

Feminist Epistemology: Standpoints and Injustices

Fridays 14.00-16.00, Weeks 1-8, Trinity Term 2026

Schwartzman Centre (Ryle Room)

This class will explore recent work in feminist and otherwise social justice-oriented epistemology. Questions considered will include: is there an epistemic advantage to being oppressed? Under what circumstances (if any) ought members of dominant groups to defer to members of marginalized groups? Are echo chambers always pernicious? What are hermeneutical injustices, who suffers them, and what can be done to prevent them? How should we understand the epistemic dimension of political backlash? Are some groups owed epistemic reparations, and if so in what form? Might addressing epistemic injustices sometimes distract from addressing more pressing material injustices? Finally, in what ways might someone be constrained by certain things about them being rendered intelligible? Readings listed above the asterisks are compulsory; readings listed below the asterisks are optional.

Background Reading

Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice: Power & the Ethics of Knowing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), esp. Introduction and Chs.1&7.

Aidan McGlynn, "Epistemic Injustice: Phenomena and Theories" in Jennifer Lackey and Aidan McGlynn eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Social Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025), pp.295-327.

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2nd ed., London: Routledge, 2000), Ch.11 "Black Feminist Epistemology".

Charles W. Mills, "White Ignorance" in Shannon Sullivan and Nancy Tuana eds., *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007), pp.13-38.

Week 1: Standpoint Epistemology

Lidal Dror, "Is There an Epistemic Advantage to Being Oppressed?" in *Noûs* Vol.57 no.3 (2023), pp.618-640.

Emily Tilton, ""That's Above My Paygrade": Woke Excuses for Ignorance" in *Philosophers' Imprint* Vol.24 no.8 (2024), pp.1-19.

Brianna Toole, "Recent Work in Standpoint Epistemology" in *Analysis* Vol.81 no.2 (2021), pp.338-350.

Liam Kofi Bright, "Duboisian Leadership through Standpoint Epistemology" in *The Monist* Vol.107 no.1 (2024), pp.82-97.

Aidan McGlynn, *Epistemic Injustice: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2025), Ch.4 "Situating Epistemic Oppression".

Week 2: Deference and Elite Capture

Savannah Pearlman and Elizabeth Williams, "Why You Ought to Defer: Moral Deference and Marginalized Experience" in *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly* Vol.8 no.2 (2022).

Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò, *Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else)* (London: Pluto Press, 2022), Introduction and Chs.1-3.

Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò, *Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else)* (London: Pluto Press, 2022), Chs.4&5.

Liam Kofi Bright, "White Psychodrama" in *Journal of Political Philosophy* Vol.31 no.2 (2023), pp.198-221.

Week 3: Echo Chambers and Epistemic Bunkers

C. Thi Nguyen, "Echo Chambers and Epistemic Bubbles" in *Episteme* Vol.17 no.2 (2020), pp.141-161.

Gaile Pohlhaus Jr., "Gaslighting and Echoing, or Why Collective Epistemic Resistance is not a "Witch Hunt"" in *Hypatia* Vol.35 no.4 (2020), pp.674-686.

Katherine Furman, "Epistemic Bunkers" in *Social Epistemology* Vol.37 no.2 (2023), pp.197-207.

C. Thi Nguyen, "Hostile Epistemology" in *Social Philosophy Today* Vol.39 (2023), pp.9-32.

Amandine Catala, "Echo Chambers, Epistemic Injustice, and Ignorance" in *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* Vol.10 no.3 (2021), pp.30-37.

Week 4: Recent Work on Hermeneutical Injustice

Jonathan Ichikawa, "Consent Theory as Hermeneutical Injustice" in *The Philosophical Quarterly* Vol.75 no.4 (2025), pp.1344-1365.

Robert Herissone-Kelly, "Agency and Authority: A Differentiated Model of Hermeneutical Power" in *Philosophical Quarterly* (forthcoming).

Nick Clanchy, "Tackling Hermeneutical Injustices in Gender-Affirming Healthcare" in *Hypatia* Vol.39 no.4 (2024), pp.688-710.

Aidan McGlynn, *Epistemic Injustice: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2025), Ch.8 "The Central Case of Hermeneutical Injustice" and Ch.9 "Incidental Hermeneutical Injustice and Hermeneutical Marginalization".

Week 5: Hermeneutical Backlash

B.R. George and Stacey Goguen, "Hermeneutical Backlash: Trans Youth Panics as Epistemic Injustice" in *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly* Vol.7 no.4 (2021).

Han Edgoose, "Hermeneutical Sabotage" in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* Vol.102 no.4 (2024), pp.879-895.

Megan R.F. Drury, "Concepts and Contexts: Towards a Theory of "Hermeneutical Bastardization"" in *Hypatia* Vol.40 no.1 (2025), pp.206-227.

Robert Morgan, "Hermeneutical Disarmament" in *Philosophical Quarterly* Vol.75 no.3 (2025), pp.1071-1093.

Nick Clanchy, "Infrapolitical Strategies for Tackling Hermeneutical Injustices Amidst the Global Trans Panic" in *Ergo* (forthcoming).

Week 6: Epistemic Reparations

Jennifer Lackey, "Epistemic Reparations and the Right to Be Known" in *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Association* Vol.96 (2022), pp.54-89.

Yann Allard-Tremblay, "A Great Ox Stands in Your Mind: Decolonial Caution About Epistemic Reparations and the Right to Be Known" in *Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming).

George Hull, "Epistemic Redress" in *Synthese* Vol.200 (2022).

Veli Mitova, "Irreparable Epistemic Wrongs" in *Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming).

Abraham Tobi, "Epistemic Reparation and the Duty of Victims" in *Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming).

Week 7: Epistemic Injustices as/and/or Material Injustices

Thomas Spiegel, "The Epistemic Injustice of Epistemic Injustice" in *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* Vol.11 no.9 (2022), pp.75-90.

Kenneth Novis, "Epistemic Class Injustice: Class Composition and Industrial Action" in *Social Epistemology* Vol.38 no.5 (2024), pp.593-606.

David Ludwig, "It's a Shame That You Can't Afford Rent, But We Can Offer Epistemic Compensation: On Relating Epistemic and Social Justice" in *Social Epistemology* (forthcoming).

Aidan McGlynn, *Epistemic Injustice: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2025), Ch.3 "The Nature and Scope of Epistemic Injustice".

Veli Mitova, "Can Theorizing Epistemic Injustice Help Us Decolonize?" in *Inquiry* (forthcoming).

Week 8: Over-Intelligibility

Maya Krishnan, "Over-Intelligibility" in *Political Philosophy* Vol.2 no.2 (2025), pp.666-695.

Nick Clanchy, "Dreaming of a World Exempt from Meaning: How Roland Barthes was Loved" (manuscript).

Lila Braunschweig, "The Art of Not Being Sexed Quite So Much: A Feminist Reading of Roland Barthes" in *Political Theory* Vol.52 no.2 (2023), pp.180-209.

Rhea Ienni, "Access Without the Demand for Explanation" in *Journal of Philosophy of Disability* Vol.3 (2023), pp.71-92.