

VICTOR KUMAR

Philosophy Department
Boston University

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Moral Psychology, Cognitive Science, Evolutionary Theory

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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

EMPLOYMENT

Boston University

Peter Paul Assistant Professor	2018-present
Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Affiliate)	2018-present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2017-present

University of Toronto

Postdoctoral Research Fellow	2015-2017
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University of Michigan

Postdoctoral Research Fellow	2013-2015
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EDUCATION

University of Arizona

Ph.D. in Philosophy, minor in Cognitive Science (distinction)	2013
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University of Alberta

M.A. in Philosophy	2007
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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, GRANTS & AWARDS

Peter Paul Career Development Professorship, Boston University (\$120,000) University award for early career professors (one of only five across BU)	2018-2022
Ethics and Emerging Science Initiative, Boston University (\$100,000) Research grant co-lead with Russell Powell	2018-2023
Templeton Project on Reasoning in Moral Thought and Action (\$60,000) Sub award; 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 (\$17,500)	2006-2007
M.A. Scholarship, University of Alberta (\$25,000)	2005-2007
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 Division	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

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript

A Better Ape (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 and Book Chapters

"The Science of Effective Altruism" Forthcoming
Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism (Oxford)
Edited by Douglas Portmore

"Empirical Vindication of Moral Luck" Forthcoming
Nous

"The Ethical Significance of Cognitive Science" Forthcoming
Current Controversies in Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Routledge)
Edited by Sarah-Jane Leslie & Simon Cullen

"How to Debunk Moral Beliefs" (with Joshua May) 2018
Methodology and Moral Philosophy (Routledge)
Edited by Jussi Suikkanen & Antti Kauppinen

"Moral Reasoning and Emotion" (with Joshua May) 2018
The Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology (Routledge)
Edited by Aaron Zimmerman, Karen Jones, and Mark Timmons

"Disgust: A Cross-Pollination" (with Nina Strohminger) 2018
The Moral Psychology of Disgust (Rowman and Littlefield)
Edited by Nina Strohminger and Victor Kumar

"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” <i>The Philosophical Quarterly</i> , 66: 783-804	2016
“Psychopathy and Internalism” <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> , 46: 318-45	2016
“Honor & Moral Revolution” (with Richmond Campbell) <i>Ethical Theory & Moral Practice</i> , 19: 147-59	2016
“Moral Judgment as a Natural Kind” <i>Philosophical Studies</i> , 172: 2887-2910	2015
“‘Knowledge’ as a Natural Kind Term” <i>Synthese</i> , 191: 439-57	2014
“How Many of Us Are There?” (with Tierney, Howard, Kvaran, & Nichols) <i>Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Mind</i> (Continuum) Edited by Justin Sytsma	2014
“Pragmatic Naturalism & Moral Objectivity” (with Richmond Campbell) <i>Analysis</i> , 73: 446-55	2013
“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	2012
“Moral Reasoning on the Ground” (with Richmond Campbell) <i>Ethics</i> , 122: 273-312	2012
“In Support of Anti-Intellectualism” <i>Philosophical Studies</i> , 152: 135-54	2011

PRESENTATIONS

“Lessons for the Future from the Gay Rights Revolution” Moral Psychology Research Lab, Harvard University Public Philosophy Conference, Boston University	2019 2019
“Why Not Nudge?” Nudging Conference, Boston University	2019
“The Evolution of Norms and Institutions” Evolution and Ethics Conference, Boston University	2019
“Cultural Evolution in Deep History” Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University Cooperation Lab, Boston College Tertulia, Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University Moral Psychology Research Group, University of Minnesota	2019 2019 2018 2018

“Empathy and Moral Progress”	
Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University	2018
Morality Lab, Boston College	2018
“The Weight of Empathy”	
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	2018
Ethical and Legal Implications of Moral Psychology, Bielefeld, Germany	2017
“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:	
Introduction to Ethics	2019
Cognitive Science of Moral Progress (seminar)	2019
Evolution and Ethics (graduate seminar)	2018
Gender, Race, and Science (seminar)	2017, 2018
Medical Ethics	2018
University of Toronto	
Ethics of Race and Gender (seminar)	2017
Evolution and Ethics	2016
The Moral Mind	2016
University of Arizona	
Contemporary Moral Problems	2012
Medical Ethics	2012

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer:	
<i>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</i>	
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	2016-2019
William James Prize Committee (occasional)	2015-present

Canadian Philosophical Association	
Program Committee: Moral Psychology	2017-2019
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
Organizer, Public Philosophy Conference, Boston University	2019
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
 Cornell University
 sbn44@cornell.edu

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

Mark Timmons
 Professor of Philosophy
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 George Munro Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus
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