

VICTOR KUMAR

Philosophy Department
Boston University

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Moral Psychology, Cognitive Science, Evolutionary Theory

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Race

EMPLOYMENT

Boston University

Assistant Professor of Philosophy 2017-present
Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Affiliate)

University of Toronto

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2015-2017

University of Michigan

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2013-2015

EDUCATION

University of Arizona

Ph.D. in Philosophy, minor in Cognitive Science (distinction) 2013
Dissertation: *Naturalizing Moral Judgment*

University of Alberta

M.A. in Philosophy 2007

Dalhousie University

B.A. in Philosophy (first class honors) 2005
B.Sc. in Psychology & Biology (distinction) 2003

AFFILIATIONS

Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University (director) 2017-present

Moral Psychology Research Group (member) 2012-present

Experimental Philosophy Lab, University of Arizona (member) 2007-2013

Moral Cognition Lab, Harvard University (visiting fellow) 2010-2011

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Peter Paul Career Development Professorship, Boston University (\$120,000) University-wide award for early career professors	2018-2022
BU Ethics and Emerging Science Initiative, Boston University (\$100,000) Research grant co-lead with Russell Powell	2018-2023
Sub-Award for Project on Moral Reasoning, Templeton (\$60,000) Project Leaders: Liane Young and Fiery Cushman	2018-2021
Humanities Center Enhancement Grant, Boston University (\$6,000) Conference on Evolution and Ethics	2018-2019
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$80,000)	2015-2017
Joel Feinberg Dissertation Fellowship, University of Arizona (\$10,000)	2012-2013
Ph.D. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$80,000)	2007-2011
Ph.D. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$105,000)—declined	2007-2010
M.A. Scholarship, Social Sci & Hum Research Council (\$20,000)	2006-2007
M.A. Scholarship, University of Alberta (\$20,000)	2005-2006
University Medal, Dalhousie University (top graduate in honors class)	2004-2005

ESSAY PRIZES

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

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

Why We Are Moral (with Richmond Campbell) In progress

Edited Collections

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

Cognition special issue on moral learning 2017
Co-edited with Peter Railton and Fiery Cushman

Journal Articles

"Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck" Forthcoming
Nous

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

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

"Moral Learning: Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives" 2017
(with Fiery Cushman and Peter Railton)
Cognition, 176: 1-10.

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

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

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

"Honor & Moral Revolution" (with Richmond Campbell) 2016
Ethical Theory & Moral Practice, 19: 147-59

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

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

"Pragmatic Naturalism & Moral Objectivity" (with Richmond Campbell) 2013
Analysis, 73: 446-55

<p>“On the Normative Significance of Experimental Moral Psychology” (with Richmond Campbell) <i>Philosophical Psychology</i>, 25: 311-30 Winner of William James Prize from Society for Philosophy and Psychology</p>	2012
<p>“Moral Reasoning on the Ground” (with Richmond Campbell) <i>Ethics</i>, 122: 273-312</p>	2012
<p>“In Support of Anti-Intellectualism” <i>Philosophical Studies</i>, 152: 135-54</p>	2011
Book Chapters	
<p>“How to Debunk Moral Beliefs” (with Joshua May) <i>Methodology and Moral Philosophy</i> (Routledge) Edited by Jussi Suikkanen & Antti Kauppinen</p>	Forthcoming
<p>“Moral Reasoning and Emotion” (with Joshua May) <i>The Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology</i> (Routledge) Edited by Aaron Zimmerman, Karen Jones, and Mark Timmons</p>	Forthcoming
<p>“The Ethical Significance of Cognitive Science” <i>Current Controversies in Philosophy of Cognitive Science</i> (Routledge) Edited by Sarah-Jane Leslie & Simon Cullen</p>	Forthcoming
<p>“Disgust: A Cross-Pollination” (with Nina Strohminger) <i>The Moral Psychology of Disgust</i> (Rowman and Littlefield) Edited by Nina Strohminger and Victor Kumar</p>	2018
<p>“How Many of Us Are There?” (with Tierney, Howard, Kvaran, & Nichols) <i>Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Mind</i> (Continuum) Edited by Justin Sytsma</p>	2014

PRESENTATIONS

<p>“Cultural Evolution in Deep History” Evolution & Ethics Conference, Boston University</p>	2019
<p>Tertulia, Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University</p>	2018
<p>“Empathy and Moral Progress” Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University</p>	2018
<p>Morality Lab, Boston College</p>	2018
<p>“The Weight of Empathy” Philosophy Department Colloquium, Wellesley College</p>	2018
<p>Rhett talks, Boston University</p>	2018
<p>Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor</p>	2018
<p>Ways of Knowing in Ethics Workshop, Simon Fraser University</p>	2018
<p>Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal</p>	2018
<p>Ethical and Legal Implications of Moral Psychology, Bielefeld, Germany</p>	2017

