterly*, Winter 2019.

“Throw Your Children’s Art Away,” *The Atlantic*, September 16th, 2018.

“Do Women Exist? Beauvoir and Irigaray on Female Selfhood.” *The Hedgehog Review*, July 1st, 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.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Faculty Recognition Award, St. John’s University, Fall 2019

February 2018, *The Woman Question in Plato’s Republic*, *Choice* Editors' Picks for February.

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, PANELS, AND INTERVIEWS

Guest on the podcast *Ancient Greece Declassified*, February 7th, 2020, to discuss the politics of gender in Plato's *Republic*.

"Aporia on the Woman Question in Plato's *Republic*." Friday Night Lecture Series, St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 8th, 2019.

"Sophistry, Rhetoric, and the Tyranny of Women," A.V. Macdonald Center for America's Founding Principles, 7th Annual Conference: Liberty and Tyranny in Plato, Mercer University, Macon Georgia, March 19th, 2019.

Guest on the radio show "Central Time," Wisconsin Public Radio, September 20th, 2018, to discuss article at *The Atlantic*.

Interviewed by *Political Animal Magazine*, "The Woman Question in Plato's *Republic*," January 29th, 2018, <https://www.politicalanimalmagazine.com/2018/01/29/the-woman-question-in-platos-republic/>

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

"Sophistry, Rhetoric, and the Crimes of Women: Plato's Gorgias and Protagoras on Female Injustice," Ancient Philosophy Society, Chicago, IL, April 2nd, 2020; paper accepted 12/6/19, conference postponed due to COVID-19.

"Philosophic Pedagogy in Plato's *Parmenides* and *Republic*," International Plato Society at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA, January 8th, 2020.

“Beauvoir, Irigaray, and # Me Too,” the International Simone de Beauvoir Society, at Diverse Lineages of Existentialism, Washington, DC, June 3rd, 2019.

Response to “Socrates and Aristotle on Courage and Experience” by Marta Jimenez, Emory University, Ancient Philosophy Society, Hartford, CT, April 25th, 2019.

“Teleology, Money, and Democracy in Aristotle’s *Politics* I,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 8th-10th, 2018, Montreal, Canada.

Response to “Plato’s Philosophical Prologues: The Case of Plato’s *Statesman*,” by William B. Cochran, Northwestern University, Ancient Philosophy Society, April 26-28th, 2018, Atlanta, GA.

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

“The Unnatural Polis: Aristotle and the Problem of Oligarchy,” Anthrosophia 2018: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Philosophy, Anthropology, and Allied Disciplines, March 7th-10th, 2018, New Orleans, LA.

“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 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

St. John’s University

Honors Metaphysics, Honors Ethics, Spring 2020
Ethics, Honors Ethics, Fall 2020
Intro to Feminist Philosophy, Spring 2019
Honors Ethics, Spring 2019
Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Fall 2018

Loyola University, New Orleans

Department of Classical Studies:
“Classical Mythology,” 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

Academic consultant for the “Plato’s Diotima” section of *The Philosopher Queens*, Rebecca Buxton and Lisa Whiting, eds., Unbound (United Authors Publishing Ltd.), forthcoming September 2020.

Referee, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, Spring 2019.

Website Coordinator, Department of Classical Studies, Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

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

Referee, *Epochée: 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

Guest on *Stet*, podcast hosted by Barbara McClay, to discuss philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir

Seminar Leader, St. John’s College Alumni Seminar on Homer’s *Odyssey*, June 11th, 2019.

Community Reading Group, June 2013 – June 2018.

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, 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
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Classical Studies
Loyola University New Orleans
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 865-2257
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Mark Vail
Associate Professor of Political Science
Tulane University
324 Norman Mayer Hall
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Ronna Burger
Catherine & Henry J. Gaisman Chair
Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies
Department of Philosophy, Tulane University
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Richard Velkley
Celia Scott Weatherhead Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Tulane University
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F. Thomas Luongo
Eva-Lou Joffrion Edwards Newcomb Associate Professor of History
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ancient Philosophy Society
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
American Philosophical Association
American Political Science Association
Northeastern Political Science Association
International Simone de Beauvoir Society
International Plato Society