

RAVIT DOTAN

Curriculum Vitae

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University of California
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley expected 2021

Dissertation: The Social View of Evidence

What makes it the case that something is evidence for a hypothesis? Many people think that evidential relations, e.g. “e is evidence for h”, are out there in the world for us to *discover*. By contrast, I develop a social view of evidence, on which what is evidence for what is *decided* by groups in the process of social deliberation. I support this view by showing that it explains key epistemic phenomena, such as the normative force of evidence and resistance to evidence. A controversial but illuminating consequence of the view is that evidence is inherently political.

Committee co-chairs: Lara Buchak and Shamik Dasgupta

M.A., Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, *Magna Cum Laude* 2013
Thesis: Theory choice in meta-metaphysics
Advisor: Carl Posy

B.Sc., Physics and Chemistry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2009

SPECIALIZATION: Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Machine Learning

COMPETENCE: Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

- “Machine Learning, Theory Choice, and Non-epistemic Values”
Synthese, 2020
- “Value-laden Disciplinary Shifts in Machine Learning”, with Smitha Milli
Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), 2020
(FAccT is a top-tier publication venue in machine learning)

NON PEER-REVIEWED

- *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Science*, edited with Shamik Dasgupta and Brad Weslake
Routledge, 2021
- “Introduction”, with Shamik Dasgupta
In: *Current Controversies in Philosophy of Science*

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED AND INVITED (INVITED=*)

“The Social View of Evidence”

- Canadian Philosophical Association (**CPA**), University of Western Ontario (declined) June 2021
 * Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science (**SEPOS**), Michigan State University October 2020
 American Philosophical Association (**APA**), Central Meeting, Chicago IL February 2020

“Resistance to Evidence”

- North American Society for Social Philosophy (**NASSP**), Neumann University(cancelled) July 2020
 Athena in Action, Cornell, Ithaca NY June 2020
 Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology (**VMST**), UT Dallas (cancelled) May 2020
 * Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science (**SEPOS**), Michigan State University April 2020
 Social (Distance) Epistemology event series, Online April 2020
 Philosophy of Science Association (**PSA**), Seattle WA November 2018
 * World Congress of Philosophy (**WCP**), Peking University, Beijing August 2018
 Society for Exact Philosophy (**SEP**), University of Connecticut May 2018
 American Philosophical Association (**APA**), Central Meeting, Chicago IL February 2018
 American Catholic Philosophical Association (**ACPA**), Dallas TX November 2017
 Western Canadian Philosophical Association (**WCPA**), Regina, Canada October 2017
 Alabama Philosophical Society (**APS**), Pensacola FL September 2017
 Society of Christian Philosophers (**SCP**), Eastern Meeting, Asbury University September 2017

“Evidence and Expert Testimony”

- Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (**CSHPS**) (cancelled) May 2020

“Machine Learning, Theory Choice, and Non-Epistemic Values”

- American Philosophical Association (**APA**), Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia PA January 2020
 Congress on Logic, Methodology, and philosophy of Science and Technology, Prague August 2019
 Formal Epistemology Workshop (**FEW**), Turin Italy (poster, declined) June 2019
 Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (**CSHPS**), Vancouver June 2019
 Society of Exact Philosophy (**SEP**), Toronto May 2019
 Computer Ethics—Philosophical Enquiry (**CEPE**), Virginia (declined) May 2019
 Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology (**VMST**), The University of Texas at Dallas May 2019
 Philosophy of Science Association (**PSA**), Seattle (Poster) November 2018

“Disciplinary Shifts in Machine Learning”

- Co-authored with Smitha Milli (UC Berkeley, Computer Science department)
 Philosophy of Science in Practice (**SPSP**), Michigan State University July 2021
 *Algorithmic Fairness and Opacity Group (**AFOG**), UC Berkeley November 2020
 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (**FAccT**), Barcelona January 2020
 Society for Social Studies of Science (**4S**), New Orleans LA September 2019
 Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, Vancouver June 2019
 Mid-South Philosophy of Science Network (**MSPS**), University of Kentucky March 2019

“Marriage and Oppression”

Us Against Them: Violence, Discrimination, and Minorities, Glasgow
 Society for Women in Philosophy – Ireland (**SWIP**), Dublin (declined)

April 2019

April 2019

PEER-REVIEWED TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

“Increasing and Diversifying Participation”

