

MICHAEL STARLING

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Areas of Specialization:

Ancient Western Philosophy, Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence:

History of Philosophy, Metaphysics, Pedagogical Theory

EDUCATION

PhD University of Georgia, Department of Philosophy expected 2022

Dissertation: "The political function of Plato's dialectical praxis"

Description: My dissertation examines the apparent conflict between politics and philosophy in Plato's writings. The first chapter draws from the intellectual culture of Greece in order to define a body politic as reliant on stable *nomoi* (customs) in order to pursue its goals. In the second chapter, I argue that the Platonic conception of philosophy consists of a dialectical inquiry towards truth that is rooted in *eros* (desire) and occasionally directed at the *nomoi* of the city while paradoxically relying on certain other *nomoi* in order to motivate an interlocutor's participation. In the third chapter, I reconcile this paradox by arguing for philosophy's civic function that is rooted in Plato's appropriation of language of the civic practice of *theoria* to describe philosophical activity and signaled by his use of dramatic frames that situate the dialogues in a rich sociopolitical context.

Committee: Drs. Rohan Sikri (chair), Elizabeth Brient, & René Jagnow

MA Tulane University, Philosophy May 2014

BA Tulane University, Philosophy & Religious Studies May 2013
cum Laude

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia, Athens GA August 2017 to present

Courses taught as Instructor of Record

- PHIL 2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '18, Spring '19; Fall '20; Fall '21)
- PHIL 2010e Introduction to Philosophy (Summer '19, Summer '20, Summer '21)
 - Online Course taught during summer semesters only
- PHIL 2020 Logic and Critical Thinking (Spring '20, Spring '21)

- PHIL 3000 History of Ancient Western Philosophy (Fall '19)
 - Intermediate course covering Plato's *Theaetetus*, *Sophist*, and *Statesman* using close reading of texts as well as relevant secondary literature.

Courses taught as Teaching Assistant

- PHIL 2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '17, Spring '18)

Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta GA
 (now Perimeter College at Georgia State University)
 Adjunct Professor, Humanities Department

August 2014 to May 2015

Courses taught as Instructor of Record

- PHIL2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '14)
- PHIL1010 Logic and Critical Thinking (Fall '14, Spring '15)

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

- Philosophy of Film
- Philosophy of Horror
- Reason and Myth in Philosophy
- Ancient Eastern Philosophy
- Neoplatonism
- Metaphysics
- Modern Western Philosophy
- Medieval Western Philosophy
- Introduction to Ethics

HONORS AND AWARDS

[Excellence in Teaching Award](#) (nominated) Fall 2021
 “The Center for Teaching and Learning administers the Excellence in Teaching Award (ETA), sponsored by the Graduate School. This highly competitive award recognizes UGA graduate students who have demonstrated superior teaching skills and contributed to teaching beyond their own classroom responsibilities. The Excellence in Teaching Award is the top teaching award for graduate students at UGA.”

[Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award](#) Spring 2021
 “This award recognizes teaching assistants who demonstrate superior teaching skills while serving in the classroom or laboratory.”

[Future Faculty Fellows Program](#) Jan. 2021 – present
 “The Future Faculty Fellows Program ... is a year-long professional development program that brings together 15 innovative and dedicated teaching assistants from across campus to

talk about, reflect upon, and improve their teaching, while preparing them for the academic job market and the rigors of their first faculty positions.”

J.M. Green and R.K. Green Graduate Fellowship

2020-2021

Fellowship grant of \$2000 for graduate students conducting research in the Arts and Humanities.

PRESENTATIONS

Comments on “Excellent Beings: The Aesthetic Traits of a Good Life” presented by Alexandra Grundler at the American Society for Aesthetics Southern Aesthetics Workshop, Auburn University, October 15, 2021

“The Incongruence of Justice and Injustice in Thrasymachus’ Account” presented at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, February 24, 2021.

“The Incongruence of Justice and Injustice in Thrasymachus’ Account” Midsouth Philosophy Conference Annual Meeting, March 2020 [conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

TA Café Workshop Facilitator, Center for Teaching and Learning at UGA

These professional development workshops are specifically designed by and for Teaching Assistants of all disciplines to develop skills and strategies in their role as IORs or TAs.

- “Making Teaching Fun” October 28, 2021
- “Teaching Portfolio Peer Exchange” 4/28/21

Philosophy Graduate Student Association, UGA

- Graduate Student Moderator, 2020-2021
 - Duties included: Attended faculty meetings, represented philosophy graduate student interests, and disseminated relevant meeting information to philosophy graduate students.
 - Activities of note: Solicited philosophy graduate student feedback and input on issues related to COVID-19 policies, petitioned faculty for funding extensions in light of COVID-19 impact on graduate student progress, presented PGSA course proposal for PHIL 3050: Unjustly Marginalized Philosophies at faculty meeting.
- President, 2019-2020
 - Duties included: presiding over monthly PGSA meetings, crafting agenda, organizing graduate student social events as well as community outreach initiatives and professional development workshops, organizing film screening and discussion events on campus open to students and community members, purchasing food and beverages for PGSA events.

