

Agnes Callard

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy, Associate Professor, 7/2017 – present
University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy, Assistant Professor, 6/2008 – 6/2017

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Ph. D., Philosophy, 2008
University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Classics, 2000
University of Chicago, B.A., 1997

BOOKS

Aspiration: The Agency of Becoming (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Reviewed/discussed in: *The Times Literary Supplement* (1/10/2018), *Philosophical Quarterly* (9/10/2018), *The New Yorker* (1/21/2018), *Essays in Philosophy* (Krista Thomasson 1/2019), *Philosopher's Magazine* (John Schwenkler 1/2020).

On Anger (MIT Press, 2020) (edited, wrote lead essay and response to critics);
selected as one of the best books of 2020 by *The New Yorker* in January 2020.

Open Socrates: The Case for a Philosophical Life, (Norton, 2025), Reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

18. "What I Want When I Want You To Want Me," in *The Philosophy of Taylor Swift: Magic, Madness, Heaven, Sin*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
17. "Being Good at Being Bad: The Hippias Minor on Rule-Following," in *Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut and David Ebrey (Cambridge University press, 2022)
16. "The Virtuous Spiral: Aristotle's Theory of Habituation," in *Oxford Handbook of Moral Psychology* (Oxford University Press, 2022) ed. Manuel Vargas and John Doris.
15. "Precis of Aspiration" and "Response to Critics," in Symposium on *Aspiration, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* March 2021.
14. "Transformative Activities in Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend*," in *Becoming Someone New: Essays on Transformative Experience, Choice, and Change* ed. John Schwenkler and Enoch Lambert (Oxford University Press, 2020).
13. "Aristotle on Deliberation," in the *Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*, ed. Ruth Chang and Kurt Sylvan (Routledge, 2020).
12. "What do men find threatening about women's empowerment?" in the *American Philosophical Association Feminism and Philosophy Newsletter* (Spring 2019, vol 18 no. 2)
11. "The Reason to be Angry Forever," in *The Moral Psychology of Anger*, ed. Owen Flanagan and Myisha Cherry (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017)
10. "Debts of Gratitude," in *The Moral Psychology of Gratitude*, ed. Daniel Telech and Robert Roberts (Rowman and Littlefield) (2019).
9. "Aspiration," new entry in the *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, Ed. Hugh LaFollette (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017)
8. "Liberal Education and the Possibility of Valuational Progress," *Social Philosophy and Policy* 34: 2 (2017)
7. "Everyone Desires the Good: Socrates' Protreptic Theory of Desire," *Review of Metaphysics* 70: 4 (2017)
6. "Enkratēs Phronimos," *Archiv für Geschichte Der Philosophie* 99 issue 1 (2017).
5. "Proleptic Reasons," *Oxford Studies in Meta-Ethics* vol. 11 (2016).
4. "Akraitics as Hedonists: Protagoras 352b-354e," *Ancient Philosophy* vol. 36, issue 1 (2016).

3. "The Weaker Reason," *Harvard Review of Philosophy* vol.XXII (2015).
2. "Ignorance and Akrasia-Denial in the *Protagoras*," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 47 (2014).
1. "Practical Reason," in the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Donald Davidson* (2013).

