

AGNES TAM

Department of Philosophy, University of Calgary
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RESEARCH AREAS

AOS: Social and Political philosophy; Group Agency and Reasoning
AOC: Applied Ethics, Social Ontology, Chinese Philosophy

APPOINTMENTS

2022-
2023-2024 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy, University of Calgary
2021-2022 **Resident Fellow in Applied Ethics**, Calgary Institute for the Humanities
2021-2022 **Banting Postdoctoral Fellow**, Research Group on Constitutional Studies, McGill University
(Project: *Solidaristic Partisanship* ranked #3/196; Supervisor: Jacob Levy)
2020-21 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Social Justice Centre, Concordia University (Montreal)
(Project: *Social Reason*; Supervisor: Pablo Gilibert)
2020-2022 **Affiliated Postdoctoral Fellow**, Centre de Recherche en Éthique
2014-2022 **Affiliated Scholar**, *Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Ethics*, Queen's University

EDUCATION

2020 **PhD in Philosophy**, Queen's University (Kingston)
(Dissertation: *Norms, Reasons, and Moral Progress*; Supervisor: Will Kymlicka)
2013 **MSc in Political Theory**, London School of Economics and Political Science
2010 **LLB, Law**, University of Hong Kong
2009 **Exchange JD, Law**, Tulane University

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2020 **The Legitimacy of Groups: Toward a We-Reasoning View**, *Analyse & Kritik* 42(2): 343-68.
2020 **Why Moral Reasoning is Insufficient for Moral Progress**, *Journal of Political Philosophy* 28(1): 73-96.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2023 **Being Popular and Being Just: How Animal Protection Organizations Can be Both**, in V. Giroux, A. Pepper, and K. Voigt (eds.), *Ethics of Animal Shelters*, Oxford University Press (with Will Kymlicka).
- 2023 **The Ethics of Animals: Guidelines and Recommendations**, in V. Giroux, A. Pepper, and K. Voigt (eds.), *Ethics of Animal Shelters*, Oxford University Press (with Valéry Giroux, Angie Pepper, Kristin Voigt, Frédéric Côté-Boudreau, Nicolas Delon, Sue Donaldson, François Jaquet, Will Kymlicka, Angela Martin)
- 2021 **A Case for Political Epistemic Trust**, in K. Vallier and M. Weber (eds.), *Social Trust*, Routledge, 220-41.

OVERVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, ETC.

- 2024 **Progress**, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (with Margaret Meek Lange)
- In press **Reviving Moral Progress: A Pragmatist Account and its Limits**, *Analysis*

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2024 **What's In a Name? That Which We Call Home?** *Permanent Collection*.
<https://permanentcollection.eskerfoundation.com/essays/whats-in-a-name-that-which-we-call-home/>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Social Movements as Agents of Change” (Under review)
- “Two Conceptions of Belonging” (in preparation)
- “A Liberal Answer to Populism: Narrating Stories of Peoplehood via Electoral Democracy” (in preparation)
- “Social Norms: from Micro to Macro” (in preparation with Carlo Cordasco)

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

- May 2025 **“Two Conceptions of Belonging”**
Inaugural World Ethics Conference, Southeast University (Nanjing) (invited)
- Jul 2024 *International Social Ontology Society Annual Conference*, Duke University
- Aug 2024 **“Social Movements as Agents of Change?”**
Trust and Extremism Summer Workshop, University of Lethbridge (invited)
- Sep 2024 Progress Workshop, McGill University (invited)

