

SABEEN AHMED

<https://sabeenahmed.com/>

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RESEARCH

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Political Philosophy of Race; Philosophy of Law;
Anticolonial thought; Foucault

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ancient and Medieval philosophy; Marx; 20th-Century
Continental Philosophy; Critical Phenomenology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, Swarthmore, PA 2022–present

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

COLORADO COLLEGE, Colorado Springs, CO May 2023 (block 8)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Urbana, IL 2020–22

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Legal Humanities
Humanities Research Institute (HRI)

Affiliated Faculty, Department of Philosophy

EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, Nashville, TN 2015–20

Ph.D. Philosophy, Provost’s Graduate Fellow

Dissertation: “Coloniality and the Racial Ontopolitics of
Law: Foucault’s Juridical Power Reconsidered”

Dissertation Committee: Idit Dobbs-Weinstein (chair), Lucius
Outlaw, Jr., Paul C. Taylor, Kelly Oliver, Falguni Sheth

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville, VA 2009–13

B.A. Philosophy (High Distinction), Spanish

Thesis: “Reason and Revelation in the Foundational Political Philosophy of Abu Nasr al-Farabi”

Thesis Adviser: Daniel T. Devereux

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS & EDITED VOLUMES

Kelly Oliver, Lisa Madura, and Sabeen Ahmed (eds.), *Refugees Now: Rethinking Borders, Hospitality, and Citizenship* (London: Rowman and Littlefield) 2019

CONTRIBUTED CHAPTERS

“Critiquing Agamben’s Refugee: The Ontological Decolonization of Homo Sacer,” in *Refugees Now: Rethinking Borders, Hospitality, and Citizenship*, eds. Kelly Oliver, Lisa Madura, and Sabeen Ahmed, 153–69 (London: Rowman and Littlefield) 2019

GUEST EDITED SPECIAL ISSUE JOURNALS

Guest editor, *Philosophy Today – Special Issue: Violent Democracies* 67(1) 2023

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Provocations on the Liberal Onto-Epistemology of Fascism: An Introduction to the Special Issue,” *Philosophy Today – Special Issue: Violent Democracies* 67(1): 1–19 2023

“Power in/and the University: A Roundtable Discussion on Anti-Colonial Praxis in Academia,” co-written with Adam Burgos, George Foulas, and John Harfouch, *Philosophy Today – Special Issue: Violent Democracies* 67(1): 207–22 2023

“Universality, Resistance, and the Struggle for Recognition: Challenging the Inevitability of Hegel’s Rabble,” *Philosophical Journal of Conflict and Violence* IV(1): 74–91 2020

“(Un)Exceptional Trauma, Existential Insecurity, and Anxieties of Modern Subjecthood: A Phenomenological Analysis of Arbitrary Sovereign Violence,” *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 2(1): 1–18 2019

“From Death Penalty to Thanatopolitics: Notes Towards a Trinitarian Theory of Governmentality,” *Philosophy Today* 63(3): 293–314 2019

“From Threat to Walking Corpse: Spatial Disruption and the Phenomenology of ‘Living Under Drones,’” *Theory & Event* 21(2): 382–410 2018

“The Human and the Rights-Bearer: A Philosophico-Juridical Analysis of the ‘Refugee Problem,’” *Giornale Critico di Storia delle Idee – Special Issue: On Human and Rights 2*: 105–20 2018

“Communism as *Eudaimonia*: An Aristotelian Reading of Human Emancipation,” *International Journal of Philosophy and Social Values (Special Issue: The 200th Anniversary of Marx’s Birth)* (2): 31–48 2018

“The Genesis of Secular Politics in Medieval Philosophy: The King of Averroes and the Emperor of Dante,” *Labyrinth: An International Journal for Philosophy, Value Theory, and Sociocultural Hermeneutics (Special Issue: Praxis, Virtues, and Values: The Legacies of Aristotle)* 18(2): 209–31 2016

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY & EDITORIALS

“A Coup by Any Other Name: Reflections on Democracy, Defense, and White Supremacy,” *Blog of the APA*, January 20, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/01/20/a-coup-by-any-other-name-reflections-on-democracy-defense-and-white-supremacy/>. 2021

“As Universities are Gutted, Grad Student Employee Unions Can Provide a Vital Defense,” *In These Times: With Liberty and Justice for All*, July 5, <http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/20293/graduate-student-unions-organizing-neoliberalism-workers-higher-education> 2017

BOOK REVIEWS

Response: *Anti-Colonial Solidarity: Race, Reconciliation, and MENA Liberation*, by George Fourlas, Rowman & Littlefield: 2022,” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium* *forthcoming 2023*

“Review of *Critique of Rights*, by Christoph Menke, Polity: 2020,” *Contemporary Political Theory*, February 25, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41296-021-00478-w?wt_mc=Internal.Event.1.SEM.ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst&utm_source=ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst&utm_medium=email&utm_content=AA_en_06082018&ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst_20210226. 2021

