

Iskra Fileva

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Employment

2014 – present	Univ. of Colorado, Boulder	Assistant Professor
2013 – 2014	Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Lecturer
2011 – 2013	UNC-Chapel Hill	Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy Faculty Fellow of the Parr Center for Ethics
2010 – 2011	Temple University	Assistant Professor
2008 – 2010	University of Nevada, Reno	Postdoctoral Fellow

Education

2003 – 2008	Boston University, Ph.D. Doctoral Dissertation: <i>Behind Action</i>
2000 – 2002	Saint Louis University, MA (pass with distinction) Master's Thesis: <i>Commensurating Ends</i>
1994 – 1999	Sofia University, Magister in Philosophy (pass with highest honors)

Areas of Specialization

Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Psychiatry, Aesthetics

Areas of Competence

Political Theory, Political Economy, Philosophy of Law, Epistemology, Existentialism

Fellowships and Awards

Adam Smith Professor, University of Bayreuth, Germany, Summer 2014 (declined)
Character Essay Prize, The Character Project, Templeton Foundation, 2013
Parr Center for Ethics, Faculty Fellow, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2011-2013
GRS Brightman Fellow, Boston University, Summer 2008
Earhart Fellow, Earhart Foundation, 2007-2008
Presidential Fellow, Boston University, 2003-2007
Research Assistantship, Saint Louis University, 2001-2002
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Fellowship, Sofia University, 1994-1999

Research

Books (Authored)

Character and Its Disorders (provisional agreement with Oxford University Press). In progress.

Books (Edited)

Questions of Character. Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 488. This is an interdisciplinary collection of essays by leading scholars from philosophy, psychology, and social science.

Articles

- “The Gender Puzzles,” forthcoming in *European Journal of Philosophy*.
- “You Disgust Me. Or Do You? On the Very Idea of Moral Disgust,” forthcoming in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. DOI: 10.1080/00048402.2020.1717560.
- “What Do Experts Know?” forthcoming in *Social Philosophy & Policy*, Special Issue on Science, Technology, and Values (by invitation).
- “Beyond ‘I and Thou’: Intimacy’s Pronouns,” forthcoming in *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion*, Symposium on Aaron Ben-Ze’ev’s *The Arc of Love*, including co-symposiasts Noël Carroll and Troy Jollimore (by invitation).
- “Metaethics and Mental Time Travel: A Reply to Gerrans and Kennett,” *Philosophia* 47 (2019): 1457–1474. Co-authored with Jon Tresan. (The two authors contributed equally.)
- “Envy’s Non-Innocent Victims,” *Journal of Philosophy of Emotion* 1 (2019): 1–22.
- “Historical Inaccuracy in Fiction,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 56 (2019): 155–169.
- “Just Another Article on Moore’s Paradox, But We Don’t Believe That,” *Synthese* 196 (2019): 5153–5167. Co-authored with Linda Brakel. (I am the lead and corresponding author.)
- “What Does Belief Have to Do with Truth?” *Philosophy* 93 (2018): 557–570.
- “Can Character Traits Be Based on Brute Psychological Facts?” *Ratio* 31 (2018): 233–352.
- “The Duties of an Artist,” *Film and Philosophy* 21 (2016): 137–159.
- “Will Retributivism Die and Will Neuroscience Kill It?” *Cognitive Systems Research* 34–35, Special Issue on Philosophical Approaches to Social Neuroscience (2015): 54–70. Co-authored with Jon Tresan. (I am the lead and corresponding author.)
- “A Puzzle about Knowledge in Action,” *Logique et Analyse* 56 (2013): 287–301.
- “Wisdom Beyond Rationality: A Reply to Ryan,” *Acta Analytica* 28 (2013): 229–235. Co-authored with Jon Tresan. (I am the lead and corresponding author.) Sharon Ryan responds in, “A Deeper Defense of the Deep Rationality Theory: A Reply to Fileva and Tresan,” *Acta Analytica* 32 (2016): 1–9.
- “The Neutrality of Rightness and the Indexicality of Goodness: Beyond Objectivity and Back Again,” *Ratio* 21 (2008): 273–285.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Planning” in Virgil Zeigler-Hill and Todd Shackelford, eds., *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Springer, 2020. Published online first, doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1882-1.
- “Ontology” in Virgil Zeigler-Hill and Todd Shackelford, eds., *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Springer, 2020. Published online first, [doi:10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1488-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1488-1).

