

VICTOR KUMAR

Philosophy Department
Boston University

www.victorkumar.org
victor.c.kumar@gmail.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Philosophy of Biology

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017-present **Boston University**
Peter Paul Assistant Professor of Philosophy (since 2018)
Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (since 2018)
Mind and Morality Lab Director
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- 2015-2017 **University of Toronto**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- 2013-2015 **University of Michigan**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

EDUCATION

- 2013 **University of Arizona**
Ph.D. in Philosophy, minor in Cognitive Science (distinction)
- 2007 **University of Alberta**
M.A. in Philosophy
- 2005 **Dalhousie University**
B.A. in Philosophy (first class honors)
- 2003 **Dalhousie University**
B.Sc. in Psychology & Biology (distinction)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Forthcoming *A Better Ape: The Evolution of the Moral Mind and How it Made Us Human* with Richmond Campbell (Oxford University Press)

Edited Collections

2018 *The Moral Psychology of Disgust*, co-edited with Nina Strohminger (Rowman and Littlefield)

2017 *Cognition* special issue on moral learning, co-edited with Peter Railton and Fiery Cushman

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

2020 "The Science of Effective Altruism," in Douglas Portmore, Ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism* (OUP).

2020 "The Ethical Significance of Cognitive Science," in Adam Lerner, Simon Cullen & Sarah-Jane Leslie, Eds., *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Cognitive Science* (Routledge)

2019 "Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck," *Nous*, 53: 987-1007.

2017 "Foul Behavior," *Philosophers' Imprint*, 17: 1-17.

2017 "Moral Vindications," *Cognition*, 176: 124-34.

2016 "Nudges and Bumps," *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, 14: 861-76.

2016 "The Empirical Identity of Moral Judgment," *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 66: 783-804

2016 "Psychopathy and Internalism," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 46: 318-45

2015 "Moral Judgment as a Natural Kind," *Philosophical Studies*, 172: 2887-2910

2014 "'Knowledge' as a Natural Kind Term," *Synthese*, 191: 439-57

2011 "In Support of Anti-Intellectualism," *Philosophical Studies*, 152: 135-54

Co-authored Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Forthcoming "Moral Reasoning and Moral Progress," (with Joshua May) in David Copp & Connie Rosati, Eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Metaethics* (OUP).

2018 "How to Debunk Moral Beliefs," (with Joshua May) in Jussi Suikkanen & Antti Kauppinen, Eds., *Methodology and Moral Philosophy* (Routledge)

2018 "Moral Reasoning and Emotion," (with Joshua May) in Aaron Zimmerman, Karen Jones, and Mark Timmons, Eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology* (Routledge)

- 2018 "Disgust: A Cross-Pollination," (with Nina Strohminger) in Nina Strohminger and Victor Kumar, Eds., *The Moral Psychology of Disgust* (Rowman and Littlefield)
- 2017 "Moral Learning: Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives," (with Fiery Cushman and Peter Railton), *Cognition*, 176: 1-10.
- 2016 "Honor & Moral Revolution," (with Richmond Campbell) *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice*, 19: 147-59
- 2014 "How Many of Us Are There?" (with Hannah Tierney, Chris Howard, Trevor Kvaran, and Shaun Nichols) in Justin Sytsma, Ed., *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Mind* (Continuum)
- 2013 "Pragmatic Naturalism & Moral Objectivity" (with Richmond Campbell) *Analysis*, 73: 446-55
- 2012 "On the Normative Significance of Experimental Moral Psychology" (with Richmond Campbell) *Philosophical Psychology*, 25: 311-30. (Published as winner of William James Prize from *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*)
- 2012 "Moral Reasoning on the Ground," (with Richmond Campbell) *Ethics*, 122: 273-312

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2018-2022 Peter Paul Career Development Professorship, Boston University (\$130,000)
University award for early career professors (1 of only 5 across BU CAS)
- 2018-2023 Ethics and Emerging Science Initiative, Boston University (\$100,000)
Research grant co-led with Rachell Powell
- 2018-2021 Templeton Project on Reasoning in Moral Thought and Action (\$60,000)
Sub award; Project Leaders: Liane Young and Fiery Cushman
- 2020-2021 Center for Humanities Project Award, Boston University (\$4,000)
Talk Series on Democracy and Culture
- 2018-2019 Center for Humanities Project Award, Boston University (\$6,000)
Conference on Evolution and Ethics
- 2015-2017 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$80,000)
- 2012-2013 Joel Feinberg Dissertation Fellowship, University of Arizona (\$10,000)
- 2007-2011 Ph.D. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$80,000)
- 2007-2010 Ph.D. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$105,000) —declined
- 2006-2007 M.A. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$17,500)
- 2005-2007 M.A. Scholarship, University of Alberta (\$25,000)
- 2004-2005 University Medal, Dalhousie University (highest GPA in honors class)