“Rethinking Hospitality in Light of Racial Non-Being: A Response to *Another Mind-Body Problem*, by John Harfouch, SUNY: 2018,” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium*, August 13, <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/another-mind-body-problem/>. 2020

“Response: *Toward a Pragmatist Metaethics*, by Diana B. Heney, Routledge: 2016,” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium*, June 28, <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/toward-a-pragmatist-metaethics/> 2018

“Response: *Islamic Philosophy and the Ethics of Belief*, by Anthony Robert Booth, Palgrave: 2016” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium*, March 21, <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/islamic-philosophy-and-the-ethics-of-belief/> 2018

- “Harrowing, insightful, and critical...Sonia Faruqi unveils the
 “Truth About Our Food,” Review of *Project Animal Farm: An Accidental
 Journey into the Secret World of Farming and the Truth About Our Food*,
 by Sonia Faruqi, Pegasus: 2016, *Kudzu House Quarterly*, February 15,
[http://kudzuhouse.org/sabeen-ahmed-reviews-project-animal-farm-by-sonia-
 faruqi/](http://kudzuhouse.org/sabeen-ahmed-reviews-project-animal-farm-by-sonia-faruqi/) 2016
- “Review of *Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42*, by William
 Dalrymple, Vintage: 2013,” *Insight Turkey Magazine* 16(3): 239–40 2014

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “Nongovernmental Organizations,” in *International Encyclopedia of
 Ethics*, ed. Hugh LaFollette, 2021
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/9781444367072.wbice952>

OTHER MEDIA

- Guest, “Teaching History with Games (Live at ‘Learning at Play’),”
Scholars at Play, audio podcast, November 8, 2019, 2019
[https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/episode-15-teaching-history-with-games-
 live-at-learning-at-play](https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/episode-15-teaching-history-with-games-live-at-learning-at-play)
- Guest, “Predators and Jokers – Persona 5,” *Scholars at Play*, audio
 podcast, June 5, 2018, [https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/predators-and-jokers-
 persona-5](https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/predators-and-jokers-persona-5) 2018
- Guest, “Games, Resistance, and Procedural Rhetoric,” *Scholars at Play*,
 audio podcast, September 26, 2017, 2017
[https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/episode-7-games-resistance-and-procedural-
 rhetoric](https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/episode-7-games-resistance-and-procedural-rhetoric)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ARTICLES

- “Empire of White Supremacy: An Alternative Genealogy of Modernity”
- “Law and the Order of Things: Foucault’s *Nomos* and the Ontopolitics
 of Juridical Power”
- “Trauma and Liberal Subjectivity: Phenomenological Erasure and the Racial Politics
 of Harm”

MONOGRAPH

Imperial Nomos: A Genealogy of White Supremacy

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, ranked “Outstanding”	fall 2021
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship	2020–22
Berry Student Publication Prize	2020
Fulbright-Hays Advanced Language Fellow, Turkish language study	summer 2019
Robert Penn Warren Center Graduate Student Fellowship	2018–19
Kathryn Davis Fellow for Peace, Middlebury German Language School	summer 2018
Berry Student Publication Prize	2018
Provost’s Graduate Fellowship (NKA Russel G. Hamilton Scholar)	2015–20
Fulbright Fellowship, English Teaching Assistantship (Turkey)	2014–15
Critical Language Scholarship, Turkish language study	summer 2013
High Distinction, Corcoran Department of Philosophy	2013

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

“Empire of White Supremacy: An Alternative Genealogy of Modernity,” delivered at <i>Colorado College Philosophy Colloquium 2022–23</i> , Colorado College, Colorado Springs (CO)	05/2023
“The White Supremacy Question: The Necessity of <i>Imperium</i> as an Analytic of Power,” delivered at <i>Elective Affinities: A Symposium to Celebrate the Retirement of Idit Dobbs-Weinstein</i> , Vanderbilt University, Nashville (TN)	03/2023
“The Liberal Subject as Pre-Traumatized Subject: Fanon, da Silva, and the Racial Politics of Harm,” delivered at <i>Fanon Unbound: Interdisciplinary Encounters with Frantz Fanon</i> , University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania (PA)	03/2023
“White Supremacy and American <i>Imperium</i> ,” delivered at Radical Philosophy Hour, <i>Radical Philosophy Association (RPA)</i> , Zoom	10/2022
“White Supremacy and American <i>Imperium</i> ,” delivered at “White Supremacy, Misogyny, and the ‘New’ Terrorism” Conference, <i>Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network (SPAWN)</i> , Syracuse University, Syracuse (NY)	06/2022
“White Supremacy and the Future of Empire,” delivered at Committee for Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies Panel (CAAPP), <i>American Philosophical Association Conference: Central Division Meeting</i> , Chicago (IL)	02/2022
“Law and the Imperial Genealogy of Modern Power,” <i>Philosophy Colloquium Series</i> , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign-Urbana (IL)	12/2021

