

LAURA K. SOTER

Duke University, Department of Philosophy
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AOS: Mind & Cognitive Science, Ethics & Moral Psychology, Epistemology

AOC: Applied Ethics (including Ethics of Technology), Social Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Starting Fall 2024 – Assistant Professor of Philosophy, York University

2022-2024 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Philosophy, Duke University

EDUCATION

University of Michigan

2017-2022 – Ph.D., Philosophy and Psychology

Dissertation: “Acceptance, Belief, and Partiality: Topics in Doxastic Control, the Ethics of Belief, and the Moral Psychology of Relationships”

Committee: Peter Railton (co-chair), Ethan Kross (co-chair), Chandra Sripada, Susan Gelman, Renée Jorgensen

2021 – M.A., Philosophy

2021 – M.S., Psychology

2020 – Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science, Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science

2020 – Graduate Teaching Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

Carleton College

2013-2017 – Carleton College, B.A., Philosophy and Cognitive Science

Summa cum laude, with Distinction in both majors

PUBLICATIONS

Soter, L.K. (2024). “A Defense of Back-End Doxastic Voluntarism.” *Noûs*.

Soter, L.K. (2023). “Acceptance and the Ethics of Belief.” *Philosophical Studies*.

Soter, L.K., Berg, M.K., Gelman, S.A., & Kross, E. (2021). “What We Would (but Shouldn’t) Do for Those We Love: Universalism versus Partiality in Responding to Others’ Moral Transgressions.” *Cognition*.

Boutyline, A. & **Soter, L.K.** (2021). “Cultural Schemas: What They Are, How to Find Them, and What to Do Once You’ve Caught One.” *American Sociological Review*.

Nordbeck, P.C., **Soter, L.K.**, Viklund, J.S., Beckmann, E.A., Kallen, R.W., Chemero, A.P. & Richardson, M.J. (2019). “Effects of Task Constraint on Action Dynamics.” *Cognitive Systems Research*.

Putnam, A.L., Ross, M.Q., **Soter, L.K.**, & Roediger, H.L., (2018). “Collective Narcissism: Americans Exaggerate the Role of Their Home State in Appraising U.S. History.” *Psychological Science*.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Soter, L.K., Berg, M.K., Kross, E., & Gelman, S.A. “How Relationships Influence Adolescents’ Decisions to Report Moral Transgressions.” (R&R, *Developmental Psychology*).

Soter, L.K. “Reframing Epistemic Partiality: The Case for Acceptance.”

Soter, L.K., Gelman, S.A., & Yang, F. “What We Owe to Ourselves: Investigating People’s Evaluations of Duties to the Self.” (R&R, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*).

Soter, L.K., Ramirez, V. & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. “U.S. Citizens’ Judgments of Moral Transgressions against Fellow Citizens, Refugees, and Immigrants.”

Soter, L.K. “Belief Output: What Roles Do Beliefs Play in Reasoning and Action?” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Cognitive Science of Belief*, Eds. Neil Van Leeuwen and Tania Lombrozo. (Invited chapter; submitted & awaiting editor reviews.)

HONORS & AWARDS

2024 – William James Prize, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division

- For best submitted conference paper by an early career researcher in the area of American philosophy, for “A Defense of Back-End Doxastic Voluntarism” (submitted as: “Rethinking Doxastic (In)Voluntarism”)

2023 – Outstanding Recent Contribution Award in Social Psychology Honorable Mention, American Sociological Association Div. on Social Psychology (*with co-author Andrei Boutyline*)

- For our paper “Cultural Schemas”

2022 – Richard M. Griffith Memorial Award, Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology

- For best conference philosophy paper (evaluated on paper submission and oral presentation) by an early career researcher; for “Acceptance and the Ethics of Belief”

2022 – Cornwell Essay Prize, University of Michigan

- For best graduate student philosophy paper submission for “Acceptance and the Ethics of Belief;” prize is a year of fellowship

2022 – Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article Honorable Mention, American Sociological Association Division on Culture (*with co-author Andrei Boutyline*)

- For our paper “Cultural Schemas”

2022 – Special Prize for Leadership in Cocurricular Enrichment, University of Michigan

- Prize that “recognizes graduate students who have made outstanding contributions to cocurricular efforts,” awarded with emphasis on my work with Philosophy with Kids

2017 – Roy O. Elveton Prize in Cognitive Science, Carleton College

- Awarded to best cognitive science senior thesis, as chosen by faculty

2017 – Roy O. Elveton Prize in Philosophy, Carleton College

- Awarded to best philosophy “thesis citizen,” as chosen by senior majors

2017 – Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Honors Society, Carleton College

