

Manuel Rodeiro

209 East 16th Street · Brooklyn, NY 11226 · 862-432-0956 · mrodeiro@gradcenter.cuny.edu

EDUCATION

CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

Ph.D. Philosophy (Expected May 2020)

Environmental Transformative Justice: Responding to Ecocide

Advisor: Omar Dahbour

Committee: Jeffrey Bluestein, Michael Menser, and Charles Mills

M.A. Philosophy (May 2016)

Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY

J.D. (May 2010)

Bar Admissions: New York and New Jersey

The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ

B.A. in Philosophy (May 2007)

B.A. in History (May 2007)

Minors: Political Science and Politics, Law, and Philosophy

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Environmental Philosophy and Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Law, Pragmatism, and History of Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

“Rorty's Public-Private Distinction as a Pragmatic Tool” *Contemporary Pragmatism*, Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 2018.

Manuscript Under Review:

Theorizing Common but Differentiated Responsibility for Environmental Harms

Book Reviews:

“Review of Alexander Douglas, *Spinoza and Dutch Cartesianism*” *The Philosophical Forum*, Vol. XLVII, No. 1, Spring 2016.

Minor Publications:

“Degrading Our Environment: Western Philosophy and Man’s Separation from Nature” *OlioNote*, Spring 2017.

Editor:

Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law, Volume XIV (2008-2009).

Manuscripts in Preparation:

“Applying a Rawlsian Constructivist Framework to Overcoming Injustice of Environmental Destruction”

“The Case of the Privileged Victim: A Defense of Non-Ideal Theory”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Baruch College (CUNY), New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer

August 2014 – Present

Instructed three courses of Global Ethical Theory PHIL 1700; three courses of Environmental Law, Policy; Ethics PHIL 3200; two courses of Environmental Ethics PHIL 3202; five courses of Major Issues in Philosophy PHIL 1500, and two courses of Political Philosophy 3232 (class sizes between 14-40 students).

Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer

August 2017 – Present

Instructed three courses of Ethics for Department of Social Science (class size between 30-35 students)

Marymount Manhattan College, New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer

August 2018 – Present

Instructed two courses of Environmental Ethics (class size 16 students).

Teaching Assistant Position:

Hunter College (CUNY)

August 2014 – May 2015

Instructed three discussions sections of Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 1010 for Justin Garson and three discussion section of Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method PHIL 1700 for James Freeman (class size between 6-30 students).

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“Fundamiddlism: Person-Dependent Metaphysics,” The 21st Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference in Remembrance of May 4th, Kent State University, March 2015.

“Rawls, Transitional Justice, and Socioeconomic Inequality” State, Economy, and Inequality Political Science Graduate Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February 2016.

“Transitional Justice and Socioeconomic Inequality,” The 2nd IIF-UNAM Philosophy Graduate Conference, National Autonomous University of Mexico, March 2016.

“Rawls, Transitional Justice, and Socioeconomic Inequality” 2016 Loyola Philosophy Graduate Conference on Economics, Power, and Human Rights, Loyola University Chicago, October 2016.

“Man's Separation from Nature and Where to Go from Here” Strand Bookstore, June 2017.

“Democracy without Truth” Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) part of The Great Experiment: Questioning Democracy Lecturer Series, February 2018.

AWARDS AND HONORS

CUNY Graduate Fellowship (2015)

Fordham Law School Fall and Spring Public Service Fellowship (2010)

Graduated *cum laude* with honors in both History and Philosophy (2007)

PHI ALPHA THETA (2007)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, Richard Rorty Society, Environmental Philosophy Reading Group, Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Race Reading Group

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CUNYGC Mentorship Program 2016 and 2017, CUNYGC Prospective Student Host 2018 and 2019, Demonstration Instructor Baruch College 2018 and 2019

REFERENCES

Omar Dahbour
Professor of Philosophy
Hunter College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
odahbour@hunter.cuny.edu
(212) 772-5084

Jeffery Blustein
Professor of Philosophy
City College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
jblustein@ccny.cuny.edu
(212) 650-7045

Michael Menser
Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Psychology
Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
mmenser@brooklyn.cuny.edu
(718) 951-5000

Charles Mills
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
The Graduate Center, CUNY
cmills3@gc.cuny.edu
(877) 428-6942

Carrie-Ann Biondi
Professor of Philosophy
Marymount Manhattan College
cbiondi@mmm.edu
(646) 393-4113

Thomas Teufel
Professor of Philosophy
Baruch College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
thomas.teufel@baruch.cuny.edu
(646) 312-4368

Sibyl Schwarzenbach
Professor of Philosophy (retired)
Baruch College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
sschwarzenbach@gc.cuny.edu
(646) 312-4396

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

Social and Political Philosophy Courses:

Philosophical Foundations of Democracy with Sibyl Schwarzenbach, Spring 2014
Justice Memory and Forgiveness with Jeffery Blustein, Fall 2014
Social Ontology and Democracy with Carol Gould, Spring 2015
Nature of Law with Samir Chopra, Spring 2015
Philosophy of Race with Frank Kirkland and Linda Alcoff, Spring 2015
Kant Ethics and Politics with Sibyl Schwarzenbach, Fall 2015
Morality and Inequality with Stefan Baumrin, Fall 2015
Foucault: Bio-power and the Security State with Linda Alcoff, Spring 2016
Rereading Marx with Graham Priest, Spring 2016
Blame and Forgiveness with Miranda Fricker, Fall 2016
Ecology and Political Theory with Omar Dahbour and Michael Menser, Fall 2016
Contractarianism and Its Critics with Charles Mills, Spring 2017
Corrective Justice with Charles Mills, Fall 2017
Rawls Race and Gender with Charles Mills and Sibyl Schwarzenbach, Spring 2018

History of Philosophy Courses:

Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Philosophy with Douglas Lackey, Fall 2011
Hegel to Nietzsche with Douglas Lackey, Spring 2015
Plato's *Republic* with Iakovos Vasilou, Fall 2018
Philosophy of W.E.B. DuBois with Charles Mills, Spring 2019

Distribution Requirements:

Ethics with Steven Ross, Spring 2012
Philosophy of Science with Massimo Pigliucci, Fall 2012
Evolution and Social Behavior with Peter Godfrey-Smith, Spring 2013
Metaphysics with Barbara Montero, Fall 2013
Logic Fall 2014
History of the Mind with Peter Godfrey-Smith, Fall 2015
Quine and Sellars with David Rosenthal, Spring 2016
Pragmatism and Neo-Pragmatism with Peter Godfrey-Smith, Spring 2016

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT:

Title: *Environmental Transformative Justice: Responding to Ecocide*

Abstract:

My dissertation's central objective is to normatively devise ethically appropriate sociopolitical and juridical responses to ecocide (i.e., grave environmental harm). More specifically, the work seeks to philosophically engage the ethical question of what is owed to human societies that are displaced due to intentional environmental destruction.

The motivation behind the project stems from the lack of academic research (excluding a pocket of recent analysis of the international community's obligation to assist 'climate refugees' -- a subset of people displaced due to environmental destruction) involving the question: "What ought to be afforded victims of environmental harm?" The dearth of scholarship is surprising, considering growing global concerns, vis-à-vis accelerating rates of environmental degradation,

which if allowed to continue, will generate wide-ranging national and international environmental crises and disasters in the twenty-first century and beyond.

Thus, the dissertation attempts to remedy this situation by bringing environmental issues under the purview of the philosophical species of justice known as Transitional Justice. The novelty of such an approach is its emphasis that ‘social transformation’ rather than merely ‘correcting the harm done’ or ‘restoring the status quo’ is necessary for overcoming these kinds of wrongs because absent social change, the conditions that reinforce, entrench, and reproduce these sorts of injustices remain in place.

Since the focus is on *transforming* communities’ relationships and interactions with their environment, instead of simply repairing the damage from past injuries, the dissertation offers a full account of what I call *environmental transformative justice* that specifies the context in which it is operative, determines its ideal aims, offers guidance on how to pursue these aims, and identifies actors’ responsibilities for pursuing these aims. The hope is to provide post-ecocide communities insight and guidance on how to best remodel, alter, and remove (pre)existing conditions responsible for generating wrong(s); while correcting the harm(s) victims suffered.

To this end, the first chapter establishes the *circumstance of environmental transformative justice*, in that it delineated the particular social settings that trigger the normative concerns to which *environmental transformative justice* is responsive. It achieves this by illustrating normatively relevant ways that the wrongs of ecocide fall within the purview of Transitional Justice due to the harm suffered (i.e., social death and loss of vital interests due to intentional environmental destruction) and the manner in which the harm occurred (i.e., direct, indirect, or negligent state action).

The second chapter attempts to establish the full class of actors that have a role to play in overcoming the injustice of these circumstances. It seeks to develop a conception of responsibility that is persuasive, politically useful, and reasonably acceptable to the parties involved, while assisting in countering inaccurate and misleading narratives that disguise accountability (both over-inclusively and under-inclusively) for ecocide. Essentially, the chapter argues that to adequately discharge responsibility actors must engage in *shared public activity* (i.e., political action) to oppose, resist, and alter the background institutions and practices generating the cases of ecocide under discussion.

The third chapter begins by employing a constructivist approach to determine the *ideal principles* of environmental transformative justice. Second, it applies a comparative justice approach to establish *how to proceed* when enacting environmental transformative justice measures. Finally, the concluding section demonstrates ways in which Transitional Justice mechanisms (e.g., criminal tribunals, truth commissions, public apologies, pardons, lustration, memorialization, reparations, and constitutional conventions) can assist in furthering environmental aims (i.e., promoting ecological sustainability, preservation, and restoration).

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Jaffe and Asher, LLP, New York, NY

Associate Attorney Head of Training

March 2011 – August 2014

Developed training program and instructed new hires. Classes covered various job functions, including statutory and regulatory compliance in multiple areas of law.

ExamCrackers, New York, NY

LSAT Instructor

August 2010 - March 2011

Taught classes ranging from 5-20 undergraduate students. Marketed product by visiting universities and giving preview demonstrations (mini-lectures) to attract potential clients.