Reader, Collective Reading of Sara Uribe's <i>Antígona Gonzales</i> , <i>Virtual Colloquium on "Antígona's Worldings,"</i> John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, Zoom	11/2021
"White Supremacy and the Future of Empire," delivered at "Race, Violence, and Precarity" Roundtable organized by the California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race (CRPR), <i>59th Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)</i> , Zoom	09/2021
"Trauma-Informed Justice: Racialized Maiming and the Politics of Suffering," <i>Critical Phenomenology Workshop</i> , Queen's University, Zoom	06/2021
Undergraduate seminar talk on Charles W. Mills' "Ideal Theory as Ideology," course taught by Adam Burgos, Department of Philosophy, Bucknell University, Zoom	10/2020
"From Sanction to Norm: Reconceptualizing the Role of Law in Foucauldian Governmentality," <i>Vanderbilt Social and Political Thought Workshop Series</i> , Nashville (TN), <i>scheduled for 04/2020</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
"Coloniality and the Racial Ontopolitics of Law: Rethinking Foucault's Juridical Power," for consideration for the <i>Ann Plato Fellowship</i> , Trinity College, Hartford (CT)	01/2020

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS – REFEREED

"White Supremacy and American <i>Imperium</i> ," <i>MANCEPT 2022: Imperialism and Colonization</i> , Manchester (UK), Zoom	09/2022
"Law and the Imperial Genealogy of Modern Power," <i>Law and Society Association</i> , Global Meeting 2022, Lisbon (PT), Zoom	07/2022
"Law and the Imperial Genealogy of Modern Power," <i>Foucault Circle</i> , Emory University, Atlanta (GA)	05/2022
"Coloniality and the Racial Ontopolitics of Law: Challenging Foucault's Genealogy of Power," <i>59th Annual Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)</i> , Zoom; <i>rescheduled from 10/2020</i>	09/2021
"Universality, Resistance, and the Struggle for Recognition: Reconsidering the Inevitability of Hegel's Rabble," <i>33rd International Hegel Congress of the Hegel Society: Hegel and Freedom</i> , Warsaw (PL); <i>scheduled for 06/2020</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
"Juridical Ontopolitics and Racialized Subjectivity: Rethinking Foucault's Law," <i>Foucault Circle 2020</i> , Copenhagen (DK); <i>scheduled for 06/2020</i>	<i>postponed</i>
"Coloniality and the Racializing Dimension of Juridical Power: Challenging Foucault's Genealogy of Power," <i>Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) 2020: Empire, Colonialism, and Law</i> , Portsmouth (UK); <i>scheduled for 04/2020</i>	<i>cancelled</i>

“Rearticulating Foucault’s Juridical as a Discursive Practice of Ontopolitics,” in conjunction with the Radical Philosophy Association, <i>American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division Meeting</i> , Philadelphia (PA)	01/2020
“The Biopolitical Transformation of Armed Conflict: Drones, Combatant Reciprocity, and the Changing Morality of Warfare,” <i>58th Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)</i> , Pittsburgh (PA)	10–11/2019
“Child Development, Traumatic Maiming, and the New Thanatopolitics of Attrition,” <i>California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race</i> , Milwaukee (WI)	10/2019
“Child Detention, Traumatized Subjectivity, and the Limits of Structuration Theory,” <i>Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II</i> , Washington D.C.	06/2019
“Indeterminate Ontology & Existential Insecurity as the <i>Nomos</i> of Modern Subjecthood,” <i>The Society for Anticolonial Middle Eastern and North African Thought</i> , Huntsville (AL)	03/2019
“Existential Indeterminacy as Modern Political Subjecthood: How Drones Expose the Limits of the State of Exception,” <i>Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy</i> , Nashville (TN)	11/2018
“Existential Indeterminacy as Modern Political Subjecthood: How Drones Expose the Limits of the State of Exception,” <i>57th Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)</i> , State College (PA)	10/2018
“From Bounded Targets to Unbounded Spaces of Death: Spatial Disruption and the Phenomenology of ‘Living Under Drones,’” <i>2018 Conference of the International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH): Borders, Boundaries, Limits</i> , St. Andrews (SCT)	06/2018
“Death as Oikonomic Decision: The Thanatopolitical Essence of the Sovereign Exception,” <i>Derrida Today</i> , Montreal (QC)	05/2018
“The Biopolitics of Just War Theory: Drones and the Changing Morality of Warfare,” co-authored with Eric Ritter, <i>The 2017 Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Philosophy of Law Conference: Governance, Legality, and Political Morality Beyond the State</i> , Burlington (ON)	10/2017
“Homo Sacer and Philosophical Erasure: A Postcolonial Intervention in Refugee Discourse,” <i>2nd Istanbul Critical Theory Conference: Arendt and Critical Theory Today</i> , Oldenburg (DE)	07/2017
“The Right of Resistance as the Struggle for Recognition: Reading Hegel Against Hegel,” <i>6th Euroacademia International Conference—Identities and Identifications: Politicized Uses of Collective Identities</i> , Florence (IT)	06/2017
“The Secular Roots of Islamic Political Philosophy: Reading Averroes Through Aristotle,” <i>2017 Conference of the International Society for Intellectual History: Rethinking of Religious Belief in the Making of Modernity</i> , Blagoevgrad (BG)	05–06/2017

