

Alejandro Vesga

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor University of Houston, Department of Philosophy	2024-
Postdoctoral Research Associate Princeton – University Center for Human Values Cognitive Science. PI: Tania Lombrozo	2023-2024

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Epistemology, Philosophy of Action, Cognitive science

Areas of Competence

Latin American Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy Cornell University Malcolm Visiting Fellow, King's College London, 2022 Minor in Cognitive Science Dissertation Title: "Talking with Others: On the Normative Significance of our Declarative Practices" <u>Committee</u> : Carlotta Pavese, Willow Starr (co-chairs), Kate Manne, Shaun Nichols, Morten Christiansen (cog-sci member)	2023
M.A. in Philosophy Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia <i>Advisor</i> : Tomás Barrero <i>Dissertation</i> : "The Role of Semantics in Testimonial Communication"	2016
B.A. in Philosophy Minor in Journalism. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia	2015

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Published/Forthcoming

Research Articles:

Communicating Testimonial Commitment. (2023). *Ergo: An Open access Journal of Philosophy*. 10: 16.

No brute facts: The principle of sufficient reason in ordinary thought. (2023) *Cognition*, 238, 105479.
With Scott Partington and Shaun Nichols.

Evidence for multiple kinds of belief in theory of mind (2025). *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. *With Tania Lombrozo and Neil VanLeeuwen.*

But Why?: Children's Belief in the Necessity of Explanations (2025). *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*. *With Tess Flanagan, Shaun Nichols, and Tamar Kushnir.*

Explaining Value: The PSR and the Realm of Value in Ordinary Cognition (2025). *Mind & Language*.
With Scott Partington, David Pizarro, and Shaun Nichols.

Non-Literal Communication and Practical Coherence (Forthcoming). Chapter in *New Work on Discourse Coherence*. Ed: Gerhard Prayer. Oxford University Press. *With Willow Starr.*

Virulent Claims (Forthcoming). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

Others (reviews, proceedings, etc.):

The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Ordinary Cognition (2022) *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 44(44). With Scott Partington and Shaun Nichols.

Must there be an explanation? Children and the Principle of Sufficient Reason (2023). *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 45(45). With Tess Flanagan, Shaun Nichols, and Tamar Kushnir.

Evidence for distinct cognitive attitudes of belief in theory of mind (2024) *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46(46). With Neil Van Leeuwen and Tania Lombrozo.

Review of a Telic Theory of Trust by Adam Carter. (2026). *Philosophical Review*.

Under Review

Evidence for a Cooperativist Account of Communicative Commitment (R&R at Cognition)

Euphemisms (Under Review)

In Preparation

Illocutionary Conscriptio

The Normative Unity of Assertion

Insinuation and the Nature of Communicative Commitment

An Action-First Solution to the Puzzle of Belief

Ethics as Projecto: A Normative Stance of a Philosophy of Liberation

TALKS (* = Competitively Selected, °=Invited)

<i>Illocutionary Conscriptio</i> *	October 2026
Anti-Democratic Communication Conference University of Waterloo. Waterloo, Canada.	
<i>Ethics as Projecto: A Normative Stance for a Philosophy of Liberation</i> *	October 2026
-Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.	November 2026
-2026 Latinx Philosophy Conference A&M University, College station, TX.	
<i>Acting On Truth: An Action-First Norm of Belief</i> *	September 2026
British Society for the Theory of Knowledge Biennial Conference Oxford, UK	
<i>Euphemisms</i> *	June 2026
Workshop on Speech and Society: Contemporary Philosophy of Language Cardiff University. Cardiff, UK.	
<i>Talking with Others: Evidence for a Cooperativist Theory of Communicative Commitment</i> *	June 2026
52 nd Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology Baltimore, MD.	
<i>Trusting is Cooperating</i> */°	March 2026
-Workshop on Responsible Trusting without Prejudice. Royal Society of Edinburgh.	
-Series on Normativity University of Houston. Houston, TX.	
<i>Comments on Hyska's 'Migra Watch and epistemic practices of surveillance from below'</i> °	March 2026
Workshop on Applied Epistemology in Times of Political Crisis. UNC. Chappell Hill, NC.	
<i>Euphemistic Fashion</i> *	October 2025
Workshop on Fashion and Communication. Paris Institute of Fashion. Paris, France.	

