

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (*τεχνē*). 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

Professor, Boston University  
Department of Philosophy  
[pkatsa@bu.edu](mailto:pkatsa@bu.edu)

### Michaela McSweeney

Associate Professor, Boston University  
Department of Philosophy  
[m3@bu.edu](mailto:m3@bu.edu)

### Daniel Star

Associate Professor, Boston University  
Department of Philosophy  
[dstar@bu.edu](mailto:dstar@bu.edu)

### Jordan Kokot

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
Department of Philosophy  
[jkokot@uccs.edu](mailto:jkokot@uccs.edu)

## GRADUATE COURSES

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