Book Chapters

- “Bad Faith and Make-Believe” in E. Di Nucci and S. Storrie, eds., *1984 and Philosophy: Is Resistance Futile?* Open Court, 2018, pp. 175–186.
- “Two Senses of ‘Why’: Traits and Reasons in the Explanation of Action” in I. Fileva, ed., *Questions of Character*. Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 182–216.
- Preface and Introductions to Parts I–V in I. Fileva, ed., *Questions of Character*. Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. xxi–xxiv, 1–17, 105–120, 203–213, 311–321, 369–383.
- “Playing with Fire: Art and the Seductive Power of Pain” in J. Levinson, ed., *Suffering Art Gladly: The*

- Paradox of Negative Emotion in Art*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013, pp. 171–185.
- “Communicability of Pleasure and Normativity of Taste in Kant’s Third Critique” in J. M. Torralba, ed., *Doscientos Años Después: Retornos y Relecturas de Kant (Two Hundred Years After: Returns and Re-interpretations of Kant)*, Pamplona, Spain: Publication Services of the University of Navarra, Issue 21 (2005), pp. 21–32. Reprinted in *Postgraduate Journal of Aesthetics* 4 (2007): 11–18.
- “Can We Know Too Much, Do We Know Too Little, and Does It Make a Difference Either Way?” in H. Ikäheimo, J. Kotkavirta, A. Laitinen, and P. Lyyra, eds., *Personhood*, Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2004, pp. 43–53.

Reviews

- of *Art and Belief* edited by Ema Sullivan-Bissett, Helen Bradley, and Paul Noordhof, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, online first February 3, 2020. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-019-09730-4>.
- of *Aesthetics, Literature and Life* edited by Carla Carmona and Jerrold Levinson, *Aisthesis* 12 (2019): 199–203.
- of *Art and Authority: Moral Rights and Meaning in Contemporary Visual Art* by K. E. Gover, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, June 19, 2018.
- of *Inner Virtue* by Nicolas Bommarito, *Mind* 127 (2018): 902–911.
- of *Tolerance among the Virtues* by John R. Bowlin, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, April 5, 2017.
- of *Strategies of Commitment and Other Essays* by Thomas Schelling, *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 46 (2012): 485–490.
- of *Reasons without Rationalism* by Kieran Setiya, *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 43 (2009): 521–530.

In the Media

- I host *The Philosopher’s Diaries* blog at *Psychology Today*:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-philosophers-diaries>.
- “What Do We Owe the Dead?” *The New York Times*, January 27, 2020.
- Summary of “Metaethics and Mental Time Travel: A Reply to Gerrans and Kennett,” *Imperfect Cognitions*, December 24, 2019: <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2019/12/metaethics-and-mental-time-travel.html>. Gerrans and Kennett respond in “Autonoesis and Moral Agency” available at: <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2019/12/autonoesis-and-moral-agency.html>.
- “A Matter of Taste,” *Aesthetics for Birds*, May 13, 2015. Available at:
<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2015/05/13/a-matter-of-taste-by-iskra-fileva/>.
- “Character and Its Discontents,” *The New York Times*, March 25, 2012. Winner of the Character Project’s Essay Prize.
- “Who’s Got Character?” interview with radio talk show host Jose Drost-Lopez, *PsychTalk Radio*, May 2, 2012. Available at: <http://psychtalkradio.com/2012/05/01/whos-got-character/>.
- “Philosophy and Style, or Who’s Afraid of Beautiful Beasts?” *ASA Newsletter*, Spring, 2006, pp. 1–2. Reprinted in *Folly*, April 2007, pp. 17–20.

Under Revision

- “Virtue in a Time of Depraved Ideals” (revise & resubmit)

Under Review

- “A State of Besire”
- “A New View of Self-Constitution” (with Linda Brakel)
- “The Curse of Psychopathy”

In Progress

“What Do Experts Know?”

