

KAREN ADKINS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, September 1996. Dissertation: *Knowledge Underground: Gossipy Epistemology*. Director: Robert J. Ackermann.
B.A. in Philosophy (with university and major honors), University of Houston, 1989.
Senior Thesis: *The Ethics of Self-Ordered Philosophy*. Director: Cynthia Freeland.

Areas of Specialization: Social Epistemology, Recent Continental Philosophy, Feminist Theory.

Areas of Competence: Political Philosophy, Nineteenth Century Philosophy, Eighteenth Century Philosophy.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Fall 2013 - present, *Professor, Philosophy Department, Regis University.*
- Fall 2007 - Spring 2015, *Associate Dean, Regis College, Regis University*
- Fall 2002 - 2014, *Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, Regis University.*
- Fall 1996 - present, *Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Regis University.*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Speaking Into the Air: Private Friendships and Public Dialogue.”

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Knowledge Underground: Gossip, Hypocrisy, Power. Palgrave Macmillan (2017).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters/Articles:

(20) “Mentoring the First Big Project: Two Pages at a Time.” In *The Art of Teaching Philosophy* vol. 2. Ed. Brynn Welch. Bloomsbury Press. Invited chapter; forthcoming.

(19) “The Banality of Sexual Violence.” In *The Philosophy of Sexual Violence*, Georgi Gardiner and Micol Bez, eds. Routledge. Forthcoming.

(18) “Carving Up Community.” In *Philosophy of the City*, vol. 1(1): 71 - 83 (2023).

(17) “Sometimes It IS Worse Being Talked About: Epistemic Credibility and Social Capital.” In *Speculative Endeavours: Managing Knowledge and Capital in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Eds. Katrin Horn and Karin Hoepker. Manchester University Press, (2025).

(16) “De-Centering the Professor (Not by Design).” In *The Art of Teaching Philosophy: Reflective Values and Concrete Practices*. Ed. Brynn Welch. Bloomsbury Press (2024), pp. 13 - 22. Invited chapter.

- (15) “Building Autonomy and Trust in the Introductory Classroom: Team Discussion and Analysis Assignments.” With Rebecca Vartabedian. In *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy*, 22(2): 2 - 8 (Spring 2023).
- (14) “‘We Will March Side By Side and Demand a Bigger Table’: Rage as Dignity Claim.” In *The Politics of Negative Emotions*, ed. Dan Degerman. Bristol University Press: 31 - 53 (2023).
- (13) “Online Shaming’s Invisible Harms.” In *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy and Media Ethics*, ed. Carl Fox and Joe Saunders. Routledge: 319 - 329 (2024). Invited chapter.
- (12) “Policing the Gendered Economy of Care,” *Social Philosophy Today* 37 (2021).
- (11) “Exit Only: Harms From Silencing Employee Voice,” *JCOM* 19(5): 1 - 18 (2020).
- (10) “‘We Will March Side By Side and Demand a Bigger Table’: Rage as Dignity Claim,” *Global Discourse* (2019).
ISSN 2043-7897 • <https://doi.org/10.1332/204378919X15746664403506>
- (9) “Gaslighting by Crowd,” *Social Philosophy Today* 35: 75 - 87 (2019).
- (8) “Gossip as Ecological Discourse,” in McHugh and Doucet, eds. *Thinking Ecologically, Thinking Responsibly: The Legacies of Lorraine Code*. SUNY Press: 73 - 92 (2021).
- (7) “‘I Can’t Go Back’: The Reimagination of Space in Feminist Westerns,” *Contemporary Cowboys: Reimagining in American Archetype in Popular Culture*, ed. Clint Jones. Lexington Books: 123 - 144 (2023).
- (6) “When Shaming is Shameful: Double Standards in Online Shame Backlashes,” *Hypatia* 34:1 (2019), 76 - 97.
- (5) “Productive Alienation via Service Learning.” *Teaching Philosophy* 41:3 (2018), 217 - 238.
- (4) (with Abigail Gosselin) “Learning from the Labs: Reimagining Ethics Instruction.” *Expositions: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities* 7:1 (2013).
- (3) “The Erasure of Empowered Gossip in Academia.” *Nouvelle Revue Synergies Canada* 7 (2014).
- (2) “Against (Simple) Efficiency.” *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 17:2 (2010), 58 - 67.
- (1) “The Real Dirt: Gossip and Feminist Epistemology.” *Social Epistemology* 16:3 (2002), 215 - 232.

