

Migdalia Arcila-Valenzuela

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Sage School of Philosophy, Goldwin Smith Hall, 218, 232 E Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850, United States

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Race, Social and Political Philosophy, Latin American Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Bioethics, Feminist Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Psychiatry

EDUCATION

2026 (expected) PhD, Philosophy, Cornell University

Committee Chair: John M. Doris

Dissertation: *Praise, Pride, and Dignity: Black and Indigenous Struggles for Social Justice*

2023 M.A Philosophy, Cornell University

2020 M.A Philosophy (Magna Cum Laude), Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

2018 B.A Philosophy and Literature, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (Medellín, Colombia)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (2025). Laugh it off: Moral Admiration and Humorous Humility. *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility Vol. 9* <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780198955498.003.0010>

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (2025). Visualizing Taxonomic Reasoning: Casta Paintings and the Hierarchization of Bodily Differences. *Critical Philosophy of Race*, 13 (1), pp. 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.5325/critphilrace.13.1.0001>

Niemi, L., Washington, N., Workman, C., **Arcila-Valenzuela, M.**, De Brigard, F. (2024). The Emotional Impact of Baseless Discrediting of Knowledge: An Empirical Investigation of Epistemic Injustice. *Acta Psychologica* (244). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2024.104157>

Páez, Andrés & **Arcila-Valenzuela, Migdalia**. (2023). Los Problemas Probatorios de la Injusticia Testimonial en el Derecho [The Probative Problems of Testimonial Injustice in Law]. (*Isonomía: Revista de Teoría y Filosofía del Derecho*) [Isonomía: Journal of Theory and Philosophy of Law]. <https://doi.org/10.5347/isonomia.59/2023.653>

Arcila-Valenzuela, Migdalia & Páez, Andrés. (2022). Testimonial Injustice: The Facts of the Matter. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*: 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13164-022-00662-w>

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (2012). Roberto Juarroz: El Acontecer de la Palabra [Roberto Juarroz: the Happening of Words]. *Pensamiento Humanista* (9), 39-54.
<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11912/7938>

Book Chapters

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (forthcoming). Black Struggles in Colombia: An Agonistic Model of Pride. In S. Rivera Berruz & S. Gallegos-Ordorica (Eds). *Philosophy of Black Experience(s): Caribbean and Latin American Perspectives*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (forthcoming). Encontrar la Palabra Propia: Injusticia Hermenéutica y El Silencioso Entramado de la Opresión [Finding One's Own Word: Hermeneutical Injustice and the Silent Network of Oppression]. In Sebastián, F. (Ed). *Criminalidad, Opresión e Injusticia* [Criminality, Oppression, and Injustice]. Madrid: Marcial Pons.

Book Reviews

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. (2025). Review of “Raising Two Fists: Struggles for Black Citizenship in Multicultural Colombia” by Roosbelinda Cárdenas. *Social Movement Studies*, 24.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2025.2461501>

Under Review

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. “Journey on Foot: The Philosophical Expedition of Fernando González.” *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*.

Arcila-Valenzuela, M. “On Not Knowing Your Place: An Agonistic Model of Pride.” *Philosophical Studies*.

Papers In Preparation

“The Hard Problem of Grief”

“The Recalcitrant Body: Chronic Pain and Practical Agency”

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025: Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, as the Robert M. Adams Fellow in Philosophy (\$31,000)

2025: Nomination to the Zhu Family Fellowship (The Sage School of Philosophy nominates only two students each year)

2024: Nomination to the American Philosophical Association's 2024 Essay Prize in Latin American Thought

2024: Nomination to the Zhu Family Fellowship (The Sage School of Philosophy nominates only two students each year)

2024: Cornell Conference Travel Grant (\$600)

2024 APA Eastern Division Graduate Student Travel Stipend (\$300)

2023: Sage School of Philosophy Conference Travel Award (\$1,000)

2023: *Self-control in Context* Summer School Fellowship (\$1,500)

2023: Cornell Conference Travel Grant (\$600)

2022: President's Travel Fund for the Humanities (\$1000)

2022: Cornell Conference Travel Grant (\$1000)

2022: University of California, San Diego and Universidad de los Andes. *LATAM Free Will, Agency and Responsibility Project* (John Templeton Foundation) Summer Seminar III Fellowship (\$2500.00)

2021: University of California, San Diego and Universidad de los Andes. *LATAM Free Will, Agency and Responsibility Project* (John Templeton Foundation) Summer Seminar II Fellowship (\$2500.00)

2021: Fulbright PhD Scholarship (\$100,000.00) (*Declined*)

2018: Universidad de los Andes, Writing Center Scholarship (\$60,000.00)

INVITED TALKS

“On Not Knowing Your Place: An Agonistic Model of Pride”