2016 – Phi Beta Kappa (as a junior), Carleton College

2014 – Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Honors

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Fellowships

- 2022-2023 – Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project Affiliated Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California (*no monetary compensation*)
- 2019-2022 – National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
- 2022 – Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy Fellow, Duke University (\$1000 stipend)
- 2017 – Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science Recruitment Grant, U. of Michigan (\$10,000)
- 2016 – Kolenkow-Reitz Award for Undergraduate Research in STEM (\$4,600), Carleton College

Research & Project Grants

- 2022-2023 – Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy Sub-Award (\$26,860)
“Group Membership Modulation of Memory for Morally Ambiguous Actions;” with Kate Finley (PI), Ryan Daley, and Marina Trakas
- 2022-2023 – Summer Seminars in Neuroscience and Philosophy Sub-Award (\$27,171)
“Perceptual and Attentional Influence on Moral Agency;” with Samantha Fede (PI), Doug Addleman, Marshall Bierson, Ryan Daley, and Denis Buehler
- 2021-2022 – Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization Philosophy Fund (\$2,135)
With Alexandra Chang, to develop a middle school philosophy curriculum focused on social-emotional learning
- 2018-2020 – Rackham Graduate School Interdisciplinary Workshop Grant (\$16,900)
Funding the Mind and Moral Psychology Workshop
- 2020 – Rackham Graduate School Pre-candidacy Research Grant, U. of Michigan (\$1,500)
- 2016 – Student Research Assistantship in Humanities Award, Carleton College (\$2,000)

Small Travel & Program Grants

- 2023 – Society for Philosophy and Psychology Diversity Travel Award (\$100)
- 2022 – Philosophy, Politics, & Economics Society Travel Award (\$250)
- 2022 – American Philosophical Association Graduate Student Travel Award (\$400)
- 2022 – Weinberg Cognitive Science Graduate Conference Fund, U. of Michigan (\$1,000)
- 2018-2022 – Rackham Graduate School Travel Grant, U. of Michigan (\$500; \$1,050; \$1,150 x2)
- 2020 – Institute for Social Research Summer Statistics Training Award, U. Michigan (\$1,500)

PRESENTATIONS

Note: Some presentations were given under varied titles.

**Refereed*; °*Invited*

TBD

Feb 2025 – Central APA, Invited Session: “New Approaches to Doxastic Voluntarism,” Virtual°
Nov 2024 – Arkansas State University°

“How Children Evaluate the Difficulty of Belief Change: Effects of Prior Beliefs and Evidence” *with Pearl Li*
Jun 2024 – Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Purdue University*

“Reconciling the Moral Insight and the Involuntarist Rebuttal: Lessons from Two Perspectives on Belief?”
Jun 2024 – Canadian Philosophical Association, Montreal QC*
Apr 2024 – Applied Epistemology Project Work in Progress Series, UNC Chapel Hill°

