

Emma D. Velez

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Research Areas

Latina and Latinx feminist theory, decolonial theory, continental philosophy

Education

- 2020 Ph.D. Philosophy & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Penn State
- 2015 M.A. Philosophy | SUNY Stony Brook University
- 2013 B.A. Political Science and Philosophy | Oklahoma City University

Academic Appointments

- 2020-Present Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2019-2020 Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship | Penn State

Publications

Refereed Articles

- 2020 Velez, Emma. "Towards a Care-ful Geopolitics of La Frontera in the Era of Trump," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 34(3): 339-352.
- 2019 Velez, Emma. "Decolonial Feminism at the Intersection: a critical reflection on the relationship between intersectionality and decolonial feminism," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 33(3): 390-406.

Essays & Public Writing

- 2020 Velez, Emma and Nancy Tuana. "Editors' Introduction to Toward Decolonial Feminisms: Tracing the Lineages of Decolonial Thinking through Latin American/Latinx Feminist Philosophy," *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, special issue 35(3): 366-372.
- 2020 Velez, Emma and Nancy Tuana. "Tango Dancing with María Lugones: Towards Decolonial Feminism" (editors' introduction), *Critical Philosophy of Race*, special issue 8(1-2): 1-24.

2019 Velez, Emma. "Women in Philosophy: Why the Decolonial Imaginary is Important for Women in Philosophy," *APA Blog: Women in Philosophy Series*, ed. Adriel Trott, January 16 <[link here](#)>.

Edited Projects

2020 "Toward Decolonial Feminisms: Tracing the Lineages of Decolonial Thinking through Latin American/Latinx Feminist Philosophy," guest co-editor with Nancy Tuana, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, special issue 35(3).

Contributors: Melanie Bowman, Susana Matallana-Peláez, Ege Islekel, Diana Maria Acevedo-Zapata, Shara Cherniak, Ashli Walker, Brooklyn Leo, Beaudelaine Pierre, K. Bailey Thomas, Kiran Asher, Priti Ramamurthy, Ashley Bohrer

2020 "Toward Decolonial Feminisms," guest co-editor with Nancy Tuana, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, special issue 8(1-2).

Contributors: María Lugones, Sarah Hoagland, Alejandro Vallega, Omar Rivera, Ofelia Schutte, Shireen Roshanravan, Selamawit Terrefe, Kathryn Sophia Belle, Linda Martín Alcoff, José Medina, Eduardo Mendieta

Book Reviews

2016 Velez, Emma. Review of Edward S. Casey and Mary Watkins, *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Texas Press, 2014), *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*, 16:1 (Fall).

Works in Progress

"Assembling Decolonial Survival Kits, or Decolonial Feminist Lessons in Surviving Academic Philosophy," *Journal of Social Philosophy* (article under review).

"The Colonial/Social Contract and the Coloniality of Gender: A Decolonial Feminist Critique of Charles Mills' Racia-Sexual Contract" (article in preparation)

Orienting Historias: Unraveling the Coloniality of Gender through Las Tres Madres (book manuscript in preparation)

Awards & Grants

2021 LAS Impact Award | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2019-2020 Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship | The Pennsylvania State University
2015 Honorable Mention | Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
2013-2015 W. Burghardt Turner Fellow | SUNY Stony Brook

Lectures & Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2022 Sophia Lecture, Philosophy Department at George Washington University | Washington D.C., November 5.
- 2021 Tribute to María Lugones, hosted by the Democratizing Knowledge Collective at Syracuse University | Zoom webinar, April 27.
- Memorial Session honoring María Lugones, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting | virtual conference, February 24-27.
- 2020 "Towards a 'Care-ful Geopolitics' of *La Frontera* in the Era of Trump," University of North Texas | Denton, TX, February 3.
- "The Colonial Contract & the Coloniality of Gender," Loyola University, Chicago | Chicago, IL, January 27.
- "Towards a 'Care-ful Geopolitics' of *La Frontera* in the Era of Trump," University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign | Urbana, IL, January 22.
- 2018 "Why the decolonial imaginary is important for philosophy," Elmira College Emerging Scholar Lecture Series | Elmira, NY, November 8.
- "Transforming *Llantos* into *Gritos*: Latina Feminism and the Decolonial Imaginary," St. Mary's University | San Antonio, TX, February 23 and Georgetown, TX, February 26.

Conference Presentations

- 2022 "Decolonial Feminism and Intersectionality" (invited panel), American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting | Chicago, IL, Feb 23-26.
- 2021 "The Colonial Contract & the Coloniality of Gender: A Decolonial Feminist Critique of Charles Mills's 'Intersecting Contracts'," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 59th Annual Meeting | Zoom conference, September 17-18. (*rescheduled for 2021 due to COVID-19).
- "Heretical Visions of Tonantzin-Guadalupe," Decoloniality and Disintegration of Western Cognitive Empire – Rethinking Sovereignty And Territoriality in the 21st Century, sponsored by the New Polis, Whitestone Publications, and Metropolitan State University of Denver | Zoom conference, April 14-16.
- 2019 "Towards a 'Care-ful Geopolitics' of *La Frontera* in the Era of Trump," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 58th Annual Meeting | Pittsburgh, PA, October 31-November 2.