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- "The Missing Shade of White," *Liberties* (Spring 2025)
- "The Paradox of Millennial Perfection," *Unherd* (February 2025)
- "I Told My Son To Always Be Himself. Was I Wrong?" *The Wall Street Journal* (Jan 2025)
- "Where the Wild Things Aren't," *Asterisk* (Jan 2025)
- "The Torture of an Unphilosophical Life," *Unherd*, (December 2024)
- "Beyond Neutrality," *The Point Magazine* (September 2024)
- "A Terrorist Plot Canceled the Show," *Unherd*, (August 2024)
- "The Flatness of Consent," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 2024)
- "The Paradox of Apology," *The Point Magazine*, (Jan 10, 2024)
- "I Teach the Humanities, and I Still Don't Know What Their Value Is" *The New York Times*, (Dec 2, 2023)
- "A Philosopher Gets Fed Up With Profundity," *The Atlantic* (March 23, 2023)
- "Art is For Seeing Evil," *The Point* (Jul. 15 2022)
- "COVID makes us want to see the future. Too bad we're not good at it," *The Toronto Star* (Jan 1, 2022)
- "The Eros Monster," *Harper's* (Feb. 2022)
- "The Problem of Marital Loneliness," *The New Yorker* (Sept. 2021)
- "The Real College Admissions Scandal," *The Point Magazine* (Aug. 2021)
- "Against Persuasion," *Boston Review*, (July 2021)
- "Socratic Humility," in *Radical Humility, Essays on Ordinary Acts* (Belt Publishing Company 2021)
- "Does Philosophy Progress?" in *Philosophy by Women* (Routledge 2020)
- "What We Believe About Skepticism," *The New York Times* (March 31, 2020)
- "I Don't Want You To Believe Me," *The New York Times*, (Nov. 30, 2020)
- Regular Column for *The Point Magazine* (<https://thepointmag.com/>) 2019-2021
- "Should We Cancel Aristotle," *The New York Times*, (July 21, 2020)
- "A More Perfect Meritocracy," *Boston Review*, Dec. 21, 2020)
- "What Do the Humanities Do In A Crisis," *The New Yorker* (April 11, 2020)
- "The End of Esotericism," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 10, 2020)
- "Why Am I Reading Apocalyptic Novels Now?," *The New York Times* (March 31, 2020)
- "The Real Cost of Tweeting about My Kids," *The New York Times* (Nov. 22, 2019)
- "What We Talk About When We Talk About Meritocracy," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Sept. 13, 2019)
- "Don't Overthink it," *Boston Review* (1/21/2019)
- "The Ethics of Economic Growth," Symposium Participant, Cato Unbound (<https://www.cato-unbound.org>) (1/2019)
- "What Does it Mean to 'Speak as a Woman?'" *The New York Times* (12/3/2018)
- "Professora de filosofia define a indisciplina como emigrar sem destino definido," trans. Mariana Nântua *Epoca* (9/19/18).
- "Can we learn to believe in God?" *The New York Times*, (1/8/2017).

WORK IN DRAFT FORM

Unruliness, draft (under contract with Penguin, draft due May 2027).

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Alan Jacobs, *Breaking Bread with the Dead*, in *The Wall Street Journal* (Dec. 9 2020)
- Review of Christopher Moore, *Socrates and Self-Knowledge* *Classical Philology* 112.4 (Oct. 2017)

COURSES TAUGHT

- Democracy and the Elites, Summer 2025
- The Chicago School Winter 2022
- Plato's Gorgias Spring 2021
- BA Seminar, Autumn-Winter 2020-2021, Autumn-Winter 2021-2022, Autumn-Winter 2022-2023, Autumn-Winter 2024-5
- Socratic Refutation, Spring 2019
- Changing, Resting, Living: Aristotle's Natural Philosophy, Winter 2019
- Socrates, Plato and Aristotle on Courage, Autumn 2018
- Moral Psychology of the Emotions, Winter 2018
- Self-Creation as a Literary and Philosophical Problem, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2022
- Plato's *Meno*. Online course for Uchicago Alumni, Autumn 2016
- Socratic Intellectualism, Winter 2015, Autumn 2024
- Plato's *Phaedo*, Winter 2015
- Deliberation, Winter 2014
- Intensive History of Philosophy I (Plato) and II (Aristotle), Fall-Winter 2013-4, Winter-Spring 2017, Fall-Winter 2022-2023
- Philosophical Perspectives, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Winter 2017, Fall 2017, Winter 2018, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Fall 2024, Winter 2025.
- History of Philosophy I, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2017
- Human Being and Citizen, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012
- Aristotle on the Origin of the Ethical, Winter 2012
- Aristotle on Action, Winter 2011
- Plato's *Theaetetus*, Winter 2011
- Weakness of Will, Winter 2010
- Plato On Desire, Winter 2010

ADDITIONAL TEACHING SERVICE

Night Owls, 2017-present

Co-director, Practical Philosophy Workshop, 2009-2011, 2102-2013, 2016-2017, 2022-2023

