

RENA BEATRICE ALCALAY

(Formerly Goldstien)

Curriculum vitae

EMPLOYMENT

Technical University Munich, Postdoctoral Research Fellow	2025-2026
Flagler College, Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow	2023-2025
University of California, Irvine, Mellon Humanities Faculty Fellow	2022-2023
University of California, Irvine, Inequality in STEM Graduate Student Researcher	2019-2020
University of California, Irvine, Teaching Assistant	2018-2019
California State University, Dominguez Hills, Adjunct	2017
Los Angeles City College, Adjunct	2016
California State University, Los Angeles, Lecturer	2014-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California, Irvine	2022
M.A., Philosophy, California State University, Los Angeles, <i>with honors</i>	2016
M.A., Education, California State University, Los Angeles, <i>with honors</i>	2015
B.A., Philosophy and Humanities, University of Colorado at Boulder	2011

AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology (in particular Social and Applied Epistemology)

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Biomedical Science, Feminist Philosophy, Medical Ethics, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Open Science, Wittgenstein

DISSERTATION

Title: “On (Mal) Functioning Belief Systems”

Supervisors: Professors Annalisa Coliva and Duncan Pritchard

Committee: Professor Anna Boncompagni

Summary: This dissertation explores harms that can arise from warranted thinking routines, specifically those that occur in contexts like medicine and education. I first develop the concept of epistemic disadvantage to capture contexts in which there is epistemic harm due to the asymmetrical relationship between knowers, yet that asymmetry is pertinent to the practice of knowledge. This inquiry leads to considering *how* beliefs systematically function in evidential reasoning practices. I argue that two prominent doxastic frameworks—a Quinian and a Wittgensteinian framework—support a version of confirmation holism, the view that justification for empirical beliefs entails appreciation of the full system of beliefs. One upshot of incorporating the epistemological systems of Quine and Wittgenstein is that these frameworks can give a convincing account for how thinking routines influence evidential reasoning. I develop such an account in the third chapter of the dissertation by employing a Wittgensteinian framework to show how a heuristic like stereotyping plays a normative role in cognitive processes. I conclude that heuristics like stereotyping are justified except in contexts where harm occurs.

PUBLICATIONS

Alcalay, R. and Darby Vickers. (Forthcoming). “A Pedagogical Pathway Narrowing Gender and Race Gaps in Academic Philosophy.” In *Educating Philosophers: A Handbook of Best Practice*, edited by Kenneth R. Westphal and Mark Addis.

Alcalay R. and Vandekerckhove, J. (Forthcoming). “Extractivism and Epistemic Disadvantage in Open Science Practices.” In *Social Epistemology*.

Leonelli, S. Castaño, P., **Alcalay, R.** (Forthcoming). “Openness and Inequity in Scientific Research.” In *Social Epistemology*.

Alcalay, Rena (2025): In Shadow: Stereotyping and Normative Frameworks. In: Amadeusz Just / Isabel G. Gamero / Jasmin Trächtler (eds.): Contributions to International Wittgenstein Symposium 2025, Feminist Philosophy — Language, Knowledge, And Politics.. Online under: <https://symposium.alws.at/#/article/90b5488a-6aa9-41b7-b17f-2daa08826156> (accessed on 2025-12-3)

Goldstein, R. (2024). Epistemic Injustice in the Medical Context: Introduction to Special Issue. *Social Epistemology*, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2024.2400096>

Goldstein, R. (2023). “Holistic Similarities Between Quine and Wittgenstein.” *Philosophical Investigations*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phn.12405>

Goldstein, R. (2022). “Epistemic Disadvantage.” *Philosophia*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-021-00465-w>.

