

Vanessa Christina Wills

St. Joseph's University
Department of Philosophy
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Education

- PhD in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, December 2011
 - Dissertation: "Marx and Morality"; Committee: Michael Thompson (Chair), John McDowell, Peter Machamer, Tommie Shelby
- Fulbright Scholar, Institut für Philosophie, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2010-11
- Dissertation Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, 2009-10
- A.B. in Philosophy, Princeton University, June 2002

Current Position

- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, St. Joseph's University, August 2012-present

Areas of Specialization

- Moral Philosophy; Social and Political Philosophy; 19th Century German Philosophy (especially Karl Marx); Philosophy of Race

Areas of Competence

- Epistemology; Applied Ethics; German Idealism

Publications

- "What are you doing around here?": Trayvon Martin and the Logic of Black Guilt"
 - Book chapter in eds., Janine Jones and George Yancy, *Pursuing Trayvon Martin: Historical Contexts and Contemporary Manifestations of Racial Dynamics*, Lanham: Lexington Books, 2012.
- Review of Terence Irwin's *The Development of Ethics*
 - *The Philosophical Forum*, Volume 42, Issue 3, Fall 2011. (Due to the great length of Irwin's three-volume history of ethics, the review of his work was a collaborative effort. I reviewed Irwin's entry on Karl Marx's moral philosophy.)

Papers Under Review (Drafts Available upon request)

- "The 'White Privilege' Concept in Marxism and in Critical Race Theory"

(updated October 9, 2014)

- “Human Rights and the Stubborn Problem of Moral Relativism”

Selected Honors and Awards

- Saint Joseph's University
 - Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2014
- Deutsche Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service)
 - Short-term Grant for Research at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, Summer 2012
- J. William Fulbright U.S. Student Program
 - Grant for Research at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, 2010-11
- University of Rochester
 - Dissertation Fellow in the Department of Philosophy, 2009-10
- University of Pittsburgh
 - Provost Development Fund Dissertation Fellowship, 2009-10 (Declined)
 - Department of Philosophy Departmental Fellowship, 2006-2007
 - Department of Philosophy Summer Research Grant, Summer 2005
- K. Leroy Irvis Fund
 - Predoctoral Fellowship, 2002-2003

Presentations

- “‘Race-Thinking’ as Ideology” (Invited Keynote)
 - Annual Meeting of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry, July 2015
- “Classism or Class Exploitation? The Possibilities and Limits of Oppression Theory”
 - Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, February 2015 (Invited)
- “Marx and Human Nature”
 - Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Group Session of the Marx and Philosophy Association), February 2015
- “Human Nature as an Ethical Ideal in the Thought of Frederick Douglass”
 - Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass Institute at West Chester University, October 2014 (Invited)
- “The ‘White Privilege’ Concept in Marxism and Critical Race Theory”
 - California Roundtable on the Philosophy of Race, September 2014

- Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Group Session of the APA Committee for the Status of Blacks in Philosophy), February 2014
- “What's Wrong with Human Rights Talk?”
 - Paper given *in absentia* at the Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, February 2013
- “Human Nature, Human Rights, and the Struggle for Human Liberation”
 - University of Memphis Ida B. Wells Conference, November 2012 (Invited Keynote)
- “Ethics, Essence, and Objectivity in Radical Thought”
 - Radical Philosophy Association Conference, October 2012
- “Democracy, Leadership, and Representation in Black Politics”
 - Rock Ethics Institute, Pennsylvania State University, February 2012 (Invited)
 - Collegium of Black Women Philosophers Conference V, April 2012
- “Freedom and Morality in the Thought of Karl Marx”
 - University of New Mexico, Department of Philosophy, February 2012 (Invited)
 - St. Joseph’s University, Department of Philosophy, February 2012 (Invited)
 - Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy, November 2011 (Invited)
- “Marx's Moral Philosophy”
 - Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Social Philosophy Research Colloquium, May 2011 (Invited)
- “Marx's Critique of Natural Right”
 - York University, Historical Materialism Conference, May 2010
- “Hegel on Aristotle's *De Anima*”
 - University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy, Student-Faculty Colloquium Series, March 2009
- “Feminist Standpoint Theory and Marx’s Theory of the Proletarian Standpoint”
 - University of Pittsburgh Department of Philosophy, Student-Faculty Colloquium Series, March 2008

Teaching Experience

- At St. Joseph’s University
 - German Idealism
 - Freshman Seminar on Race and Racism

- Philosophy of Race (Writing Intensive)
- Philosophy of Human Nature
- Philosophy of Karl Marx (Writing Intensive)
- At the University of Rochester
 - Marx and Morality (upper-level seminar for advanced undergraduates)
- At the University of Pittsburgh
 - Thesis Advisor (one-on-one advising of an undergraduate research project)
 - Directed Study on Georg Lukács
 - Instructor (classes designed and taught independently)
 - Introduction to Social Philosophy
 - Topics in Social Philosophy: Philosophy of Race
 - Concepts of Human Nature
 - Introduction to Ethics: Applied Ethics
 - Introduction to Ethics: Ethics and Class Society
 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems
 - Teaching Assistant
 - Philosophy and Public Issues (Writing Intensive)
 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Writing Intensive)
 - History of Ancient Philosophy (Writing Intensive)
 - Introduction to Ethics (Writing Intensive)
 - Concepts of Human Nature (Writing Intensive)
 - Introduction to Philosophical Problems
 - Political Philosophy

Professional Activities and Memberships

- Referee (Radical Philosophy Review)
- Committee on the Status of Blacks in Philosophy, American Philosophical Association
- Administrator, Society of Young Black Philosophers
- Advisory Committee of the Africana Studies Program, St. Joseph's University
- Planning Committee of Thea Bowman Society Lecture Series, St. Joseph's University
- Organizer, Panel Session on “Marx and Human Nature,” Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Group Session of the Marx and Philosophy Association), February 2014
- Chair, Panel Session on “Believing at Will,” Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 2012
- Faculty commentator, University of Pennsylvania Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, November 2012
- Member, Collegium of Black Women Philosophers

- Member, American Philosophical Association

Languages

- English (native speaker); German (excellent); Spanish (good)

References available upon request.