- Mar 2024 **“Toward an Ethics of Belonging”**
The 4th Annual Lecture in Applied Ethics, Calgary Institute for the Humanities and Calgary Public Library (invited)
- Mar 2024 2024 F.E.L. Priestley Lecture Series and Keynote, University of Lethbridge (invited)
- Oct 2023 **“Telling a Better Story of Who We Are”**
The Apeiron Society for the Practice of Philosophy, Calgary (invited)
- Jun 2023 **Comments on Bashovski, “The Novelty of Political Violence: Everything Old is New Again”**
Oddities of Violence, University of Calgary (invited)
- Aug 2023 **“Solidarity as Narrative We-Agency”**
International Social Ontology Society Annual Conference, Stockholm
- May 2023 *Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting*, Toronto
- May 2023 **“Recognizing Children’s We-agency in Social Movement Activism”** (with Edward van Daalen)
Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, Toronto
- Mar 2023 **“Democratic Value of Social Movement as Identity Politics”**
Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Alberta (invited)
- Sep 2022 *Workshop on Human Rights and Marginalized Agency*, McGill (invited)
- Jan 2023 **Comments on Laurence, “Agents of Change”**
APA Eastern Division Meeting main program, Montreal (invited)
- Mar 2022 **“A Liberal Answer to Populism: Narrating Stories of Peoplehood via Electoral Democracy”**
Midi de l’éthique du CRÉ, University of Montreal (invited)
- Sep 2021 **“Solidarity in Social Movements: a We-perspective”**
Workshop on Uses of Solidarity, MANCEPT
- Oct 2021 *Research Group on Constitutional Studies WIP Workshop*, McGill (invited)
- Nov 2021 *Political Philosophy Reading Group*, Queen’s University (invited)
- Mar 2022 *Philosophy Speaker Series*, University of Calgary (invited)
- May 2021 **“Do Liberals Have to Fear Identity-Expressive Populism?”**
Political Theory In/And/As Political Science Workshop, McGill, Stanford, New York University, and Duke
- Apr 2021 *Political Theory of Populism Workshop*, Concordia University (invited)
- Sep 2020 **“Identity-Expressive Populism and its Challenges to Normative Political Theory”**
Workshop on Alternative Forms of Government, MANCEPT
- Aug 2020 **Comments on Basevich, “W.E.B. Du Bois’s Theory of Justice”**
Social Justice Theory Workshop, August 2020, Concordia University and Université de Montréal.

Mar 2019	<p>“The Role for Social Norms in Applied Ethics: A Case Study from Vegan Advocacy” (with Will Kymlicka) GRÉEA/CRÉ/Montreal SPCA Workshop (invited)</p>
Jun 2018 Aug 2017	<p>“The Limits of Epistemic Egalitarianism: Why Different Types of Biases Require Different Remedies” Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, Montreal Summer School of Social Epistemology, Autonomous University of Madrid</p>
May 2018 Mar 2018 Sep 2016	<p>“Making Sense of the Authority of Social Norms” Conference on Normative Power, Université de Montréal and McGill University (poster) Philosophy Department Colloquium, Queen’s University (invited) Workshop on Political Theory of Social Norms, MANCEPT</p>
Apr 2018	<p>“Democratic Accountability or Social Trust” Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy: Social Trust, Bowling Green State University</p>
Nov 2016	<p>“Enabling Moral Progress for Factory Farming: Beyond Contention and Deliberation” Animal Politics: Justice, Power and the State, International School of Philosophy</p>

GRANTS

2024-26	SSHRC Insight Development Grant: <i>Toward Narrative Democracy: A New Ethical Model of Inclusive Belonging</i> , \$50,019 (ranked 1 st)
2024-25	Calgary Institute for the Humanities Transdisciplinary Working Group: <i>Ethics and Politics of Narratives</i> (with Martin Wagner), \$3000

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	Resident Fellowship in Applied Ethics, Calgary Institute for the Humanities
2020	Postdoctoral Fellowship, <i>Justitia Amplificata</i> , Goethe University (declined)
2018	Dr. H. Martyn Estall Award in Philosophy (award for one grad student each year to attend the Canadian Philosophy Association Conference), Queen’s University
2017	A.R.C. Duncan Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Queen’s University
2014-2018	Principal’s International Doctoral Award, Queen’s University
2014-2018	Queen’s Graduate Award, Queen’s University
2014-2018	International Tuition Award, Queen’s University
2013-2014	Honorary Fellow, Hong Kong Sir Edward Youde Overseas Fellowship
2013	Centre for Animal and Social Justice Scholarship, Sheffield University (declined)
2009	Champion, Animal Ethics Essay Competition, Hong Kong SPCA

TEACHING

Teaching Award

2017 A.R.C. Duncan Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Queen's University (awarded to one TA in the Department of Philosophy each year)

Graduate Teaching

2025 Narrative Politics (UCalgary seminar)
2023 Social Justice and Change (UCalgary seminar)
2023 Tribalism (UCalgary seminar)

