

JULES SALOMONE-SEHR

he/him/his

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FIELDS

Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Philosophy of Action, Social Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Social Science, Philosophy of Mind, Logic

EDUCATION

2014 – Present

The Graduate Center (CUNY) – Institut Jean Nicod (École Normale Supérieure)

Ph.D., Philosophy (dual degree)

Dissertation: *Cooperation: The Ethics of Shared Agency*

Advising committee: Miranda Fricker (co-chair, The Graduate Center), Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde (co-chair, Institut Jean Nicod), Charles W. Mills (The Graduate Center), Jennifer M. Morton (UNC Chapel Hill)

My dissertation is about the nature of shared agency. Therein, I first offer a novel theory of what is required for collections of behaviors to count as shared activities. Specifically, I argue that shared activity requires no more than the mere coordination of individual activity: our activities are shared in the relevant sense if and only if they are reciprocally adjusted to one another so as to satisfy our ends. I then develop a virtue-theoretic account of cooperativeness, that is, the disposition of individuals to meet certain normative standards of participation in shared activities.

2013

Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne

Masters, Philosophy, *Summa cum laude*

2012

Paris School of Economics (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)

Masters, Economics, *Magna cum laude*

2007

École Normale Supérieure (Rue d'Ulm, Paris)

Admission rank: second (out of around 500 candidates)

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

“Agency and Practical Reasoning,” (as first author, with Jennifer M. Morton) in Ferrero, Luca (ed.), *Handbook in the Philosophy of Agency*, Routledge.

2017

“Présentation. L'empirisme rationaliste de Durkheim et Mauss” (Presentation. Durkheim and Mauss's Rationalist Empiricism), in Durkheim, Émile, and Mauss, Marcel, *De quelques formes primitives de classification. Contribution à l'étude des représentations collectives*, Presses Universitaires de France.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

†: invited

Forthcoming

“White Guilt, White Shame”

Concordia University Graduate Philosophy Students' Association Conference
“Putting the ‘Social’ in Social Justice: Equality, Equity and Feasibility”

2020

“Unlearning Racism: On the Sociological Role of Guilt and Shame Amongst White South Africans Confronting Their Racism” (with Jacob Boersema, NYU)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

2019

†**“Whiteness, Guilt and Shame”**

Whiteness Studies workshop, Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne

“Blanchité, culpabilité et honte” (Whiteness, Guilt and Shame)

“Qualifier le racisme,” a conference organized by Sciences Po, INED, ANR and University Paris Diderot, Paris, France

“Cooperation and Shared Intentional Actions”

APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver

- 2018 **“Cooperation and Shared Intentional Actions”**
The 11th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference, Tufts University, Boston, MA
- “Can Socially Engaged Beliefs Be Justified?”**
1st Annual CUNY-Milan Workshop on Belief, The Graduate Center, New York
- 2017 **“From Coordination to Cooperation: Switching to Team Reasoning”**
The Fifth Conference of the European Network on Social Ontology, Lund University, Sweden
- “Grades of Realism in Social Ontology”**
Critical Social Ontology Workshop, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
- 2016 †**Comments on Chant, Sara Rachel, “Responsibility Unincorporated”**
Keynote presentation at the “Collective Action and the Law” Conference, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain
- “Shared Intentions Ain’t in the Head”**
Long Island Philosophical Society Conference, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY
- “Transcendental Idealism Revisited?”**
APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 †**“Peut-on se payer de mots? La monnaie comme langage des prix”**
“Pricing Practices, Ranking Practices” Conference, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France
- “Transcendental Idealism Revisited?”**
Sixth Annual Princeton-Penn-Columbia Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy, Princeton, NJ
- “The Ontology of Money and the Ethics of Monetary Exchanges”**
NYU-Columbia Graduate Conference, New York

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT (*Instructor of record, unless otherwise specified*)

- 2019 **Baruch College (CUNY)**
Computer Ethics (one section)
- 2015 – 2019 **Hunter College (CUNY)**
Introduction to Ethics (two sections)
Introduction to Logic and the Scientific Method (two sections, incl. one as a TA)
Introduction to Philosophy (six sections, incl. three as a TA)
- 2011 – 2014 **École Normale Supérieure**
Graduate Seminar “Approches pluridisciplinaires de l’économie” (Interdisciplinary Approaches to Economics), co-led
- 2009 – 2010 **Northwestern University**
French—Oral Workshop (three sections)

TUTORING

- 2019 – Present **Writing Center Associate** (Borough of Manhattan Community College)
Work with students in individual setting infused with the tenets of Writing Across the Curriculum pedagogy
- 2014 **Tutor at Potentiel Plus** (Paris)
Tutoring of children with learning and physical disabilities