Non Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters/Articles:

- (13) “The Epistemology of Socializing: A Review of Kathryn Waddington’s *Gossip, Organization and Work*.” *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 12(6): 35 - 38 (2023).
- (12) “The Inadequacy of Choice Language in Migration Debates,” *Social Philosophy Today* 38 (2022).
- (11) “The Value of Community,” *Conversations Magazine* (Spring 2021).
- (10) “Exploiting the Vulnerable: Comments on Yvonne Chiu, *Conspiring with the Enemy*,” *Social Philosophy Today* 37 (2021).
- (9) “Comments on Rahel Jaeggi, *Critique of Forms of Life*,” *Social Philosophy Today* 36 (2020).
- (8) “We Need More Transitional Justice: Comments on Colleen Murphy, *The Conceptual Foundations of Transitional Justice*,” *Social Philosophy Today* 35 (2019).
- (7) “Comments on Tommie Shelby, *Dark Ghettos*,” *Social Philosophy Today* 34, 182 - 184 (2018).
- (6) “The Challenge of Making Good Logical Arguments,” with Ron DiSanto. *Conversations Magazine* (September 2017).
- (5) “Eichmann in Albuquerque.” In *Philosophy and Breaking Bad*, eds. Kevin Decker and David Koepsell. Palgrave MacMillan (2017).
- (4) “Bringing Home the Bacon.” In *The Good Wife and Philosophy*. Arp, Bob and Belzer-Jaray, Kimberly, eds. Blackwell(2013).
- (3) “The Liberating Arts.” *Regis University Magazine* 20:1 (Fall 2011), 16 – 17.
- (2) “Knowing What We Cannot: Gossip and Rumor in Sweden.” In *The Girl with the Aristotle Tattoo: Philosophy and the Novels of Stieg Larsson*. Bronson, Erik (ed.), Blackwell (2011).
- (1) “Humanity is a Prejudice.” In *What Philosophy Can Tell You About Your Dog*, ed. Steven Hales. Open Court (2008).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- (24) Participant, Summer Seminar, “Slavery and Early Modern Philosophy.” Julia Jorati and Huaping Lu-Adler, organizers (orig. NEH-funded). June - July, 2025.
- (23) “Collective Shamelessness and Political Violence.” International Social Ontology Society, Duke University, July 22 - 25, 2024.

- (22) “The Limits of Moral Repair Theory for Racial Reparations Work.” 40th International Social Philosophy Conference, University of Portland, July 13 - 15, 2023.
- (21) “Meet Them Where they Are, But Where Are the Faculty?” Humanities for our Times: New Perspectives on Humanistic Approaches, Ethics, and Social Change. Colorado College, June 14 - 17, 2023.
- (20) “Shifting the Paradigm on ‘Private’ Employee Harassment.” Rethinking Privacy After the Pandemic. University of Bonn, September 15 - 16, 2022.
- (19) “Private Government as Epistemic Failure.” Institutional Epistemology Workshop. TiNT: University of Helsinki, June 20 - 21, 2022.
- (18) “‘I Can’t Go Back’: The Reimagination of Space in Feminist Westerns.” FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, October 21, 2020. Invited lecture (cancelled, COVID).
- (17) “Who’s Afraid of Tabloid Gossip?” Speculative Endeavors: Cultures of Knowledge and Capital in the Long 19th Century. Universität Bayreuth, October 22 - 24, 2021 (via Zoom). Invited speaker.
- (16) “Carving Up Community,” North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference, University of San Francisco, July 2019.
- (15) “Gaslighting by Crowd,” North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference, Oakland University, July 20, 2018.
- (14) “The Value of Place: Alienation in Service Learning.” American Philosophical Association (Pacific Meeting), Seattle, April 2017.
- (13) “Teaching Justice Through Service Learning.” Panel presentation with Abigail Gosselin and Jason Taylor. North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference, William Jewell University, July 16, 2015.
- (12) “The Erasure of Empowered Gossip in Academia.” Gossip: An Interdisciplinary Conference. University of Guelph, May 12.
- (11) “The Limitations of Appiah’s Honor Theory for Feminism.” North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference, Marquette University, July 23, 2011.
- (10) “Gender Bubble: *Desperate Housewives*’ Minimal Critique of Feminine Domesticity.” Feminism and Pop Culture: Feminist and Women’s Studies Association Conference, Newcastle University, June 25, 2007.

