

Florentien M. Verhage

322 Washington Hall
Philosophy Department
Washington and Lee University

Lexington, VA, 24450, USA
(540) 458-8304
verhagef@wlu.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**Assistant Professor in Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Washington and Lee University, and
Core Faculty for the Women and Gender Studies Program, 2008 – present**

Research Areas: Phenomenology (esp. Maurice Merleau-Ponty), 20th Century Continental Philosophy,
Feminist Philosophy, Chicana Theory, Critical Race Theory, Post-Colonial Theory.
Areas of Competence: Phenomenology and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2009.
M.A. in Philosophy of Cognitive Science, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom, 2001.
B.A./M.A. in Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, The Netherlands, 1999.

RESEARCH

Publications (Peer Reviewed):

- “I Must be Surprised, Disoriented: Merleau-Ponty on Language as Disruptive Movement” for *Understanding Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Understanding Modernism*, edited by Ariane Mildenberg (Series: Understanding Philosophy, Understanding Modernism, Bloomsbury: forthcoming).
- “Philosophy Comes to Life: Elaborating an Idea of Feminist Philosophy,” *Feminist Philosophies of Life*, edited by Chloe Taylor and Hasana Sharp (McGill-Queens University Press: forthcoming 2016).
- “Living With(out) Borders: Oppression as Intimate Experience,” *Emotion Space and Society* 11 (2014): 96-105. Reprinted in *Intimacy and Embodiment*, a special issue of *Emotion, Space and Society* 13 (2014): 111–120.
- “The Vision of the Artist/Mother: The Strange Creativity of Painting and Pregnancy.” In *Coming to Life: Philosophies of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Mothering*, edited by Sarah LaChance Adams and Caroline Lundquist, 300-319. New York: Fordham University Press, 2013.
- “The Body as Measurant of All: Dis-covering the Other,” *Symposium* 12, no. 2 (Fall 2008): 166-182.

Submitted:

- “Unsayng Silence in a Singing World: Postcolonial Challenges for Phenomenology.” Submitted to *Hypatia* for a special Issue on “Contested Terrains: Women of Color and Third World Women Feminisms, and Geopolitics” (Volume 32, no. 3, 2017). Edited by Ranjoo S. Herr and Shelley Park.

Work in Progress:

- “The Ways Our Bodies Work: Vulnerability and Dis-Ease” (7300 words)
- “Travelling the Distance Between Throat and Ear: The Gift of Voice” (6900 words)

Presentations:

- “Unsayng Silence in a Singing World: The Uneasy Constitutive Power of the Unheard Voice,” Annual Meeting of the Nordic Society for Phenomenology, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden, April 23-25, 2015.
- “In Collusion, in Coalition, in Collision: Living Feminist Philosophy,” Annual Meeting of philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society, University of Alberta, Banff Conference Centre, Alberta, Canada, May 2-5, 2013.
- “The Ways Our Bodies Work: Vulnerability and Dis-Ease,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Women in Philosophy (CSWIP) on Theorizing the Body, Embodiment, and Body-Practices, Mount Royal University, Calgary AB, Canada, October 26 – 28, 2012.
- “The Intimacy, Vulnerability, and Terror of the *Ineinander*,” Workshop on Intimacy and Embodiment: Phenomenological Perspectives, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, May 25-27, 2011.
- “Having a Voice: Travelling the Distance between Throat and Ear,” Annual Meeting of philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN, May 5-8, 2011.

- “The Visions and Voices of our Cavernous Bodies: Intersubjectivity in Merleau-Ponty’s Philosophy,” 106th Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA), Eastern Division, December 27-30, 2009, New York.
- “The Visions and Voices of our Cavernous Bodies: Intersubjectivity in Merleau-Ponty’s Philosophy,” 48th Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), George Mason University, Arlington VA, October 29-31, 2009.
- “The Visions and Voices of our Cavernous Bodies: Intersubjectivity in Merleau-Ponty’s Philosophy,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, May 26-29, 2009.
- “Being-From-Another: Maternal Origins in Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology,” Conference on the Philosophical Inquiry into Pregnancy, Childbirth and Mothering organised by The Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology (SIFP), University of Oregon, Eugene OR, May 14-16, 2009.
- “Overlapping Minds: A Phenomenological Account of Intersubjectivity,” Interdisciplinary Conference on Cognition: Embodied, Embedded, Enactive, Extended, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL, October 20-24, 2007.
- “The Body as Measurant of All: Dis-covering the World,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP), McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, October 4-7, 2007.
- “The Institution of Intersubjectivity: The Social Rhythm of Anonymous Life in Infancy,” 5th annual meeting of the Nordic Society for Phenomenology: ‘Self and Other’, Centre for Subjectivity Research, Copenhagen, Denmark, April 20-22, 2007.
- “Looking at the Other from Somewhere: Merleau-Ponty’s Contribution to the Politics of Bodies and Spaces,” Conference on the Politics of Bodies and Spaces, Human Geography, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, June 17-18, 2005.