“In What Sense Are Supererogatory Actions Optional? A Reply to Benn” (with Jon Tresan)

Academic Talks

(* = invited)

(** = keynote)

*Workshop on James Stacey Taylor’s book manuscript *Bloody Morality*, Washington DC, April 2020

**“What Do Experts Know?” *Social Philosophy & Policy* journal conference entitled, “Science, Technology and Value,” Hermosa Beach, California, April 2020

**“(Un)fitting Offense,” PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 2020

*Respondent at an Author Meets Critics session on Jonathan Anomaly’s *Creating Future People*, PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 2020

*Respondent at an Author Meets Critics session on Aaron Ben-Ze’ev’s *The Arc of Love: How Our Romantic Loves Change Over Time*, Society for the Philosophy of Emotion, Eastern APA, Philadelphia, January 2020

**“Respect before Sympathy: How to Think about the Poor” PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 2019

**“The Disappearing Agent,” Panel Discussion, Society for Philosophy of Agency, APA Central, Denver, February 2019

**“You Disgust Me. Or Do You? On the Very Idea of Moral Disgust,” Center for Values & Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, November 2018

**“The Self-Deceived Artist,” Mike Womack’s graduate seminar, Department of Art & Art History, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2018

“I Have a Male Body, but I Am Not a Man: What Is Gender and How Do We Know Our Gender?”

· **Self, Memory, and the Unconscious Mind Workshop, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, February 2018

· *Philosophy Club, University of Colorado, Boulder, February 2018

“Just Another Article on Moore’s Paradox, But We Don’t Believe That” (with Linda Brakel), 25th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Hertfordshire, England, August 2017

**“Moral Luck and Practical Commitment,” Center for Values & Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, September 2017

“Reflection without Empathy: The Case of Psychopathy”

· *Seminar, Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, Murphy Institute, Tulane University, September 2018

· *Diverse Voices in Philosophy Conference, Stanford University, May 2017

“Two Senses of ‘why’: Traits and Reasons in the Explanation of Action”

· *Center for Values & Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, October 2016

· *Department Colloquium, University of Florida, Gainesville, January 2014

**“Mad or Bad: On the Status of Cluster B Personality Disorders,” CHPS Talks Series, CU, Boulder, November 2015

“What Does Belief Have to Do with Truth?”

· *Department Talk, St. Joseph’s College, Philadelphia, March 2015

- Symposium Paper, Central APA, St. Louis, February 2015
- “Context without Contextualism,” RoME VII, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2014
- *“Mental Disorder and Patient Consent,” Pharmacology Focus Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 2014
- “The False, the Bad, and the Beautiful”
 - *Aesthetics Discussion Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 2014
 - *Center for Values & Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, March 2014
- “Playing with Fire: Art and the Seductive Power of Pain”
 - *Aesthetics Discussion Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 2013
 - *Center for Values & Social Policy, University of Colorado, Boulder, October 2013
 - BSA Annual Meeting, Cambridge University, September 2013
- *“Wisdom without Virtue,” 23rd World Congress of Philosophy, Athens, August 2013
- “The Sources of Passivity”
 - Eastern APA, Main Program, Atlanta, GA, December 2012
 - European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, London, August 2012
 - *Department Colloquium, University of Maryland, April 2012
 - *Moral Psychology Discussion Group, Duke University, March 2012
- “Historical Inaccuracy in Art,” BSA Annual Meeting, Queen’s College, Oxford University, September 2012
- *“On a Recent Attempt to Combat Skepticism about Virtue with Pragmatism about Virtue Ascription,” Visiting Scholars Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill, August 2012
- *“Traits and Reasons in the Explanation of Action”
 - Visiting Scholars Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill, August 2011
 - Penn Philosophers’ Lunch, University of Pennsylvania, April 2011
- “A Puzzle about Knowledge in Action”
 - Eastern APA, Main Program, Boston, December 2010
 - *Temple University Colloquia Series, September 2010
- “Skepticism about Collective Responsibility,” Conference on Collective Intentionality VII: Perspectives on Social Ontology, University of Basel, Switzerland, August 2010
- “Thought Experiments in Philosophy and Fiction”
 - Philosophy and Literature Conference, Vaasa University, Finland, May 2010
 - Film-Philosophy III Conference, University of Warwick, July 2010
- “Can You Act on a Reason That You Don’t Know You Have?” Fourth Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy, Higher Institute of Philosophy, Leuven, January 2010
- “Beyond Concealment”
 - V Inter-University Workshop on Art, Mind and Morals, Universitat Illes Balears, Spain, December 2008
 - Center for Applied Ethics and Philosophy, Hokkaido University, Japan, November 2008
- “Communicability of Pleasure and Normativity of Taste in Kant’s Third Critique”
 - UK Kant Society Graduate Conference, Oxford University, July 2007
 - Beauty Looking in the Eyes of the Beholder, Graduate Center at CUNY, November 2004
 - Annual ASA Meeting in Houston, November 2004 (winner of a graduate student travel stipend)
 - 200 Years After: Returns and Re-interpretations of Kant, University of Navarra, March 2004
- “The Neutrality of Rightness and the Indexicality of Goodness: Beyond Objectivity and Back Again”
 - Eastern APA, New York, December 2005 (winner of a graduate student travel stipend)