- Activities of note: Spearheaded and organized the “On Catastrophe” public film series for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020; assisted Graduate Coordinator with new Graduate Student Handbook and revision of PhD program requirements; regular meetings with incoming department head.
- Secretary, 2018-2019
- Treasurer, 2017-2018
 - Activities of note: assisted in drafting the proposal to create online courses for summer terms, including the development of course syllabi for PHIL2010e, PHIL2020e, PHIL2030e, PHIL2050e.

Service to Department of Philosophy

(in progress) *The (un)Official Philosophy Graduate Student Guide to UGA*

A living document to be maintained by current graduate students that will help orient new graduate students to UGA and to life in Athens.

(in progress) “Interdisciplinary Showcase” page for departmental website

In concert with the webmaster and the department head, I am developing a webpage and submission form which highlights philosophy faculty and student work in interdisciplinary fields and allows for the page to be easily maintained.

“Incorporating SWANK Digital Campus assets into D2L/Brightspace courses”

Zoom presentation to UGA philosophy department, November 20, 2020

“Preparing to Pivot: eLC Functionality and Tools”

Zoom presentation to UGA philosophy department, March 19, 2020

Hereditary Film Screening and Discussion; as part of “On Catastrophe” film series

Organizer and discussion facilitator, October 17, 2019

“Overview of PHIL2010e Structure and Strategies”

Presentation to graduate students in PHIL7010: Teaching Philosophy, September 23, 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion](#) (in progress)

“The Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) engages UGA faculty and staff in building capacity to contribute to and sustain a diverse and inclusive campus environment. The CDI is offered in partnership with the Human Resources Training and Development Department and other diversity-related office and programs across the institution.”

[Future Faculty Fellows Program, 2021 Cohort](#)

“[The Future Faculty Fellows Program](#) ... is a year-long professional development program that brings together 15 innovative and dedicated teaching assistants from across campus to

talk about, reflect upon, and improve their teaching, while preparing them for the academic job market and the rigors of their first faculty positions.”

TA Cafés (as attendee)

These professional development workshops are specifically designed for Teaching Assistants of all disciplines to develop skills and strategies in their role as IORs or TAs.

Fostering Student Well-Being, September 23, 2021

Writing Diversity Statements, February 4, 2020

UGA Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy Departmental Training

(5/6/2021) Review of NDAH Policy facilitated by representatives of the Equal Opportunity Office at UGA for the Department of Philosophy.

Philosophizing with High School Students

(2/15/20) Workshop led by Thomas Wartenberg and co-sponsored by UGA’s Office of Service-Learning covering strategies for secondary school philosophy education.

Philosophizing with Young Children

(2/12/20) Workshop led by Thomas Wartenberg and co-sponsored by UGA’s Office of Service-Learning covering strategies for primary school philosophy education.

CTL’s Spring Teaching Symposium, University of Georgia

Each spring, the Center for Teaching and Learning hosts a day of workshops for TAs from all departments to learn teaching strategies and skills, such as assignment development, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, and classroom management.

Years attended: 2018, 2020

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

At University of Georgia

Seminars:

PHIL8600: Metaphysics (Instructor: Dr. Ed Halper)

PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. O. Brad Bassler)

PHIL8310: Philosophy of Mind (Instructor: Dr. Richard Dien Winfield)

PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Brient)

PHIL8200: Ethics (Instructor: Dr. Melissa Fahmy)

GREK8010: Readings in Greek Literature (Instructor: Dr. Charles Platter)

PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. René Jagnow)

PHIL8000: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (audited) (Instructor: Dr. Brad Bassler)

Graduate Courses:

PHIL6510: Deductive Systems (Instructor: Dr. Yuri Balashov)

PHIL6210: Social and Political Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)

PHIL6010: Aristotle (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)

PHIL7010: Teaching Philosophy (Instructor: Various faculty)
PHIL6000: Plato (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)
PHIL8800: Readings in Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Ed Halper)

At Tulane University

PHIL6932: Metaphilosophy (Instructor: Dr. Bruce Brower)
PHIL6933: Topics in Aesthetics (Instructor: Dr. Alison Denham)
PHIL6200: Plato (Instructor: Dr. Ronna Burger)
PHIL6330: Nietzsche (Instructor: Dr. Richard Velkley)
PHIL7200: 19th Century Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Richard Velkley)
PHIL6280: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Dr. Oliver Sensen)
PHIL6210: Aristotle (Dr. Ronna Burger)
PHIL7490: Topics in Moral and Political Philosophy (Dr. Richard Velkley)
PHIL6920: Platonism and the *Odyssey* (independent study with Dr. Ronna Burger)
PHIL6170: Philosophy of Perception (Dr. Bruce Brower)

LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker
Attic & Koine Greek: Research Proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association. Member, 2017 – Present
American Society for Aesthetics, Member, 2021 – Present

OTHER

Academic Interests of Note:

- Aesthetics of Horror Films
- Popular Aesthetics
- Philosophy of Race

REFERENCES

Dr. Rohan Sikri, Assistant Professor
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Chair of Dissertation Committee

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Dissertation Committee Member

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Teaching Mentor

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