POL PARDINI GISPERT

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Science, Logic, Philosophy of AI, Medical Ethics, Modern Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Boston University, 2021–2027 (expected)
Dissertation: "The Limits of Coherence: Fanaticism and Other Failings"
Committee: Paul Katsafanas (First Reader), Daniel Star, Michaela McSweeney, Daniel Munro

M.A. Philosophy, Louisiana State University, 2017-2019

B.A. Philosophy, Universitat de Girona, 2011-2015

PUBLICATIONS

2026 Disinformation and Grievance Narratives, *Synthese*, *207*(27), 1-24.

2025 Nietzschean Nihilism in Context: The Puzzle of Christianity, *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, *56*(2), 193-215.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

What makes a fanatic turn to violence? Why do some people accept conspiracy theories that are clearly not supported by the evidence at hand? Why do others fall prey to disinformation narratives? It's often tempting to answer these questions by appealing to some *lack* of rationality. I offer a different answer. I argue these troubling phenomena arise out of an *excess*: pursuing to the limit what we take coherence to demand, in a way that undermines responsiveness to reasons and evidence. Now, we typically regard the fact that our mental attitudes exhibit a high degree of coherence as a mark of rationality. If we find a conflict among our beliefs, we don't let that conflict stand. There's pressure to resolve it by revising or rejecting at least one belief or suspending judgment. The same can be said about our reasons, values, or commitments. If they conflict, we rank or weigh them, we try to subsume one under the other, and so on. But can we pursue coherence to an excess? We can. Indeed, I argue that there's a set of epistemic and moral failings that arise when we shape our mental life into a coherent whole at the cost of being responsive to the complexity of our normative lives, and the world. Three related phenomena can be explained in these terms: the coherent but totalizing structure of conspiracy thinking, disinformation narratives, and fanaticism. Ultimately, this dissertation is about what it means to live as rational agents in a world that eludes the unity we are so often tempted to impose upon it.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Under Review	"Conspiracy Thinking: When Understanding Goes Wrong"
Draft	"Fanaticism as Intolerance of Conflict"
Draft	"The Dilemma with Moral Dilemmas"
In-progress	"Deepfakes, Inquiry, and Going Off the Rails"

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026	Graduate Student Award, BU Center for the Humanities
2025	Sanders Graduate Student Prize, American Philosophical Association, Eastern
2024	GSO Travel Grant, GSO, Boston University
2024	Pardee Summer Fellowship, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
2021–2023	"laCaixa" Fellowship, Spain (full funding to pursue a Ph.D.)
2017–2019	Fulbright Scholarship (full funding to pursue a M.A.)
2019	Edward Shirley Scholarship (Essay Prize), Louisiana State University
2018–2019	Graduate Assistantship, Louisiana State University

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Upcoming "Ressentiment as a Pathological Form of Understanding"
North American Nietzsche Society, Nov. 2026 (refereed)

2026 "Incoherence in Zetetic and Epistemic Normativity"
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Poster, displayed in absentia, Aug. 2026 (refereed)
The European Society of Analytic Philosophy, Aug. 2026 (refereed)

2026 "Conspiracy Thinking: When Understanding Goes Wrong"
Northeastern Epistemology Workshop, April 2026 (invited)

2025 "Disinformation and Grievance Narratives"
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2025 (refereed)

2025 "Is Incoherence Within the Epistemic Normative Domain Undesirable?"
APA Eastern Meeting, Jan. 2025 (refereed)

2024 "A Defense of Katsafanas' Interpretation of Nietzschean Nihilism"
North American Nietzsche Society, Nov. 2024 (refereed)

2024 "From Devotion to Fanaticism"
The Nature of Devotion, May 2024 (invited)

2024 "The Moral, Epistemic, and Affective Vices of Fanaticism"
UConn Vice Squad Meeting Workshop, Jan. 2024 (invited)

2020 "Insoluble Moral Dilemmas Without Failure of Action Guidance"
University of Oklahoma Writing Sample Workshop, Nov. 2020

2019 "Public Reasons, Shared Humanity? An Objection to Korsgaard"
Annual Conference, Houston Community College, Oct. 2019 (refereed)
Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2019 (refereed)
Alabama Philosophical Society Fall Meeting, Oct. 2019 (refereed)

COMMENTARY

2026 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. Commentary on Robert M. Farley's "The Place of Ross in 20th Century Ethics." Read in absentia. UC Boulder, August 2026.

2025 Tech Ethics eXchange NorthEast (teχnē). Commentary on Kenny Peng's "Misinformation & Counter speech on Social Media." MIT, February 2025.

2023 BU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference. Commentary on Elle Kirsch's "How anger produces distinct epistemic outcomes for the oppressed." BU, April 2023.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, Universitat de Girona (taught in Catalan)

Spring 2027 (*Upcoming*) Logic

Fall 2026 Philosophy of Science

Teaching Assistant, Boston University

Spring 2025 Existentialism (for Jordan Kokot)

Fall 2024 Medical Ethics (for Rachell Powell)

Spring 2024 Reasoning and Argumentation (for Derek Anderson)

Graduate Assistant, Louisiana State University

Spring 2019 Ethics (for Husain Sarkar)

Spring 2019 Ethics (for Chris Blakley)

Fall 2018 Ethics (for Husain Sarkar)

Fall 2018 Existentialism (for Gregory Schufreider)

Other

Feb. 2025 Guest lecture on Sartre & Ruth Chang, *Existentialism* (PH 248), BU

Feb. 2025 Guest lecture on Disinformation & Resentment, *Public Diplomacy* (IR 553), BU

Dec. 2024 Guest lecture on Genetic Selection, *Medical Ethics* (PH 251), BU

Sept. 2019 Guest lecture on Habermas, *Philosophy of Rawls*, LSU

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026-2027 **Visiting Research Fellow** at LOGOS, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.

