

Elizabeth Cantalamessa | Curriculum Vitae

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AOS

Aesthetics, Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics

AOC

Philosophy of Law, History of Philosophy, Ethics

Education

PhD Philosophy. University of Miami; 2023.

Dissertation: Laugh Hard at the Absurdly Evil: Humor as a Social Tool

MA Philosophy. University of Wyoming; 2015.

Thesis: The Limits of Models: Model Schemata in Disability Studies

BA Philosophy. University of Wyoming; 2012.

Minor in Disability Studies.

Employment

Philosophy Part-Time Instructor. University of Wyoming; 2015-2022.

Philosophy Part-Time Instructor. University of Houston-Downtown; 2015-2021.

Philosophy Part-Time Instructor. Miami-Dade Community College; 2019.

Philosophy Full-Time Instructor. University of Houston-Downtown; 2016.

Publications

Disability Studies, Conceptual Engineering, and Conceptual Activism

Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, 2021. Volume 64, Issue 1, Pg. 46-75.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2019.1658630>

Fair Use, Appropriation Art, and Metalinguistic Negotiation

The British Journal of Aesthetics, 2020. Volume 60, Issue 2, Pg. 115-129.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/aesthj/ayz055>

Art as Conceptual Engineering

Forthcoming in *New Perspectives on Conceptual Engineering*, edited by Manuel Gustavo Isaac and Kevin Scharp. Invited.

Zombie Taylor and The Rights of the Living Dead

Forthcoming in *Taylor Swift and the Philosophy of Re-recording*. Edited by Brandon Polite. Routledge. Invited.

A Pragmatist Approach to Aesthetic Disagreement

Forthcoming in *Art and Philosophy*. Edited by Alex King. Oxford Press. Invited.

Who's Afraid of (Philosophizing About) Kim Kardashian?

Forthcoming in *The Philosophy of Fame and Celebrity*. Edited by Alfred Archer, Matthew Dennis, and Catherine Robb. Bloomsbury. Invited.

Public-Facing Philosophy

Our One Really Effective Weapon *Trouble Begins Lecture Series*; 2022.

<https://marktwainstudies.com/tag/elizabeth-cantalamessa/>

Democracy Should Be Sentimentalist Not Rationalist *Aeon*; 2021.

<https://aeon.co/democracy-should-be-sentimentalist-not-rationalist/>

Debating Bon Jovi's Cheesiness Will Enrich Your Conceptual Life *Psyche*; 2020.

<https://psyche.co/ideas/debating-bon-jovis-cheesiness-will-enrich-your-conceptual-life/>

Is This Really Art? Aesthetic Disagreement and Conceptual Negotiation *Aesthetics For Birds*; 2018.

<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2018/12/13/is-this-really-art-aesthetic-disagreement-and-conceptual-negotiation/>

Teaching Experience

Sole Instructor

Social and Ethical Issues in Computing. University of Miami, Spring 2023; in person.

Philosophy of Language. University of Miami, Fall 2022; in person.

Modern Philosophy. University of Miami, Spring 2019, Spring/Fall 2022; in person.

19th Century Philosophy. University of Miami, Spring 2022; in person.

Philosophy and Technology. University of Wyoming, Summer 2022; online.

Philosophy and Disability. University of Wyoming, Fall 2021; online.

Philosophy and Comedy. University of Wyoming, Summer 2021; online.

Philosophy and Black Mirror. University of Wyoming, Summer 2020; online.

Meaning in Life. University of Houston-Downtown, in person and online; 2019-2021.

The Philosophy of Rick and Morty. University of Wyoming, Summer 2019; online.

Critical Thinking and Ethics. Miami-Dade College, in person; Spring, Summer 2019

Philosophy of Love. University of Miami, Summer 2018; online.

Introduction to Ethics. University of Houston-Downtown, in person, online; 2015-2021.

Introduction to Philosophy. University of Houston-Downtown, 2015-2019; in person.

Introduction to Philosophy. University of Houston-Downtown, 2020-2021; online.

Introduction to Philosophy. University of Miami, 2016-2019; in person.

Philosophy and Film. University of Wyoming, Summer 2018; in person.
Contemporary Moral Issues. University of Miami, Fall 2018; in person.
Philosophy of Love. University of Wyoming, Summer 2017; in person.

Co-Teacher

Existentialism (with Mark Rowlands). University of Miami, 2018; in person.

Teaching Assistant

Philosophy of Sex and Love. University of Wyoming, 2015; in person.