Sarnecka, B. W., Silva, P. N., Vickers, D. C., Coon, J., **Goldstein, R.** & Rouder, J. N. (2022). “Doctoral writing workshops: A pre-registered, randomized controlled trial.” *Innovative Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10755-021-09574-6>

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Alcalay, R. (2025). Equity in STEM at UCI: Mixed-methods study of belonging, identity, and support [OSF project]. Open Science Framework. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/YGXBN>

Alcalay, R, Nathanael Sheehan and Rose Trappes. (2025). Concept Cartography [Software]. Relation type: “Creative Agency depends on Epistemic Creativity.” Retrieved July 17, 2025, from <https://conceptcartography.github.io/conceptcartography/concepts/creative-agency/>

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

Goldstein, R. (2021). “Reconceptualizing Civic Competence in the Digital Age,” in Snow, N.E., & Vaccarezza, M.S. (Eds.). *Virtues, Democracy, and Online Media: Ethical and Epistemic Issues* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003083108>.

Goldstein R. (2020). “You are Only as Good as You are Behind Closed Doors.” *Precollege Philosophy and Public Practice*, vol. 2, no. 1. DOI: [10.5840/p42020348](https://doi.org/10.5840/p42020348).

BOOK REVIEWS

Goldstein, R. (2019). *Patriotic Education in a Global Age* by Randall Curren & Charles Dorn, in *Educational Theory*, vol. 69, no. 5.. <https://doi.org/10.1111/edth.12393>.

WORKS IN PROGRESS (*Drafts available upon request*)

“Content Normative Shadow”

“The Violence of Knowing”

“(Dis)Advantages of the Book of Conversation Attitude Toward Scientific Publication” with Joachim Vandekerckhove

“Probabilistic Predictions, Epistemic Harms: Rethinking Responsibility in Medical AI” with Patrick Oliver Schenk

“Two Nodes or Four: Epistemic Disadvantage in Agricultural Science” with Joyce Koranteng-Acquah

“Philosophy of Epistemic Harms” Edited Volume with Sabina Leonelli and Ian James Kidd

MAGAZINES and BLOGS

Alcalay, R. (2025, August 18). *A Scaffolded Approach to Teaching with GenAI*. Times Higher Education. <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/scaffolded-approach-teaching-genai>

Goldstein, R. B., & Vickers, D. (2022, December 16). *“The writing workshop”: Increasing representation in philosophy*. Blog of the APA. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/12/22/the-writing-workshop-increasing-representation-in-philosophy/>

Goldstein, R. (2022). “Jewish Injustice: on the role of women witnesses.” *Tikkun* <https://www.tikkun.org/jewish-injustice/>.

PODCASTS and INTERVIEWS

Episode 12 of *UCI Podcast* entitled “Ask a Philosopher Booth”. Available here: <https://on.soundcloud.com/dHh1>

“Philosophy for the masses: Ph.D. student runs engaging kiosk at cafés and farmers market,” UCI News, October 28, 2019. Available here: <https://news.uci.edu/2019/10/28/philosophy-for-the-masses/>

“Ask a Philosophy Booth.” Interviewed for Spectrum 1 News. Available here: <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/news/2019/08/29/philosophers-set-up-a-booth-in-public-to-answer-any-s-questions>

PRESENTATIONS (**denotes refereed; ±invited talk*)

Open Science BioMedicine

±Titled: *Bodily Doubt and Survivor Bias: Epistemic Harms in Medical Data Ethics*. Data and AI Ethics Workshop, LMU Munich, November 14, 2025

- ±Titled: *Bodily Doubt and Survivor Bias: Epistemic Harms in Medical Data Ethics*, Lecture Series: Current Research at the Department STS [Department of Science, Technology and Society](#) November 11, 2025
- ±*Open Science as an Object of Research: Methods, Ethics, and Epistemology*. SCIROs Workshop, Marseille, France OpenEdition Lab 23-24 Sep. 2025
- ± Titled: *Epistemic harms in data sharing practices*. Summer School on Open Science and Open Data in Berlin, Germany, 16 September 2025.
- *Conference of the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology. 20-25 July 2025
- Phil_OS Workshop, Landshut, Germany, 28–29 April 2025

Normative Rules

- *Titled: *In Shadow: Stereotyping and Normative Frameworks*. 46th International Wittgenstein Symposium on Feminist Philosophy. Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria, August 10–16, 2025
- ±AI Health Normativities Workshop. Held at the Hotel Indigo, Durham, UK May 28, 2025
- ±Titled: *Wading in the Frog Pond: Cognitive judgment and Scientific Reasoning*. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, St. Augustine, Florida, November 20, 2024.
- ±Titled: *Tortoise and Achilles*. Philosophy and Religion Speaker Series, Flagler College, September 19, 2024.
- *Titled: *Wading in the Frog Pond: Cognitive judgment and Scientific Reasoning*. Philosophy of Science and Epistemology conference, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, June 27–29, 2024.