Spring 2026 **Research Assistant** for the Humanities and Artificial Intelligence Lab (HAIL), directed by Daniel Munro and Seth Villegas.

2024-2025 **Affiliated Graduate Fellow** at the Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project (CFCP) at the University of Southern California.

2023-2026 **Research Assistant** for the project *Devotion and Spiritual Yearning Project*, directed by Paul Katsafanas, supported by grant #62871 from the John Templeton Foundation.

SERVICE

Conferences & Workshops

2027 (*Upcoming, April 2027*) Co-Organizer, The AI & Society Symposium: Where Technology Meets Human Values. Received grant funding from the APA Berry

Fund and the BU's Center for the Humanities and the Center for Philosophy & History of Science; $6,462.55 total.

2026 Co-Organizer, Beyond the Paper: Alternative Assignment Design for Interdisciplinary Majors, AAPT–APA Teaching Hub, APA Eastern Meeting, January 2026.

2025 Co-Organizer, BU Philosophy Graduate Conference. Received grant funding from the BU's Center for the Humanities and GSO; $6,920 total.

2024 Co-Organizer, BU Philosophy Graduate Conference. Received grant funding from the Society of Applied Philosophy, the APA Berry Fund, and BU's Center for the Humanities, Diversity & Inclusion, and GSO; $10,170 total.

2022-2024 Co-Organizer, BU Ethics Seminar.

2019 Co-Organizer, LSU Philosophy Graduate Conference.

Department Roles

2025-2026 Co-President, BU Philosophy Graduate Students Organization

2022-2023 Representative, BU Graduate Student Organization

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2026 Invited talk on conspiracy theories at the *Archè* Spring Philosophy Symposium on Fanaticism and Conspiracy Theories.

2024– Op-eds on soccer and philosophy for the newspaper *L'Esportiu* (in Catalan, see here).

2025 Lightning Talk on disinformation and narratives of resentment, BU, The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, October 2025.

2024 Article on disinformation for the CFCP Blog aimed at a general audience (see here).

2021 Translation from English to Catalan of Christine Korsgaard's interview at Philosophy Bites. "Christine Korsgaard sobre l'estatus moral dels animals" *Filosofia, Ara! Revista Per a Pensar*, 7, *1-2*, 33–37

2021 Master Class: Filosofia, Ara!: "Moral Dilemmas: The Questions We Need to Ask." Girona (Spain). Original presentation in Catalan. You can find it here.

LANGUAGES

Spanish, Italian, and Catalan: Fluent.

French: Intermediate mid-level proficiency.

REFERENCES

Paul Katsafanas (Advisor)
Professor, Boston University
Department of Philosophy

Michaela McSweeney (Dissertation Committee Member)
Associate Professor, Boston University
Department of Philosophy

Daniel Star (Dissertation Committee Member)
Associate Professor, Boston University
Department of Philosophy

Daniel Munro (Dissertation Committee Member)
Assistant Professor, Boston University
Department of Philosophy

Jordan Kokot (Teaching Reference)
Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Department of Philosophy

GRADUATE COURSES

Topic	Course	Professor	University (Semester)
Epistemology	**Fanaticism & Vice Epistemology (DS)**	Paul Katsafanas	BU (Summer 2022)
	Epistemology	Daniel Star	BU (Spring 2022)
Value Theory	**Shame & Resentment (audit)**	Bernard Reginster	BU (Fall 2023)
	Identity & Recognition	Paul Katsafanas	BU (Spring 2023)
	Devotion, Extremism, & Fanaticism	Paul Katsafanas	BU (Fall 2021)
	Seminar on Ethics & Aesthetics	Daniel Star	BU (Fall 2021)
	Metaethics	Raff Donelson	LSU (Spring 2019)
	Ethics – Parfit: *On What Matters*	Husain Sarkar	LSU (Fall 2017)
	Political Philosophy of Language	Samia Hesni	BU (Fall 2021)
Interdisciplinary	**Fundamentalism (Anth.)**	Shahla Haeri	BU (Spring 2023)
	Anarchism & The Origins of States (Geogr.)	Kent Mathewson	LSU (Fall 2018)
20TH Century Philosophy	**Wittgenstein**	Juliet Floyd	BU (Spring 2022)
	French Philosophy	François Raffoul	LSU (Fall 2018)
	Philosophy of the Event (French Phil.)	François Raffoul	LSU (Fall 2017)
Modern Philosophy	**Nietzsche**	Paul Katsafanas	BU (Fall 2022)
	Nietzsche: *On The Genealogy of Morality*	Husain Sarkar	LSU (Spring 2019)
	Sidgwick: *The Methods of Ethics* (DS)	Husain Sarkar	LSU (Summer 2018)
	Kant: *The Critique of Pure Reason*	Sally Sedgwick	BU (Fall 2022)
	Kant: *The Critique of Judgment*	Jon Cogburn	LSU (Spring 2018)
	Spinoza: *Ethics*	Aaron Garrett	BU (Spring 2022)
Ancient Philosophy	**Plato: *Meno***	Marc Gasser-Wingate	BU (Spring 2022)
	Aristotle	Rachel Parsons	LSU (Spring 2018)
Other classes	**Non-Conceptual Content (Phil. Of Mind)**	Jon Cogburn	LSU (Fall 2018)
	Philosophy of Mind	John Protevi	LSU (Spring 2018)
	Symbolic Logic	Jeffrey Roland	LSU (Fall 2017)