- *Ockham Society, Oxford University, November 2005
- International Humanities Conference, Cambridge UK, August 2005
- 32nd Conference on Value Inquiry, Baton Rouge, April 2005
- “Vice’s Non-Innocent Victims,” Emotions, Others and the Self, Åbo Akademi, Finland, August 2005
- “Foolish Games: Hobbes and the Safer Strategy of Trustworthiness,” Pacific APA, San Francisco, March 2005
- “Can We Know Too Much, Do We Know Too Little, and Does It Make a Difference Either Way?” Dimensions of Personhood, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, August 2004
- “Might Truth Be Subversive of What We Really Care About?” Special Conference on Values, Rational Choice and the Will, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, April 2004

Public Talks

- “The Limits of Attorney-Client Privilege,” Flatiron Terrace Senior Living, Boulder, CO, January 2020
 - “Moral Luck and Practical Commitment,” Flatiron Terrace Senior Living, Boulder, CO, March 2018
 - “What Does the Humble Person Know?” Flatiron Terrace Senior Living, Boulder, CO, March 2017
 - “Vice’s Non-Innocent Victims,” Flatiron Terrace Senior Living, Boulder, CO, August 2016
 - “Talk and Taboo,” Sandbox Symposium, Trident Café, May 2015
 - “The Right to Healthcare,” Faculty-Student Panel Discussion, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 2013
 - “It Wouldn’t Have Been Worth It If that Island Were Made of Gold,” Panel Discussion on the China-Japan Dispute over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Island, UNC–Chapel Hill, September 2012
 - “The Price of Silence,” Center for Human Science, Chapel Hill, NC, May 2012
 - “The Psychiatrist and the Marketplace, or the Madness in Treating Madness,” Lunch and Learn Series, Parr Center for Ethics, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 2012
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Teaching Experience

At the University of Colorado, Boulder

- Phil 5800: Varieties of Testimony, Spring 2020
- Phil 2750: Philosophy and Science Fiction, Spring 2020
- Phil 2170: Ethics and Economics, Fall 2019
- Phil 2150: Ethics and Sex, Fall 2018
- Phil 3600: Philosophy of Religion, Fall 2018 & Fall 2019
- Phil 2800: Philosophical Issues in Psychiatry, Spring 2018
- Phil 1700: Philosophy and the Arts, Spring 2018
- Phil 4110/5110: Contemporary Moral Theories, Spring 2017
- Phil 3700: Aesthetic Theory, Fall 2016 & Fall 2017
- Phil 4390: Epistemology, Spring 2016
- Phil 6100: Moral Psychology and the Self, Spring 2015
- Phil 2390: Philosophy and Psychology, Fall 2014–Fall 2018
- Phil 1000: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2014

At the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- Phil 402: Moral Psychology, Winter 2014
- PPE 300: Political Economy, Winter 2014
- PPE 400: Political Economy, Fall 2013
- Phil 286: Philosophical Issues in Psychiatry, Fall 2013

At UNC-Chapel Hill

Phil 272: The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense, Spring 2013

Phil 384: Prisoner's Dilemma, Fall 2012 & Spring 2013

Phil 364: Ethics and Economics, Fall 2011 & Spring 2012

Phil 280: Law and Morality, Spring 2012

Phil 170: Social Ethics and Political Theory, Fall 2011

At Temple University

Phil 3222: Contemporary Ethical Theories, Fall 2010

Phil 4221: Social and Political Theory, Fall 2010

IH 851: Intellectual Heritage, Spring 2011

At the University of Nevada, Reno

Phil 207 /PSC 227: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy, Spring 2010

Phil 245: Contemporary Moral Issues, Spring 2010 & Summer 2010

Phil 440/640 (in conjunction with 712): Theory of Knowledge, Fall 2008 & Fall 2009

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2008 & Fall 2009

Phil 441/641 (in conjunction with 712): Metaphysics, Spring 2009

Phil 295: Philosophy of Literature/Eng 223: Topics in Literature, Spring 2009

At Saint Louis University

Phil 300: Business Ethics, Summer 2001

Thesis Supervision

PhD Dissertation (CU-Boulder) (I also supervised the qualifying papers of all these students.)