<i>Evidence for a Cooperativist Account of Communicative Commitment (Poster)*</i> 51 st Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Cornell University. Ithaca, NY.	June 2025
<i>Talking Together: On the Nature of Communicative Commitment</i> ^o IV Workshop on Formal and Experimental Philosophy (FAX 4). University of Buffalo. Buffalo, NY.	April 2025
<i>Insinuación y la naturaleza del compromiso (Insinuation and the nature of commitment)</i> ^o Workshop on Language, Action, and Expression Universidad de los Andes. Bogotá, Colombia.	Dec 2024
<i>Check your Attitudes: Evidence for a different kinds of belief in ordinary thought*</i> Society of Philosophy and Psychology. West Lafayette, IN.	June 2024
<i>Can the Norm of Assertion be Functional?*</i> Agency and Intentions in Language Harvey Mudd College, Online.	Jan 2024
<i>Eufemismos, Expectativas y Normas (Euphemisms, Expectations, And Norms)</i> ^o Workshop on Language, Action, and Expression. Bogotá, Colombia.	Dec 2023
<i>Explaining Value: PSR and the Normative Realm</i> Princeton Cognitive Science Research Seminar. Princeton, NJ.	Oct 2023
<i>Explaining Value: PSR and the Normative Realm (poster)*</i> Society of Philosophy and Psychology Pittsburgh, PA	June 2023
<i>Can the Norm of Assertion be Functional?*</i> 2023 American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division. San Francisco, CA.	April 2023
<i>Norming Assertion*</i> Social Ontology Conference. University of Vienna. Vienna, Austria.	Sept 2022
<i>The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Ordinary Thought*</i> Society of Philosophy and Psychology and European Society of Philosophy and Psychology Joint Conference, Milan	July 2022
<i>Lying, Misleading, Stating, Insinuating</i> Cornell Philosophy Department, Discussion Club.	Apr 2021
<i>The Dual Nature of Testimony*</i> Critical Nexus Workshop Series. Virtual.	Sept 2020
<i>Euphemisms, Expectations, and Norms</i> Semantics Workshop Cornell University. Ithaca, NY.	Nov 2019
<i>Communication, Commitment, Testimony*</i> Workshop on Epistemic Autonomy, Trust, and Testimony Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Madrid, Spain.	Aug 2019
<i>The Objects of Testimony*</i> (poster) 2019 ECOM Workshop Connecticut University. Storrs, CN.	May 2019
<i>Can Hijacked Experience be Epistemically Okay?*</i> 2019 American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division. Vancouver, Canada.	April 2019

<i>Is Testimony Strictly Semantic?*</i> The 2nd Context, Cognition and Communication Conference. University of Warsaw. Warsaw, Poland	June 2018
V Conference of the Latin American Association for Analytic Philosophy and <i>PHILOGICA V</i> . Villa de Leyva, Colombia.	May 2018
<i>Reasons to Act and Reasons to Believe: Practical Normativity and the Epistemology of Testimony.*</i> VI Congreso Colombiano de Filosofía. Universidad del Norte. Barranquilla, Colombia	Aug 2016
<i>Testimonial Vehicles: The Pragmatics of testimony*</i> Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Conference. Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ.	Mar 2016

AWARDS

<i>New Faculty Research Fellowship</i> University of Houston	2025
<i>MSF Philosophy in Media Fellow</i> Marc Sanders Foundation	2024
<i>Small Research Grant</i> Princeton University Center of Human Values	2025
<i>Norman Malcolm Fellowship</i> Cornell University and King's College London.	2022
<i>Collaboration Project Award</i> Co-Organizer of the Critical Nexus Early Career Workshop Series. LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	2021
<i>Project Fellow (Responsibility)</i> LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	2021
<i>Project Fellow (Agency)</i> LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	2020
<i>Fellowship in the Digital Humanities</i> Society for the Humanities and Cornell Library	2019
<i>Travel Awards</i> Graduate School, Cornell University	2018-20, 2022
<i>Sage Fellowship</i> Graduate Studies, Cornell University	2017-8, 2020-1
<i>Presentation Award for Graduate Students</i> Universidad de los Andes, Philosophy Department.	2015
<i>Fellowship for MA Studies in Philosophy</i> Universidad de los Andes, Writing Center.	2014-6

SERVICE

<i>Referee</i> Philosophia; Ergo; Philosopher's Imprint; Inquiry; South African Journal of Philosophy; Erkenntnis.	2023 -
<i>President</i> Colombian Graduate Student Association, Cornell	2021-2022
<i>Co-Organizer</i> Critical Nexus Workshop Series	2021