Epistemic Disadvantage and Survivor Bias

- *Philosophy of Education Society Meeting, Philosophy of Education Society, Baltimore, MD, March 6-10, 2025.
- *North American Association for Philosophy & Education, Mundelein, Illinois, October 2023.
- Epistemic Injustice in the Medical Context. University of California, Irvine, November 2022.
- *Philosophy of Education Summer School, Wisconsin, June 2023

On Quine and Wittgenstein

- *Titled: *Charting the Depths of Waters, Heights of Land: a topographical picture of two systems*. International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, Online, Zagreb, Croatia, December 2021.

A Stereotypical Hinge Framework

- *Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Carnegie Mellon, Pittsburgh, June 2023.
- *North American Association for Philosophy & Education, Mundelein, Illinois, October 2021.
- *3rd Hinge Epistemology Conference: Hinge Epistemology and Religious Belief, NOVA University of Lisbon – School of Social Sciences and Humanities – IFILNOVA, June 2022.

Narrowing the Philosophy Gender Gap by Building Skills and Community

- *American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago, Illinois, February 2022.
- *North American Association for Philosophy & Education, Mundelein, Illinois, October 2021.

Responsibility and Luck

- A Socially Distant Value Theory Conference, Online, June 2020

Epistemic Disadvantage

- *Titled: *The Curare Case and Testimonial Injustice*. Feminist-Pragmatist Colloquium 2019: Looking Back to Move Forward, Rochester, NY, November 2019.
- *Titled: *The Curare Case and Testimonial Injustice*. Feminist Salon, Los Angeles, CA, October 2019.
- *Titled: *Novice in an Expert's World: Epistemic Exclusion in the Medical Field*. Stanford-Berkeley-Davis Conference, University of California, Berkeley, May 2019.
- *Titled: *The Problem of Contingency in Testimonial Exchanges*. Northwest Philosophy Conference, Gonzaga University, Spokane W.A., October 2016.

On Virtues

- *Titled: *Unification of Epistemic Virtues*. Virtues, Media, and Democracy, Genoa, Italy, September 2019.
- Titled: *Overcoming Suffering: Nietzsche and the Virtues*. Suffering and Virtue, Michael S. Brady, UC Irvine, September 2019.
- *Titled: *Civic Intelligence as an Epistemic Virtue*. Philosophy in Schools and the Public Realm: A Research Workshop. Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, the Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics, and the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, May 2019.

On Philosophy of Education

- *Titled: *Studying Educational Equity Through Qualitative Research*. Philosophy of Education Society Meeting, Chicago, March 2023
- *Titled: *Stereotyping in the Classroom*. North American Association for Philosophy and Education, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Illinois, October 2022.
- *Titled: *Epistemic Uniformity*. The 2019 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans, March 2019.
- *Titled: *An Underlying Aim, an Underlying Problem: the Commitment to Epistemic Uniformity*. North American Association for Philosophy and Education Conference, University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL., October 2018.
- *Titled: *Epistemic Uniformity*. AGS Graduate Research Symposium, Irvine, CA, March 2018.