“La Llorona Demands Faithful Witnesses: The Importance of Memory Work for Forging Decolonized Subjectivities,” *Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II—Critical Race, Feminist, and Continental Philosophy* | Washington D.C., June 3-5.

2018 “The ‘intersectionality question’ and the ‘coloniality question’: A critical reflection on the relationship between intersectionality and decolonial feminism,” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 57th Annual Meeting* | State College, PA, October 20-22.

“Decolonial Feminism at the Intersection,” *The Roundtable on Latina/x Feminisms* | State College, PA, September 7-8.

“*Cuando aprendemos a escuchar/When we learn to listen*,” *Toward Decolonial Feminisms: A Conference Inspired by the Work of María Lugones* | State College, PA, May 11-13

2017 “Forked Tongues: A Decolonial Approach to Rethinking the Native Informant,” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 56th Annual Meeting* | Memphis, TN, October 19-21. *Honorable Mention, “Best Submission by a Graduate Student”*

“*La Malinche’s Forked Tongue*,” *The Roundtable on Latina Feminism*, John Carroll University | Cleveland, OH, May 5-6.

“*En Estos Tiempos de La Llorona, An Ethics of Our Time*,” *PhiloSOPHIA*, Florida Atlantic University | Boca Raton, FL, April 31.

A version of this paper was also presented by invitation at the *PhiloSOPHIA Society Meeting* in conjunction with *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 56th Annual Meeting* | Memphis, TN, October 19-21.

2016 “Habermas’s Silence on Silence: A Critique of Universal Pragmatics,” *The Critical Theory Roundtable*, The Pennsylvania State University | State College, PA, November 11-13.

“*En Estos Tiempos de La Llorona, An Ethics of Our Time*,” *The Roundtable on Latina Feminism*, John Carroll University | Cleveland, OH, May 6-7.

“Liberation in the Antistructure: Mestiza Spaces for Subaltern Speech,” *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP), 43rd Annual Meeting* | Portland, OR, March 3-5.

2015 “Intimate Publics and Ephemerality, Snapchat: A Case Study,” *Caribbean Philosophical Association 2015: Shifting the Geography of Reason XII: Technologies of Liberation* | Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico, June 18-21.

“Intimate Publics and Ephemerality, Snapchat: A Case Study,” Theorizing the Web Conference 2015 | NY, NY, April 17-18.

“The Labor of Listening,” New York Society for Women in Philosophy, SWIPshop: workshops in feminist philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center | NY, NY, February 26.

2014 “Healing La Frontera’s Herida Abierta: Up Against the Wall, a commentary by Emma Velez,” Book Presentation, Edward S. Casey and Mary Watkins, *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Texas Press, 2014), SUNY Stony Brook University | Stony Brook, NY, October 30.

“Moral Love” through an Ethics of Ambiguity: Cultivating Mestiza Ears to Listen to Subaltern Voices, Caribbean Philosophical Association 2014: Shifting the Geography of Reason XI: Diverse Lineages of Existentialism—Africana, Feminist, and Decolonial | St. Louis, MO, June 20.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses

Senior Seminar | UIUC

Latinx Feminisms: Complex & Uneven Genealogies | UIUC

Representing Women & Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures | Penn State

Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Penn State

Philosophy, Politics, and Social Theory | Penn State

Graduate Courses

Feminism, Intersectionality, and Decoloniality: The Work of María Lugones (co-taught with Nancy Tuana) | Penn State

Student Advising & Mentorship

Interdisciplinary Thesis Advisor

Yaritza Fletcha School of Dance | UIUC

Teaching Honors & Awards

Fall 2020 CITL’s List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent | UIUC

Professional Service

Manuscript Review

Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy, International Feminist Journal of Politics

Committee Service

- 2020- GWS Curriculum Committee | UIUC
2020- Women's Resource Center Advisory Committee | UIUC

Conference Organizing

- 2018 Conference Co-Organizer (with Nancy Tuana), *Toward Decolonial Feminisms: A Conference Inspired by the work of María Lugones* | State College, PA, May 11-12.
- 2017 Conference Organizer, *16th Annual Penn State Women's Studies Graduate Organization Conference: Feminism, Race, and the Anthropocene* (with keynote speakers Whitney Battle-Baptiste, UMASS and Zoe Todd, Carleton College) | State College, PA, February 24-25.

Public Service & Outreach

- 2020 Featured in Champaign-Urbana News Gazette's "Masked Illini" photo series
Interview with Daily Illini for Women's History Month | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Co-Panelist with Toby Beauchamp for Women@NCSA "Let's Talk About Pronouns" | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association (APA)
Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)
National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
Roundtable for Latina/x Feminism
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

References

Nancy Tuana

DuPont/Class of 1949 Professor of
Philosophy and Women's, Gender and
Sexuality Studies
The Pennsylvania State University
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Mariana Ortega

Associate Professor, Philosophy and
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
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Kathryn S. Belle (formerly Kathryn Gines)

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Africana Studies
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