

# Arina Pismenny

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## Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, September 2018, City University of New York, the Graduate Center

Thesis: The Syndrome of Romantic Love

Supervisor: Jesse Prinz

M.Phil., 2013, City University of New York, The Graduate Center

B.A., with Honors in Philosophy 2008, City University of New York, Baruch College

**Areas of Specialization** Moral Psychology, Ethics, Philosophy of Sex and Gender

**Areas of Competence** Value Theory, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Race

## Research Interests

Emotions, Philosophy of Love and Sex, Implicit Biases, Cognitive Science, Metaethics

## Academic and Professional Positions

*Assistant Instructional Professor in Philosophy*, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
2019 – present

*Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow*, Utah State University, Logan, UT 2018-2019

*Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy*, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ 2015-2018

*Graduate B Teaching Fellowship*, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2013-2014

*Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy*, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2011-2013

*Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy*, Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2008–2015

## Academic Publications

*Forthcoming*. "Emotional Injustice" with Gen Eickers and Jesse Prinz. *Ergo*.

*Forthcoming*. "When is Jealousy Appropriate?" *Dialectica*.

2023. "Pansexuality: A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation." *Philosophies* 8 (4): 60.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/philosophies8040060>

2022. "Ronnie de Sousa, French Philosopher?". In *A Tribute to Ronald de Sousa*, edited by Julien A. Deonna, Christine Tappolet, and Fabrice Teroni.  
<https://www.unige.ch/cisa/related-sites/ronald-de-sousa/>.

2022. "Vices of Friendship" with Berit Brogaard. In A. Pismenny & B. Brogaard (Eds.), *The Moral Psychology of Love*. (pp. 231–253). Rowman and Littlefield

2022. "The Moral Psychology of Love (or How to Think About Love): Introduction" with Berit Brogaard. In A. Pismenny & B. Brogaard (Eds.), *The Moral Psychology of Love*. (pp. 1–10). Rowman and Littlefield

2022. "Boredom and Its Values": Commentary on *Propelled: How Boredom, Frustration, and Anticipation Lead Us to the Good Life* by Andreas Elpidorou, *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion* 3(2): 27–34. <https://doi.org/10.33497/2022.winter.4>.

2021. "The Amoralism of Romantic Love". In R. Fedock, M. Kühler, & R. Rosenhagen (Eds.), *Love, Justice, and Autonomy: Philosophical Perspectives* (pp. 23–42). Routledge.

2018. "The Erotic as a Value." (in French) with Ronald de Sousa. In J. Deonna, & E. Tieffenbach (Eds.), *Petit Traité des Valeur*. (pp. 132-139). Paris: Editions d'Ithaque

2017. "Is love an emotion?" with Jesse Prinz. In C. Grau & A. Smuts (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Love*. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press

## Edited Book

2022. *The Moral Psychology of Love*, co-edited with Berit Brogaard as part of the *Moral Psychology of Emotions* series by Mark Alfano, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield

**In progress (available upon request)**

"Emotion Regulation and Social Justice"  
 "Is Love Gendered?"  
 "The Internal Structure of Sentiments"  
 "The (Ir)rationality of Implicit Biases"  
 "Romantic Love: Universality, Adaptation, Innateness"

### **Book reviews**

2020. *The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy*. (2019). A. M. Martin (Ed.) for [Metapsychology Online Reviews](#), 24(20)

## **Talks**

### **Conference Presentations**

"Emotion Regulation and Emotional Injustice"  
 at the Canadian Philosophical Association meeting, York University, Toronto, Canada. June 2023  
 at the International Society for Research on Emotion, the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. July 2022  
 at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, Canada. April 2022  
 at the Florida Philosophical Association, Florida International University, Miami, FL. February 2022

"Jealous Much? How Relationship Frameworks Inform the Fittingness of Romantic Jealousy" accepted for presentation at the 8<sup>th</sup> Consortium of European Research on Emotion (CERE), Universidad de Granada. Granada, Spain. June 2020 – held in June 2022 due to Covid-19 Pandemic

"Reason and Passion: Romantic Love and the Limits of Morality" accepted for presentation at the 8<sup>th</sup> Consortium of European Research on Emotion (CERE), Universidad de Granada. Granada, Spain. June 2020 – held in June 2022 due to Covid-19 Pandemic

"Love, Jealousy, and Rationality" at the Florida Philosophical Association Meeting, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. November 2019

