

AOS Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Value Theory
AOC Aesthetics, Metaethics, Ancient Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT **Swarthmore College** *Visiting Assistant Professor* 2025-

EDUCATION PhD Philosophy *University of Pittsburgh* 2025

Fellow in Philosophy *Harvard University* 2024

MA Philosophy *Brandeis University* 2017

MSc. Art, Culture, and Technology *Massachusetts Institute of Technology* 2012

BFA Visual Art *The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science* 2008

DISSERTATION *On the Affective Disclosure of Value in Perception*

Experiences—hearing beautiful music or stubbing one’s toe—can *feel good* or *bad*. I articulate a way in which such affectively valenced experiences can disclose the value of objects to subjects. My account appeals to a normative epistemic principle I call ‘*inheritance*’: whether an *experience* is good or bad for a subject is a function of whether its *objects* are good or bad for that subject. If experience is governed by inheritance, it suggests that all perceivers are directly aware of value *de re* through their pleasant and painful experiences and that such experiences motivate intelligent action independently of the intellect’s powers. I argue against representationalist alternatives, which rely on the idea that all epistemically significant features of an experience have truth or accuracy conditions. We can avoid this core cognitivist epistemic principle if we look at value perception as a matter of *being positively and negatively affected* by the objects of perception, rather than one of *ascribing evaluative properties*. Such a view allows us to understand the epistemic and motivational significance of pleasurable and painful experiences, and thus how humans and animals alike are capable of moving from perception to action without the aid of cognitive inferences. The normative dimension of perception, understood in terms of its affective character, may be what puts us in immediate moral contact with our community and makes us naturally susceptible to the value of works of art.

Committee: Anil Gupta (chair), L. Nandi Theunissen, Sara Magrin, Matthew Soteriou, Samantha Matherne.

PUBLICATIONS “Presentationalism and Affective Character” Invited contribution to *Reformed Empiricism and its Prospects*. Forthcoming

“Does NEDS Really Illuminate the Connection Between Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Belief?” Published in *Empirical Reason and Sensory Experience*, Vuletić, M., & Beck, O. Eds. Springer. 2024

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| UNDER REVIEW | <p>“Accounting for Tastes: On the Affective Disclosure of Value in Perception” R&R at <i>Philosophical Studies</i>. A paper posing a dilemma to representationalist accounts of valence based upon the first chapter of the dissertation. Available upon request.</p> | |
| IN PREPARATION | <p>“Perception Discloses Value Affectively” A paper based on the second chapter of the dissertation, defending the principle of inheritance. Available upon request.</p> <p>“The Odd Intentionality of Pain” A talk diagnosing and proposing a resolution to a historical dispute between Stumpf and Brentano about the intentionality of pain and emotion. Available upon request.</p> <p>“Must Feelings Be Faultless? On Aesthetic Knowledge and Disagreement” A paper defending ‘epistemic sentimentalism’ against the challenge that feelings of aesthetic pleasure and displeasure can invariably disagree without fault. Available upon request.</p> | |
| EDITED VOLUMES | <p><i>The Subjective Dimension of Experience</i> A volume based on the conference proceedings of PEER 2025, which I am slated to co-edit with Will Conner.</p> | |
| FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS | <p>Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellowship, <i>Swarthmore College</i> 2025</p> <p>Dean’s Tuition Scholarship, <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> 2025</p> <p>Athena in Action Workshop <i>University of Notre Dame</i> 2024</p> <p>APA Central Meeting Graduate Student Stipend 2024</p> <p>Michael R. Bennett Prize in Philosophy for “Accuracy Conditions and Affective Character” <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> 2023 (awarded to a graduate student essay “found to be of extraordinary quality”)</p> <p>Allen Ross Anderson Fellowship <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> 2019, 2023 (awarded to one graduate student annually)</p> <p>Philosophy Scholarship (<i>merit-based</i>) <i>Brandeis University</i> 2015-2017</p> <p>ACT Program Scholarship (<i>merit-based</i>) <i>MIT</i> 2011-2012</p> <p>Director’s Grant <i>Council for the Arts at MIT</i> 2010</p> <p>Service to the School Award <i>The Cooper Union</i> 2008</p> <p>Full Tuition Scholarship (<i>merit-based</i>) <i>The Cooper Union</i> 2004-2008</p> | |
| PRESENTATIONS *refereed | <p>*“Perception Discloses Value <i>Affectively</i>” <i>Groningen Metaethics Workshop</i> April 2025</p> <p>“The Odd Intentionality of Pain” <i>Auburn University</i> (invited) Feb. 2025</p> | |