Undergraduate Teaching

2025 Morality, Virtue, and Society (UCalgary lecture course)
2022,23,24 Contemporary Moral Problems (UCalgary lecture course)
2019 Animals and Society (Queen's lecture course)

Graduate Supervisions

PhD Thesis Committee member for Andrew Allison (current), Setareh Ezzatabadi (current), and Mohammad Shokri (current)
Teaching Mentor for Nicholas Kerklaan (2023), Ahmed Aljuhany (2024)

Undergraduate Supervisions:

Honours Thesis Supervisor for Kaylee Ma (current)
UCalgary Program for Undergraduate Research Experience Award for Kaylee Ma (2023)

Teaching Assistance

2017 Ancient Philosophy (Queen's, Stephen Leighton)
2016 Environmental Ethics (Queen's, Mick Smith)
2015 Great Works in Philosophy (Queen's, Jon Miller)
2014 Foundations of Philosophy (Queen's, Mark Smith)
2014 Following the *Dao* (University of Hong Kong, Dan Robins)
2014 Philosophy East and West (University of Hong Kong, Chris Fraser)
2013 Humanity and Nature in Chinese Thought (University of Hong Kong, Chad Hansen)
2011 Early Chinese Political Thought, Philosophy of Zhuangzi (Chris Fraser)

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

May 2023 *The Varieties and Values of Agency* (with Federica Berdini), Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting
Apr 2021 *Political Theory of Populism*, April 2021, Social Justice Centre (Concordia) and GRIPP (McGill)

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

2022, 2024 Member, Graduate Committee

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2024-26 **Director, and Co-Chair** of Equity Committee, Canadian Philosophy Association

2020- **Referee** *Journal of Political Philosophy* (1x), *Constellations* (1x), *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2x), *CPA Annual Meeting* (3x)

LEGAL RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

- 2010 **Research Assistant, Animal Legal Defense Fund (US)**
Advisor: Matthew Liebman
- Reviewed, translated, and analyzed animal experimentation laws and policies in the People’s Republic of China
 - Interviewed officials, scholars, and practitioners in animal science
 - Research assistance credited in resulting publication by Bruce Wagman and Matthew Liebman, *A Worldview of Animal Law* (Carolina Academic Press, 2011)
- 2009 **Research Assistant, Centre for Comparative and Public Law, University of Hong Kong**
Advisor: Amanda Whitfort
- Conducted a comparative review of animal welfare law in Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, and New Zealand
 - Research assistance credited in the resulting publication *Review of Animal Welfare Legislation in Hong Kong 2011*
- 2010-2011 **Senior Cruelty Case and Legal Officer, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Asia-Pacific)**
- Investigated animal abuse cases and researched legal grounds for prosecution
 - Coordinated and conducted humane education outreach
 - Networked with local governments, animal welfare organizations, and activists
 - Coordinated media campaigns on animal rights

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Mar 2023 Speaker, *Philosophia Writing Workshop*, University of Calgary
- 2017-2020 Executive Committee Member, *Queen’s Animal Defense*
- Feb 2017 Speaker, “Diversity in Philosophy” of *Equity and Women’s Concerns Committee Event Series*, Queen’s University
- May 2012 Speaker, *My Hong Kong Dream*, Hong Kong Civic Education Foundation
- Mar 2012 Speaker, *Animal Ethics*, Hong Kong University Graduate Association College
- Nov 2011 Speaker, *Meatless Monday Series*, University of Hong Kong

SELECTED INTERVIEWS

- Mar 2019 Radio Television Hong Kong (co-produced by Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong), *A Legal Journey: Imprint of the Times*, available at https://www.rthk.hk/tv/dtt31/programme/alegaljourney_eng/episode/576099 (a docudrama about my struggles as a right of abode fighter and defender of animal rights)
- Oct 2011 Hong Kong Lawyer, *Giving Animals a Voice in Hong Kong* (interviewed by Wilda Fong)

Jul 2011

Apple Daily, *The Right of Abode Fighter: Public Opinion Can Change the World*
(interviewed by Lai-Sim Lui)

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent

Cantonese: Native

Mandarin: Fluent