<i>President/ Board Member</i> PLATO: Philosophy, Leadership, Advocacy and Training Organization. Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell	2020 - 2021
<i>Workshop and Course Design</i> Center For Applied Ethics, Universidad de los Andes	2014-2015
<i>Organizer</i> Joint Conference: V Conference of Teaching Ethics and II Latin American Conference of Applied Ethics	2016
<i>Founding Member, Director</i> Philosophy Student Journal, <i>La Cicuta</i> . Universidad de los Andes	2012 - 2014

ADVISING

<i>Mellon Scholar Program Sponsor and Mentor</i> Cory Bush Baila Walker Brian Tran	2024-26
<i>Honors Thesis Advisor</i> Claire Ngo Cory Bush	Spring 2026
<i>MA Advisor/Mentor</i> University of Houston MA students. Part of my job is to advice and help them to get into PhD programs. Students I have advised have been accepted in schools like Princeton, UCLA, Cornell, U Michigan, UC Santa Cruz, and Rice.	Fall 2025

TEACHING

<i>Ango-American Philosophy: Pragmatism</i> University of Houston, Higher-level Undergraduate Class	Fall 2026
<i>Communication</i> University of Houston, Graduate-level Seminar	Spring 2026
<i>Philosophy of Language</i> University of Houston, Higher-level Undergraduate Class	Spring 2026
<i>Philosophy of Action</i> University of Houston, Higher-level Undergraduate Class	Fall 2025
<i>Latin American Philosophy</i> University of Houston, Higher-level Undergraduate Class	Fall 2025
<i>Existencia y Liberación en Latinoamérica</i> University of Houston, Graduate-level Independent Study	Spring 2025
<i>Belief</i> University of Houston, Graduate-level Seminar	Spring 2025
<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> University of Houston, Higher-level Undergraduate Class	Fall 2024
<i>Introduction to philosophy</i> University of Houston, Lower-level Undergraduate Class	Fall 2024 Fall 2026
<i>Gender, Race, Liberation</i> Cornell University: First-Year Writing Seminar	Spring 2023
<i>Liberation in Latin American Philosophy</i> Cornell University: First-Year Writing Seminar	Fall 2021

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

<i>Research Assistant to the PSR Project led by Shaun Nichols</i> Cognitive Science Program, Cornell University	2022
<i>ELSO Writing Tutor for Graduate Students</i> Knight Institute, Cornell University	2021
<i>Research Assistant to Carlotta Pavese: SEP entry on Knowledge-How</i> Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University	2020
<i>Academic Projects Manager</i> Center for Applied Ethics, Universidad de los Andes	2016 -2017
<i>Teaching Assistant and Academic Writing Tutor</i> Writing Center, Universidad de los Andes	2015 - 2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (* = Competitively Selected)

<i>Course Design Institute</i> Center for Teaching Innovation, Cornell University	2021
<i>Summer Seminar on Responsibility.*</i> LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project	2021
<i>Summer Seminar on Agency.*</i> LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project	2020
<i>Workshop on Social Ontology and Collective Action.*</i> Groningen University	2019
<i>Summer School on Moral Epistemology.*</i> Central European University.	2018
<i>North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information.</i> NASSLLI	2018

POPULAR PRESS

¿Es Álvaro un Hablamierda? (Is Álvaro a Bullshitter?) - <i>Palabras al Margen, Colombia</i>	Dec 2016
Tecnocracia, Ignorancia y Propaganda (Technocracy, Ignorance, and Propaganda) - <i>Palabras al Margen, Colombia</i>	Jul 2016
Silbatos y prostitución homosexual (Dog-whistles and Homosexual Prostitution) - <i>Revista la Cicuta, Colombia</i>	Feb 2016
‘Viagra’ Femenino: Flibanserina, deseo e identidad (Feminine ‘Viagra’: Flibanserina, Desire, and Identity) - <i>Revista la Cicuta, Colombia</i>	Aug 2015
El purgatorio de una transgénero víctima de un pasaporte. (The purgatory of a trans woman victimized by her passport) - <i>Kien y Ke, Colombia.</i>	Jul. 2015
El Poder de los Micos: Patarroyo y la vacuna que no llega (Pararroyo and the long-awaited vaccine) - <i>La Silla Vacía, Colombia</i>	Aug. 2014
El Poder de los Monos (The Power of Monkeys) - <i>CeroSetenta, Colombia</i>	Aug. 2014

REFERENCES

Santiago Amaya
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Rice University
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