

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, 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 (co-chair), Willow Starr (co-chair), 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*.
No brute facts: The principle of sufficient reason in ordinary thought. (2023) *Cognition*.
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). *New Work on Discourse Coherence*,
OUP. With Willow Starr.
Virulent Claims (2026). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

Reviews, peer-reviewed 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)
 Euphemisms (Under Review)

In Preparation

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

TALKS (* = Competitively Selected, °=Invited)

<i>Illocutionary Conscriptio</i> *	November 2026
Anti-Democratic Communication Workshop University of Waterloo. Waterloo, Canada.	
<i>Ethics as Proyecto: 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> *	June 2024

Society of Philosophy and Psychology. West Lafayette, IN.	
<i>Can the Norm of Assertion be Functional?*</i>	Jan 2024
-Agency and Intentions in Language	April 2023
Harvey Mudd College.	
-American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division.	
San Francisco, CA.	
<i>Eufemismos, Expectativas y Normas (Euphemisms, Expectations, And Norms)°</i>	Dec 2023
Workshop on Language, Action, and Expression.	
Bogotá, Colombia.	
<i>Explaining Value: PSR and the Normative Realm</i>	Oct 2023
-Princeton Cognitive Science Research Seminar.	June 2023
Princeton, NJ.	
- Society of Philosophy and Psychology	
Pittsburgh, PA	
<i>Norming Assertion*</i>	Sept 2022
Social Ontology Conference.	
University of Vienna. Vienna, Austria.	
<i>The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Ordinary Thought*</i>	July 2022
Society of Philosophy and Psychology and European Society of Philosophy and Psychology Joint Conference, Milan	
<i>The Dual Nature of Testimony*</i>	Sept 2020
Critical Nexus Workshop Series. Virtual.	
<i>Communication, Commitment, Testimony*</i>	Aug 2019
Workshop on Epistemic Autonomy, Trust, and Testimony	
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Madrid, Spain.	
<i>Can Hijacked Experience be Epistemically Okay?*</i>	April 2019
2019 American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division.	
Vancouver, Canada.	
<i>Is Testimony Strictly Semantic?*</i>	June 2018
-The 2nd Context, Cognition and Communication Conference.	May 2018
University of Warsaw. Warsaw, Poland	
-V Conference of the Latin American Association for Analytic Philosophy and PHILOGICA V. Villa de Leyva, Colombia.	
<i>Testimonial Vehicles: The Pragmatics of testimony*</i>	Mar 2016
Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Conference.	
Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ.	

AWARDS

<i>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> LATAM Critical Nexus Early Career Workshop Series.	2021
<i>Project Fellow:</i> LATAM Free Will, Agency, and Responsibility Project.	2020, 2021
<i>Fellowship in the Digital Humanities:</i> Society for the Humanities and Cornell Library	2019
<i>Fellowship for MA Studies in Philosophy:</i> Universidad de los Andes, Writing Center.	2014-2016

SERVICE

<i>Referee:</i> Philosophia; Ergo; Philosopher's Imprint; Inquiry; South African Journal of Philosophy; Erkenntnis.	
<i>Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies:</i> Philosophy department, University of Houston	2026 -
<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>Organizer:</i> Joint Conference: V Conference of Teaching Ethics and II Latin American Conference of Applied Ethics	2016

TEACHING (UH: University of Houston; CU: Cornell University)

Graduate Seminars

<i>Cooperation and Trust</i>	UH: Spring 2027
<i>Communication</i>	UH: Spring 2026
<i>Belief</i>	UH: Spring 2025
<i>Existencia y Liberación</i>	UH: Spring 2025

Higher-Level Undergraduate

<i>Social Epistemology</i>	UH: Spring 2027
<i>Anglo American Philosophy: Pragmatism</i>	UH: Fall 2026
<i>Philosophy of Language</i>	UH: Spring 2026
<i>Philosophy of Action</i>	UH: Fall 2025
<i>Latin American Philosophy: Liberation</i>	UH: Fall 2025
<i>Theory of Knowledge</i>	UH: Fall 2024

Lower-level Undergraduate

<i>Introduction to philosophy</i>	UH: Fall 2024, Fall 2026
<i>Gender, Race, Liberation</i>	CU: Fall 2023
<i>Liberation in Latin American Philosophy</i>	CU: 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.	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 Cicutu, Colombia</i>	Feb 2016

'Viagra' Femenino: Flibanserina, deseo e identidad (Feminine 'Viagra': Flibanserin, Desire, and Identity) - <i>Revista la Cicutu, 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>