

AGNES TAM

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RESEARCH AREAS

AOS: Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics (especially practical reason)
AOC: Applied Ethics, Social Epistemology, Chinese Philosophy

APPOINTMENTS

2021-2023 **Banting Postdoctoral Fellow**, Research Group on Constitutional Studies, McGill University
Supervisor: Jacob Levy
2020-21 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Social Justice Centre, Concordia University (Montreal)
Supervisor: Pablo Gilabert

EDUCATION

2020 **PhD**, Philosophy, Queen's University (Kingston)
Dissertation: "Norms, Reasons, and Moral Progress"
Summary: I develop a novel normative theory of group reasoning, called We-reasoning, featuring attitudes of deference, trust, and solidarity. I argue that We-reasoning is a rational way for group agents to form and revise their We-constitutive group norms. I further demonstrate that such partial and conformist We-reasoning, far from obstructing moral progress, actually facilitates it.
Committee: Will Kymlicka (Chair), Jackie Davies, Colin Farrelly, Margaret Moore (Internal), and Joseph Heath (External)
2013 **MSc**, Political Theory, London School of Economics and Political Science
2010 **LLB**, Law, University of Hong Kong
2009 **Exchange JD**, Law, Tulane University

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming "Being Popular and Being Just: How Animal Protection Organizations Can be Both", in V. Giroux, A. Pepper, and K. Voigt (eds.), *Ethics of Animal Shelters*, Oxford University Press (with Will Kymlicka).
Forthcoming "A Case for Political Epistemic Trust", in K. Vallier and M. Weber (eds.), *Social Trust*, Routledge.
Forthcoming "The Legitimacy of Groups: Toward a We-Reasoning View", *Analyse & Kritik*.
2020 "Why Moral Reasoning is Insufficient for Moral Progress", *Journal of Political Philosophy* 28(1): 73-96.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Do Liberals Have to Fear Identity-Expressive Populism?” (in preparation)
- “How Not to Respond to Populism” (in preparation)
- “We-Reasoning: A New Ethic of Joint Interpretation” (in preparation)
- “Social Ontology for Political Philosophy” (in preparation)
- “Institutionalizing We-reasoning: The Role of Parties and Electoral Politics” (in preparation)

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2019 “如果良知不夠用，逆權運動該如何走下去?”[The Limits of Conscience: How to Continue Hong Kong’s Anti-Authoritarian Struggle!] *TheStandNews*, July 10 (in Chinese)

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

- May 2021 “Do Liberals Have to Fear Identity-Expressive Populism?”
Political Theory In/And/As Political Science Workshop, McGill, Stanford, New York University, and Duke
- April 2021 *Political Theory of Populism Workshop*, Concordia University (invited)
- Sep 2020 “Identity-Expressive Populism and its Challenges to Normative Political Theory”
Workshop on Alternative Forms of Government, MANCEPT
- Mar 2019 “The Role for Social Norms in Applied Ethics: A Case Study from Vegan Advocacy” (with Will Kymlicka)
GRÉEA/CRÉ/Montreal SPCA Workshop (invited)
- Jun 2018 “The Limits of Epistemic Egalitarianism: Why Different Types of Biases Require Different Remedies”
Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, Montreal
- Aug 2017 *Summer School of Social Epistemology*, Autonomous University of Madrid
- May 2018 “Making Sense of the Authority of Social Norms”
Conference on Normative Power, Université de Montréal and McGill University (poster)
- Mar 2018 *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Queen’s University (invited)
- Sep 2016 *Workshop on Political Theory of Social Norms*, MANCEPT
- Apr 2018 “Democratic Accountability or Social Trust”
Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy: Social Trust, Bowling Green State University

Feb 2017	“Diversity in Philosophy” <i>Equity and Women’s Concerns Committee Event Series</i> , Queen’s University (invited)
Nov 2016	“Enabling Moral Progress for Factory Farming: Beyond Contention and Deliberation” <i>Animal Politics: Justice, Power and the State</i> , International School of Philosophy

