

## **AMELIA MARIE WIRTS, ESQ.**

Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle  
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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT**

#### **Assistant Professor (2020–present)**

Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Ph.D.** in Philosophy, August 2020

Department of Philosophy, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

*Dissertation: Criminal Oppression: A Non-Ideal Theory of Criminal Law and Punishment*

Committee: David Rasmussen (Chair), Jorge L. A. Garcia, Paulo Barrozo, Charles Mills, and Erin Kelly

#### **J.D.**, *summa cum laude*, 2017

Boston College Law School, Newton, MA

#### **M.A.** in Philosophy, 2012

Department of Philosophy, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

#### **B.A.** in Philosophy, *summa cum laude* and departmental honors, 2009

#### **B.A.** in Communication Studies, *summa cum laude*, 2009

Concurrent degrees earned from the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Journalism and Communication, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Philosophy of Law

Social and Political Philosophy

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of Race

Feminism

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“What Does It Mean to Say ‘The Criminal Justice System is Racist’?”. *American Philosophical Quarterly*. Peer Reviewed. ?” Forthcoming October 2023.

“Is Crime Caused by Illness, Immorality, or Injustice? Theories of Punishment in the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries” In: Altman, M.C. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook on the Philosophy of Punishment* (2023).

Book Review of Matthew C. Altman, *A Theory of Legal Punishment: Deterrence, Retribution, and the Aims of the State*. *Law and Philosophy*, 42, 205–210 (2023).

With José Jorge Mendoza. “The Undermining Mechanisms of ‘Rule of Law’ Objections: A Response to Song and Bloemraad” *The Ethics of Migration Policy Dilemmas Project, Migration Policy Centre (MPC), European University Institute*, 1-5 (2022).

“Discriminatory Intent and Implicit Bias: Title VII Liability for Unwitting Discrimination,” *Boston College Law Review*, 58, 809–562 (2017).

Review of Alessandro Ferrara, *Democratic Horizon: Hyperpluralism and the Renewal of Political Liberalism* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014) in *Journal of Classical Sociology* 15.2, 226–23 (2015).

“A Defense of the Lifeworld: The Source of Normativity in a Democracy.” in “Symposium on Hugh Baxter’s *Habermas and the Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*.” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 40.2, 215–223 (2014).

## INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

[“The Limitations of the Criminal Law’s Ability to Express the Value of Women”](#) *APA Blog*. December 14, 2022.

“Are Police Forces Inherently Oppressive?” Interview with Prof. José Antonio Orosco, as a part of the Anarres Project for Alternative Futures. Interview appears on the Anarres Project’s [Youtube](#), September 1, 2021, and a [shorter version as a podcast episode](#), December 3, 2021.

[“Death Penalty Can Express Society’s Outrage – But Biases Often Taint the Verdict.”](#) *The Conversation*. Oct. 15, 2021.

[“Policing and Criminal Oppression.”](#) *APA Blog*. June 28, 2021.

## INVITED TALKS

“Law Enforcement and Systemic Oppression.” Ethics of Immigration Enforcement Symposium, The Rock Ethics Institute, Pennsylvania State University, March 18, 2022, State College, PA.

“Criminal Punishment and Gender-Based Violence: The Limits of Incarceration.” Ethics, Law, and Society Forum, Philosophy Department, September 10, 2021, Sonoma State University, online.

“The Limitations of the Criminal Law’s Ability to Express the Value of Women,” Philosophy of Crime and Punishment Seminar, Boston University (taught by Susanne Sreedhar), February 28, 2023.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Mixed Messages: Why Feminist Interventions in Criminal Law Cannot Improve Social Norms,” Punishment in the Real World: Public Choice, Retributivism & Decarceral Feminism, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 3, 2022.

“Mixed Messages: Why Feminist Interventions in Criminal Law Cannot Improve Social Norms,” Colloquium on Law, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, April 14, 2022, Vancouver, BC.

Commentator for “Weapons of War and the Dual-Loyalty Dilemma” by Lu-Vada Duford, Submitted Colloquium on Ethics, War and Rescue. American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Feb. 23, 2022, Chicago, IL.

Critic for Author-Meets-Critics on Matthew Altman’s A Theory of Legal Punishment: Deterrence, Retribution, and the Aims of the State; Commentator on “The Value of Retribution.” by Matthew Altman. Northwest Philosophy Conference, November 12-13, 2021, Portland, OR.

“Police Practice as Criminal Oppression” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Invited Symposium: Policing and the Police, March 8, 2021, online.

Commentator on “Helping Wild Animals: Beneficence, Egalitarian Distributive Justice, or Rectification?” by Kyle Johannsen, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, February 27, 2021, online.

“Defining and Defending Criminal Oppression: The Social Construction of ‘Criminals’” Paper accepted to Social Ontology 2020 - The 12th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference. July 2020. (I was unable to attend because the schedule changed due to COVID)

“‘Criminal’ as Oppressed Group,” North American Society for Social Philosophy International Conference, July 2019, San Francisco, CA.

“Himpathy and Intersectionality: Toward a Feminist Prison Abolitionism,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Society for Analytical Feminism Group Panel, April 2019, Vancouver, Canada.