Introduction to Philosophy. University of Wyoming, 2014- 2015; in person.

Non-Philosophy Instruction

Literacy, Dance, Film History and Theory. The Terry Cooper Center for Creative Arts
Day Habilitation Center for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Laramie WY; 2012-2014.

Awards and Grants

Awards

Emerging Scholar, Mark Twain Circle of America; 2023-2026.

Graduate Teaching Award, University of Miami; 2021.

Finalist Outstanding Adjunct, University of Houston-Downtown; 2020, 2021.

Cheryl Hayes Travel Award, American Society for Aesthetics; 2021.

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Distinguished Alumna, 2019.

Outstanding Student Paper Award, American Society for Aesthetics; 2018.

Student Travel Award, American Philosophical Association; 2018.

GAFAC Travel Award, University of Miami; 2017-2019.

Outstanding Graduate Paper Award, Florida Philosophical Association; 2017.

Paul P Stock Award, University of Wyoming; 2015.

Grants

Teaching Circle Diversity Grant, University of Houston-Downtown; Spring 2021.

Ethics and Philosophy Summer Internship, University of Miami; 2017, 2018.

Kriloff Travel Grant, University of Miami; 2017-2019.

Office of Research and Economic Development Grant, University of Wyoming; 2014.

Fellowships

Quarry Farm Fellowship, Center for Mark Twain Studies; 2022.

Visiting Fellowship, ConceptLab University of Oslo; 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID).

Holmes Fellowship, University of Miami Philosophy Department; 2016-2017.
International Study Abroad Scholarship, University of Wyoming; 2014.

Honorariums

Quarry Farm Graduate Workshop Honorarium, Center for Mark Twain Studies; 2022.
Trouble Begins Lecture Series Honorarium, Center for Mark Twain Studies; 2022.
Distinguished Graduate Speaker, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference; 2022.
Invited Graduate Speaker, Southern Aesthetics Workshop at Auburn University; 2021.
Department of Philosophy Honorarium, University of Wyoming; 2019.

Presentations

Invited

Panel on the Philosophy of Comedy, Rocky Mountain ASA. 2023
Collecting Practices and Aesthetic Value, ASA Diversity Discord Presentations; 2023
Panel on the Philosophy of Celebrity, Central APA. 2023
Commerce and Communitarianism About Aesthetic Value, Eastern APA; 2023
Laughter is the Most Effective Weapon, Trouble Begins Lecture Series; 2022
Humor as Social Technology, Rocky Mountain Graduate Conference in Philosophy; 2022
A Social Theory of Humor, Steel Center Wed. Afternoon Discussions, Hendrix College; 2021
Laugh Hard at the Absurdly Evil: Humor and Normativity, Southern Aesthetics Workshop; 2021
Inverting the Implementation Challenge: Lessons From the Disability Rights Mvmt., Arché
Workshop on the Implementation Challenge for Conceptual Engineering (Online); 2020
Art as Conceptual Engineering, Arché Philosophical Research Center for Logic (Online); 2020.
AWG Aesthetics Workgroup, College of Charleston; 2018

Refereed

Panel on Taylor Swift and the Philosophy of Re-Recording, American Society for Aesthetics
Annual, Projected
Panel on The Philosophy of Modern Song, World of Bob Dylan Conference, Projected
Panel on Anti-Aesthetic Egalitarianism, American Society for Aesthetics Eastern Division; 2023
Panel on the Fiction/Nonfiction Divide, British Society for Aesthetics Annual Conference; 2022
The Devil and Mark Twain, The Ninth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain
Studies; 2022
Humor as Social Technology, Pacific Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics; 2022
Post-Truth Laughter, Why and How We Give and Ask for Reasons, University of Hradec
(Online); 2021
Two Pragmatist Approaches to Conceptual Engineering (w Jared Riggs). Trad. Entanglements of
Pragmatism and Conceptual Engineering (Online); 2021
Deadheads and Dylan Fans: On the Goods of Disagreement. Panel on Social Aesthetics, Pacific
Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics (Online); 2021
Artistic Innovation and Aesthetic Disagreement, XXVIII Edition of the SIUCC; 2019. Mountain-
Plains Philosophy Conference; 2019. Eastern Division Meeting for the American Society for
Aesthetics; 2019
Mockumentary as Revisionism, British Society for Aesthetics: Documentaries and the

Fiction/Nonfiction Divide; 2019

Conceptual Engineering and Public Institutions: On the Limits of Negotiation, BPPA Masterclass on Conceptual Engineering; 2019