- (9) “Integrated Humanities Teaching and Learning in the Core Curriculum: an NEH Project at Regis University.” Panel presentation with Mark Bruhn and Dan Clayton. Integrative Learning: Creating Opportunities to Connect. Network for Academic Renewal Conference. American Association of Colleges and Universities. Denver, October 21, 2005.
- (8) “Not the One and the Many: Civil Religion, Citizenship and the Common Good.” Regis University Faculty Lecture of the Year, October 29, 2004.
- (7) “Integrated Learning in the Humanities.” Panel presentation with Mark Bruhn and Dan Clayton. Hawaii International Conference on Arts and the Humanities. January 11, 2004.
- (6) “Gossip and Feminist Epistemology.” University of Colorado-Denver Philosophy Speaker Series. Invited Speaker. September 15, 2001.
- (5) “Publicize the Private and Privatize the Public: *Durée* and the Problem of Privacy.” Beyond Good and Evil: 100 Years of Mass Culture. Carnegie Mellon University, September 26, 2000.
- (4) “The Real Dirt: Why Gossip Isn’t ‘Just for Women’ Anymore.” Second Biennial Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, November 10, 1999.
- (3) “Dirty Laundry: Gossip’s Class Bias.” Class, Identity and Nation: fourth Biennial Conference of the Center for Working Class Studies. Youngstown State University, June 10, 1999.
- (2) “(Social) Scientific Practice and Scientific Realism.” Purpose on the Brain: Perceptions of Teleology in Religion and Science. John Templeton Foundation Conference: Regis University, March 28, 1998.
- (1) “Poison Pens: Gossip’s Viral Knowledge.” Dirt: An Interdisciplinary Conference. Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University. March 16 - 17, 1996.

INVITED/PUBLIC APPEARANCES

November 12, 2019—panelist, “Gender, Sexualization and the Media,” Regis University.

November 6, 2019—panelist, Denver Film Festival and D-PHI, *Zumiriki*.

October 11, 2019 — presentation, “Hiring for Inclusion,” with Dr. Liz Grassi, at the Fall Faculty Conference, Regis University.

August 16, 2019—presentation, “Diversity Considerations for Search Committees,” with Dr. Liz Grassi, at the Inclusive Excellence Conference, Regis University.

August 8, 2019—commentator, “Too Free to be Equal?” on Jennifer Foster, “Are Women ‘Free and Equal’ in Rawls’ Well-Ordered Society?” Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado Boulder.

March 6, 2019—public lecture, “Schools for Scandal: Why Gossip Doesn’t Deserve Its Bad Reputation,” Denver Eclectics, Denver Country Club (audience of 225).

March 5, 2019—interview in *New York Times T Magazine* (Singapore), “Why Gossip Can be Good For You,” Renee Batchelor. <https://www.tsingapore.com/article/why-gossip-can-be-good-for-you>

November 6, 2018 —panelist, Denver Film Festival and D-PHI, *Behind the Curve*.

January 22, 1999 – interview on KNUS 710 AM radio, issues of privacy surrounding Clinton impeachment.

October 19, 1998 – interview on KNUS 710 AM radio, issues surrounding hate crimes legislation.

(Various) Invited guest lectures on ethics, feminist theory, gossip, in courses at Regis University.