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| | “From Perception to Action: Intelligent Action in the Absence of the Intellect.” <i>Swarthmore College</i> (invited) | Feb. 2025 |
| | *Comment on “The Dynamic Unity of Phenomenal Consciousness” <i>Athena in Action Workshop</i> | June 2024 |
| | “Accuracy Conditions and Affective Character” <i>Harvard University Shop Talk</i> | March 2024 |
| | *“Accuracy Conditions and Affective Character” <i>Central Division APA, New Orleans, submitted symposium</i> | Feb. 2024 |
| | *“Does NEDS Really Illuminate the Connection Between Perceptual Experience and Perceptual Belief?” <i>Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason Conference, Pittsburgh</i> | Dec. 2021 |
| | “Is Feeling Pleasure Perceiving Value?” <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> | Nov. 2020 |
| | *Comment on Ram Neta on Rationality, Success, and Luck <i>RecaPITTulate Conference.</i> | April 2020 (cancelled due to covid) |
| | “Aesthetic Experience and the Question of Value’s Source” <i>University of Pittsburgh, Work in Progress Talk</i> | Sep. 2019 |
| | “Two Variations of Empirical Justification” <i>University of Pittsburgh, Work in Progress Talk</i> | Feb. 2019 |
| TEACHING | <i>Primary Instructor</i> , Philosophy, Swarthmore College Aesthetics and Experience | Fall 2025 |
| | <i>Primary Instructor</i> , Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh History of Ancient Philosophy | Summer 2024 |
| | Introduction to Philosophical Problems (covered by another instructor due to the birth of a child) | Spring 2022 |
| | Concepts of Human Nature | Summer 2021 |
| | <i>Primary Instructor</i> , Visual Arts Arts Council of Mongolia, Advanced Photography | Summer 2011 |
| | Arts Council of Mongolia, Intermediate Photography | Summer 2011 |
| | The Saturday Outreach Program, Cooper Union, Painting | 2008-2009 |
| | The Saturday Outreach Program, Cooper Union, Painting | 2007-2008 |
| | <i>Recitation Instructor</i> , Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh Concepts of Human Nature | Fall 2022 |
| | Philosophy of Science | Spring 2019 |
| | Philosophy and Public Issues | Fall 2018 |
| | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Brandeis University War and Morality (Philosophy) | Spring 2016 |
| | Science on Trial (School of Law) | Fall 2016 |
| | Introduction to Philosophy (Philosophy) | Fall 2016 |

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| SERVICE *professional | Organizer <i>PEER 2025: The Subjective Dimension of Experience Conference, University of Pittsburgh</i> | 2025 |
| | Founder <i>Undergraduate Diversity Initiative, University of Pittsburgh</i> (an ongoing graduate-led course series aimed at diversifying the undergraduate curriculum and improving access) | 2019-ongoing |
| | Organizer <i>PEER 2021: Empirical Experience and Perceptual Reason Conference, University of Pittsburgh</i> | Dec 2025 |
| | Mentor <i>Open Doors Philosophy Academy, University of Pittsburgh</i> (a week-long academic program supporting application to PhD programs among groups underrepresented in academic philosophy) | July 2023 |
| | Organizer <i>History and Philosophy of Aesthetics Reading Group</i> | 2023 |
| | *Referee <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> | April 2022 |
| | Member <i>Hiring Committee (Ethics), University of Pittsburgh</i> | Fall 2022 |
| | Organizer <i>Perceptual Experience and Empirical Reason Conference, University of Pittsburgh</i> | Dec. 2021 |
| | Organizer <i>University of Pittsburgh-Carnegie Mellon Graduate Student Conference</i> | March 2020 (cancelled due to covid) |
| | Student Rep. <i>Climate&Liason Committee</i> | 2019-2020 |
| | Organizer <i>Work-in-Progress Talks, University of Pittsburgh</i> | 2018-2019 |

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| REFERENCES | Anil Gupta: agupta@pitt.edu Alan Ross Anderson Distinguished Professor of Philosophy <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> |
| | Nandi Theunissen: lit44@pitt.edu Associate Professor of Philosophy <i>Rice University</i> |
| | Matthew Soteriou: mjs589@pitt.edu Professor of Philosophy <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> |
| | Grace Helton: ghelton@ur.rochester.edu Associate Professor of Philosophy <i>University of Rochester</i> |
| | Sara Magrin: magrin_s@pitt.edu Associate Professor of Philosophy <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> |
| | Samantha Matherne: smatherne@harvard.fas.edu Professor of Philosophy <i>Harvard University</i> |
| | Robert Batterman: rbatterm@pitt.edu Distinguished Professor of Philosophy <i>University of Pittsburgh (teaching mentor)</i> |