

Rory Harder

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Education

CURRENT

2015– Present	PHD in Philosophy, University of Toronto, ABD Dissertation Title: Joint Engagement and Linguistic Understanding Committee: Imogen Dickie (co-supervisor), Nate Charlow (co-supervisor), Philip Kremer
AOS	Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology
AOC	Logic, Probability and Decision Theory, Early Analytic Philosophy
2019	VISITING STUDENT at Rutgers University, Department of Linguistics Host Supervisor: Simon Charlow
2012–2015	B.A. Hons. (with High Distinction) in Philosophy (Specialist) and History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (Minor), University of Toronto
2011–2012	Trent University
2010–2011	Fleming College

Dissertation Summary

There is a tension between accounting for the rationality of things we do—explaining our actions as sensible activities for us to engage in, and not just as, say, reflexes—but at the same time not appealing to complex mental states such as beliefs and intentions that are not accessible to introspection or empirically supported. The goal of my dissertation is to account for the rationality of special kinds of human joint engagement—things we do together—and to do so without overintellectualization. The two special kinds of joint engagement I address are joint attention and linguistic communication, and I attempt to explain how they are joint activities that make sense for us to engage in, while also respecting how humans in fact engage in them.

Presentations

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2020 “Perspectives in the Semantics of Demonstratives” (Abstract Reviewed)
21st Szklarska Poreba Workshop
- 2019 “The Affiliative Conception of Sense” (Abstract Reviewed)
6th Annual Workshop of the Expression, Communication, and Origins of
Meaning Research Group
“Clearing up Clouds: Nonspecificity and Goal-Sensitivity in Demonstrative
Communication”
93rd Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium Session)
- 2018 “Clearing up Clouds: Nonspecificity and Goal-Sensitivity in Demonstrative
Communication” (Abstract Reviewed, Poster Presentation)
The 2nd Context, Cognition, and Communication Conference
- 2017 “Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative *Ought*”
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
“Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative *Ought*”
91st Meeting of the APA Pacific Division (Colloquium Session)

OTHER (NON PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2017 “Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative *Ought*”
Computational Linguistics Seminar, University of Toronto Department of Com-
puter Science
- 2016 “Inferences and Neutrality of the Deliberative *Ought*”
Semantics Research Group, University of Toronto Department of Linguistics

Academic Employment

COURSE INSTRUCTORSHIPS

- 2019 *Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making* (1st year, Rutgers
University)
Issues in Philosophy of Mind (3rd year, University of Toronto)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS (AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

- 2018 *Ancient Philosophy* (2nd year), *17th- and 18th-Century Philosophy* (2nd year),
Philosophy of Language (3rd year, Grader)
- 2016 *Knowledge and Reality* (2nd year), *Probability and Inductive Logic* (2nd year)
- 2015 *Probability and Inductive Logic* (2nd year, Grader)
- 2013–2014 *Introduction to Philosophy* (1st year)

OTHER

- 2016–2018 *Philosophy Don* (Philosophy Tutor and Residence Assistant, University of Toronto)

Graduate Coursework

Language, Epistemology, and Mind: Perception and Epistemology, Vagueness, Mind or World, Semantics for Philosophy, Formal Epistemology, Metasemantics, Frege, Deductive and Inductive Logic.

Linguistics: Topics in Event Semantics, Introduction to Syntactic Theory.

History of Philosophy: Seminar in Plato, Consciousness Then and Now.

Ethics: Controlling Attitudes, Valuing, Narrative, and What Matters in Life.

Honours & Awards

GRADUATE

- 2019–2020 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000CAD)
Merit-based scholarship encouraging excellence in graduate studies at publicly-assisted universities in Ontario.
- 2019 SSHRC CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (\$6000CAD)
Supports high-calibre Canadian students in research abroad. A total of 125 are awarded nationally each year for the social sciences and humanities.
- 2016–2019 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship (\$105,000CAD)
Supports high-calibre students engaged in doctoral programs in the social sciences and humanities. Awarded to about 22% of applicants.

UNDERGRADUATE

- 2015 The George Kennedy Scholarship, University of Toronto Department of Philosophy (\$296CAD)
Awarded annually to an outstanding graduating student with at least 3 full courses in philosophy.
- 2012 Socrates Award, Trent University Department of Philosophy (\$100CAD)
Awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate in Philosophy in each of the second and third years. The prizes commemorate Socrates' description of himself as one who rouses and reproves the society in which he lives just as a gadfly awakens a sluggish horse.