

Alejandro Vesga

Philosophy Department
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77204

ajvesgaplazas[at]uh.edu
www.alejandrovesga.co

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, Cognitive science
Areas of Competence Philosophy of Action, 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: "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

Published/Forthcoming

Articles, Chapters

Communicating Testimonial Commitment. (2023). *Ergo*. 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 (2026). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

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 PSR (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 - Cognition)
 Euphemisms (Under Review)
 The Cooperative Norm of Assertion (Under Review)

In Preparation

Illocutionary Conscriptio
 Insinuation and the Nature of Communicative Commitment
 An Action-First Solution to the Puzzle of Belief
 Ethics as Projecto: A Normative Stance for a Philosophy of Liberation

TALKS (* = Competitively Selected, °=Invited)

<i>Illocutionary Conscriptio</i> *	November 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.	
<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. Chapel Hill, NC.	
<i>Euphemistic Fashion</i> *	October 2025
Workshop on Fashion and Communication. Paris Institute of Fashion. Paris, France.	
<i>Talking Together: On the Nature of Communicative Commitment</i> °	April 2025
IV Workshop on Formal and Experimental Philosophy (FAX 4). University of Buffalo. Buffalo, NY.	
<i>Insinuación y la naturaleza del compromiso (Insinuation and the nature of commitment)</i> °	Dec 2024
Workshop on Language, Action, and Expression Universidad de los Andes. Bogotá, Colombia.	

<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.	Jan 2024
<i>Eufemismos, Expectativas y Normas (Euphemisms, Expectations, And Norms)°</i> 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>The Dual Nature of Testimony*</i> Critical Nexus Workshop Series. Virtual.	Sept 2020
<i>Communication, Commitment, Testimony*</i> Workshop on Epistemic Autonomy, Trust, and Testimony Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Madrid, Spain.	Aug 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 -V Conference of the Latin American Association for Analytic Philosophy and <i>PHILOGICA V</i> . Villa de Leyva, Colombia.	June 2018 May 2018
<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>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>	2021
Co-Organizer of the Critical Nexus Early Career Workshop Series. LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	
<i>Project Fellow</i>	2020, 2021
LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	
<i>Fellowship in the Digital Humanities</i>	2019
Society for the Humanities and Cornell Library	
<i>Fellowship for MA Studies in Philosophy</i>	2014-2016
Universidad de los Andes, Writing Center.	

SERVICE

<i>Referee</i>	
Philosophia; Ergo; Philosopher's Imprint; Inquiry; South African Journal of Philosophy; Erkenntnis.	
<i>Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies</i>	2026 -
Philosophy department, University of Houston	
<i>President</i>	2021-2022
Colombian Graduate Student Association, Cornell	
<i>Co-Organizer</i>	2021
Critical Nexus Workshop Series	
<i>President/ Board Member</i>	2020 - 2021
PLATO: Philosophy, Leadership, Advocacy and Training Organization. Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell	
<i>Organizer</i>	2016
Joint Conference: V Conference of Teaching Ethics and II Latin American Conference of Applied Ethics	

TEACHING

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

ADVISING

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

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

<i>Research Assistant to the PSR Project led by Shaun Nichols</i> Cognitive Science Program, Cornell University	2022
<i>ELSO Writing Tutor to 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

PUBLIC WRITING

¿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
Silbato y prostitución homosexual (Dog-whistles and Homosexual Prostitution) - <i>Revista la Cicuta, Colombia</i>	Feb 2016
‘Viagra’ Femenino: Flibanserina, deseo e identidad (Feminine ‘Viagra’: Flibanserine, 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 <i>Associate Professor, Philosophy Rice University samaya@uniandes.edu.co</i>	Tamar Kushnir <i>Professor, Psychology and Neuroscience Duke University tamar.kushnir@duke.edu</i>	Clayton Littlejohn <i>Professor, Philosophy Australian Catholic University clayton.littlejohn@acu.edu.au</i>	Tania Lombrozo <i>Professor, Psychology Princeton University Lombrozo@princeton.edu</i>
Kate Manne <i>Professor, Philosophy Cornell University kam468@cornell.edu</i>	Shaun Nichols <i>Professor, Philosophy Cornell University cp645@cornell.edu</i>	Carlotta Pavese <i>Professor, Philosophy and Psychology Oxford University carlotta.pavese@ox.ac.uk</i>	Willow Starr <i>Associate Professor, Philosophy Cornell University w.starr@cornell.edu</i>