ESSAY PRIZES

- 2015 Jean Hampton Prize for “Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck”
Best essay by younger scholar, American Philosophical Association, Pacific
- 2013 Riesen Prize for “The Empirical Identity of Moral Judgment”
Best graduate student essay, Philosophy Department, University of Arizona
- 2011 William James Prize for “On the Normative Significance of Moral Psychology”
Best graduate student essay, Society for Philosophy & Psychology
- 2011 SSPP Student Essay Prize for “Psychopathy and Internalism”
Best graduate student essay, Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology
- 2007 CPA Student Essay Prize for “Knowing-How and Knowing-That”
Best graduate student essay, Canadian Philosophical Association
- 2005 F. Hilton Page Memorial Prize for “Solutions to the Problem of Induction”
Best honors thesis, Philosophy Department, Dalhousie University

PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Commentary on Regina Rini’s *The Ethics of Microaggression*
Canadian Philosophical Association
- “The Evolution of Tribalism”
2021 Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University
2021 Philosophy Department Colloquium, McGill University
- “Lessons for the Future from the Gay Rights Revolution”
2021 Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University
2021 Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of British Columbia
2020 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville, KY
2020 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
2019 Morality Lab, Boston College
2019 Moral Psychology Research Lab, Harvard University
2019 Public Philosophy Conference, Boston University
- “Explaining the Large, Rapid, and Broad Decline in Anti-Gay Attitudes”
2020 Religion and Science Colloquium, Boston University
2020 Concepts and Cognition Lab, Princeton University
- “Why Not Nudge?”
2019 Nudging Conference, Boston University
- “The Evolution of Norms and Institutions”
2019 Evolution and Ethics Conference, Boston University

2019 “Cultural Evolution in Deep History”
 Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University
 2019 Cooperation Lab, Boston College
 2018 Tertulia, Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University
 2018 Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Minnesota

“Empathy and Moral Progress”
 2018 Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University
 2018 Morality Lab, Boston College

“The Weight of Empathy”
 2018 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Wellesley College
 2018 Rhett Talks, Boston University
 2018 Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
 2018 Ways of Knowing in Ethics Workshop, Simon Fraser University
 2018 Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal
 2017 Ethical and Legal Implications of Moral Psychology, Bielefeld, Germany

“Evolution, Culture and Morality”
 2018 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Simon Fraser University
 2018 Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University
 2018 American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division, Savannah, GA

“The Evolutionary Foundations of Morality”
 2017 Boston Area Moral (BAM) Cognition Group, Harvard University
 2017 Moral Psychology Research Group, Duke University
 2017 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Toronto

“Tribal Morality and Beyond” (with Richmond Campbell)
 2017 Evolution, Culture, and Morality Workshop, Duke University
 2017 Atlantic Regional Philosophy Conference, St. Mary’s University

“Reasons for Repugnance”
 2017 Ethical and Legal Implications of Moral Psychology, Bielefeld, Germany
 2017 American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, Seattle, WA
 2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Toronto
 2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Rutgers-Newark
 2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Durham University
 2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Carleton University
 2016 Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Pittsburgh
 2016 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Queen’s University

“Foul Behavior”
 2017 Moral Sentimentalism Conference, Cal State Fullerton
 2017 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Boston University
 2016 American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division (Symposium)
 2016 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Ohio State University
 2016 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Virginia Tech University

“Just-Why Stories”
 2016 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
 2016 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Calgary
 2016 Moral Psychology Research Group, Harvard University

“How to Debunk Moral Beliefs” (with Joshua May)
 2016 The New Methods of Ethics Conference, University of Birmingham

“Nudges and Bumps”
 2016 Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University of Texas, Austin
 2016 American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Chicago, IL
 2015 Ethics of Nudging Symposium, Georgetown University
 2015 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Boulder

“Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck”
 2015 Philosophy Department Colloquium, York University
 2015 Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Duke University
 2015 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Ottawa
 2015 Moral Psychology Research Group, Dartmouth University
 2015 Ethics Discussion Group, University of Michigan
 2015 American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, Vancouver, B.C.

“Empathy and Moral Agency”
 2015 Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Michigan

“Explanation and Justification in Moral Learning”
 2015 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
 2015 Moral Learning Workshop, University of Michigan

“The Nature of Moral Judgment”
 2015 Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Alabama

“Moral Rationality”
 2015 McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University
 2014 Mind and Moral Psychology Group, University of Michigan

“Liberal Disgust”
 2014 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado
 2014 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
 2014 Moral Psychology Research Group, Duke University
 2014 Georgetown Conference on Emotions and Emotionality
 2014 Mind and Moral Psychology Group, University of Michigan

“Do Psychopaths Falsify Internalism or Lack Responsibility?”
 2014 Canadian Philosophical Association, Brock University
 2013 Atlantic Regional Philosophers Association, Dalhousie University

“The Empirical Identity of Moral Judgment”
 2013 Ethics Discussion Group, University of Michigan
 2013 Moral Psychology Research Group, Brown University
 2013 Canadian Philosophical Association, Victoria, B.C.