- August 2025 – Permanente Talk Series, Philosophy Department, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia
- November 2024 – Social Ecology of Normative Concepts Workshop, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain
- Septiembre 2024 – Ontario Mind Group, University of Toronto

“Security, defense and peace: A dangerous conflation: Response to *Raising Two Fists: Struggles for Black Citizenship in Multicultural Colombia* by Roosbelinda Cárdenas”

- March 2024 – Philosophy of the Black Experience Conference, Howard University, Washington D.C

“Laugh it off: Moral Admiration and Humorous Humility”

- September 2023 – Moral Psychology Research Group Meeting (MPRG), Cornell University

“Los Problemas Probatorios de la Injusticia Testimonial en el Derecho” [The Probative Problems of Testimonial Injustice in Law] (with Andrés Páez)

- December 2022 – Seminario: La Discriminación en la Era Digital [Seminar: Discrimination in the Digital Era]. Facultad de Derecho, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile.
- November 2021 – Congresso Internacional de Direito Probatório [Evidencial Law International Conference]. Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Online Conference

“La Injusticia Testimonial: Un Fenómeno Indetectable” [Testimonial Injustice: An Undetectable Phenomenon]

- November 2020 – Ciclo de Conferencias en Desacuerdo e Injusticia Epistémica [Talk Series on Disagreement and Epistemic Injustice]. Universidad EAFIT, Medellín-Colombia

REFEREED CONFERENCES

“On Not Knowing Your Place: An Agonistic Model of Pride”

- October 2025 – 61st Western Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, University of Alberta, Edmonton

“Mi Simón Bolívar (1930): Biographies and the Search for Latin American Autonomy in Fernando González”

- March 2025 – Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, 52nd Annual Meeting, Howard University, Washington D.C

“Grief, Attachment Theory, and the Costly-Function Puzzle”

- February 2024 – Templeton-Sowerby Joint Workshop on Function and Dysfunction in Medicine and Psychiatry, Kings College London
- July 2023 – 17th Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology: Science and Values in an Uncertain World (CLMPST), Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- May 2023 – Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) Meeting, Toronto, Canada

“The Impossibility of Momentary Exemptions: A Comparative Analysis of Hegel and P. F. Strawson”

- January 2024 – Eastern APA, New York City
- August 2024 – 25th World Congress of Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome

“Laugh it off: Moral Admiration and Humorous Humility”

- November 2023 – New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility (NOWAR)

“Journey on Foot: The Philosophical Expedition of Fernando Gonzáles”

- June 2023 – Caribbean Philosophical Association: Twenty Years of Shifting the Geography of Reason: Continuing the Struggle, Online Conference
- April 2024 – Latinx Philosophy Conference, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York
- June 2024 – Canadian Philosophical Association, Montreal, Canada

“Evidential Problems of Testimonial Injustice”

- May 2022 – 1st Michele Taruffo Girona Evidence Week, Girona University, Spain

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCES

“The Recalcitrant Body: Chronic Pain and Moral Agency”

- May 2022 – Utrecht University Graduate Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Andres Páez, Universidad de los Andes (Project: Implicit Bias and the Law), December 2020-March 2021

Research Assistant for Manuela Fernández-Pinto, Universidad de los Andes (Project: A Philosophical Approach to Biasing Mechanism in Science), July 2020-November 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Teaching Assistant:

Jan. 2024-May 2024: Introduction to Philosophy (Derk Pereboom), Cornell University

Aug. 2023-Dec 2023: Introduction to Cognitive Science (Shaun Nichols), Cornell University

Jan. 2023-May 2023: Introduction to Philosophy (Yuna Won), Cornell University

Aug. 2022-Dec 2022: Bioethics, (Julia Markovits), Cornell University

Jan. 2020-July 2020: Aesthetics of Cinema, (Alessandra Merlo), Universidad de los Andes

July. 2019-Dec. 2019: Methods in Pedagogical Research (Eduardo Escallón), Universidad de los Andes

July. 2018-July 2019: Aesthetics of Cinema, (Alessandra Merlo), Universidad de los Andes

As Guest Lecturer:

“Where do Concepts Come From? The Case of ‘Gender’ in Feminist Philosophy.” May 2023.
Cornell University. Lecture for Yuna Won’s Introduction to Philosophy class

As Mentor:

LOGOS, The Cornell Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Speaker at the non-Western Philosophical Traditions Panel. April 2024

Pedagogical Training and Certification:

2025: Trauma-informed ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for refugees, Online Training and Workshop, University of Leicester

2018-2020: Pedagogical Training Course, Writing Center, Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

As Reviewer:

Journal referee, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*

Journal referee, *Crítica: Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía* [Hispanoamerican Journal of Philosophy]