An Inferentialist Approach to Conceptual Engineering (w Jared Riggs), 11th Barcelona Workshop: Issues in Conceptual Ethics and Engineering; 2019. Themes from the Philosophy of Robert Brandom; 2019

Art by Fiat? Copyright, Ontology, and Metalinguistic Negotiation, Annual Meeting of the American Society of Aesthetics; 2018. Legal Philosophy Workshop, Rutgers; 2018

Who is (Really) Disabled? Disability Studies, Verbal Disputes, and Metalinguistic Negotiation, Workshop on Metaphilosophy with David Chalmers; 2018

Disability Studies, Conceptual Ethics, and Metalinguistic Negotiation, Virginia Tech Graduate Conference; 2018. Biannual International Social Ontology Conference; 2018. 4th GRS Barcelona; 2018. Purdue Inclusiveness Conference; 2018. Pacific Divisional Meeting of the American Philosophical Association; 2018. Northern Illinois Graduate Conference; 2017

Perverts and Degenerates: Toward an Ontology of Appropriation Art, FPA Session at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association; 2018. Florida Philosophical Association Annual Meeting; 2017. Texas Tech University Graduate Conference in Aesthetics; 2017

A Modal Understanding of Authenticity, The North American Sartre Society Annual Meeting; 2015

Models for Change: A Mediating Model Analysis of the Social Model of Disability, SWIP-Midwest Conference; 2015

Rewriting the Preface Paradox, New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society, University of Houston; 2015

In Search of Utopia: Emancipatory Pedagogy in the Films of Alejandro Jodorowsky Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference; 2012

Volunteer

Artistic Innovation and Aesthetic Disagreement, University of Miami Grad Student Visiting Weekend; 2020.

Linguistic Activism, Faculty Research Talk, University of Houston-Downtown; 2019.

A (More) Optimistic View of Conceptual Engineering, University of Wyoming Dept. of Philosophy; 2019

On the Metaontology of Social Kinds, University of Miami Metaontology Workshop; 2019.

Model Schemata in Disability Studies, Lecture for Critical Disability Studies EST550, Colorado State University; 2015.

Service

Referee for: *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of Social Ontology*, the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

Stoic Camp Counselor, University of Wyoming; 2014, 2015, 2022.

Organizer Graduate Conference in Social Philosophy, University of Miami; 2021.

Philosophy Teaching Circle, University of Houston-Downtown; 2021.

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) University of Miami; 2018-Present.

Program Committee Member, Workshop on Science & Humanism, 2021.
Program Committee Member, Annual Meeting, American Society for Aesthetics (Online); 2020.
PhilPapers Area Editor, "The Concept of Disability."
Digital Annotations Pedagogy Panel, University of Houston-Downtown; 2019.
Graduate Student Representative, University of Miami; 2018-2019.
Commenter, American Philosophical Association - Eastern Division, 2019.
Commenter, Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference (RoME); 2015.
Scientific World Conceptions, University of Vienna; 2015, 2022.
Commenter, New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society; 2015.
Commenter, Western Canadian Philosophical Society Annual Conference; 2014.
Summer School on Mathematical Philosophy for Female Philosophers, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy; 2014.

Dissertation

Laugh Hard at the Absurdly Evil: Humor as Social Tool

Dissertation Committee: Simon Evnine (Chair), Aleksandra Hernandez, Mark Rowlands, Amie Thomasson (External)

Humor is weird; Richard Pryor used humor to challenge racist stereotypes, while the neighborhood bully uses derisive laughter to reinforce their superiority. Philosophers generally identify humor with a psychological capacity or response. However, existing psychological accounts are insufficient for capturing humor's communicative function because what humor *does* can come apart from an individual-psychological level explanation of what humor "is." I introduce an alternative model of humor as a dual-edged tool for revealing, reinforcing, and challenging social norms; I also show how my model reframes first-order debates regarding the ethics of jokes.

References

Amie Thomasson, Dartmouth College
Contact: amie.l.thomasson@dartmouth.edu

C. Thi Nguyen, University of Utah
Contact: c.thi.nguyen@utah.edu

Brandon Polite, Knox College
Contact: bpolite@knox.edu

Simon Evnine, University of Miami (Dissertation Chair)
Contact: evnine@miami.edu

Andrew Pavelich, University of Houston-Downtown (Teaching Reference)
Contact: pavelicha@uhd.edu