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020	Postdoctoral Fellowship, <i>Justitia Amplificata</i> , Goethe University (declined)
2018	Dr. H. Martyn Estall Award in Philosophy (award for one grad student each year to attend the Canadian Philosophy Association Conference), Queen’s University
2017	A.R.C. Duncan Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Queen’s University
2014-2018	Principal’s International Doctoral Award, Queen’s University
2014-2018	Queen’s Graduate Award, Queen’s University
2014-2018	International Tuition Award, Queen’s University
2013-2014	Honorary Fellow, Hong Kong Sir Edward Youde Overseas Fellowship
2013	Centre for Animal and Social Justice Scholarship, Sheffield University (declined)
2009	Champion, Animal Ethics Essay Competition, Hong Kong SPCA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018	Contributor, GRÉEA, CRÉ and the Montreal SPCA Principal Investigators: Kristin Voigt, Valéry Giroux, and Élise Desaulniers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with a team of moral philosophers in a SSHRC-sponsored project: “Animal Welfare Organisations: Responding to Ethical Challenges” Collected information and testimonies from the Montreal SPCA staff regarding their ethical dilemmas in daily operation Drafted ethical guidelines and policy recommendations for the Montreal SPCA
2018	Researcher, Philosophy, Queen’s University Principal Investigator: Will Kymlicka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in a field trip to VINE farm sanctuary with researchers from philosophy, cultural studies, and geography to jointly investigate the suitability of animal sanctuaries as sites of experiential learning
2011	Research Assistant, Philosophy, University of Hong Kong Advisors: Chad Hansen, Chris Fraser, and Dan Robins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and edited reading and teaching materials for courses on Chinese Philosophy, including <i>Early Chinese Political Thought</i>, <i>Ethics and Politics: East and West</i>, and <i>Philosophy of Zhuangzi</i>
2010	Research Assistant, Animal Legal Defense Fund (US) Advisor: Matthew Liebman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed, translated, and analyzed animal experimentation laws and policies in the People’s Republic of China Interviewed officials, scholars, and practitioners in animal science Research assistance credited in resulting publication by Bruce Wagman and Matthew Liebman, <i>A Worldview of Animal Law</i> (Carolina Academic Press, 2011)

- 2009 **Research Assistant, Centre for Comparative and Public Law, University of Hong Kong**
 Advisor: Amanda Whitfort
- Conducted a comparative review of animal welfare law in Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, and New Zealand
 - Research assistance credited in the resulting publication *Review of Animal Welfare Legislation in Hong Kong 2011*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017 **Teaching Award:** A.R.C. Duncan Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Queen's University (awarded to one TA in the Department of Philosophy each year)
- Spring 2019 **Teaching Fellow, Philosophy, Queen's University**
 Animals and Society (mid-level undergraduate course)
- 2014-2017 **Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, Queen's University**
 Ancient Philosophy (upper-level undergraduate course)
 Environmental Ethics (mid-level undergraduate course)
 Great Works in Philosophy (introductory course)
 Foundations of Philosophy (introductory course; guest lecturer for *Rawls*)
- 2013-2014 **Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, University of Hong Kong**
 Following the *Dao*: Ways of Life in Chinese Thought (introductory course)
 Humanity and Nature in Chinese Thought (introductory course for all HKU undergraduates)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010-2011 **Senior Cruelty Case and Legal Officer, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Asia-Pacific)**
- Investigated animal abuse cases and researched legal grounds for prosecution
 - Coordinated and conducted humane education outreach
 - Networked with local governments, animal welfare organizations, and activists
 - Coordinated media campaigns on animal rights

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Forthcoming **Workshop Organizer (Chair), Political Theory of Populism**, April 2021, Social Justice Centre (Concordia) and GRIPP (McGill)
- 2020 **Commentator**, "W.E.B. Du Bois's Theory of Justice" by Elvira Basevich, Social Justice Theory Workshop, August 2020, Concordia University and Université de Montréal.
- 2020-2014- **Referee**, *Constellations* (1x)
Affiliated Research Scholar, *Animals in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Ethics*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2017-	Executive Committee Member, Queen's Animal Defense
May 2012	Invited Speaker, <i>My Hong Kong Dream</i> , Hong Kong Civic Education Foundation
Mar 2012	Invited Speaker, <i>Animal Ethics</i> , Hong Kong University Graduate Association College
Nov 2011	Invited Speaker, <i>Meatless Monday Series</i> , University of Hong Kong
Nov 2011	Invited Speaker, <i>Life Education Series</i> , Wai Kiu College

SELECTED INTERVIEWS

Mar 2019	Radio Television Hong Kong (co-produced by Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong), <i>A Legal Journey: Imprint of the Times</i> , available at https://www.rthk.hk/tv/dtt31/programme/alegaljourney_eng/episode/576099 (a docudrama about my struggles as a right of abode fighter and defender of animal rights)
Oct 2011	Hong Kong Lawyer, <i>Giving Animals a Voice in Hong Kong</i> (interviewed by Wilda Fong)
Jul 2011	Apple Daily, <i>The Right of Abode Fighter: Public Opinion Can Change the World</i> (interviewed by Lai-Sim Lui)

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent **Cantonese:** Native **Mandarin:** Fluent

REFEREES

Will Kymlicka (Thesis supervisor), Queen's University
Position: Canada Research Chair of Political Philosophy
Email: kymlicka@queensu.ca

Joseph Heath (Thesis examiner), University of Toronto
Position: Professor of Philosophy
Email: joseph.heath@utoronto.ca

Kevin Vallier (Collaborator), Bowling Green State University
Position: Associate Professor of Philosophy
Email: kvallie@bgsu.edu