"The Rationality of Jealousy" in a Symposium on "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Jealousy" at the International Society for Research on Emotion, University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. July 2019

"When is Jealousy Appropriate?" at the Intermountain Conference, University of Utah. Salt Lake City, UT. November 2018

"Staring down the green-eyed monster: romantic jealousy and ideology" at a Colloquium "Meta-Ethics and Moral Psychology", Canadian Philosophical Association. Université du Québec à Montréal. Montreal, Canada. June 2018

"Expressions of Jealousy in Infants and Adults" at "Emotions and Expressions" Workshop, "Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning" (ECOM) Research Group of the University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. April 2018

"Romantic Love: Universality, Innateness, and Adaptation", at *Cognitio, Young Researchers Conference in Cognitive Science*. Université du Québec à Montréal. Montreal, Canada. June 2017

"Why Love is Not a Moral Emotion", Society of Philosophy of Sex and Love at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA. April 2016

"The Syndrome of Romantic Love" for colloquium series at the Philosophy department of Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. February 2016

"The Arationality of Romantic Love" as part of the *Symposium on Love* at the *International Society for Research on Emotion*, University of Geneva. Geneva, Switzerland. July 2015

"Love and Irreplaceability" for the New York Society for Women in Philosophy. New York, NY. November 2013

### **Invited Presentations**

"Pansexuality: A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation" for *PhiloSitué-es*, Université du Québec à Montréal. Montreal, Canada. November 2022

"Philosophy, Race, and Justice" panelist as part of Justice in Conversation series, for the Race and Crime Center for Justice, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. September 2022

“Social Contexts and Feeling Rules” as part of the pre-conference “Affect, Places and Spaces” at the International Society for Research on Emotion, the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. July 2022

“Emotional Injustice” for *Thumos Seminar*, University of Geneva. Geneva, Switzerland. May 2021

“Boredom and its Values”: commentary on *Propelled: How Boredom, Frustration, and Anticipation Lead Us to the Good Life* by Andreas Elpidorou, in *Author Meets Critics*, the Society for Philosophy of Emotion, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, New York, NY. January 2021

“Romantic Love: Jealousy vs. Compersion” for the Undergraduate Philosophy Society, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. November 2020

“Re-imagining Public Safety, so that Black Lives Matter” in the Philosophical Forum on Racial Justice at the “Food and Talk” annual event, for the Department of Philosophy, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. October 2020

“The (Ir)rationality of Implicit Biases” for the Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Tampa. Tampa, FL. November 2019

“Is Love Gendered?” for the Department of Philosophy, Oberlin College. Oberlin, OH. March 2019

“Moral Emotions and Romantic Love” for the Department of Philosophy, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. March 2019

“Implicit Biases and Rationality” for the department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies, Utah State University. Logan, UT. November 2018

“Tribalism in American Politics” as part of the “Politically (ir)rational Animals” panel discussion, Utah State University. Logan, UT. November 2018

“Polyamory: A Philosophical Analysis” guest lecture for the graduating philosophy seniors, Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. April 2018

“The Comedy and Tragedy of Love” for the *Philosophy for Lunch* Series at Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. February 2018

"Philosophy of Love" for the Introduction to Philosophy Undergraduate Honors class, Mercy College. New York, NY. April 2016

"Polyamory", guest lecture for the Ethics of Personal Relations undergraduate course, University of Toronto at Scarborough. Toronto, Canada. March 2015

Invited comments on "Love and Attachment: The Value of Self-Interestedness in Loving Relationships" by Monique Wonderly (University of California–Riverside) APA the Pacific Division 88th Meeting. San Diego, CA. April 2014

"Kant's Sex Problem and the Role of Consent in Legitimizing Sexual Relations" City University of New York, Hunter College. New York. December 2010

### **Research Experience and Training**

Participant in the experimental philosophy lab. Project: *The Variability of Jealousy With Respect To Social Norms*. Supervisor: Jesse Prinz. City University of New York, The Graduate Center. 2017.