Commentator on “What We Owe to Ourselves,” by Emmalon Davis, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, January 2019, New York, NY.

“‘Himpathy’ and Intersectionality: A Non-Ideal Theory Approach to Feminist Praxis,” Clough Graduate Workshop, Boston College, October 2018, Chestnut Hill, MA.

“Discriminatory Intent and Implicit Bias: Title VII Liability for Unwitting Discrimination,” Clough Graduate Workshop, Boston College, November 2016, Chestnut Hill, MA.

“The Role of Restorative Laws in Eliminating Oppression and Legitimizing Political Structures,”

Society for Analytical Feminism Conference, September 2016, Lowell, MA.

“Legitimacy, Oppression, and the Violence Against Women Act,” Hypatia Conference, May 2015, Villanova, PA.

“Beyond Legitimacy: Deliberative Democracy and Justice,” North American Society for Social Philosophy’s Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2014, Ashland, OR.

“Problem of Pluralism, Constructivism, and the Political Right to Justification,” Author-Meets-Critics Roundtable with Rainer Forst, Philosophy and Social Science Colloquium at the Institute of Philosophy at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, May 2014, Prague, Czech Republic.

“The Principle of the Secular Rationale in Political Deliberation,” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Personalist Discussion Group, December 2013, Baltimore, MD.

“An International Duty of Restitution,” The Oxford Program on Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict’s Workshop, “Human Rights—In and After Conflict,” Merton College, March 2013, Oxford, UK.

“The Role of Normative Principles in Non-Ideal Theory: A Critique of Amartya Sen’s Comparative Approach in *The Idea of Justice*,” Northern New England Philosophical Association Conference, October 2012, Lowell, MA.

Critic on Author Meets Critics Panel for Hugh Baxter’s *Habermas: The Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*, North American Society for Social Philosophy International Conference, June 2012, Boston, MA.

“The Duty of Restitution: Immigration and National Borders,” at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Radical Philosophy Association Group Session, April 2012, Seattle, WA.

Commentator on “Misguided Systems Theory in Habermas’ Legal Theory,” by Kevin Gray, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, December 2011, Boston, MA.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Taught as Primary Instructor unless further specified*

***Graduate Seminar in Legal Philosophy (PHIL 514): Social Norm Change and The Law***  
Spring 2023, University of Washington

***Philosophical Issues in the Law (PHIL 114)***  
Autumn 2022, Winter 2022, Spring 2021, University of Washington

***Philosophy of Crime and Punishment (PHIL 314)***

Winter 2023, Winter 2021, University of Washington

***Philosophy of Law (PHIL 414)***

Autumn 2022, Spring 2022, Autumn 2020, University of Washington

***Philosophy Honors Capstone (PHIL 401): Punishment, Responsibility, and Justice***

Winter 2022, University of Washington

***Graduate Seminar in Legal Philosophy (PHIL 514): Theorizing Punishment in Unjust Societies***

Autumn 2021, University of Washington

***Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 2010) (Two Sections)***

Fall 2019, University of Massachusetts at Lowell

***Race, Gender, and the Law (PH 151)***

Fall 2019, Worcester State University

***Philosophy of Law (PH 238)***

Spring 2019, Worcester State University

***Introduction to Ethics: Human Conduct and Values (PH 130)***

Fall 2013, Worcester State University

***Philosophy of Law (PL 500, grad/undergrad/law)***

Fall 2013, Boston College (took over as primary instructor due to faculty illness November 3)

***Philosophy of the Person 2: Justice, Autonomy, and Equality (PL 70)***

Spring 2012, Boston College

***Philosophy of the Person 1: Justice, The Individual and The Community (PL70)***

Fall 2011, Boston College

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE*****Law Clerk for Judge Harris L. Hartz***

United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Albuquerque, NM  
August 2017–August 2018

I conducted legal research, compose bench memoranda and draft opinions on federal law, civil and criminal procedure, and jurisdiction.

***Napolitano Summer Intern***

Prosecution and Judicial Appeals Department Massachusetts Commission Against  
Discrimination, Boston, MA

May 2016–August 2016

I assisted in briefing full commission opinions and briefs for judicial review and preparing  
discrimination cases for prosecution.

***Employment Law Intern***

Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights and Economic Justice,\* Boston, MA

August 2015–December 2015

I assisted in briefing a federal appellate Title VII, racial employment discrimination case against  
the Boston Police Department. I drafted internal memoranda on summary judgment standards,  
Title VII disparate impact standards, and issue preclusion.

\* Renamed Lawyers for Civil Rights in 2018

***Intern for Judge Indira Talwani***

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

June 2015–August 2015

I conducted research in diverse legal areas including federal civil procedure, immigration, and  
federal anti-discrimination law. I composed bench memoranda and draft opinions.

**SERVICE****Philosophy Department Colloquium Committee Co-Chair, University of Washington**

Coordinate approximately six department colloquia per year across history of philosophy, social  
and political philosophy, philosophy of science, and ethics.

**Program on Ethics, Core Member, University of Washington****Editorial Board, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*****PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Radical Philosophy Association (Pacific Regional Coordinator)

American Philosophical Association

North American Society for Social Philosophy

Society for Analytical Feminism

National Lawyers Guild

Massachusetts Bar, Member (BBO #698776, inactive status)