

ARIANA PERUZZI SANCIO

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RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization – Social-Political Philosophy, Ethics, Latinx Philosophy

Areas of Competence – Action Theory, Race, Gender, Aesthetics

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“When We Decide: Voluntariness, Plural Agency and Migrant Choice”

R&R at Journal of Social Philosophy

Persecution in the Context of Asylum: Beyond State Violence

Draft Available

“‘The Right Not to Stay:’ Equality in Limbo,” Book Review

Forthcoming Radical Philosophy Review

For a full list of works in progress (with abstracts), see the [Research](#) section of my website

EDUCATION

PhD University of Michigan, Philosophy June 2024
Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies
Dissertation: “Theorizing Involuntary Displacement”
Committee: Elizabeth Anderson (co-chair), Ishani Maitra (co-chair), José Jorge Mendoza, Silvia Pedraza (sociology), Meena Krishnamurthy

MA University of Michigan, Philosophy June 2021

BA University of Houston, Majors in Philosophy and Liberal Studies May 2017
Minored in Literature, Music History, & *Phronesis* (political philosophy)
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Philosophy Department Valedictorian 2017

HONORS

Charlotte W Newcombe Fellowship

2023

The Newcombe Fellowship is “the largest and most prestigious award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences.” Fellows receive a \$30,000 stipend to complete the writing stage of their dissertation. The fellowship is “awarded to students in the final stages of doctoral study whose work offers significant potential for advancing academic scholarship related to ethics and/or religion,” based on a national competition.

Cornwell Prize (Declined) 2023

Philosophy department prize awarded on merit to a graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding "intellectual curiosity" and exceptional "promise of original study and creative work" in their field of study.

Robert J. Donia Graduate Student Fellowship 2023

Donia Human Rights Center summer grant of \$6,000 to support graduate students engaged in research on human rights.

University of Michigan Rackham Predoctoral Fellow 2023

A \$36,000 stipend to complete the writing stage of their dissertation. University-wide prize awarded to “outstanding doctoral students actively working on dissertation research and writing.”

University of Michigan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Prize 2021

\$1000 prize awarded to students who have advanced department diversity, equity and inclusion goals via service or outreach.

UM Rackham Intern Fellow 2020

Fellowship to work for one semester with Alexander Street (Proquest) to develop the *Music and Social Change* database.

University of Michigan Teaching Certificate 2019

Completion of the University of Michigan’s teaching certificate program that is required qualification to serve as instructor of record. Attended teaching workshops, developed a teaching statement, and worked with a faculty mentor who observed my teaching in order to complete the certificate.

URANN Fellowship 2017

\$15,000 fellowship awarded by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society to fourteen incoming graduate students in the United States in any field “whose work has the potential to change the world.”

Fulbright Finalist 2017

Advanced to the final stage of the competition for the Fulbright prize.

Katzin Prize (declined) 2017

\$50,000 prize awarded each year to one graduate student applicant to the University of San Diego. The award is offered in recognition of the promise of the graduate student’s current accomplishments

and future research. All graduate students accepted to UCSD are automatically eligible, regardless of whether they are in STEM, social sciences, or the humanities, and only one winner is selected.

Honors College Rising Senior in Philosophy Award 2016
Awarded to one outstanding senior in each department.

Honors College Outstanding Freshman Award 2013
Awarded to freshman based on their work in the great books class “the Human Situation”

National Merit Scholarship Award 2012
National Merit Scholarship Corporation Prize awarded to high school students based on PSAT performance, essays, and accomplishments in high school. On the basis of this award the University of Houston offered a four-year full ride including room, board, and a book stipend.

National Merit Hispanic Award Winner 2012
National Merit Scholarship Corporation Prize for Hispanic students with high PSAT scores.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: conversational speaker, proficient reader, novice writer.

TALKS

“Persecution in the Context of Asylum: Beyond State Violence”

Forthcoming, Pacific APA, as part of a panel on migration justice, March 2024

Forthcoming, PPE 7th Annual Meeting, Nov 2023

University of Washington, Philosophy of Immigration Workshop, May 2023

“But is it Altruism?”