Participant in International Summer School in Affective Sciences: *Emotion Meets Action*. Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva. July 2014

### **Grants, Awards, and Honors**

Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere grant for a speaker series, "Philosophy, Race, and Justice" funded with \$5,000 from the Yulee Fund 2023-24

Conference Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, April 2023

Conference Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, April 2022

Conference Travel Grant, Department of Philosophy, University of Florida, February 2022

Conference Travel Grant, Utah State University, March 2019

Conference Travel Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, April 2016

Dissertation Year Fellowship, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2015-16

Doctoral Student Research Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2015

Conference Travel Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center,

April 2014

Graduate B Teaching Fellowship, City University of New York, Hunter College,  
2013-14

Graduate Center Fellowship, City University of New York, The Graduate Center,  
2009-2010

Honors in Philosophy, City University of New York, Baruch College,  
2008

Excellence Award in Philosophy, City University of New York, Baruch College,  
2008

### **Textbook Content and Aid Development**

Reviewer of the *Introduction to Moral Philosophy* by Jonathan Wolff for the W.W.  
Norton and Company, June 2016

### **Course Content Development**

Ethics of Interpersonal Relationships module as part of the Contemporary Moral  
Issues online course, University of Florida, Fall 2020

### **Courses taught**

#### **Graduate Courses**

Graduate Seminar in Philosophy of Race – Fall 2022

#### **Graduate Student Supervision**

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member for Shadi Heidarifar – 2022-3

Project: Embodiment, Social Movement, and the Problem of Epistemic  
Injustice

University of Florida

Independent Study with an MA student, Marriah Alcantara – Spring 2022

Project: Animal Emotions and Values

University of Florida

Independent Study with an MA student, Julianna Costanzo – Fall 2020

Project: Approaching Racism through the Lens of Emotions

University of Florida

## **Undergraduate Courses**

Feminist Philosophy – Fall 2023

University of Florida 1 section (35 students per section)

Philosophy of Emotion (senior seminar) – Spring 2021, Spring 2023

University of Florida 1 section (16 students per section)

Moral Philosophy Fall 2019 – Spring 2020, Spring 2023

University of Florida 3 sections (35 students; 160 students)

Moral Psychology Fall 2020, Spring 2022

University of Florida 2 sections (35 students per section)

Race and Philosophy, Fall 2021, Fall 2023

University of Florida 2 section (6-35 students per section)

Introduction to Philosophy – Honors, Fall 2021

University of Florida 1 section (12 students per section)

Philosophy of Sex and Gender – Spring 2019, Fall 2021

University of Florida 1 section (14 students per section)

Utah State University 1 section (25 students per section)

Philosophy of Love and Sex Fall 2010 – Summer 2014, 2019 –

University of Florida 5 section (35 students per section)

Baruch College 6 sections (20 students per section)

Hunter College 2 sections (40 students per section)

Introduction to Philosophy 2008 – present

University of Florida 8 sections (35 students; 140 students)

Utah State University 3 sections (65 students per section)

Montclair State University 12 sections (35 students per section)

Baruch College 29 sections (40 students per section)

Hunter College 1 section (35 students per section)

Environmental Ethics Fall 2018

Utah State University 2 sections (35 students per section)

Introduction to Ethics Fall 2009 – Fall 2015



Baruch College 4 sections (40 students per section)  
Hunter College 5 sections (35 students per section)

Ethics and Society Fall 2013 – Spring 2014  
Hunter College 2 sections (35 students per section)

Medieval Philosophy in Christian, Jewish and Muslim Tradition Spring 2012  
Baruch College 1 section (35 students per section)

### **Online Asynchronous Courses**

Introduction to Philosophy Online – Fall 2022, Fall 2023  
University of Florida 2 section (90-120 students per section)

Contemporary Moral Issues Online – Spring 2020, Spring 2022  
University of Florida 3 sections (50 and 35 students per section)

Introduction to Ethics Online – Summer 2016  
Montclair State University 1 section (35 students)

### **Non-Academic Publications & Talks**

[Panel Discussion](#) participant on Mozart's opera, *Così fan tutte, ossia La scuola degli amanti* at the Mandel Public Library for the Palm Beach Opera. Palm Beach, FL. February 2023

"Is Love Gendered?" for the *Philosophy Slam* at Jacksonville University. Jacksonville, FL. February 2023

["Ethical Non-Monogamy and the Philosophy of Love"](#), *Industry Plant's Pogcast* with Mitchell Szlabowicz. February 2021

Three Workshops: "What is erotic?", "Reconstructing sexual orientation: Should polyamory count as a sexual orientation?", and "Objections to polyamory: How to respond". *RelateCon: Empowering Relationship Diversity*. Boise, ID. March 2019