Journal referee, *RBDPP - Revista Brasileira de Direito Processual Penal* [Brazilian Journal of Criminal Procedure]

As Chair:

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) Meeting. Panel on Philosophy of Psychiatry. May (2023). Toronto, Canada

New Orleans Workshop on Agency & Responsibility (NOWAR 6), March 2022

GRADUATE COURSE WORK

***= audited**

2023 Quantitative Methods I (Felix Thoemmes)

2023 Philosophy and Psychology of Suffering (Independent Study) (John Doris)

2023 Seminar in Psychopathology* (Jane Mendle)

2023 Art and Identity in Colonial Latin America (Ananda Cohen-Aponte)

2022 Functionals Accounts of Grief (independent Study) (Shaun Nichols)
 2022 Moral Responsibility (David Shoemaker)
 2022 Humor and Morality (David Shoemaker)
 2022 Nineteenth Century European Philosophy (Michelle Kosh)
 2022 Aristotle (Rachana Kamtekar)
 2022 Topics in Epistemology: Self-knowledge (Nicholas Sillins)
 2021 Critical Race Theory (Kate Manne)
 2021 Topics in Philosophy of Mind: Emotions and Their Functions (Shaun Nichols & Rachana Kamtekar)
 2020 Philosophy of AI* (Andrés Páez)
 2020 Propositional Logic* (Andrés Páez)
 2020: First Order Logic* (Andrés Páez)
 2020: Philosophy of Language* (Tomás Barrero)
 2020: Gender and Development *(Sally Haslanger & Libby McDonald MIT-DLab)
 2019: Metaphysics of Free Will (Santiago Amaya)
 2019: Cognitive Bias and Epistemic Injustice (Andrés Páez)
 2018: Scientific Controversies (Manuela Fernandez-Pinto)
 2018: Philosophy and Rhetoric (Catalina Gonzáles)

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Latin American Philosophy Reading Group (Participant), Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 2023-present

Philosophy of Psychiatry Reading Group (Co-founder), Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University. 2023-2024

Latin American Feminism Reading Group (Co-founder), Funded by Roman Studies Department, Cornell University. 2022-2023

MEDIA AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Opinion columnist on international political affairs, *Revista Raya*, Independent Journalism Magazine, Colombia (<https://revistaraya.com/opinion.html>)

“Testimonial Injustice: The Facts of the Matter,” guest post for the Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare (EPIC) blog, co-authored with Andrés Páez: https://epistemicinjusticeinhealthcareproject.blogspot.com/2024/12/testimonial-injustice-facts-of-matter.html?m=1&fbclid=IwY2xjawIpgSxleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHYHRhMOKt_PpMJ-xNVAsSrZDIFUkIounfsYRFkhyOBT*ToMinfixj18-M8Q_aem_RyHevNZNp6ABOUx74hj9vQ

“Philosophy: The Discipline of Disobedience,” Interview for *Why Philosophy?* <https://celineleboeuf.substack.com/p/why-philosophy-migdalia-arcila-valenzuela>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2025: Volunteer Instructor for *Paths to Peace: Prisons' Education Program*, University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent); Spanish (native speaker); Portuguese (Advanced reading); Italian (Intermediate); Egyptian Arabic (Basic Speaking)

PROFESSIONAL AFILIATIONS

America Philosophical Association (APA)
Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)
Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS)
Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP)

REFERENCES

John M. Doris

Professor of Philosophy, Sage School of Philosophy
Peter L. Dyson Professor of Ethics in Organizations and Life,
Cornell SC Johnson College of Business
Cornell University
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David Shoemaker

Wyn and William Y. Hutchinson Professor in Ethics and Public Life,
Sage School of Philosophy
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Shaun Nichols

Distinguished Professor of Arts & Sciences in Philosophy,
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Dissertation Abstract

Praise, Pride, and Dignity: Black and Indigenous Struggles for Social Justice

This dissertation investigates the social practices and political arrangements that embody the positive attitudes of praise and pride. Chapter one argues that admiration, as a public form of praise, can disrupt a community's relations of equal accountability by elevating the admired person to a position of moral superiority –what I call *the pedestal problem*. Chapter two argues that admiration, far from being a spontaneous individual emotion, is an expression of deep-rooted social values and may thereby serve as a mechanism for reinforcing the narratives that sustain oppressive systems. As a case study, I analyze the controversy surrounding the two statues of Spanish *conquistadores* that were removed by the Misak Indigenous community, in the context of the 2021 Colombian national strike. Chapter three develops an *agonistic model* of pride focused on cases where pride is experienced as *opposition* to insults rather than an *endorsement* of approbation, as proposed by a widely accepted *celebratory model* of pride. This chapter takes as a central case study the Afro-Colombian movement led by Francia Márquez Mina.