COMMENTARIES

- On Lidal Dror's "Social Location as Justification: Examining the Socially Marginalized's Claim to Epistemic Advantage". The 2019 Bay Area Feminism and Philosophy (BayFAP) Workshop, University of San Francisco, May 2019.
- On Randall Curren's & Charles Dorn's *Patriotic Education in a Global Age*. Philosophy of Education Society, Richmond, Virginia, March 2019.
- On "Omissions, the Act Requirement, and Criminal Liability." Stanford-Berkeley-Davis Conference, Stanford University, California, May 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

- Grant: Humanities Commons Award, "Epistemic Injustice in the Medical Context" Conference, 2021
- Grant: Center for Medical Humanities Award, "Epistemic Injustice in the Medical Context" Conference, 2021
- Grant: Center for Medical Humanities Award, "Equity in STEM", 2021
- Grant: Inclusive Excellence Award, "Equity in STEM" project, 2021
- Fellowship: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation "Inequality in STEM Researcher", 2020-2021

Fellowship: Kavka Endowed Prize, *University of California, Irvine*, 2019
 George Kabango Memorial Fellowship, *North American Association for Philosophy & Education*, 2018
 UC Irvine Diversity Recruitment Fellowship, 2017
 Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel Scholarship, 2014- 2016
 Graduate Equity Fellowship, *California State University, Los Angeles*, 2014- 2016
 CCOE Endowed Fellowship, *Charter College of Education*, 2015- 2017

AWARDS and HONORS

Svetlana Bershadsky Graduate Student Community Award, 2020-2021
 Graduate Student/Faculty Mentor for Exceptional Scholarship, CSULA, 2015-2017

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Dr. *Anna Boncompagni*, Department of Philosophy 2021
 Graduate Student Researcher, Dr. *Mu-Chun Chen*, School of Physical Sciences 2020-2021
 Anteater Virtues, Dr. *Duncan Pritchard*, Department of Philosophy 2018-2020
 Sarnecka Writing Lab, Dr. *Barbara Sarnecka*, Cognitive Science 2019

LEAD INSTRUCTOR COURSES

Responsible for designing course syllabus, lectures, and graded material, giving lectures, meeting with students during office hours, and grading materials

Cellmates, Flagler College	JanTerm 2025
Controversial Ethics, Flagler College	Fall 2023
Medical Humanities 1. Health, Wellness, and Conception of the Body	Spring 2023
Contemporary Moral Problems, UCI	Spring 2023
Puzzles and Paradoxes, UCI	Winter 2023
Composition, UCI	Fall 2022
Anteater Virtues, Lecturer, UCI	Fall 2020
Medical Epistemology, Lecturer, UCI	Summer 2020
Graduate Writing Workshop, Facilitator	2020-2022
Critical Thinking, Adjunct, CSUDH	2017
Introduction to Philosophy, Adjunct, LACC	2016
First Year Writing, Instructor, CSULA	2015
English 100, Facilitator, CSULA	2014-2016

TEACHING-ASSISTANTSHIPS, UCI Philosophy Department

Responsible for section syllabus, lectures, grading materials, meeting with students during office hours, giving feedback on student drafts

Introduction to Ethics, D. Pritchard	Sum. 2020
Puzzles and Paradoxes, J. Fensel	S. 2020
Introduction to Law and Society, J. Helmrich	W. 2020
Introduction to Philosophy, D. Pritchard	Sum., F. 2019
Introduction to Knowledge, A. Coliva	W. 2019
Puzzles and Paradoxes, K. Banick	F. 2018
Nicomachean Ethics, E. Bencivenga	Sum. 2018

TEACHING-ASSISTANTSHIPS, UCI Education Department

Children, Schools, and the Cinema, E. Greeban

S. 2019

CERTIFICATES

‘How to tackle distrust in science with the help of Open Science practices?’ SCIROs Workshop, 26.11.2025 to 27.11.2025 In Munich, Germany

‘Studying Open Science: Mapping the Challenges of Open Science Research Methods in the Humanities’, SCIROs Workshop, 23.09.2025 to 24.09.2025 in Marseille, France

Grant Writing Workshop, UCI, 2022

Inclusive Excellence Certificate, UCI, 2021

Humanities Pedagogical Certificate, UCI, 2018

Course Design, UCI, 2018

Canvas Certificate, California State University, Dominguez Hills, 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE and MEMBERSHIP

Referee

History and Philosophy of Life Sciences

Educational Sciences, MDPI Open Access Journal

Philosophies, MDPI Open Access Journal

North American Association for Philosophy and Education

Service to Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida

Workshop Organizer, “Contested Histories: Compassionate Listening amidst the Israeli/Gaza War.