Forthcoming, with Francisco Calderón Ossa PPE 7th Annual Meeting, Nov 2023

UM-MIT Social-Political Philosophy Workshop, April 2023

COMPASS Flash Talks, October 2022

“When We Decide: Voluntariness, Plural Agency and Migrant Choice”

UH Phil Homecoming Conference, March

Central APA, Feb 2023

PPE 6th Annual Meeting, Nov 2022

MANCEPT Migration from the Migrant Point of View, Sept 2022

“Do Communities Have Rights to Remain?”

Philosophy and Borders Conference, University of Oxford, Sept 2022

UT Knoxville, *Ethics in Uncertain Times*, March 2022

Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference, July 2021

“Colonialism, Displacement, and Collective Occupancy Rights”
Michigan-MIT Social-Political Philosophy Workshop, August, 2021

“Economic Migration and Group Agency: What’s Valuable about Migrating?”
Midwest SWIP, March, 2019

“Ancestral Harm and Duties to the Future”
Michigan-Princeton Metanormativity Workshop, August, 2017

COMMENTS

“Douglass on the Autonomy of Peoples,” presented at the book symposium on Phillip Yare’s *Seizing Citizenship: Frederick Douglass’s Abolitionist Republicanism*, University of Michigan, May 2023.

“Venezuela’s Alternative Left: a Critique of Chavismo,” Comment on Gabriel Vergara’s presentation, “Hugo Chávez, El Pueblo, and Mutually Protagonistic Democracy,” at the 6th *Latinx Conference*, Temple University, April 2022.

Comment on Yujia Song’s “What is Appreciation?” *The Pacific ASA (American Society for Aesthetics)*, April 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Mentor at the University of Michigan

Peer Mentor to Philosophy Department GSIs (Fall 2023-Winter 2024)

Sole Instructor at the University of Michigan

Phil 154, “Philosophy and Science Fiction” (Summer 2021)

Co-Instructor at the University of Michigan

Phil 160, “Moral Principles & Problems” (Fall 2018)

Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan

Phil 444, “Groups and Choices” (Winter 2023)

Phil 359, “Law & Philosophy” (Winter 2021)

Phil 110, “Intro to Ethics” (Fall 2021)

Phil 101, “Intro to Philosophy” (Winter 2020)

PPE 300, “Intro to Political Economy” (Fall 2019)

Phil 289, “Descartes to Kant” (Winter 2019)

Writing Mentor, at KIPPISD, Houston Texas

Homer Unbound Writing Mentor (Winter 2017 & 18)

Undergraduate Team Assistant at the University of Houston

“The Human Situation” Team Assistant (2014-2016)

SERVICE

Wallenberg Human Rights Medal Nomination Committee	2023-2024
Michigan-MIT Social-Political Philosophy Workshop Co-organizer	2022 -2024
COMPASS@Michigan Co-organizer	2018-2022
Minorities and Philosophy Michigan Representative	2019-2021
Graduate Employee's Organization Representative	2018-19, 2021
Reading Group Co-organizer: Aesthetics, Republicanism, and Sci-Fi	2017-19, 2021

OTHER EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Junior Editor for the *Philosopher's Annual Journal*

Summer 2021, Ann Arbor Michigan, supervised by Patrick Grim

Intern at Proquest's Alexander Street Division, *Music and Social Change Database*

Fall 2020, Ann Arbor Michigan, "Musica de America Latina," Intern

Intern at the Houston Arts Alliance

Spring 2016, Houston Texas, "Ethnomusicology Intern," supervised by Angel Quesada

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Climate Justice* (Stephen Gardiner at UW)
Latin American Phil* (Josè Jorge Mendoza at UW)
Ethics, Justice and International Law (Steven Ratner)
Black Political Thought (Derrick Darby)
Phil of Education and Racial Justice (Derrick Darby)
Political Democracy (Derrick Darby)
Colonialism Past and Present (Meena Krishnamurthy)
Moral Epistemology (Elizabeth Anderson)
Attunement to Reasons (Peter Railton)
Skills and Achievement (Brian Weatherson)
Kant (Janum Sethi)
The Early Stoics (Victor Caston)
Formal Methods (Sarah Moss)
Proseminar (Eric Swanson)
Ethics (David Phillips at UH)
Directed Study on Nietzsche (Iain Morrisson at UH)