Co-director, Ancient Philosophy Workshop, 2010-2011, 2014-2015, 2016-2022, 2024-2025, 2025-2026

ADVISING

B.A. Theses: Richard Grenis (2009-2010), Matt Mandelkern (2010-2011), Daniel Drucker (2010-2011), Jeremy McKey (2013-2014), Eric Thurm (2013-2014), Clint Montgomery (2014-2015), Rajiv Huranjee (2017-2018), Joshua Kramer (2017-2018), Lucy Johnson (2018-9), Caroline Hoskins (2018-9), Anna Prisco (2020-2021).

M.A. Theses: Steve Klemm (2009-2010), Nicholas Fox (2010-2011), Yixin Wei (2016-2017), Jasmine Huynh (2018-9), Misha Rudolph (2020-2021), Ben Schall (2021-2022), Josh Kindler (2024-2-2025)

Ph.D. Theses in progress: I am on the committees of Andrew Stone and Avner Steinmetz

Ph.D. Theses completed: I was on the committee of Charles Todd ("Life Interrupted: Akrasia, Action, and Active Irrationality" PhD 2011) ; Jennifer Lockhart ("Kierkegaard: Indirect Communication and Ignorant Knowledge" PhD 2011); Stina Bäckström ("The Mind's Movement: An Essay on Expression" PhD 2013); Mark Hopwood ("Love's Work: Eros and Moral Agency" PhD 2014), Daniel Telech (chair, "In Praise of Praise" 2018), Rory O' Connell ("The Efficacy of The Good," 2018), Amichai Amit, ("Rational Desire and Organic Holism of Justification," 2018), Claire Kirwin (Co-chair, "Value Realism and the First-Person Perspective," 2019), Joshua Mendelsohn ("Aristotle on the Necessity of What We Know," 2019), Rory Hanlon, ("Aristotle's Divided Soul," 2021), Emily Dupree, ("The Contingency of Moral Personhood," 2021), Josh Fox

(“Existential Pessimism and Aesthetic Experience,” 2021), Noah Chafets, “The Good and Its Guises,” 2022), Claudia Hogg-Blake (“An Account of Human-Animal Love,” 2022), Josh Trubowitz, “Spontaneous Activity and Truthfulness in Aristotle’s Theory of Perception,” 2023 Ermioni Prokopaki, “Understanding the Threat of Relativism in the Theaetetus of Plato”, Sarale Ben Asher, “Immanence and Recollection,” (2024).

ACADEMIC SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2017-19, 2020-2023, 2024-ongoing)
Public Thinking Search Committee (2025)
Humanities Master Search Committee (2021)
Ethics Post Doc Committee (2020)
MAPH Admissions Committee (2017-18, 2018-19)
Director of Graduate Recruitment (2016-17)
Graduate Admissions Committee (2010-2011, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17)
Harper-Schmidt Selection Committee (2014-15)
Ethics Search Committee (2010-2011)
Undergraduate Program Committee (2013-14, 2014-15)
Ancient Philosophy Search Committee (2009-2010, 2016-2017)
Reviewer for: *Ancient Philosophy*, *Nous*, *Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Archiv fur Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Mind*, *Review of Metaphysics*

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Lebowitz Prize (4/2020)
Sze Teaching Award (2019)
Guggenheim Fellowship (2019-20)
Loeb Fellowship (2019-20)
Quantrell Award (2017)
Mark Ashin Fellowship (2016)
Franke Faculty Fellowship (2015-2016)
Mabelle Mcleod Lewis dissertation scholarship, May 2006
Jacob Javits Fellowship, April 1998- April 2001
Mellon Fellowship, April 1997
College Honors Scholarship from the University of Chicago, April 1993-1997

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

“The Human and the Divine,” the 10th Biennial Conference of the Chicago Area Consortium in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Nov 7 – 8, 2014
“Virtue, Action, and Reason: A Conference in Honor of Anselm Müller,” Chicago, April 2-3, 2011.
“Kant’s Trans-Atlantic Legacy of Skepticism,” Berkeley, CA April 2002