

## CHRISTINE WIESELER

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2016-2018 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics,  
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, McGovern Medical  
School  
2018 Lecturer, Program in Writing and Communication, Rice University

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of South Florida  
Dissertation Title:



Miami University:

Theories of Human Nature, Spring 2011 (under Pascal Massie)

Purpose and Chance in the Universe, Fall 2010 (under Keith Fennen)

Problems of Social and Moral Values, Spring 2010 (under Gaile Pohlhaus, Jr)

Formal Logic, Fall 2009 (under Asher Seidel)

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Epistemic Issues in Biomedical Ethics: Ignorance and Disability  
Society for Social Philosophy 32nd International Social Philosophy Conference, Liberty, MO,  
July 16-18, 2015.

Thinking Critically about Disability in Biomedical Ethics Courses Exploring Collaborative  
Contestations and Diversifying Philosophy Philadelphia, PA May 28-30, 2015

[Invited] (Society for Social Philosophy, Undergraduate Philosophy Organization Meeting, March 19, 2015.

Performing Phenomenology and the Human Sciences The Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, New Orleans, LA, October 25, 2014.

3rd International Workshop on Teaching Philosophy American Association for Philosophy Teachers International Workshop Conference on Teaching Philosophy, Collegeville, MN, July 30-August 3 2014

3rd International Workshop on Teaching Philosophy: Incorporating the Diverse Body Feminist  
Ethics and Social Theory Conference, Tempe, AZ, October 17-20, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> , P S O L F - Disability Attitudes and the Conceptual Inflation of Ableism<sup>1st</sup> Global Governance and Sustainable Communities Interdisciplinary Conference, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, April 12, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> \$ U W L F X O D W L Q J W K H 8 Q D F N Q R Z O H G J H G ) U D P 10<sup>th</sup> Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Symposium: Building Bridges, Creating Coalitions, Miami University, Oxford, OH, February 25, 2011.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association for Philosophy Teachers

American Philosophical Association

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities

Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory

North American Society for Social Philosophy

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences

PROFESSIONAL AND CONFERENCE SERVICE  
Reviewer, Routledge (U.K. and U.S.), 2017

Graduate Student Representative, University of South Florida Graduate Council, Curriculum Committee, 2014-2015.

Conference Organizing  
Accessibility Chair, Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Association, December 2015-2020

Local Arrangements, 6<sup>th</sup> International Health Humanities Conference, Houston, TX, March 9-11, 2017.

Local Arrangements/Accessibility Coordinator, Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Association  
Clearwater, FL October 4, 2015.

Assistant to Onsite Coordinator, Florida Philosophical Association, Tampa, FL November 14-15, 2014.

Accessibility Coordinator, 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Heidegger Circle Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL, May 31, 2014.

[gpohlhaus@miamioh.edu](mailto:gpohlhaus@miamioh.edu)

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Dr. Kim Golombisky, Associate Professor  
University of South Florida  
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## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

My dissertation, *A Feminist Contestation of Ableist Assumptions: Implications for Biomedical Ethics, Disability Theory, and Phenomenology*, argues that the dominant ways of thinking about the body within philosophy through the lens of biological or cultural determinism are inadequate for theorizing experiences of disability because they cannot begin to capture the complexity of embodied subjectivity. The former gives too much explanatory weight to particular aspects of the body, while the latter gives too little. Both miss the negotiation between the embodied subject and her social milieu and fail to account for the role of the individual in making sense of her situation. I contend that the experiences and knowledge of disabled people must be included for epistemic practices related to disability to be just. Finally, I demonstrate how philosophical inquiry within biomedical ethics and phenomenology is radically transformed when experiences of disability are taken seriously.

In the first two chapters, I focus on epistemological and ontological concerns surrounding disability within biomedical ethics. Although disabled people and their advocates have been writing about the risks, knowledge, and experiences of disabled people have had minimal impact on discussions within biomedical ethics textbooks. The risks of making problematic assumptions about disability are high within this subfield insofar as bioethicists impact practices within medical facilities, public policy, and, through student engagement with their texts in biomedical ethics courses, the views of potential health care professionals. All of these, in turn, affect the care provided to disabled people and potential parents of disabled children. Chapter three raises ontological issues related to disability theory, examining the role of the impairment/disability distinction in framing discussions of the body as well as the status of experience. I discuss two approaches to incorporating subjective experiences of the body in disability, arguing that neither is sufficient. I examine debates within feminist theory on questions related to experience. I argue that a feminist phenomenological approach that builds on Merleau-Ponty's work provides a more adequate account of the embodied subject. I conclude by arguing that disability theorists and bioethicists should take seriously the experiences of disabled people and their advocates in their theorizing.