

# Rowan Bell

CURRICULUM VITAE (UPDATED JULY 2024)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

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## Academic Appointments

- 2023 - **Assistant Professor**, Philosophy | Sexualities, Genders, and Social Change  
University of Guelph (Guelph, Ontario)
- 2022-2023 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Philosophy | Preparing Future Faculty: Faculty Diversity  
University of Missouri (Columbia, Missouri)

## Areas of Expertise

**Areas of Specialization:** feminist philosophy, trans studies, social epistemology

**Areas of Competence:** social ontology, metaethics, philosophy of race, decolonial theory

## Education

- 2022 **Ph.D.** in Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
Dissertation Title: "Gender Norms and Gendered Traits"
- 2014 **B.S.** (Magna Cum Laude) in Philosophy and Cognitive Psychology  
East Tennessee State University (ETSU), Johnson City, TN

## Peer-Reviewed Research

- "Much Ado About Nothing: Unmotivating 'Gender Identity'" (with E. M. Hernandez).  
Forthcoming in *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy*.
- "'Just the Facts': Thick Concepts and Hermeneutical Misfit." In *The Philosophical Quarterly*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqae018>
- "Being Your Best Self: Authenticity, Morality, and Gender Norms." *Hypatia* 39 (1): 1-20.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/hyp.2023.96>

## Public Work

[Gender Together: Identity, Community, and the Politics of Sincerity](#). Blog of the APA (Women in Philosophy Series), January 12, 2023.

[Alumnus Interview: Dr. Rowan Bell](#). East Tennessee State University, Department of Philosophy and Humanities.

[Authenticity and Gender Norms with Rowan Bell](#). Podcast interview. *Examining Ethics*. Host: Christiane Wisheart.

“(Un)Radical Feminism: Gender and the Limits of Imagination.” In [To Boldly Stay: Essays on the Series that “Went” Where No Trek Had Gone Before](#). Sherry Ginn and Michael Cornelius, eds. McFarland Books, 2022.

## Research Projects

*Under review* “The Role of a Lifetime: Trans Experience and Gender Norms”

*Draft* “Distorted Identities: Hermeneutical Injustice and Normative Social Roles”

*Draft* “What Is Philosophy For? Sweaty Concepts and Methodological Conflict” (Accepted for publication in [Minorities and Philosophy Edited Volume on Structural Injustice](#); forthcoming with Bloomsbury Academic Press)

*In progress* “The (Dis)Functions of ‘Gender Identity’”

*In progress* “Retconning Gender”

## Selected Awards and Fellowships

Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship (full funding for one academic year)

The Center for the Humanities, Syracuse University: 2022-23. *Offered and declined*.

Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$4000)

The Graduate School, Syracuse University: Summer 2021

Graduate Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Work (\$500)

The Graduate School, Syracuse University: Spring 2021

SWIP-Analytic Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize (\$300)

Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) and the CUNY Graduate Center: Spring 2020

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

The Graduate School, Syracuse University: Spring 2020 (standing title)

## Selected Invited Talks

“The (Dis)Functions of Gender Identity.” The Deep South Neuroscience and Philosophy Group APA Panel Presentation, American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Meeting, New York, NY, January 2024

“Playful Resistance: Gender Norms as Games.” Queens University Trans Philosophy Colloquium Series, Queens University, Kingston, ON, January 2023

“What Is Philosophy For? Sweaty Concepts and Methodological Conflict.” East Tennessee State University Speaker Series, ETSU, Johnson City, TN, October 2022

“Inside and Out: Ascriptivism About Gendered Traits.” EQS: Early Queer Scholarship Series, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, October 2019

### **Selected Competitive Talks**

“Your Own Personal Gender? Trans Identity and the Importance of Community.” Presented at Social Ontology 2024, Duke University, Durham, NC, July 2024

“What Is Philosophy For? Sweaty Concepts and Methodological Conflict.” Presented at Atlantic Regional Philosophers’ Association (ARPA) Annual Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, October 2022

“The Role of a Lifetime: Trans Experience and Gender Norms.” Presented at:

- Prindle Institute: Young Philosophers’ Lecture Series, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, October 2022
- North American Society for Social Philosophy International Conference: Polarization, Reconciliation, and Community, Aston, PA, July 2022
- APA Pacific Meeting, Vancouver, BC, April 2022

“The Trans Authenticity Paradox.” Presented at the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Committee Session, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), virtual meeting, September 2021

“It’s Just Science: Thick Concepts and Hermeneutical Injustice.” Presented at the APA Central Meeting, virtual meeting, February 2021

“Distorted Identities: Hermeneutical Injustice and Normative Social Roles.” Presented at the APA Eastern Meeting, virtual meeting, January 2021

“Authenticity and Gender Norms.” Presented at MAP (Minorities And Philosophy) Flash Talks, virtual meeting, May 2020

“Inside and Out: Ascriptivism about Gendered Traits.” Presented at:

- MAPWorks (Minorities And Philosophy Spring Workshop Series), Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2019
- SWIPShop (Society for Women in Philosophy Workshop), Baruch College, New York, NY, February 2019

“Gender and Traits.” Presented at Social Ontology, Tufts University, Boston, MA, August 2018

## Teaching

### University of Guelph

MA Thesis Supervisor for Olivia Grew  
Committee Member for Evan Knott  
Dissertation Reader for Gordon Trenbeth

#### Classes Taught:

Winter	2024	PHIL 3390: Feminist Philosophy
Winter	2024	PHIL 4060/6620: Current Topics in Feminist Philosophy
Fall	2023	SXGN 6000: Somatic Entanglements: Issues & Methods

### Syracuse University

Teaching Mentor, University-Wide Graduate TA Orientation, Syracuse University Graduate School, 2019-2022. Competitive position.