“Cultural Co-Evolution”	
Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Minnesota	2018
“Evolution, Culture and Morality”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Simon Fraser University	2018
Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University	2018
American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division, Savannah, GA	2018
“The Evolutionary Foundations of Morality”	
Boston Area Moral (BAM) Cognition Group, Harvard University	2017
Moral Psychology Research Group, Duke University	2017
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Toronto	2017
“Tribal Morality and Beyond” (with Richmond Campbell)	
Evolution, Culture, and Morality Workshop, Duke University	2017
Atlantic Regional Philosophy Association Conference, St. Mary’s University	2017
“Reasons for Repugnance”	
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	2017
Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Pittsburgh	2016
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Queen’s University	2016
“Foul Behavior”	
Moral Sentimentalism Conference, Cal State Fullerton	2017
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Boston University	2017
American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division (Symposium)	2016
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Ohio State University	2016
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Virginia Tech University	2016
“Just-Why Stories”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2016
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Calgary	2016
Moral Psychology Research Group, Harvard University	2016
“How to Debunk Moral Beliefs” (with Joshua May)	
The New Methods of Ethics Conference, University of Birmingham	2016
“Nudges and Bumps”	
Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University of Texas, Austin	2016
American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Chicago, IL	2016
Ethics of Nudging Symposium, Georgetown University	2015
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Boulder	2015

“Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck”	
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.	2015
“Empathy and Moral Agency”	
Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Michigan	2015
“Explanation and Justification in Moral Learning”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2015
Moral Learning Workshop, University of Michigan	2015
“The Nature of Moral Judgment”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Alabama	2015
“Moral Rationality”	
McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University	2015
Mind and Moral Psychology Group, University of Michigan	2014
“Liberal Disgust”	
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	2014
“Do Psychopaths Falsify Internalism or Lack Responsibility?”	
Canadian Philosophical Association, Brock University	2014
Atlantic Regional Philosophers Association, Dalhousie University	2013
“The Empirical Identity of Moral Judgment”	
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	2013
American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, Seattle, WA (Symposium)	2012
“Empirical Ethics”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Oakland University	2013
“Pragmatic Naturalism and Moral Objectivity” (with Richmond Campbell)	
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Victoria	2013

“Moral Judgment as a Natural Kind”	
Moral Psychology Research Group, Ohio State University	2012
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Waterloo	2012
“On the Normative Significance of Moral Psychology,” with R. Campbell	
Society for Philosophy & Psychology, University du Quebec a Montreal	2011
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of New Brunswick	2011
“Moral Reasoning on the Ground” (with Richmond Campbell)	
American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, San Diego, CA (Symposium)	2011
“Empathy and Moral Know-How”	
American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Minneapolis, MN	2011
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA	2011
“‘Knowledge’ as a Natural Kind Term”	
Canadian Philosophical Association, Concordia University	2010
“Does the Evidence from Psychopathy Support Internalism?”	
Canadian Philosophical Association, Concordia University	2010
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA	2010
“Virtue Epistemology Naturalized”	
American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA	2010
Canadian Philosophical Association, Carleton University	2009
“Emotion vs. Reasoning: A Darwinian Perspective,” (with Richmond Campbell)	
Darwinfest: International Workshop on Darwinism, Dalhousie University	2009
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2009
“Moral Judgment and Moral Cognition”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2009
Canadian Philosophical Association, Carleton University	2009
“Kinds of Reliability”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2009
American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Chicago, IL	2009
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of British Columbia	2008
“In Support of Anti-Intellectualism”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2008
Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy	2008
Southwest Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Arizona State University	2008
“Knowing-How and Knowing-That”	
Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Saskatchewan	2007
Northwest Conference in Philosophy, University of Portland	2006
“Naturalism and Normativity: Moral Realism Without Intrinsic Value”	
Philosophy Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University	2005

TEACHING

Boston University:

Cognitive Science of Moral Progress (seminar)	2019
Evolution and Ethics (graduate seminar)	2018
Medical Ethics	2018
Gender, Race, and Science (seminar)	2017, 2018

University of Toronto

Ethics of Race and Gender	2017
Evolution and Ethics	2016
The Moral Mind	2016

University of Arizona

Contemporary Moral Problems	2012
Medical Ethics	2012

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer:

Ethics; Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; Philosophers' Imprint; 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; Routledge; Society for Philosophy & Psychology; Cognitive Science Society; Canadian Philosophical Association

American Philosophical Association

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

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Executive Committee	2017-present
William James Prize Committee	2015-present

Canadian Philosophical Association

Program Committee: Moral Psychology	2018-present
Program Committee: Metaethics & Moral Psychology	2015-2017

Departmental

Member of two dissertation committees, Boston University	2018-present
Organizer, Mind and Morality Lab Talk Series	2017-present
Co-organizer, Evolution and Ethics Conference, Boston University	2019
Co-organizer, Moral Learning Workshop, University of Michigan	2015
Graduate Representative to Faculty, University of Arizona	2011-2012
Co-organizer, Arizona Workshop in Philosophy	2009

REFERENCES

Shaun Nichols
Professor of Philosophy
University of Arizona
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Mark Timmons
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University of Arizona
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