2013 Philosophy Department Colloquium, The University of South Carolina
2013 Philosophy Department Colloquium, London School of Economics
2012 American Philosophical Association: Pacific, Seattle, WA (Symposium)
“Empirical Ethics”
2013 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Oakland University
“Pragmatic Naturalism & Moral Objectivity” (with Richmond Campbell)
2013 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Victoria
“Moral Judgment as a Natural Kind”
2012 Moral Psychology Research Group, Ohio State University
2012 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Waterloo
“On the Normative Significance of Moral Psychology,” with R. Campbell
2011 Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University du Quebec a Montreal
2011 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of New Brunswick
“Moral Reasoning on the Ground” (with Richmond Campbell)
2011 American Philosophical Association: Pacific, San Diego, CA (Symposium)
“Empathy and Moral Know-How”
2011 American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Minneapolis, MN
2011 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA
“‘Knowledge’ as a Natural Kind Term”
2010 Canadian Philosophical Association, Concordia University
“Does the Evidence from Psychopathy Support Internalism?”
2010 Canadian Philosophical Association, Concordia University
2010 Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA
“Virtue Epistemology Naturalized”
2010 American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA
2009 Canadian Philosophical Association, Carleton University
“Emotion v Reasoning: A Darwinian Perspective,” (with Richmond Campbell)
2009 Darwinfest: International Workshop on Darwinism, Dalhousie University
2009 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
“Moral Judgment and Moral Cognition”
2009 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
2009 Canadian Philosophical Association, Carleton University
“Kinds of Reliability”
2009 Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
2009 American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Chicago, IL
2008 Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia

	“In Support of Anti-Intellectualism”
2008	Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University
2008	Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy
2008	Southwest Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Arizona State University
	“Knowing-How and Knowing-That”
2007	Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Saskatchewan
2006	Northwest Conference in Philosophy, University of Portland
	“Naturalism and Normativity: Moral Realism Without Intrinsic Value”
2005	Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University

TEACHING

Boston University

2019, 2020	Evolutionary Cognitive Science and Ethics (seminar)
2019, 2020	Introduction to Ethics
2018	Evolution and Ethics (graduate seminar)
2018, 2018	Medical Ethics
2017, 2018	Gender, Race, and Science (seminar)

University of Toronto

2017	Ethics of Race and Gender (seminar)
2016	Evolution and Ethics
2016	The Moral Mind

University of Arizona

2012	Contemporary Moral Problems
2012	Medical Ethics

AFFILIATIONS

2017-present	Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University (director)
2012-present	Moral Psychology Research Group (member)
2007-2013	Experimental Philosophy Lab, University of Arizona (member)
2010-2011	Moral Cognition Lab, Harvard University (visiting fellow)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer

Ethics; Philosophers' Imprint; Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; Philosophical Studies; Philosophy of Science; Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Canadian Journal of Philosophy; Cognition; Synthese; Philosophy Compass; Social Theory & Practice; Philosophical Psychology; Ethical Theory & Moral Practice; Social Philosophy & Policy; European Journal of Philosophy; Erkenntnis; Neuroethics; Review of Philosophy and Psychology; Utilitas; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; WIREs Cognitive Science; Oxford University Press; Cambridge University Press; Routledge; Society for Philosophy & Psychology; Cognitive Science Society; Canadian Philosophical Association

American Philosophical Association

2017-2020 Committee on Academic Career Opportunities and Placement
2014-2015 Committee on Skype Interviewing

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

2016-2019 Executive Committee
2015-2018 William James Prize Committee

Canadian Philosophical Association

2017-2019 Program Committee: Moral Psychology
2015-2017 Program Committee: Metaethics & Moral Psychology

Departmental

2018-present Member of one dissertation committee, Boston University
2017-present Organizer, Mind and Morality Lab Talk Series, Boston University
2019-2020 Member, Climate and Diversity Committee, Boston University
2019 Organizer, Public Philosophy Conference, Boston University
2019 Organizer, Evolution and Ethics Conference, Boston University
2019 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Boston University
2015 Co-organizer, Moral Learning Workshop, University of Michigan
2011-2012 Graduate Representative to Faculty, University of Arizona
2009 Co-organizer, Arizona Workshop in Philosophy, University of Arizona

REFERENCES

Shaun Nichols
Professor of Philosophy
Cornell University
sbn44@cornell.edu

Peter Railton
Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan
prailton@umich.edu

Mark Timmons
Professor of Philosophy
University of Arizona
mtimmons@email.arizona.edu

Richmond Campbell
George Munro Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus
Dalhousie University
richmond.campbell@dal.ca

Terry Horgan
Professor of Philosophy
University of Arizona
thorgan@email.arizona.edu

Joshua Greene
John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor of Psychology
Harvard University
jgreene@wjh.harvard.edu

Michael Gill (teaching reference)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Edinburgh
gillm@email.arizona.edu

Allen Buchanan
James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy
Duke University
allenb@duke.edu