#### Classes Taught:

Summer	2022	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism (online asynchronous)
Spring	2022	PHI 175: Social & Political Philosophy
Fall	2021	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism
Spring	2021	PHI 251: Logic
Fall	2020	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism (hybrid)
Summer	2020	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism (online asynchronous)
Spring	2020	PHI 197: Human Nature
Fall	2019	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism
Summer	2019	PHI 297: Philosophy of Feminism (online asynchronous)

## Grants Awarded

\$2500. Engaged Humanities Grant, Syracuse University. For Syracuse University's *Philosophy Lab*, a branch of the [Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization \(PLATO\)](#).

## Selected Commentaries

Comments on "On Racial Disagreements and Racial Realities," by Alejandro Sandoval. APA Pacific Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2023.

Comments on "When Racially Biased Perception Is Incompetent (And When It Isn't)," by Timothy Butzer. APA Central Meeting, Denver, CO, February 2023.

Comments on "Queering Early Modern Pride: Fittingness, Efficacy, and Networked pride in LGBT Liberation," by Lel Jones. APA Central Meeting, Denver, CO, February 2023.

Comments on "On Knowing the 'Why' and the Impossibility of Ethical AI," by Jennifer Szende. APA Eastern Meeting, Montreal, QC, January 2023.

Comments on “Is Gender Fictionalism Defensible and if not, How Should We Think About Gender?” by Lucia Dikaczova. Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference, Syracuse, NY, March 2022.

Comments on “The Role of Survival in Constructivism,” by Stacy Kohls. Syracuse University ABD Workshop Series, Syracuse, NY, March 2022.

Comments on “No Desires are Relevant to Well-Being,” by Nikki Fortier. Syracuse University ABD Workshop Series, Syracuse, NY, November 2021.

Comments on “Two Conceptions of Essences,” by Laura Nicoera. Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference, virtual meeting, April 2021.

Comments on “A Sensibility of Humour,” by Zoe Walker. Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference, virtual meeting, August 2020.

Comments on “The Wrongful Inclusion Problem and Jenkins’s Analysis of Gender Concepts,” by Evan Woods. Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference, Syracuse, NY, Mar 2017.

## Selected Service Roles and Memberships

**Co-Founder**, Canadian Society for Trans Philosophy (CSTP)

**Co-Organizer**, Canadian Society for Women in Feminism (CSWIP) and the Canadian Society for Trans Philosophy (CSTP) summer 2024 conference: “Trans/Feminist Philosophy: Pasts, Presents, and Futures”

**Guest Editor** (with Imogen Sullivan) for *APA Studies on Feminism and Philosophy*, Special Issue: Futures of Trans Philosophy

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee**, University of Guelph Philosophy Department, 2023-2024

**Co-Organizer**, Queens University Workshop on Trans Philosophy, September 18, 2023

**Division Co-Representative: Canadian Philosophical Association**, North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP), 2023-2026

**Co-Chair**, University of Missouri Postdoctoral Association, 2022-2023

**Invited Panelist**, MAP PhD Panel, Mudd Undergraduate Ethics Conference, March 2022

**\*President** (elected), SU Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, 2020-2021

**\*Founder and Organizer**, MAP Anti-Racist Reading Group, Summer-Fall 2020

**Lead Organizer**, MANCEPT Workshop, “What Is Gender? Vol. III”, September 2022, Manchester, UK

**Co-Organizer**, MANCEPT Workshop, “What Is Gender? Vol. II”, September 2021 (online)

**Founder and Co-Organizer**, Syracuse-Queens Social Metaphysics Group, 2020-2021

**Peer Evaluator**, Teaching Mentor Selection Committee, SU Graduate School TA Orientation, Spring 2020 & 2021

**\*Organizer**, SU Philosophy Women & Gender Minorities Group, SU Philosophy Department, 2018-2020

**\*Co-Organizer**, SU Philosophy Graduate Conference, SU Philosophy Department, 2017-2018

**Referee service for:** *Ergo, Hypatia, Feminist Philosophy Quarterly, Journal of Social Ontology, Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Imprint, The Philosophical Quarterly*, Routledge Publishers, Polity Publishers

**Member:** American Philosophical Association (APA), Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA), International Social Ontology Society (ISOS), North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP), Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

## References

**Dr. Samantha Brennan**, Dean of the College of Arts  
University of Guelph  
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**Dr. Don Dedrick**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department  
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**Dr. Katharine Jenkins**, Lecturer (equivalent to Associate Professor)  
University of Glasgow  
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