Invited Paper Comments:

- “Attaching to Other Bodies: Gut, Guts and the Bellybutton” commentary on Astrida Neimanis paper “Bellybuttoning,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, May 29 - June 3, 2010.
- “The Impersonal and Indifferent Body,” commentary on David Ciavatta’s paper “Merleau-Ponty and the Phenomenology of Natural Time” Annual Meeting of the Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, May 26-29, 2009.
- “Listening to the Narrative as an Interlocutor with a Voice,” commentary to Susan Brison’s paper “Trauma, Embodied Selves and Narrative Repair,” Workshop on Gender and Philosophical Conceptions of Sexual Difference and of Embodiment, Philosophy Department, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2006.

Other:

- “Appreciation or Appropriation? bell hooks on ‘Eating the Other.’” *Roundtable and Discussion on Exoticizing & Eroticizing Middle Eastern Women*, Washington and Lee University, March 30, 2011.

Fellowships and Grants

- Lenfest Summer Fellowship 2013-2015, Washington and Lee University, to support work on the crises of the marginalized subject (continuing work on several papers)
- Lenfest Summer Fellowship 2012, Washington and Lee University, to support work on “Living With(out) Borders: The Intimacy of Oppression.”
- Lenfest Summer Fellowship 2011, Washington and Lee University, to support work on “Having a Voice: Travelling the Distance between Throat and Ear” and “The ‘Intimate Terror’ of the Embrace: Oppression and Intimacy in Merleau-Ponty’s Nature Lectures.”
- Lenfest Summer Fellowship 2010, Washington and Lee University, to support work on “The Visions and Voices of Our Cavernous Bodies: A Phenomenology of Encounters”
- Lenfest Summer Fellowship 2009, Washington and Lee University, to support work on “The Time of the Artist/Mother: The Strange Creativity of Painting and Pregnancy.”
- Academic Life Course Development Grant, Washington and Lee University, to develop a course entitled “The Unruly Body: Philosophy, Science and Culture,” Spring 2010.
- David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton Dissertation Fellowship in Philosophy, 2006-2007.
- J.W. McConnell McGill Major Fellowship, 2004-2006, McGill University,
- Grant from FQRSC research group on Innateness, Interpretation and Perception, 2004, McGill University
- McGill Graduate Studies Scholarship 2003-2004
- Huygens Scholarship Programme: ‘Talentprogramma’, 2000-2001, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands

Awards and Prizes

Arts Insights Dissertation Completion Award 2008, Faculty of Arts, McGill University
Graduate Student Essay Prize 2007-2008, Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy
Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award 2004-2005, McGill University

TEACHING

Philosophy Department, Washington and Lee University

PHIL100 – Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL195 – Personal Identity

PHIL195 – Introduction to Continental Philosophy: Being in the World

PHIL238 – Existentialism: Meaning and Existence

PHIL239 – Postmodernism: Power, Difference, and Disruption

PHIL285 – The Unruly Body: Philosophy, Science and Culture (cross-referenced with WGS Program)

PHIL327 – Merleau-Ponty: Phenomenology of Perception

PHIL357 – The Self and the Social World: Intersubjectivity (cross-referenced with WGS Program)

PHIL399 – Seminar on Living Philosopher: *Linda Alcoff – Knowledge and Identity* (capstone course)

PHIL493 – Honors Thesis Seminar

WGS120 – Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and Feminist theory

WGS/PHIL235 – *The Second Sex*: Beauvoir on the Power of Gender

UNIVERSITY SERVICES – Washington and Lee University

Philosophy Department

Philosophy Department Visiting Professor Search Committee (2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2014-2015)

Leader of the Philosophy Thesis Program (2011-2012)

Thesis Advisor, Philosophy Department (2009-present)

Major Advisor (2009-present)

First Year Student Advisor (2009-present)

Women and Gender Studies

Women and Gender Studies, Advisory Board (2009-present)

Alumni Relations Subcommittee for the WGS Self-Study (2014-2015)

Capstone Advisor, Women and Gender Studies Program (2014-present)

University

Queering Communities Cohort (Interdisciplinary research and reading group)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee - IACUC (2015-present)

Employee Benefits Committee (2011-2012)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association (APA)

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC)

Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology (SIFP)

Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP)

Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP)

Nordic Society for Phenomenology

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Instructor, Philosophy Department, McGill University, 2006

Research Assistant for the workshop on “Gender and Philosophical Conceptions of Sexual Difference and of Embodiment,” McGill University, 2006

Research Assistant, Alia Al-Saji, Philosophy Department, McGill University, 2005-2006

Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, McGill University, 2002-2006

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, 1997-2000