

Nicholas P. Whittaker

CONTACT

Department of Philosophy
City University of New York, Graduate Center
nicholaswhittaker19@gmail.com

EDUCATION

City University of New York, Graduate Center

Ph.D., Philosophy (Projected 2024)

Dissertation: "Black Cinematic Horror and the Politics of Mood"

In Progress

Committee: Noel Carroll (Advisor), Paul Taylor, Sandra Shapshay

Harvard University

B.A., Philosophy (2019)

Thesis: On Black Screaming as an Ontological Possibility (At the End of the World): A Phenomenological Definition of the Black Horror Aesthetic

Awarded Magna Cum Laude

Advisor: Richard Moran

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Africana philosophy and philosophy of race, philosophy of art and aesthetics, political philosophy,

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

history of philosophy (anglo-European phenomenology, non-Western phil.), philosophy of perception, philosophy of emotion

LANGUAGE

French (intermediate reading), German (basic reading)

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Writings

- ❖ “Blackening Aesthetic Experience” (*Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*)
- ❖ “Towards a Definition of Black Cinematic Horror” (*Film and Philosophy*)
- ❖ “Filming Nature” (*Film and Philosophy*)
- ❖ “The End of the World: Nationhood and Abolition in ATLA” (*Avatar: The Last Airbender and Philosophy*)
- ❖ Review of Grant Tavinor’s *The Aesthetics of Virtual Reality* (*British Journal of Aesthetics*)
- ❖ “Creativity, Imagination, and Race” (Forthcoming, *Oxford Handbook on Philosophy of Imagination and Creativity*)
- ❖ “On Trans Conviction” (Forthcoming, *Trans Philosophy in a Time of Panic* with Bloomsbury Press)
- ❖ “Black Voices on Aesthetic Love” (In progress)
- ❖ “Aesthetic Perception as Natural Perception in the *Zhuangzi*” (In progress)

Public Writings

- ❖ On David Cronenberg’s *Crime of the Future* (*The Point*)
- ❖ “Misery Enough, No Poetry” (*The Junkyard*)
- ❖ On Kendrick Lamar’s *Mr. Morales and the Big Steppers* (*Aesthetics for Birds*)
- ❖ “‘Everybody and No-body Are Allowed in on This’: A Conversation with Marquis Bey” (APA Studies on LGBTQ+ Philosophy)
- ❖ On Olufemi O. Taiwo’s *Elite Capture* (*The Point*)
- ❖ On Chinelo Okparanta’s *Harry Sylvester Bird* (*The New York Times*)
- ❖ “Darkly Gleaming, Dreaming” (*HOLO Magazine*)

- ❖ “How to Love: Matthew Strohl and Rax King on Bad Movies” (*LA Review of Books*)
- ❖ “Towards an Ethics of Being Alone” (*The Philosopher’s Magazine*)
- ❖ “When I Get Home” (*The Point*)
- ❖ “What *Slave Play* Can Teach Us About Art and Ourselves” (*Aesthetics for Birds*)
- ❖ “Case Sensitive” (*The Drift*)
- ❖ “Making *Them* Suffer” (*The Point*)
- ❖ “Antiblackness and Philosophical Duplicity” (APA Blog)
- ❖ “What’s So Bad About Digital Blackface?” (*Aesthetics for Birds* and Institute for Aesthetic Ideas)

Academic Resources

- ❖ “Black Studies Reading List for Philosophers” (circulated by Philosopher’s Cocoon & Daily Nous)
- ❖ “The Problem of the Negro as a Problem for Philosophy” (APA Syllabus Showcase)
- ❖ “Black Studies Reading List for Philosophers of Art” (ASA Newsletter, Summer 2020)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Presentations

- ❖ “Crisis, Conviction, and Comics” (Philosophy of Comics workshop, August 2023, Invited)
- ❖ “Gitchcore as a Transfeminist Aesthetic” (American Society of Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division, April 2023, Invited)
- ❖ “Crisis, Conviction, and Comics” (APA Eastern Conference, January 2023, Invited)
- ❖ “Filming Nature” (American Society of Aesthetics, Annual Division, November 2022)

- ❖ “(How) Can Art Make Us Better Abolitionists?” (British Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, September 2022, invited)
- ❖ “Filming Nature” (SPSCVA Film and Philosophy Workshop, July 2022)
- ❖ (How) Can Art Make Us Better Abolitionists?” (APA Pacific Conference, American Society for Aesthetics Panel, April 2022, invited)
- ❖ “Black Voices on Aesthetic Love” (APA Central Conference, Diversity Institute Alumni Program, February 2022)
- ❖ “Black Voices on Aesthetic Love” (American Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, November 2021; awarded Irene Chayes New Voices Award)
- ❖ “Towards a Definition of Black Horror” (SPSCVA Film and Philosophy Workshop, July 2021)
- ❖ “Glitchcore as a Transfeminist Aesthetic” (American Society of Aesthetics, Feminist Caucus Summerfest, June 2021)
- ❖ “What’s So Bad About Digital Blackface” and “Antiblackness and Philosophical Duplicity” (Words Workshop @ Pitt, May 2021)
- ❖ “Blackening Aesthetic Experience” (ASA Virtual Summer Festival, June 2020)
- ❖ “Blackening Aesthetic Experience” (ASA Eastern Conference, April 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19)
- ❖ “On Ontological Screaming: *Ganja and Hess* and the Black Horror Aesthetic” (Society of Phenomenology and Media, March 2020, cancelled due to COVID-19)

