

Megan Hyska

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Research

AOS Philosophy of Language, Social & Political Philosophy
AOC Epistemology

Employment

2019-Present **Assistant Professor**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University.*
2018-2019 **Weinberg College Fellow**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University.*

Education

Summer 2018 **PhD in philosophy**, *University of Texas at Austin, This Machine Kills Fascists: Detecting Propaganda with Formal Models of Mass Discourse Structure: Propaganda issues a "deliberative script" vis-à-vis issues of public importance. I argue that highly divergent deliberative scripts across mass publics should be of interest to the political theorist interested in the health and legitimacy of democracies. I then develop a model of mass discourse which makes use of formal pragmatic work on the information structure of non-mass discourses, in terms of which mass discourse pathologies related to the notion of highly divergent deliberative scripts are precisified.*

J. Dever (Supervisor), D. Beaver, R. Buchanan, H. Kamp, C. Roberts (Ohio State), J. Stanley (Yale)

2012-2015 **MA**, *University of Texas, Austin.*
'Discourse-Level Information Structure and the Challenge of Higher Order Discourse'

2008-2012 **BA**, *University of Victoria, Philosophy and Writing.*
with high distinction

Publications

under review **'Luck and the Value of Communication'**.

forthcoming **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association.*

2021 **'Propaganda, Irrationality, and Group Agency'**, *Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology.*

2019 **'In defense of political correctness and against "political correctness"'**, *Ethics, Left and Right*, (Ed. Bob Fischer), Oxford University Press.

2018 **'Of Martyrs and Robots: Propaganda and Group Identity'**, *The Yale Review.*

Selected Presentations

Winter 2022, **'Towards a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *University of Leeds 'Group Thinking: New Foundations' upcoming Seminar*, online.

Feb 2022, **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA.

Feb 2022, **'Towards a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *Chicago Area Social Ontology Workshop*, Chicago, upcoming

Jan 2022 **'Towards a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *University of Chicago Theoretical Philosophy Workshop*, online.

Nov2021 **Comments on Cory Wimberly's 'How Propaganda Became Public Relations: Foucault and the Corporate Government of the Public'**, *Radical Philosophy Association Meeting*, online.

- Aug 2021 **'Towards a Theory of Social Organizing'**, *International Social Ontology Society Meeting*, online.
- May 2021 **'Against Irrationalism in the Theory of Propaganda'**, *Propaganda and Legitimate Political Persuasion Workshop*, L'Ecole Normale Supérieure/ online.
- Dec 2020 **'On the Value of Gricean Communication'**, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online.
- Oct 2020 **'Propaganda, Groups, and Individuals'**, *Invited Colloquium*, University of Illinois at Chicago, online.
- March 2020, cancelled **'Two Critiques of a Liberal Conception of Propaganda'**, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA.
- Feb 2020 **'Propaganda, Groups, and Individuals'**, *Invited Colloquium*, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL.
- Aug 2019 **'On the (Relative) Value of Communication'**, *Ontario Meaning Workshop*, Ontario, Canada.
- June 2019 **'Luck and the Value of Communication'**, *5th Biennial Mentoring Workshop for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy*, Boston, MA.
- April 2019 **'Protest and Propaganda'**, *Bowling Green Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy: 'The Ethics of Public Discourse'*, Bowling Green, OH.
- Nov 2018 **'On the Discourse-Structural Dynamics of Higher Order Utterances'**, *New York Philosophy of Language Workshop*, New York, NY.
- Nov 2018 **'Propaganda for Realists'**, *Northeastern Illinois State University Colloquium*, Chicago, IL.
- June 2018 **'Polarization as Propaganda'**, *The Prindle Institute for Ethics Applied Epistemology Research Retreat*, Greencastle, IN.
- April 2016 **'Information Structure and the Challenge of Higher Order Discourse'**, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.
- Nov 2015 **'On the Politics of the Function Inference'**, *Society for Women and Philosophy (Ireland) Annual Meeting*, Dublin, Ireland.
- June 2015 **'Discourse-level Information Structure and the Challenge of Metadiscursives'**, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual General Meeting*, Ottawa, ON.
- April 2015 **'Minimalism, contextualism, and successful communication'**, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.
- Feb 2014 **'Resisting addictive desire: difficulty and epistemic exculpation'**, *Ryerson University Graduate Conference*, Toronto, ON.
- Jan 2013 **'Phenomenological false negatives and the cognitive phenomenology debate'**, *Department of Philosophy Colloquium*, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.

Professional Service

- 2021-present **Program Committee**, *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting 2022*.
- 2020-present **Cognitive Science Program Committee**, *Northwestern University*.
- 2020/2021 **Ad-hoc climate committee**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University*.
- 2019/2020 **Visiting Speakers Committee**, *Philosophy Department, Northwestern University*.
- October 2017, April 2018 **Facilitator**, *Focus Groups on Climate for Women and Trans Students in Graduate and Professional Programs*, Graduate Student Assembly, UT Austin.
- 2016-2018 **Instructor**, *Corrupt the Youth*, Eastside Memorial Highschool.
A philosophy program run at underresourced schools
- 2016-2017 **Policy Advisor, Faculty Liaison**, *Minorities and Philosophy, UT Austin Chapter*.
- 2015-2016 **President**, *Minorities and Philosophy, UT Austin Chapter*.
- 2013-2014 **Founder, Organizer**, *Feminist Philosophy Reading Group*, UT Austin.
- 2013-2014 **Member**, *Organizing Committee*, Philosophy Graduate Conference, UT Austin.

█ Awards

2015 **Doctoral Fellowship**, *Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada*.

█ Teaching

At Northwestern University

Fall 2021 PHIL109-6: Freshman Seminar on Propaganda
Fall 2021 PHIL253: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Winter 2021 PHIL353: Philosophy of Language: Language in Context
Winter 2021 Phil109-6: Freshman Seminar on Propaganda
Fall 2020 PHIL253: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Winter 2020 PHIL253: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Fall 2019 Phil109-6: Freshman Seminar on Propaganda
Fall 2019 PHIL 328: Classics of Analytic Philosophy
Spring 2019 PHIL253: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Spring 2019 PHIL109-6: Freshman Seminar on Propaganda

Course Instructor, UT Austin

Spring 2018 PHL312: Introduction to Logic
Fall 2016 PHL313: Introduction to Symbolic Logic
Spring 2016 PHL304: Contemporary Moral Problems

█ Languages

English (native), French (proficient).