PUBLIC-FACING TEACHING

- 2017 – 2019 **Production of *We The Pupils***, a racial and educational justice podcast recorded in the classroom and funded by an Andrew W. Mellon Public Humanities Teaching Fellowship (under review at the NPR Story Lab)
- Milestones:
- 2019 The Pedagogy Check-In: CUNY Undergrads and Graduate Instructors Meet and Talk About Teaching Students from Disadvantaged Groups (With the CUNY Chapter of Minorities and Philosophy)
- 2017 – 2018 Organization of in-class student-led interviews. Guest speakers:
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|--|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Paris (College of Staten Island) | Jennifer Morton (UNC Chapel Hill) |
| Nate (Crown Heights Tenant Union) | Charles Mills (GC) |
| Miranda Fricker (GC) | Linda Alcoff (Hunter College/GC) |
- 2017 Podcasting Workshop, co-led with Janhavi Pakrashi

PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

- 2019 – Present **Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow** (Borough of Manhattan Community College)
Design of writing-intensive courses in collaboration with faculty across the disciplines (special focus on low-stakes writing and scaffolded assignments)
- 2017 **Selected for participation in the “Open Teaching Initiative”** (Teaching and Learning Center, The Graduate Center)
Visits of fellow graduate students’ classes and reflections on teaching challenges that culminated in a short piece posted on the Teaching and Learning Center blog
- 2010 – 2014 **Founding member and co-coordinator of the Student Initiative for Interdisciplinary Economics Teaching** (PEPS-Économie)
Promotion and development of alternative economics curricula with an emphasis on interdisciplinarity
- Milestones:
- 2014 Publication of “The Case for Pluralism: What French Undergraduate Economics Teaching Is All About and How it Can Be Improved,” (with fellow members of PEPS-Économie) *Int. J. Pluralism and Economics Education*, Vol. 5, No. 4.
- 2013 Co-organization of “Les États Généraux de l’enseignement de l’économie dans le supérieur,” a conference meant to inspire interdisciplinary approaches to the teaching of economics (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

PEDAGOGY-FOCUSED CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

†: invited

- Forthcoming †**“Promoting Multilingual Students’ Success Thanks to WAC”**
Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York
- 2020 †**“Cultivating a Multilingual Classroom”**
Borough of Manhattan Community College Winter Convocation (theme: Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Engagement), New York
- 2019 **“*We The Pupils*: A Social Justice Podcast Recorded in the Classroom”**
Teaching Hub of the APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO
- †**“*We The Pupils*: A Social Justice Podcast Recorded in the Classroom”**
Showcase & Information Session: Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research, The Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center, New York
- †**“Course Policies, Attendance, and Class Participation”**
Philosophy Department Teaching Workshop, The Graduate Center, New York
- 2014 †**Presentation of the Student Initiative for Interdisciplinary Economics Teaching**
Rethinking Economics New York Conference, Columbia University, NYU, New School

FELLOWSHIPS

2019	Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship (Borough of Manhattan Community College)
2017	Two-Year Public Humanities Teaching Fellowship Seminar on Public Engagement and Collaborative Research (Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)
2014	Five-Year Tuition Fellowship (The Graduate Center) Three-Year Doctoral Fellowship (École Normale Supérieure)
2007	Four-Year Full Tuition and Living Stipend (École Normale Supérieure)

GRANTS, AWARDS

2019	Travel stipend (Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne) American Philosophical Association Graduate Travel Stipend
2018	Conference Presentation Support (The Graduate Center)
2017	Teaching and Learning Center “Open Teaching Initiative” (The Graduate Center) Honorarium for attendance at the meeting “What is the Public(s) in Public Education? Research, Teaching and the Arts” (The Graduate Center) Conference Presentation Support (The Graduate Center)
2016	American Philosophical Association Graduate Travel Stipend Conference Presentation Support (The Graduate Center)
2015	Travel stipend (École Normale Supérieure)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2017	Performer (spoken word and dance) in <i>The Missing Shade of You: A Dance Dialog Between L.A. Paul and Marcel Proust</i> Co-produced by Barbara G. Montero and collaborators Theresa Duhon, Patra Jongjitirat, and Gregory Kollarus The Tank, NYC
2012 – 2013	Researcher for the Philosophy-themed radio program <i>Les Nouveaux Chemins de la Connaissance</i> France Culture (Radio France), Paris

SERVICE

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES

2016	CUNY Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, “Hate Speech and the Normativity of Communication” (Keynote: Elisabeth Camp), The Graduate Center, New York
2015	“Pricing Practices, Ranking Practices” Conference, École Normale Supérieure, Paris

READING GROUPS AT THE GRADUATE CENTER

2016 – 2018	Social Ontology
2017	Philosophy of Action

COMMITTEE WORK AT THE GRADUATE CENTER

2018 – 2019	Philosophy Program Representative on the Doctoral Student Council Representative on the Philosophy Program Student Steering and Executive Committee
2017 – 2018	Chair of the Philosophy Program Student Steering Committee, and Representative on the Executive Committee
2016 – 2017	Representative on the Philosophy Program Colloquium Committee