["What Can Polyamory Tell Us about Jealousy?"](#) as part of the Valentine's Day Special. *Daily Nous*. February 2018

"Hung-Over, -Up", Dilemma Series. *The Night of Philosophy and Ideas*. Brooklyn, NY. January 2018

["Fine-tuning passion: When is love not an emotion?"](#) in HowTheLightGetsIn festival. *The Institute of Art and Ideas*. June 2017

["Love and the Self"](#), *the Owl Podcast* with Ian Olosov, Ask A Philosopher series. Episode 7. July 2017

[APA Member Interview \(pilot\)](#) for the *APA Blog* with Skye Cleary. January 2016

### **Academic and Professional Service**

- 2023. Outreach Committee (chair), Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- 2022. Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee member, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida
- 2022. Undergraduate Diversity and Recruitment Officer, Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- 2022-present: Florida Philosophical Association, Member-at-large
- 2022. Panelist at the 2022 Women's Diversity and Leadership Summit: Fostering Diversity and a Culture of Inclusion within Academia and the Community. University of Florida
- 2022. VAP Search Committee member, Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- 2021. Participant in the "Communicating Emotion Research to the Broader Public" Panel, as part of the International Society for Research on Emotions Career Development Series for the Early Career Researchers
- 2021-present: member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
- 2020-present: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (chair since 2022), Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- 2019-2021, 2022-. Undergraduate Committee member, Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- 2018-2019. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Jealousy Symposium co-organizer at the *International Society for Research on Emotion*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2018-2019. Society for Women In Philosophy (SWIP) chapter co-organizer, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- 2018. Ethics Bowl Judge, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT

2018. Ethics Bowl Teams Coach, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- 2016-2017. Placement Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center
- 2010-2012. Student Steering Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center
2010. 13th Annual Student Philosophy Conference organizer, City University of New York, the Graduate Center.
- 2010-2012. Elections Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center
- 2010-2012. Library Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center
- 2006-2007. Student Philosophy Club president, City University of New York, Baruch College

### Refereeing

2023. Bloomsbury Publishing, *Synthese, Journal of Social Philosophy*, Society for Philosophy and Psychology
2022. *Philosopher's Imprint*
2021. *Journal of Social Philosophy*, Oxford University Press
2020. Israel Science Foundation
2019. *Synthese, The Monist*
2018. *Motivation and Emotion*

### Membership

- 2019-present: United Faculty of Florida
- 2019-present: Florida Philosophical Association
- 2019-present: Association for Academic Women at the University of Florida
- 2018-present: Canadian Philosophical Association
- 2014-present: International Society for Research on Emotion
- 2014-present: American Philosophical Association

### References

- Professor Jesse Prinz [jesse@subcortex.com](mailto:jesse@subcortex.com), (212) 817-8615  
Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA
- Professor John Greenwood [jgreenwood@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jgreenwood@gc.cuny.edu), (212) 817-8615

Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA

Professor Berit Brogaard brogaardb@gmail.com, (305) 284-4757

Department of Philosophy, University of Miami, 1252 Memorial Drive, Ashe Bldg., Room 712, Coral Gables, FL 33124 USA

Professor Noël Carroll knollcarroll@gmail.com, (212) 817-8615

Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA

Professor Jaime Ahlberg jlahlberg@ufl.edu, (352) 273-1814

Department of Philosophy, University of Florida, 330 Griffin-Floyd Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611-8545

### **Dissertation Abstract**

What kind of phenomenon is romantic love? Many philosophers, psychologists, and ordinary folk think it is an emotion. I challenge this assumption and argue instead that romantic love is best characterized as a syndrome – a pattern comprised of different kinds of mental states and behaviors that tend to co-occur. An examination of major emotion theories in philosophy and psychology demonstrates that romantic love does not fit into any of them. Likewise, the commonly endorsed but increasingly controversial categories of basic and nonbasic emotions do not account for romantic love. While both culture and evolution have shaped the phenomenon of romantic love, the dominant evolutionary story about romantic love does not stand up to scrutiny; neither is romantic love simply a social construction. The norms of rationality we are accustomed to apply to standard emotions also fail to apply to it. This lends further support to the thesis that romantic love is not an emotion. The category of sentiments comes close to adequately capturing the nature of romantic love but still falls short in several crucial ways. Because romantic love is not intrinsically rational, moral, or prudent, the usual normative assumptions such as sexual and emotional exclusiveness made about it should be re-examined.