APA Teaching Hub, Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia PA

January 2020

**“Collaborative Midterm Teaching Evaluation:
 Sharing Authority in the Classroom and Empowering Students”**

APA Teaching Hub, Central Meeting, Chicago IL (poster session)

February 2020

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

“The Social View of Evidence”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

October 2020

“Resistance to Evidence”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

April 2020

“Disentangling the Marriage Package”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

November 2018

“Resilience in the Face of Counter-Evidence”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

September 2017

“The Normative Role of Logic”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

January 2017

“Theory Choice and Some Theology”, Wollheim Society, UC Berkeley

May 2016

“Is Theology Scientific?”, Philosophy Forum, UC Berkeley

November 2015

COMMETNTS

“Algorithmic Fairness from a Non-ideal Perspective”, Sina Fazelpour and Zachary Lipton

American Philosophical Association (**APA**), Eastern meeting

January 2021

**“The Influence of Autistic Communities’ Expertise on Science: Towards a Better Understanding of
 Autism”**, Sarah Arnaud

American Philosophical Association (**APA**), Central meeting

February 2021

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UC Berkeley	Spring 2020
William Fink Prize in Philosophy, UC Berkeley	2019
Awarded for the best paper by a philosophy graduate student in that year.	
The winning paper was “Machine Learning, Theory Choice, and Non-Epistemic Values”	
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UC Berkeley	Spring 2019
Summer grant, Philosophy Department, UC Berkeley	Summer 2017
Summer grant, Philosophy Department, UC Berkeley	Summer 2015
Ralph W. Church Fellowship, Philosophy Department, UC Berkeley	2014/5
Presidential Honors Program, Graduate Division, HUJI	2013/4
Research funding for four years. Awarded yearly to about ten graduate students in humanities	
Graduate Fellow, The Center for the Study of Rationality, HUJI	2013/4
Research funding for four years. Awarded yearly to about five graduate students university wide	
Yael Cohen Award, Philosophy Department, HUJI	2012/3
Awarded to one philosophy graduate student every year, based on merit	
The Orion Foundation Scholarship, Physics and Chemistry Departments, HUJI	2006-2009
Partial tuition waiver for three years, based on merit	
Travel grants from various organizations, including the APA, PSA, NSF, and UC Berkeley	

COMPETITIVE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Athena in Action	June 2020
Philosophy and Religion Engaged with the Public, Notre Dame IN (with stipend)	June 2019
Feminism and Philosophy of Science Summer Reading Seminar, Kiel Germany	August 2017
Philosophy and Physical Computing Summer Seminar, Virginia Tech	June 2017
The St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion, Saint Paul MN (with stipend)	July 2016

TEACHING DISTINCTIONS

Teaching Effectiveness Award, UC Berkeley	Spring 2019
Awarded to about 0.5% of all graduate student instructors university wide	
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley	Spring 2019
Awarded to about 9% of all graduate student instructors university wide	

OTHER

Grant to sponsor a workshop on syllabi diversification, Townsend Center for Humanities	Spring 2019
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE**AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR**

Feminist Philosophy UC Berkeley, Summer 2021

(The following are four-meeting seminars taught at the Berkeley Institute)

AI in a Human Context Berkeley Institute, Fall 2018

Co-taught with Fr. Anselm Ramelow (philosophy, Graduate Theology Union)
and Bailey Farren (cognitive science and rhetoric, UC Berkeley)

Science and Value Berkeley Institute, Spring 2018

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions Berkeley Institute, Fall 2017

Co-taught with Jonathan Kohler (physics, UC Berkeley)
and Karl van Bibber (nuclear engineering, UC Berkeley)

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship Timothy Crockett, UC Berkeley, Spring 2021

Philosophical Methods: AI ethics and meta-ethics Shamik Dasgupta, UC Berkeley, Fall 2019

Guest lecture: Dasgupta on the meta-ethics of AI

Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship Timothy Crockett, UC Berkeley, Fall 2018

Guest lecture: Mills's response to Rawls

Knowledge and Its Limits Wesley Holliday, UC Berkeley, Spring 2018

Science and Human Understanding Shamik Dasgupta, UC Berkeley, Fall 2017

Guest lecture: Against the value free ideal of science

Morality and Social Justice Niko Kolodny, UC Berkeley Spring 2017

Philosophical Methods: Personal Identity Daniel Warren, UC Berkeley, Fall 2016

Plato Klaus Corcilius, UC Berkeley, Summer 2016

Introduction to Philosophy of Religion Timothy Crockett, UC Berkeley, Spring 2016

