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Educational History

Eastern Kentucky University: BA in Philosophy	Fall 2010
University of Chicago: Master’s in Humanities	Spring 2012
Marquette University: Doctorate in Philosophy	Fall 2021

Dissertation Title: The Empathetic Autistic: A Phenomenological Account of the Feminine Experience

Teaching Experience

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Ethics and Medicine: Fall 2022

Mt. Mary University
Search for Meaning: Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Marquette University
Human Nature: Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016
Introduction to Ethics: Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019
History/Philosophy of Crime and Punishment: Summer 2015, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020
Business Ethics: Fall 2020
Applied Ethics for the Health Sciences: Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Disability, 20th Century Phenomenology, Feminism, and Biomedical Ethics

Areas of Competency

Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, Business Ethics, Non-Western Philosophy, and 20th Century Catholic Philosophy

Languages

German: Fall 2008, Summer 2015

French: Summer 2016

Awards

Research Assistantship with Full Scholarship at Marquette University Fall 2013

Teaching Assistantship with Full Scholarship at Marquette University Fall 2014-Spring 2017

Teaching Assistantship with Full Scholarship at Marquette University. Fall 2020

Publications

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Examines Husserl Annual Proceedings of the Southeast Philosophy Congress, Volume 8, 2015 pages 3-14

Angst, Shame, Knowledge: The Baptism of Dasein Proceedings of the Southeast Philosophy Congress, Volume 4, 2011. pages 75-82

The Heat Is On: Dante's Inferno VS Tolstoy's Expressionism Proceedings of the Southeast Philosophy Congress, Volume 3, 2010. pages 61-65

Conferences

Radical Passing: Why Autistic and Non-Autistic People Must be Responsible for Empathy Florida State University Minorities and Philosophy Conference March 2021

Radical Passing: Why Autistic and Non-Autistic People Must be Responsible for Empathy 12th Annual Southeast Philosophy Congress February 14, 2020

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Looks at Husserl Wisconsin Philosophical Association
April 28, 2018

The Exclusionary Nature of Advocacy University of Albany Graduate Conference April 7, 2018

The Exclusionary Nature of Advocacy 11th Annual Southeast Philosophy Congress February 15,
2019

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Looks at Husserl Philosophy Meet Psychology
Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference May 8, 2018

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Looks at Edmund Husserl USF PGSO 11th Annual
Conference April 14, 2018

*Response to Paul Stephan's Paul Heinrich Widemann: A Forgotten Champion of 19th Century
Rationalism* Forgotten Philosophers and Why We Should Remember Them, Marquette
University, April 29, 2017

Not So Golden Ticket: Exposing Disability Prejudice South Park Style Lighthearted
Philosopher's Society, April 1, 2017

Response to Michael Cundall's You Want Nuance?! I'll Give You Your F%^\$@in' Nuance!
Lighthearted Philosopher's Society, March 31, 2017

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Looks at Husserl LSU Philosophy Graduate Conference
April 18, 2015

The Exclusionary Nature of Advocacy Wisconsin Philosophical Association, April 11, 2015

*Bondage and Womanhood: The Relationship Between Hegel's Lordship/Bondage Dialectic and
the Oppression of Women* Affective Encounters: Philosophy, History, and Politics The 22nd
Annual DePaul University Graduate Philosophy Conference, March 14, 2015

The Crisis of Autism: An Autistic Person Examines Husserl 8th Annual Southeast Philosophy
Congress, February 25, 2015

Service to the Profession

Organizer for Conference on Disability at the Intersection of History, Culture, Religion, Gender,
and Health

Adult Formation Director, St. Paul Episcopal Church Milwaukee, WI

Brown Bag Lunch Organizer Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Dissertation Abstract

Western philosophy has asserted that in order to be a person, one must be rational. This idea was not challenged until the nineteenth century. One school to challenge this notion was phenomenology, which asserted that what made one a person was their ability to empathize. While the founder of the school, Edmund Husserl, did not assert that the ability to decipher nonverbal cues was necessary in order to empathize, several of his followers did. This emphasis on deciphering nonverbal cues proved problematic for some populations, especially the Autistic.

Autism is a neurological condition which makes it difficult to decipher nonverbal cues. Because of this, Autistic people are accused of lacking empathy. This is especially problematic in the case of women. Scholars such as Simon Baron-Cohen argue that on average, women are more empathetic than men. If one lacks empathy, then one has an extreme male brain. The extreme male brain is called Autism. Hence, even if an Autistic person identifies as female, her femininity is in question due to her having a male brain.

If phenomenology argues that the person is shaped by their ability to empathize, then there must be a way to account for the experiences of Autistic women. In order for phenomenology to account for empathy, there must be a theory which can account for breakdowns in empathy, can critique current therapies which force the Autistic person to pass as non-Autistic, and must provide the Autistic woman a path to being authentically herself. One such theory is that proposed by Martin Heidegger. Heidegger argues that being-with-others is vital for one to be a *Dasein*. Still, Others can press upon *Dasein* to conform to their standards. The pressure to conform can lead *Dasein* to forget who she is. In order to be authentic, *Dasein* must go through the process of anxiety, after which she can become authentically herself. Thus, Heidegger's theory gives women a path in which they can share their experiences, thus providing necessary insights to philosophy, psychology and sociology.

References

Dr. Sebastian Luft, Marquette University

Dr. John Jones Marquette University

Dr. Anthony Peressini Marquette University

Dr. Erica Tucker Marquette University