- Maggie Taylor, "The Harm Threshold, Parental Duty, and Pediatric Healthcare Decision Making," Fall 2017-present
- Lisa Thomas-Smith, "In Praise of Habit," Spring 2017-present
- Christopher Dengler, "Virtue Aesthetics," Fall 2018-present
- Derick Hughes, "Modesty," Fall 2019-present

MA Thesis (CU-Boulder)

- Richard Alonzo Fyfe, "Manufacturing Reasons" (defended Spring 2020)

Honors Thesis

- Janelle Chapman, "Synesthesia and Memory Recall," CU-Boulder, Fall 2018
- Rebecca Combest, "The Dark Side of Compassion," CU-Boulder (defended *cum laude*, Spring 2016)
- Joseph Alpert, "The Concept of Happiness in Philosophy and Behavioral Economics," Temple University (defended Spring 2011)
- Carl Hernandez, "Bergson's Theory of Laughter," University of Nevada, Reno (defended Spring 2010)

Dissertation Committee Member (CU-Boulder)

- Martin Eyestone, "The Problem with Skeptical Solutions to the Problem of Evil" (defended Spring 2019)
- Samuel Director, "Consent and Cognitive Impairment"
- Gagan Sapkota, "Thinking with Aristotle and Plato on the Concept of Voluntary"

- Andrew Waldeck-Young, “Composition or Elimination: Toward a Theory of Concepts”
- Bodhi Melnitzer, “In Defense of Moral Overridingness”
- Cheryl Abbate, “The Philosophy of Animal Rights and the ‘Hard Problem’” (defended Spring 2019)
- Rebecca Renninger, “Action, Agents, and Extended Cognition” (defended Spring 2016)
- Cayla Eagon (English), “There are Worse Things than Death: (Re)reading the Potential of Suicide in Nineteenth-Century Literature”

Master’s Thesis Committee Member (CU-Boulder)

- John Christmann, “A Defense of Moral Error Theory” (defended Spring 2018)
- Sofia Huerter, “The Logic of the Larder and Ideal Theory” (defended Spring 2015)

Honors Thesis Committee Member (CU-Boulder)

- Abigail Levitt Tuvel (Psychology), “Social Media Usage’s Effect on Substance Use Experiences”
- Gillian Davenport (Anthropology), “Love at First Like” (defended Spring 2019)
- Jennifer Ladouceur (Psychology), “Model-Based Learning in Children and Proactive Control” (defended *magna cum laude* Spring 2018)
- Isaac Singer (Environmental Studies), “Aesthetics and the Omnivore’s Dilemma” (defended Spring 2018)

Professional and Departmental Service

- *Frontiers in Psychology* editorial board member
- APA Pacific Division Program Committee Member 2019-2021
- Occasional Referee for *Ethics*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Erkenntnis*, *The British Journal of Aesthetics*, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Acta Analytica*, *The Independent Review* (leading economics journal), Oxford University Press, Rowan and Littlefield.
- Honors Advisor, CU-Boulder, AY 2019-2020

Languages

- French (good reading skills, some speaking skills)
- Japanese (fair reading and speaking skills)
- Russian (very good reading skills, some speaking skills)
- Bulgarian (native language)

References

- Professor Julia Driver (Washington University); Tel.: +1 (314) 935-8267; Email: jdriver@wustl.edu
- Professor Christian Miller (Wake Forest University); Tel.: +1 (336)758-3564; Email: millercc@wfu.edu
- Professor Sarah Buss (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Tel.: +1 (919) 549-0668, Ext. 214; Email: sbuss@umich.edu
- Professor Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (UNC-Chapel Hill); Tel.: +1 (919) 627-1403; Email: sayre-mccord@unc.edu
- Professor Simon Keller (University of Victoria, Wellington); Tel.: +64 (4) 463-9638; Email: Simon.Keller@uvw.ac.nz