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	CUNY Chapter of Minorities and Philosophy American Philosophical Association International Social Ontology Society	
LANGUAGES	French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)	
REFERENCES	Prof. Miranda Fricker Presidential Professor of Philosophy The Graduate Center, CUNY mfricker@gc.cuny.edu	Prof. Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde Professor of Economics and Cognitive Science Université Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas sbgironde@gmail.com
	Prof. Charles W. Mills Distinguished Professor of Philosophy The Graduate Center, CUNY cmills3@gc.cuny.edu	Prof. Jennifer M. Morton Associate Professor of Philosophy The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill jmmorton@unc.edu
	Prof. Laura Keating (teaching reference) Associate Professor of Philosophy Hunter College, CUNY lkeating@hunter.cuny.edu	
GRADUATE COURSEWORK	<i>Courses taken at The Graduate Center (CUNY), unless otherwise specified</i> †: audited ‡: faculty-led reading group	
	ETHICS & META-ETHICS † Bernard Williams' Ethical Philosophy † Adv. Introduction to Ethics (NYU) ‡ A. Callard's <i>Aspiration</i> † Subjectivity and Objectivity in Morality † Ethics of Immigration Eudaimonism Moral Realism	EPISTEMOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE † Philosophy of Social Science † Adv. Intro. to Epistemology (NYU)
	PHILOSOPHY OF ACTION ‡ J. Dancy's <i>Practical Shape</i> † Decision Theory (Columbia) ‡ Action Theory	PHILOSOPHY OF MIND † Thought, Speech, and Content Intersubjectivity (Columbia) Intentionality and the Mental
	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY † Critical Philosophy of Race † Rawls, Race, and Gender † Contractarianism and Its Critics † Epistemic Injustice Social Ontology and Democracy	LOGIC & PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE Mathematical Logic Modal Logic † Modal Logic (Columbia) † Non-Classical Logic (Columbia) Language and Metaphysics Intro. to Logic
		HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY Kant's <i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Picture yourself at a Parisian café, gazing at people walking down the street. At first glance, they seem to be typical Parisians going about their own business. Until you realize, as you spot cameras and lights, that they are all actors on a movie set. You thought you were in the midst of many *individual actions*, but you now realize that each actor is rather playing their part in a different kind of activity, namely a *shared activity*.

Our capacity to engage in shared activity is fundamental to our social lives. We make movies, raise children and play games together. In my thesis, I first offer a novel theory of what is required for collections of behaviors to count as shared activities. I then develop an account of cooperativeness, that is, the disposition of individuals to meet certain normative standards of participation in shared activities.

What makes it the case that the actors in the Parisian street are engaged in more than mere individual actions? From the café, it was—at first—impossible to distinguish the actors' behavior from those of real *flâneurs*. Such examples have led some theorists to argue that the difference between shared activities and individual actions is a psychological matter: while *flâneurs* have *individual* intentions to go about their own business, actors *share* the intention to make a movie. Other theorists offer a normative explanation: they argue that our activities are shared only when we are mutually bound by obligations to play our roles. In that view, the Parisian actors act together in virtue of obligations to stick to the script. I disagree with both dominant accounts.

In my dissertation, I develop a minimalist account of shared agency: we act together just when our activities coalesce into a plan that satisfies ends we have—be they individual ends, or ends we share. In short, our activities are shared if and only if they are *coordinated*. My account is minimalist because it requires neither shared intentions nor mutual obligations to play one's role. First, our plan need not figure in the content of a shared intention. To act together, cast and crew can stick to the obligations and commitments carried by their respective roles without having to commit themselves to the overarching plan required for making the movie. Second, satisfying our respective roles need not be obligatory. Some shared activities (e.g. dating) would lose their appeal and might even undermine one's agency—as well as become unsafe—, if playing one's role was framed as an obligation. Of course, shared intentions and mutual obligations are powerful and pervasive coordination mechanisms. To that extent, my view vindicates the kernel of truth contained in dominant accounts. But it also augments shared agency theory, as it suggests that our repertoire of capacities that allows us to act together is richer than the literature assumes. Besides shared intentions and mutual obligations, interlocking non-obligatory roles enable coordination by virtue of being part of shared scripts: to move your broken-down car out of a Parisian street, you and some passers-by can combine your efforts simply by playing the roles of car-pushers in a script that anyone familiar with broken-down cars knows.

A starting point of my second line of inquiry is the observation that shared activities need not be cooperative. Perhaps you coerced me into sharing some intention with you. Or you designed my role in our activity so as to exploit me. In both cases, you undermine my agency and, thus, I contend, our acting together falls short of cooperation. Moreover, even when we do cooperate, we might do so only to a degree. The film crew might deliberately do the bare minimum, perhaps as part of a protest.

Accordingly, I argue that cooperativeness is an executive virtue that has weaker and stronger forms. At the very least, cooperativeness requires that I be disposed to act in accordance with our coordination scheme, and that I do not undermine my co-participants' agency. Stronger forms of cooperativeness demand that I try my best in the service of the shared activity, assist fellow co-participants if needed, resolve conflicts as they arise, and imagine the mutually advantageous courses of action that our pooled agential capacities make possible. Like courage and tenacity, cooperativeness is an *executive* virtue insofar as it disposes us to follow through on what we think we should do, even if what we resolve to do conflicts with other ethical standards—think of a cooperative member of a mafia. But unlike courage and tenacity, it is a rather odd virtue, and worth further philosophical exploration for this reason. For when I act cooperatively with co-participants poised to coerce or exploit me, my cooperativeness might become the vehicle of their efforts to undermine my agency.