

# 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 Mind

**Areas of Competence** Philosophy of Sex and Gender, Value Theory, Personal Identity

## Research Interests

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

## Academic and Professional Positions

*Lecturer 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* (2021). "Vices of Friendship" with Berit Brogaard. In A. Pismenny & B. Brogaard (Eds.), *The Moral Psychology of Love*. Rowman and Littlefield

2021. "The Amorality 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

## Under review

"The rationality of jealousy" – title changed for blind review purposes

## Edited Book

*Forthcoming* (2021). *The Moral Psychology of Love*, co-edited with Berit Brogaard as part of the *Moral Psychology of Emotions* series by Mark Alfano, Rowman & Littlefield

## In progress (available upon request)

"The (Ir)rationality of Implicit Biases"

"Is Love Gendered?"

"Romantic Love: Universality, Adaptation, Innateness"

"The Internal Structure of Sentiments"

"On Love and Hate"

"Emotions and Justice"

## Book reviews

*Forthcoming* (2021). "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*

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

## Talks

### Conference Presentations

"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 – Postponed 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 – Postponed 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**

"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

## Awards and Honors

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**

Philosophy of Emotion (senior seminar) – Spring 2021  
University of Florida 1 section (16 students per section)

Independent Study with an MA student – Fall 2020  
Project: Approaching Racism through the Lens of Emotions  
University of Florida

Moral Psychology Fall 2020  
University of Florida 1 section (35 students)

Philosophy of Love and Sex Fall 2010 – Summer 2014, 2019 –  
University of Florida 3 section (35 students per section)  
Baruch College 6 sections (20 students per section)  
Hunter College 2 sections (40 students per section)

Moral Philosophy Fall 2019 – Spring 2020  
University of Florida 2 sections (35 students per section)

Contemporary Moral Issues Online – Spring 2020

University of Florida 1 section (50 students per section)

Introduction to Philosophy 2008 – present

University of Florida 4 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)

Philosophy of Sex and Gender – Spring 2019

Utah State University 1 section (25 students per section)

Environmental Ethics Fall 2018

Utah State University 2 sections (35 students per section)

Introduction to Ethics Online – Summer 2016

Montclair State University 1 section (35 students)

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)

## Upcoming Courses

Race and Philosophy, Fall 2021

University of Florida 1 section (35 students per section)

## Non-Academic Publications & Talks

[“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 Olasov, 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

2021-present: member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

2020-present: Diversity and Inclusion Committee member, Philosophy Department, University of Florida

2019-present: 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. 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

2020 Israel Science Foundation; 2019 *Synthese*; 2019 *The Monist*; 2018 *Motivation and Emotion*

## Membership

2019-present: United Faculty of Florida  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.