

SABEEN AHMED

<https://sabeenahmed.com/>

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RESEARCH

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Political Philosophy of Race; Philosophy of Law;
Anti-colonial 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

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) *forthcoming 2023*

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Provocations on Fascism and the Limits of Liberal Democracy (Introduction to the Special Issue),” *Philosophy Today – Special Issue: Violent Democracies* 67(1) *forthcoming 2023*

“The Violence In/Of Democracy,” *Philosophy Today – Special Issue: Violent Democracies* 67(1) *forthcoming 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* 2016

for *Philosophy, Value Theory, and Sociocultural Hermeneutics* (Special Issue: *Praxis, Virtues, and Values: The Legacies of Aristotle*) 18(2): 209–31

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY & EDITORIALS

- “A Coup by Any Other Name: Reflections on Democracy, Defense, and White Supremacy,” *Blog of the APA*, January 20, 2021
<https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/01/20/a-coup-by-any-other-name-reflections-on-democracy-defense-and-white-supremacy/>.
- “As Universities are Gutted, Grad Student Employee Unions Can Provide a Vital Defense,” *In These Times: With Liberty and Justice for All*, July 5, 2017
<http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/20293/graduate-student-unions-organizing-neoliberalism-workers-higher-education>

BOOK REVIEWS

- Response: *Anti-Colonial Solidarity: Race, Reconciliation, and MENA Liberation*, by George Foulas, Rowman & Littlefield: 2022,” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium* forthcoming 2023
- “Review of *Critique of Rights*, by Christoph Menke, *Polity*: 2020,” 2021
Contemporary Political Theory, February 25,
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41296-021-00478-w?wt_mc=Internal.Event.I.SEM.ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst&utm_source=ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst&utm_medium=email&utm_content=AA_en_06082018&ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst_20210226.
- “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, 2020
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/another-mind-body-problem/>.
- “Response: *Toward a Pragmatist Metaethics*, by Diana B. Heney, Routledge: 2016,” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium*, June 28, 2018
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/toward-a-pragmatist-metaethics/>
- “Response: *Islamic Philosophy and the Ethics of Belief*, by Anthony Robert Booth, Palgrave: 2016” *Syndicate: Philosophy Symposium*, March 21, 2018
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/islamic-philosophy-and-the-ethics-of-belief/>
- “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, 2016
<http://kudzuhouse.org/sabeen-ahmed-reviews-project-animal-farm-by-sonia-faruqi/>
- “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.wbiee952>

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>
- Guest, “Predators and Jokers – Persona 5,” *Scholars at Play*, audio podcast, June 5, 2018, 2018
<https://soundcloud.com/scholarsatplay/predators-and-jokers-persona-5>
- 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>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ARTICLES

- “White Supremacy and American *Imperium*”
- “Law and the Order of Things: Foucault’s *Nomos* and the Ontopolitics of Juridical Power”
- “Trauma-Informed Justice: Phenomenological Erasure and the Racial Politics of Harm”

MONOGRAPH

- Imperial Nomos: Race and the Enduring Power of Empire*

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

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| 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

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| Speaker, "White Supremacy and American <i>Imperium</i> ," delivered at Radical Philosophy Hour, <i>Radical Philosophy Association (RPA)</i> , Zoom | 10/2022 |
| Speaker, "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 |
| Speaker, "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 |
| Speaker, "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 "Antigone's Worldings"</i> , John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, Zoom | 11/2021 |
| Speaker, "White Supremacy and the Future of Empire," to be 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," <i>course taught by Adam Burgos</i> , 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 *Ann Plato Fellowship*, Trinity College, Hartford (CT) 01/2020

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS – REFEREED

“White Supremacy and American *Imperium*,” *MANCEPT 2022: Imperialism and Colonization*, Manchester (UK), Zoom 09/2022

“Law and the Imperial Genealogy of Modern Power,” *Law and Society Association*, Global Meeting 2022, Lisbon (PT), Zoom 07/2022

“Law and the Imperial Genealogy of Modern Power,” *Foucault Circle*, Emory University, Atlanta (GA) 05/2022

“Coloniality and the Racial Ontopolitics of Law: Challenging Foucault’s Genealogy of Power,” *59th Annual Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)*, Zoom; *rescheduled from 10/2020* 09/2021

“Universality, Resistance, and the Struggle for Recognition: Reconsidering the Inevitability of Hegel’s Rabble,” *33rd International Hegel Congress of the Hegel Society: Hegel and Freedom*, Warsaw (PL); *scheduled for 06/2020* *cancelled*

“Juridical Ontopolitics and Racialized Subjectivity: Rethinking Foucault’s Law,” *Foucault Circle 2020*, Copenhagen (DK); *scheduled for 06/2020* *postponed*

“Coloniality and the Racializing Dimension of Juridical Power: Challenging Foucault’s Genealogy of Power,” *Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) 2020: Empire, Colonialism, and Law*, Portsmouth (UK); *scheduled for 04/2020* *cancelled*

“Rearticulating Foucault’s Juridical as a Discursive Practice of Ontopolitics,” in conjunction with the Radical Philosophy Association, *American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division Meeting*, Philadelphia (PA) 01/2020

“The Biopolitical Transformation of Armed Conflict: Drones, Combatant Reciprocity, and the Changing Morality of Warfare,” *58th Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)*, Pittsburgh (PA) 10–11/2019

“Child Development, Traumatic Maiming, and the New Thanatopolitics of Attrition,” *California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race*, Milwaukee (WI) 10/2019

“Child Detention, Traumatized Subjectivity, and the Limits of Structuration Theory,” *Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II*, Washington D.C. 06/2019

“Indeterminate Ontology & Existential Insecurity as the *Nomos* of Modern Subjecthood,” *The Society for Anticolonial Middle Eastern and North African Thought*, Huntsville (AL) 03/2019

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| “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

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| 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

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| 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>PhiloSOPHIA: A Society for Continental Feminism</i> , Nashville (TN), <i>scheduled for 05/2020</i> | cancelled |
| 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

First Year Seminar: Aesthetics & Political Resistance fall 2022

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

BLOG OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) 2022–present
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

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| 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

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

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

Society for Anti-Colonial Middle Eastern and North African Thought 2019–present

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

Euroacademia 2016–2018

LANGUAGES

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| 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
 Department of Philosophy
 Vanderbilt University
idot.dobbs-weinstein@vanderbilt.edu

Paul C. Taylor
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Kelly Oliver
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Falguni Sheth

Associate Professor

Department of Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies

Emory University

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Colleen Murphy

Roger & Stephany Joslin Professor of Law

Professor of Philosophy & Political Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

collem@illinois.edu