COURSES TAUGHT

Philosophical Explorations

Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies*

Writing Analytically

Writing for Social Justice

Ethics

Digital Ethics

Philosophy of Film

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Literature

Philosophy of Religion*

*Integrative/Interdisciplinary course

#Team-Taught Course

19th Century Philosophy

Feminist Theory*

Contemporary Currents

Kant and Nietzsche

Existentialism and Phenomenology

Modern Political Theory

Society and Spectacle*#

Revolution and Resistance*#

Carving Up Community*

Transformative Experiences*

Chaos and Order*#

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2007 - 2015. *Associate Dean, Regis University*. Responsible for supervising academic advising, designing and supporting First-Year Experience, student support and concerns. With collaborators, developed: an Academic Integrity Policy, improved retention of probation students, First-Year Reading, improved academic standards, standardized advising support materials and training, faculty development for teaching writing, Learning Commons (integrated University Center for writing, academic, and learning disabilities support), first-generation mentoring program.
- 1999 – 2001. *Women’s Studies Director, Regis University*. Responsible for coordinating course offerings, advising, and women’s history week at Regis University. Successfully developed women’s studies major.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2024 - , Chair, Philosophy Department
2024 (spring semester), Interim Chair, Modern Languages Department
2020 - 2022, Rank & Tenure committee
2021 - 2022, Chair, Rank & Tenure committee
2019 - 2022, President, AAUP Chapter
2019 – 2020, Interim Chair, History/Politics/Political Economy Department
2019 - 2020, University Research Certificate Committee
2016 - 2022, Regis College Assessment Committee
2015 - 2022, Regis College Academic Integrity Board
2005 – 2013, Honors Program Advisory Council
2004 – 2005, Chair, Rank & Tenure committee
2002 – 2007, Rank & Tenure committee
2002 – 2004, Chair, Department of Philosophy
2001 – 2002, Bargaining Team, AAUP
1999 – 2008, Honors Program review committee
1999 – 2010, Public Affairs Council
1999 – 2001, Director, Women’s Studies Program
1997 - 1999, Academic Council
1997 - 2002, Executive Committee, AAUP
1997 - 2000, Vice President, Colorado State Conference, American Association of University Professors
1997 - 1999, Senior Seminar Team
1996 - 1999, Core Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-editor, *Social Philosophy Today* (2022-2023)
NEH, Invited Reviewer for Public Scholar grant applications in Philosophy, Politics, and the Law, 2020
Chair, Book Award Committee, North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP), 2019 - 2020
Member, Book Award Committee, NASSP, 2016 - present
Member, Graduate Student Paper Committee, NASSP, 2014 - 2016
Chair, Graduate Student Paper Committee, NASSP, 2015 - 2016

AD HOC REVIEWER

Teaching Philosophy, Journal of Social Philosophy, Journal of Ethics, Western Journal of Communication, Hypatia: a Journal of Feminist Philosophy (multiple manuscripts), *Journal of Applied Philosophy, Res Philosophica, Social Theory and Practice, Academia Letters, National Endowment for the Humanities* (Public Scholar Fellowship program, 2020), *Philosophy, Philosophia, Global Studies Quarterly, NECSUS: European Journal of Media Studies, Feminist Philosophical Quarterly, American Political Science Review, Contemporary Justice Review*

HONORS THESIS SERVICE

Eden Almgren, advisor (2025)
Ellie Alsup, advisor (2021)
Hannah Breece, advisor (2014)
Justine Bufmack, reader (2013)
Carlee Taga, advisor (2012)
Gabriel Gallegos, reader (2010)
Pearl (Bailey) Shields, advisor (2009)
Jen Janes, reader (2008)
Frank Haug, reader (2006)
Tessa Dallarosa, advisor (2005)
Jessie Meeks, reader (2004)
Laura Biondi, advisor (2003)
Jessie Frazier, reader (2003)
Becky (Case) Vartabedian, advisor (2001)
Nicole Haas, advisor (1999)
Kristina Schnur, advisor (1998)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board Chair, The Blue Bench, 2024 -
Board Member, The Blue Bench, 2023 -
Reading Buddy, St. Elizabeth's School, Denver, 2022-2024
Mentor, Colorado Blue Spruce Book Award (Odyssey School Team), 2021 - 2022
Reading Buddy, Roots Elementary School, Denver, 2017 - 2019
Reading Buddy, Odyssey School Denver, 2011 - 2020
Committee Member (appointed), DPS Park Hill/Stapleton Equity, February – December 2012
Writing Coach, Arrupe High School Leadership summer program, 2007 – 2012 (summer)
Writing Coach, College Summit, 2000 –2006 (summer)
Writing Coach, Daniels Fund, 2003 – 2007 (summers)
Prepared and served meals at Urban Peak (residence center for homeless teenagers), Ronald McDonald House, and Catholic Worker House, 2001 – 2003

HONORS

Finalist, APA/AAPT Prize for Excellence in Philosophy Teaching, 2021
Administrator of the Year, Regis University, 2011 - 2012
Administrator of the Year, Regis University, 2008 - 2009
Faculty Member of the Year (teaching award), Regis University, 2004
Faculty Lecturer of the Year (general award), Regis University, 2004
Service Award, Regis University AAUP, 2003
Service Award, Regis University AAUP, 1997
University Honors and honors in Philosophy, University of Houston, 1989
Omicron Delta Kappa, elected to membership in 1989

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
American Association of Philosophy Teachers

North American Society of Social Philosophy
American Association of University Professors