Comments and Panels

- ❖ Comments on Yannis Mitsou, “Notes on Corporeality in *Dead Ringers* and *Crimes of the Future*: Violence, Aestheticism, and Transcendence” (Film and Philosophy, June 2023)
 - ❖ Panel participant for Author-Meets-Critic on Matt Strohl’s *Why It’s Ok to Love Bad Movies* (APA Eastern Conference, January 2022)
 - ❖ Comments on C. Thi Nguyen and Matt Strohl, “Towards a Better Aesthetic Hedonism” (ASA Eastern Conference, April 2021)
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HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

- ❖ Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies Fellow (2023) (CUNY)
 - ❖ Irene Chayes New Voices Award (2021) (ASA)
 - ❖ Provost Enhancement Fellow (2019-Present) (CUNY)
 - ❖ Lester Kissel Grant (2018) (Harvard)
 - ❖ Harvard College Research Project Grant (2018) (Harvard)
 - ❖ Harvard Foundation Insignia Award (2018) (Harvard)
 - ❖ Harry S. Truman Scholarship (2018) (Harvard)
 - ❖ Deshaun Hill and Harvard Stephens Memorial Scholarship (2018) (Harvard)
 - ❖ Harvard College Research Project Grant (2017) (Harvard)
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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- ❖ Secretary-Treasurer Search Committee member, American Society for Aesthetics (2023-Present)
- ❖ Admissions Committee Member, CUNY Graduate Center (2023-present)
- ❖ Annual Meeting Program Committee member, American Society for Aesthetics (2022-present)
- ❖ MAP Chapter Co-Chair, CUNY Graduate Center (2022-Present)
- ❖ TalkPOPC Resident Philosopher (2021-Present)
- ❖ Provost Pipeline Mentor, CUNY (2021 - Present)
- ❖ Feminist Caucus Member, American Society of Aesthetics (2020-present)
- ❖ Diversity Caucus Member, American Society of Aesthetics (2020-present)
- ❖ MAP Chapter Organizer, CUNY Graduate Center (2019-present)
- ❖ Student Steering Committee Co-chair, CUNY Graduate Center (2021-2022)
- ❖ Student Steering Committee Representative, CUNY Graduate Center (2020-2022)
- ❖ Curriculum Committee Student Member, CUNY Graduate Center (2020-2022)
- ❖ Referee for *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (2023-Present)
- ❖ Referee for *Philosophy Africana* (2022)
- ❖ Referee for *British Journal of Aesthetics* (2021-Present)
- ❖ Referee for *The C.L.R. James Journal* (2021)

- ❖ Staff critic, *Theater Mirror* (2018-2019)
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- ❖ Hunter College, CUNY
 - Phil 258 (Aesthetics), Fall 2023 (Primary Instructor, upper-level course)
 - Phil 20005 (Philosophy of Horror), Spring 2023 (Primary Instructor, upper-level course)
 - Phil 226 (African-American Philosophy), Fall 2022 (Primary Instructor)
 - Phil 226 (African-American Philosophy), Spring 2022 (Primary Instructor)
 - ❖ Brooklyn College, CUNY:
 - Phil 3314 (Business Ethics), Spring 2021 (Primary Instructor)
 - Phil 3314 (Business Ethics), Fall 2020 (Primary Instructor)
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GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Spring 2022

- ❖ Aesthetics and Politics (Lydia Goehr, Columbia)
- ❖ Independent Study (Miranda Fricker, CUNY)

Fall 2021

- ❖ Aesthetics and Nature (Sandra Shapshay, CUNY)

Spring 2021

- ❖ Continental and Decolonial Epistemology (Linda Martin Alcoff, CUNY)
- ❖ Ethics and Agency in Classical Chinese Thought (Hagop Sarkissian, CUNY)
- ❖ Wittgenstein and Heidegger (Graham Priest, CUNY)

Fall 2020

- ❖ Africana Philosophy (Charles Mills, CUNY)
- ❖ Philosophy of Motion Pictures (Jesse Prinz and Noel Carroll, CUNY)
- ❖ Logic (Nick Pappas, CUNY)

Spring 2020

- ❖ Philosophy of Emotion (Jesse Prinz, CUNY)
- ❖ Neglected Problems in Philosophy of Art (Noel Carroll, CUNY)
- ❖ Antonioni and Fellini (Giancarlo Lombardi, CUNY)
- ❖ Linguistic Pragmatism (Michael Devitt, CUNY)

Fall 2019

- ❖ Contemporary Problems in Philosophy of Art (Noel Carroll, CUNY)
- ❖ Marx and Marxism (Charles Mills, CUNY)
- ❖ PhD Proseminar (Nick Pappas and Miranda Fricker, CUNY)
- ❖ Later Heidegger* (Taylor Carman, Columbia)

* = Audit