* **audited**

COURSE WORK FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Pedagogy: Developing Syllabi (Kyle Whyte)

Race, Ethnicity & Class, Primitive Accumulation (Daniel Nemser)
Latino/a Americans (Silvia Pedraza)
Historias de Migración en America Latina* (Martín Ruiz-Mendoza)
Spanish for Heritage Speakers (Maria Galvan-Santibanez)
Topics Hisp Studies: Latin American Culture* (Nilo Couret)
New World Sovereignties in Conflict (César Salgado at UT Austin)
The Latin American Documentary* (Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola)
Reading, Grammar and Comp (Víctor Rodríguez Pereira)

*Audit

RESEARCH REFERENCES

Ishani Maitra
Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan
imaitra@umich.edu

Elizabeth Anderson
Max Shaye Professor of Public Philosophy, John Dewey Distinguished University Professor; Arthur F. Thurnau
Professor
University of Michigan
eandersn@umich.edu

Josè Jorge Mendoza
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan
josejm@uw.edu

Silvia Pedraza
Professor of Sociology and American Culture
University of Michigan
spedraza@umich.edu

TEACHING REFERENCE

Maegan Fairchild
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan
mmfair@umich.edu

Dissertation Abstract

My dissertation is composed of three essays, each of which addresses a topic in migration justice related to forced migration and displacement. The essays ask the following questions: (1) When is migration voluntary? (2) What is persecution in the sense relevant to asylum status? (3) what is the content of occupancy rights and who are the rights-holders? I draw on the work of social scientists, especially anthropologists, sociologists, and economists. I also take a migrant-first approach, centering migrant testimony and ethnographic accounts of migration practices.

When We Decide: Plural Agency, Voluntariness, and Migrant Choice: This paper argues that many economic migrants from the developing world have been misclassified as voluntary by theorists. This matters because nonvoluntary migrants have stronger moral claims to admission and other legal entitlements. Existing frameworks for the evaluation of migrant choice presume that the agent who performs the act of migration is identical to the agent that decides to migrate. This makes the standard approach conceptually inadequate if we wish to represent household decisions to migrate. Drawing on the work of Margaret Gilbert, scholars of the New Economics of Labor Migration, and first personal accounts of migrants, I make the case that most migration journeys undertaken by economic migrants are best understood as exercises of plural agency. I revise the standard view of voluntariness in migration so that it is apt to cases of singular and plural agency. On this account, a plural agent chooses migration voluntarily only if no members of the plural agent are coerced or deceived, and every member has adequate alternatives to choosing migration.

Persecution in the Context of Asylum: Beyond State Violence: Received accounts of persecution define it as a serious targeted harm *that manifests a failure of state protection*. In this paper, I contend that persecution in the context of asylum ought to be understood just as *serious targeted harm*. My theory of persecution succeeds according to three criteria: (1) It accords with the literal meaning of ‘persecution’ in the dictionary. (2) It captures our intuitions about paradigm cases of persecution. (3) It is supported by a compelling larger narrative about the purpose and normative grounds of asylum. The received accounts of persecution fail on all three counts precisely because they frame persecution as a matter of state responsibility. This conceptual mistake has influenced asylum rulings in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, where courts have explicitly tied asylum rulings to judgments about whether the migrant’s state of origin acted in a blameworthy fashion. I argue that these legal practices violate the Geneva Convention, and unjustly disadvantage asylum-seekers fleeing from non-state actors and from states which are foreign allies.

Do Communities have Occupancy Rights?: This paper argues that geographic communities, and not just individuals, bear occupancy rights. I formulate community occupancy rights as jurisdictional rights to collectively manage land-use, including corporate land-use, in the relevant territory. Drawing on existing agency-based accounts of individual occupancy rights due to Anna Stilz and Paulina Ochoa Espejo, I argue that community rights have their normative ground in the shared “choreography” of the community, i.e., the collection of individual located-life plans *and* the spontaneous infrastructure that emerges when many individual located life-plans mesh together in shared space. I argue that recognition of community occupancy rights is key to the prevention of mass displacement events. Only by recognizing both community and individual occupancy rights can states realize a substantive right to remain for their members.