- Feb 2024 – Central APA, Session: “The Epistemic & the Interpersonal,” New Orleans LA^o
- “Investigating People’s Evaluations of Obligations to the Self”
 Jun 2024 – Society for Philosophy and Psychology (poster), Purdue University*
 Apr 2024 – Moral Psychology Research Group, Duke University
 Mar 2024 – Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati OH*
 Feb 2024 – Society for Personality and Social Psychology (symposium talk), San Diego CA*
 May 2023 – The Morality Lab, Boston College (virtual)^o
 Feb 2023 – Society for Personality and Social Psychology (poster), Atlanta GA*
- “How Should We Think about Bad Beliefs?” *with Shanna Slank*
 May 2024 – Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop, Orange Beach AL^o
- “U.S. Citizens’ Judgments about Transgressions against Fellow Citizens, Refugees, & Immigrants”
 Feb 2024 – Soc. for Personality & Social Psych. (Moral Psych Preconference poster), San Diego CA*
 Dec 2023 – The Empathy and Moral Psychology Lab, Pennsylvania State University (virtual)^o
 Dec 2023 – International Moral Psychology Seminar Series (Early Career Data Blitz) (virtual)^o
 Nov 2023 – Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans LA*
 Oct 2023 – Rethinking the Future Workshop, Mackenzie Presbyterian University
- “A Defense of Back-End Doxastic Voluntarism”
 Jan 2024 – American Philosophical Association, Eastern Div. (colloquium), New York NY*
 Sep 2023 – Duke/UNC Epistemology Workshop, Duke University^o
 Jun 2023 – Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Pittsburgh*
 May 2023 – National University of Singapore^o
 Mar 2023 – Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville KY*
 Jun 2022 – Narrow Ridge Philosophy Workshop: New Ethics of Belief, Washburn TN^o
- “Reframing Epistemic Partiality: The Case for Acceptance”
 Nov 2023 – Washington and Lee University^o
 Apr 2023 – American Phil. Association Pacific Div. (colloquium), San Francisco CA*
 Feb 2023 – York University^o
 Jan 2023 – California Institute of Technology^o
 Dec 2022 – Central NY Moral Psychology Workshop, Le Moyne College*
 Aug 2022 – Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, CU Boulder*
 Jul 2022 – Munich Graduate Conference in Ethics, Ludwig Maximilian University*
 Mar 2022 – Duke University^o
- “Mental Disorders as Failures of Attention” *with Jesse Summers and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong*
 April 2023 – Carolina Seminar on Philosophy, Ethics, and Mental Health, UNC Chapel Hill^o
- “Partiality: From Individuals to Institutions”
 Nov 2022 – Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Meeting, New Orleans LA*
- “How Relationship Affects Adolescents’ Responses to Others’ Moral Transgressions”
 Oct 2022 – Early Childhood Cognition Lab, Duke University^o
 Apr 2022 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University Michigan
- “Acceptance and the Ethics of Belief”
 Oct 2022 – Moral Psychology Research Group, Cornell University
 Jun 2022 – Athena in Action Workshop, Rutgers University*
 Apr 2022 – American Philosophical Association Pacific Div. (colloquium), Vancouver BC*

Mar 2022 – Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Mobile AL*
Dec 2021 – Austin Graduate Ethics and Normativity Talks, UT Austin*
Aug 2021 – Princeton-Michigan Metanormativity Workshop, University of Michigan*

“Comparing Methods of Philosophical Instruction in K-12 Classrooms” *with Alexandra Chang*
Jun 2022 – Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization Conference, U. Washington*

“Universalism versus Partiality in Responding to Others’ Moral Transgressions”
Feb 2022 – Society for Personality and Social Psychology (poster), San Francisco CA*
Jun 2021 – Society for Philosophy and Psychology (poster) (virtual)*
Mar 2021 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan
Dec 2020 – Weinberg Cognitive Science Seminar Series, University of Michigan

“Philosophy for Freshmen and Fourth-Graders: A Skills-Based Approach”
Jun 2021 – American Association of Philosophy Teachers Workshop-Conference (virtual)*

“What’s Philosophy with Kids All About?”
Nov 2021 – Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting (Ann Arbor retired teachers’ association)^o
Mar 2020 – Ann Arbor Open School Teachers’ Conference^o (*COVID-19 cancellation*)

“The Mislocation of Moral Responsibility for Implicit Bias”
May 2019 – Northern Illinois University Graduate Conference*
May 2018 – Carleton College^o

“Metaethical Baggage and Moral Cognition”
Jul 2019 – Understanding Value VIII Conference, University of Sheffield*
Oct 2018 – Adrian College^o
Apr 2018 – Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University*

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Jun 2024 – On Yiran Hua’s “Do Friendships Require the Fulfillment of Friendship Duties?” Canadian Philosophical Association, Montreal QC
Oct 2023 – On Peter Railton’s *Real Ethics for Artificial Agents*, “Ch. 2: Ethics and Agency,” MADLab Workshop, Boone NC
Jun 2023 – On Aliosha Barranco Lopez’s “Commitment Normativism” and Casey Lewis’s “Sexist Perception,” The Mentoring Workshop, Columbia MO
May 2023 – Discussant, National University of Singapore Presidential Conference in Epistemology
Mar 2023 – On Cristina Ballarini’s “Belief and Credence: A (Modest) Field Guide,” Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Louisville KY
Jan 2022 – On Anna Brinkerhoff’s “Prejudiced Beliefs Based on the Evidence” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Baltimore MD
Jan 2022 – On Emma McClure’s “Microaggressions Are Not (Merely) a Collective Harm Problem,” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Baltimore MD

CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

Feb 2024 – “New Perspectives on the Self in Moral Cognition” Symposium, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego CA*

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Duke University

Undergraduate Mentorship

2022-present – Research Assistant Training & Supervision (1 student)

University of Michigan

As Primary Instructor:

Spring 2021 – PHIL 151: Philosophical Dimensions of Personal Relationships

Winter 2021; 2022 – PHYSIOL 555: Method and Logic in the Biomedical Sciences

- Guest lecture series on topics in logic and philosophy of science

As Graduate Student Teaching Assistant:

Fall 2021 – COGSCI 302: Moral Psychology (for Mara Bollard)

Winter 2021 – PHIL 340: Minds and Machines (for Eric Swanson)

Winter 2019 – PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy (for Jim Joyce)

Fall 2018 – PHIL 183: Critical Reasoning (for David Manley)

Undergraduate Mentorship

2020-2021 – Supervisor, Cognitive Science Honors Thesis, Sophia Katz

2020-2022 – Psychology Research Assistant Training & Supervision (3 students)

2019-2020 – Community-Based Learning Consultant, Community Engaged Academic Office

Carleton College

2015-2017 – Writing Consultant, Student Writing Center

2017 – Teaching Assistant, COGSCI 130: Intro to Cognitive Science (for Jason Decker)

Class Visits & Guest Lectures

Nov 2023 – “Duties to the Self”

Angela Sun’s PHIL 396: Love and Commitment, Washington and Lee University

Nov 2022 – “Navigating the Psychology Profession: Interdisciplinary Work in Graduate School”

University of Michigan Undergraduate Psychological Society

Feb 2020 – “Philosophical Issues in Moral Psychology”

Izzy Gainsburg’s PSYCH 401: Psychology of Altruism, University of Michigan

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Community Engagement & Outreach

2022-pres. – Research & Advocacy Committee, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization

2023 – Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl
2017-2022 – Philosophy with Kids, University of Michigan, Founder & Lead Program Organizer
2019-2022 – Co-Organizer, Michigan High School Ethics Bowl
2017-2021 – Coach, Michigan High School Ethics Bowl, Saline High School
2019 – Judge, Michigan High School Ethics Bowl
2020-2021 – A2Ethics Organizing Partner (Workshops organized: Philosophizing the High School Classroom, Ethics Case Writing, Michigan/Manitoba Ethics across Borders Symposium Series)
2017-2018 – Michigan MAP COMASS Workshop Mentor
2016-2017 – Carleton College Philosophy with Kids Instructor

Departmental Service

2023-2024 – Philosophy Grad Student & Postdoc Writing Group Coordinator, Duke University
2021-2022 – Graduate Student Representative to the Philosophy Executive Committee, U. Michigan
2018-2022 – Mind and Moral Psychology Interdisciplinary Workshop Coordinator, U. Michigan
2020 – Psychology Department Admissions Committee Graduate Representative, U. Michigan
2019-2020 – GEO Graduate Student Union Steward to the Philosophy Department, U. Michigan
2019 – Michigan Mind and Moral Psychology Graduate Conference Organizer, U. Michigan
2019 – Philosophy Admissions Week Organizing Committee, U. Michigan
2018-2019 – Graduate Student Representative to the Philosophy Executive Committee, U. Michigan
2017-2018 – Philosophy Events Facilitation Committee, U. Michigan

Professional Service

2023-2026 – Council Member, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
2023-2024 – Program Committee (Moral Psychology), Canadian Philosophical Association
2020; 2021 – Editor, *Philosopher's Annual*

Publication Refereeing: *Cognition, Current Opinion in Behavioral Science, Episteme, Feminist Philosophy Quarterly, Psychological Science, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Res Philosophica*, Routledge Press

Conference Refereeing: American Psychological Society, Canadian Philosophical Association, Society for Philosophy and Psychology

SUMMER INSTITUTES & WORKSHOPS

2024 – Summer Seminar in Neuroscience and Philosophy 5-year “Reunion” Meeting, Duke University
2023 – The Mentoring Workshop for Early Career Women Faculty in Philosophy, U. Missouri
2022 – Athena in Action Mentoring & Networking Workshop, Rutgers University
2022 – Summer Seminar in Neuroscience and Philosophy, Duke University
2020 – ICPSR Summer Statistics Course: Multilevel Models I
2018 – Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute, University of St. Andrews
2018 – Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute for Bioethics, Yale University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT)
American Philosophical Association (APA)
Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)
Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO)
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP)
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)

REFERENCES

Peter Railton

Gregory S. Kavka Distinguished University
Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
prailton@umich.edu

Chandra Sripada

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Psychiatry
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
sripada@umich.edu

Ethan Kross

Associate Professor of Psychology and
Management/Organizations
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
ekross@umich.edu

Susan Gelman

Heinz Werner Distinguished University Professor
of Psychology and Linguistics
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
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Eric Swanson (Teaching, Philosophy)

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