Guest lecture: Pascal's Wager

Introduction to Logic Daniel Warren, UC Berkeley, Fall 2015

Introduction to Logic Oron Shagrir, HUJI, Spring 2011 & Fall 2012

Introduction to Logic Eli Zilberfenig, HUJI, Spring 2012

AS READER

Introduction to Philosophy of Science Eli Pitcovsky, HUJI, Fall 2013 & Spring 2014

Symmetry and Philosophy Meir Buzaglo, HUJI, Fall 2010 & Fall 2012

Guest lectures: Symmetry in Chemistry; Symmetry in Physics

Introduction to Analytic Philosophy Meir Buzaglo, HUJI, Spring 2011

Guest lecture: Kripke's Name and Necessity

REASERCH ASSISTENSHIPS

Meir Buzaglo HUJI, 2012/2013

Oron Shagrir HUJI, 2011/2012

GRADUATE EDUCATION

QUALIFYING EXAMS

Conceptual Change in Science, Religion, and Morality	Lara Buchak, Fall 2016
Learning about Evaluation of Hypotheses from Statistical Analysis	Shamik Dasgupta, Fall 2016
The Normativity of Logic	Niko Kolodny, Fall 2016

COURSE WORK AT UC BERKELEY (*=audited)

*Feminist Epistemology	Andreja Novakovic, Fall 2020
Python for Programmers	Spring 2018
*Introduction to Science and Technology Studies	Massimo Mazzotti (STS), Fall 2017
*Theory of Knowledge	Wesley Holliday, Spring 2017
Consciousness, Space, Time	Geoff Lee, Fall 2015
*Contemporary Ethical Theories	Niko Kolodny, Fall 2015
Reading and Comprehension Pedagogy for GSI	Hanna Ginsborg, Fall 2015
Causation, Time, and Freedom	John Perry, Spring 2015
Locke	Tim Crockett, Spring 2015
Plato's Timaeus	Klaus Corcilius and Tim Clarke, Spring 2015
Political Philosophy	Hans Sluga, Spring 2015
Wittgenstein's Tractatus	Paulo Mancosu and Hans Sluga, Fall 2014
Intermediate Logic	Paulo Mancosu, Fall 2014
First-year Graduate Seminar	Mike Martin and Barry Stroud, Fall 2014

Prior to my studies at UC Berkeley, I took and audited various courses and seminars at the Hebrew University in the context of my MA in philosophy. These include: Game Theory, Leibniz and Kant, Heidegger's "The Origin of the Work of Art", and meta-ethics.

NON-COMPETITIVE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Navigating Sexuality and Gender Studies (summer seminar)	Berkeley Institute, Summer 2018
Conversions (mini-seminar)	Lara Buchak, Berkeley Institute, Fall 2016
Guest lecture: MacIntyre	
Theology in the Age of Scientific Reasoning (mini seminar)	Lara Buchak, Berkeley Institute, Spring 2015
Jewish Texts and Analytic Thought (semester-long seminar, with stipend)	HUJI, 2012/3

ACADEMIC SERVICE

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Bay Area Philosophy and Feminism Workshop, organizing committee	Spring 2020
Bay Area Philosophy and Feminism Workshop, chair	Summer 2019
Nous, Referee	2019-
Pacific APA, Chair	Spring 2017, Spring 2018

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Head Graduate Student Instructor	2020-2021
An elected position, serving as the liaison of the graduate students in the department	
Syllabi Diversification Workshop, organizer	Spring 2019
UC Berkeley Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter, founding member	2017-
Equity Task Force, committee member	2015-2020
First-Year Buddy system, organizing committee and founding member	2016-2017
A program for matching incoming and older graduate students	
Work-in-progress Lunch series, organizing committee	2015-2017
Berkeley-London Conference, referee	Spring 2018
Urban Scholars Liaison	Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2018
Program for advancing veterans and formerly incarcerated students in philosophy	
Berkeley-London Conference, organizing committee	Spring 2017
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Conference, organizing committee	Spring 2016