

POL PARDINI GISPERT

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Boston University, 2021–2027 (expected)

Dissertation: “The Vices of Coherence: Fanaticism and Other Failings”

Committee: Paul Katsafanas (advisor), Daniel Star, Michaela McSweeney

This dissertation argues that troubling sociopolitical phenomena such as fanaticism, conspiracy theories, and some forms of disinformation arise not from a deficit of rationality but from an excess: pursuing to the limit a misguided conception of what coherence demands, at the expense of responsiveness to reasons and evidence. I focus on fanaticism as the most extreme expression of this danger. I develop a new account of fanaticism as a disposition to eliminate conflict, expressed intrapersonally by silencing mental attitudes that challenge the object of fanaticism, and interpersonally by suppressing external resistance, often through intolerance and violence. I then argue that this disposition, in more localized forms, can help illuminate three related phenomena: namely, the coherent but totalizing structure of conspiracy theories and disinformation narratives and, within moral philosophy, the rigidity of theories that reject the possibility of genuine moral dilemmas. The connecting thread is a set of distinct epistemic and moral failings that emerge when we try to shape our mental life into a coherent whole at the cost of being responsive to the complexity of our normative lives. Ultimately, this project is not only about fanaticism, but about what it means to live as rational agents in a world that may elude the unity we’re so often tempted to impose upon it.

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

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

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Epistemology, Social and Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Modern Philosophy (especially 19th century), Biomedical Ethics

PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 Disinformation and Grievance Narratives, *Synthese*, 207(27).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-025-05421-9>
- 2025 Nietzschean Nihilism in Context: The Puzzle of Christianity, *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, 56(2), 193–215. <https://doi.org/10.5325/jnietstud.56.2.0193>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Draft “Conspiracy Thinking: When Understanding Goes Wrong”
 Draft “What Makes Studying Fanaticism So Hard?”

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 APA Sanders Graduate Student Prize, APA Eastern
 2024 Pardee Summer Fellowship, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
 2023–2021 “laCaixa” Fellowship, Spain (full funding to pursue a Ph.D.)
 2017–2019 Fulbright Scholarship
 2019 Edward Shirley Scholarship (Essay Prize), Louisiana State University
 2018–2019 Graduate Assistantship, Louisiana State University
 2024 GSO Travel Grant, Graduate Student Organization, Boston University

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

- Upcoming “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 (referred)
 2019 “Public Reasons, Shared Humanity? An Objection to Korsgaard”
 Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2019 (referred)
 2019 “Public Reasons, Shared Humanity? An Objection to Korsgaard”
 Alabama Philosophical Society Fall Meeting, Oct. 2019 (referred)

COMMENTARY

- 2025 Tech Ethics eXchange NorthEast (texnē). 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

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
- 2018-present Mentor: grant application advising to undergraduates, especially from Catalonia
- 2010-2015 Private tutor for high school students (mathematics, Spanish, philosophy)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 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

- 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

Other

- 2022 Co-organizer, BU Open House for Prospective Philosophy Graduate Students
- 2022 Editor of journal *Filosofia, Ara! Revista per a pensar*

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- 2024-2025 Op-eds on soccer and philosophy for the newspaper *L'Esportiu* (in Catalan, see [here](#)).
2025 Lighting 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](#)).
2020 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

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Michaela McSweeney

Associate Professor, Boston University
Department of Philosophy
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Daniel Star

Associate Professor, Boston University
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dstar@bu.edu

Jordan Kokot

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Department of Philosophy
jkokot@uccs.edu

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: <i>On What Matters</i>	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)
20 TH 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: <i>On The Genealogy of Morality</i>	Husain Sarkar	LSU (Spring 2019)
	Sidgwick: <i>The Methods of Ethics</i> (DS)	Husain Sarkar	LSU (Summer 2018)
	Kant: <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>	Sally Sedgwick	BU (Fall 2022)
	Kant: <i>The Critique of Judgment</i>	Jon Cogburn	LSU (Spring 2018)
	Spinoza: <i>Ethics</i>	Aaron Garrett	BU (Spring 2022)
Ancient Philosophy	Plato: <i>Meno</i>	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)