COMMENTARIES & AUTHOR-MEETS-CRITICS PANELS

Commentator, Author-Meets-Critics Panel, <i>Toward a Pragmatist Metaethics</i> , by Diana B. Heney, Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Recruitment Event, Nashville (TN), <i>scheduled for 03/2020</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
Commentator, Author-Meets-Critics Panel, <i>Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics</i> by Paul C. Taylor, Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Recruitment Event, Nashville (TN)	03/2019
Chair and respondent, Conference Panel, “The Z.13 Thesis and the Unity of Substance” by Tyler Eaves, <i>Tennessee Philosophical Association, 49th Annual Meeting</i> , Nashville (TN)	10/2017

CONFERENCE SERVICE

Chair and moderator, Author-Meets-Critics Panel, <i>Anti-Colonial Solidarity: Race, Reconciliation, and MENA Liberation</i> by George Fourlas, <i>American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting</i> , Vancouver (BC)	04/2022
Chair and moderator, Author-Meets-Critics Panel, <i>The Ethics of Exile: A Political Theory of Diaspora</i> by Ashwini Vasanthakumar, <i>American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting</i> , Chicago (IL)	02/2022
Chair and moderator, Society for Anti-Colonial Middle East and North African Thought Panel, <i>American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting</i> , virtual conference	04/2021
Organizer, MAP Panel at <i>PhiloSOPHLA: A Society for Continental Feminism</i> , Nashville (TN), <i>scheduled for 05/2020</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
Chair and moderator, Panel “On Spectacle and Symbolic Asymmetry in Black Politics” by Shatema Threadcraft, <i>Social Visibility: An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Critique and Social Justice</i> , Nashville (TN)	04/2019

COURSES TAUGHT

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, assistant professor

Marx, Marxism, and Race	fall 2023
Foucault: Genealogy and Power (honors seminar)	fall 2023
Introduction to Philosophy: Subjects and Selves	spring 2023
Social and Political Philosophy	spring 2023
First Year Seminar: Aesthetics & Political Resistance	fall 2022

COLORADO COLLEGE, visiting assistant professor

Political Philosophy of Law	May 2023 (block 8)
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA CHAMPAIGN, lecturer

Philosophy of Law and the State fall 2021

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, instructor of record

Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of the Self spring 2019
General Logic fall 2018
Introduction to Philosophy: Human Nature fall 2017
General Logic spring 2017
Introduction to Philosophy fall 2016

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH 2023–present
Associate Editor

BLOG OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) 2022–2023
Series Editor, Philosophy and Law

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Radical Philosophy Review 2021
Rowman & Littlefield International 2020

MINORITIES AND PHILOSOPHY (MAP), Vanderbilt Univ. 2017–20
Founding member, co-chair

Organized graduate student reading group, “Politics of Recognition” 2019–20
Organized faculty panel, “Philosophy in the Age of Trumpism” spring 2019
Organized graduate student reading group, “Postcolonial Theory” 2018–19
Organized faculty panel, “Minority Experiences in Academia” fall 2017

ROBERT PENN WARREN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES, Vanderbilt Univ. 2018–19
Seminar co-coordinator, “Displacement and the Human Condition”

Organized roundtable panel, “The Refugee Then and Now” (ft. Paul Kramer, Robert Barsky, Alexander Joskowicz, and Sabeen Ahmed) spring 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Anti-Colonial Middle Eastern and North African Thought 2019–present
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Affiliated Group Representative 2023–present
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Affiliated Group Representative 2020–2023

Scholar-in-residence, *Ouray International Film Festival*, Ouray (CO) 06/2021

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) 2017–present

LANGUAGES

English	native speaking, reading, writing
Urdu	native speaking; elementary reading and writing
Spanish	advanced speaking, reading, writing
German	intermediate speaking, reading, writing
Turkish	elementary-intermediate speaking; elementary reading, writing

REFERENCES

Idit Dobbs-Weinstein

Associate Professor of Philosophy and
Jewish Studies
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Paul C. Taylor

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Department of Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies
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Colleen Murphy

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Professor of Philosophy & Political Science
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