- Worked with College benefactor, invited speakers, organized program

Service to University of California, Irvine

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee in the Philosophy Department 2023-2024

Conference Organizer, “Epistemic Injustice in the Medical Context”

- Raised funds, invited speakers, recruited volunteers

THINK Coordinator, 2019-2022

THINK is a program designed to introduce 5th-grade students to philosophical thought and discourse

- Liaison between University and Elementary Schools by email
- Coordinated schedules for students to participate
- Inputted data from pre/post surveys given to 5th grade students

Graduate Liaison Network, School of Humanities, Representative 2019-2020

- Forged connections between graduate students in the department of philosophy and the administration in the School of Humanities with the purpose of sharing information, altering administration to the needs of graduate students
- Developed activities and disseminated information

THINK Instructor 2017-2022

- Developed curriculum for 5th grade students
- Read to students during on-site visits and encouraged philosophical discussions

Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department, 2018-2019

- Attended Faculty meetings for the purpose of communicating information between graduate students and the faculty
- Organized social events during the calendar year

- Welcomed prospective students in the Spring
- Held office hours for graduate students to voice concerns

Associated Graduate Student Representative, School of Humanities, 2018-2019

- Attended quarterly meetings
- Served as a go-between for graduate students in philosophy and the associated graduate student union.

Service to the Profession

[SCIROs – Strategic Collaboration for Interdisciplinary Research on Open Science in the SSH](#)

North American Association for Philosophy and Education *Executive Committee*, 2022-present

Memberships

American Educational Research Association

Philosophy of Education Society (since 2023)

Public Philosophy Network (since 2019)

North American Association for Philosophy and Education (since 2018)

Friends of the SEP Society (since 2018)

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society (since 2017)

Minorities in Philosophy (MAP) (since 2017)

American Philosophical Association (since 2011)

REFERENCES

Dr. Anna Boncompagni

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

University of California, Irvine

anna.boncompagni@uci.edu

Dr. Mu-Chun Chen

Associate Dean, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, School of Physical Sciences

Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy/Theoretical High Energy Physics

University of California, Irvine

muchunc@uci.edu

Dr. Annalisa Coliva

Professor of Philosophy

University of California, Irvine

a.coliva@uci.edu

Dr. Duncan Pritchard

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

University of California, Irvine

dhpritch@uci.edu

Dr. Barbara Sarnecka

Associate Dean of Grad Studies and Research, School of Social Sciences

Professor, Cognitive Sciences

University of California, Irvine

sarnecka@uci.edu

Dr. Sabina Leonelli
Professor of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
Technical University of Munich
sabina.leonelli@tum.de

TEACHING REFERENCE

Dr. Douglas Keaton
Faculty Director of Classical and Liberal Education and the Core Curriculum
Associate Professor
Flagler College
dkeaton@flagler.edu

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK (**audited*; †*directed study*)

History of Philosophy

Aristotle: C. Perin
Wittgenstein II[†]: P. Maddy
Wittgenstein I: P. Maddy
Philosophy of;
Geometry: J. Heis
Nietzsche[†]: C. Perin
Plato: C. Perin

Descartes: S. Greenberg

Epistemology

What is this thing called
Philosophy?: A. Coliva
Epistemic Authority[†]: A. Coliva
Relativism: A. Coliva
Epistemology: Hinges &
Justification of logical laws A. Coliva
Virtue Epistemology[†]: D. Pritchard
Medical Epistemology: S. Bernecker
A. Coliva
Mathematical Cognition[†]: A. Coliva

Ethics

	Ethics Naturalized:	P. Stanford
Contemporary Philosophy		
	Wittgenstein: Forms of Life*:	A. Boncompagni
	Philosophy of Social Phenomenon:	M. Gilbert
	Hermeneutics & Critical Theory:	J. Prabhu
Philosophy of Education		
	Ethics and Education:	H. Brighouse T. Laden
	History of Philosophy of Education:	S. Greenberg
	Educational Sociology:	C. Tejeda
	Psy Foundations of Education:	C. Tejeda