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Sara Aronowitz

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2022-present Assistant Professor

University of Toronto, St. George, Department of Philosophy

2020-22 Assistant Professor

University of Arizona, Department of Philosophy & Cognitive Science Program

2018-2020 Postdoctoral Research Associate

Princeton University, Program in Cognitive Science & UCHV, PI: Tania Lombrozo

RESEARCH

specialization Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Epistemology (formal and traditional)

competence Islamic Philosophy, Logic, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Technology

EDUCATION

2012-2018 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

thesis Rational Structures in Learning and Memory

committee Peter Railton (Chair), James Joyce, Chandra Sripada, Richard Lewis (Psychology), Timothy Williamson

fall 2015 Visiting Graduate Student, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Sponsors: Randy Gallistel and Susanna Schellenberg

2007–2011 B.A. Philosophy and Slavic Studies, University of Toronto, Honours with Distinction

PUBLICATIONS

Воок

 L Nadel & S Aronowitz (Eds.), Space, Time, and Memory volume in production, Oxford University Press - Open Access

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- "Locating Values in the Space of Possibilities"
 Philosophy of Science, forthcoming
- S Aronowitz* and G Helton*, "Subjectivity in Film: Mine, Yours, and No One's" *Ergo* 11, 2024
- "A Planning Theory of Belief"
 Philosophical Perspectives, 2023 (online first)
- "Semanticization Challenges the Episodic-Semantic Distinction"
 British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, 2022 (online first)

- "Exploring by Believing"
 The Philosophical Review, 130 (3): 339-383. 2021
- S Aronowitz*, M Coetsee*, A Saemi*, "The Problem of Arbitrary Requirements:
 An Abrahamic Perspective"

International Journal for Philosophy of Religion,89 (3): 221-242. 2020

- S Aronowitz and T Lombrozo, "Experiential Explanation" Topics in Cognitive Science, 12 (4): 1321-1336. 2020
- S Aronowitz and R Hadisi, "Muhammad Iqbal's Fractured Vision: History as a Science and the Moral Weight of the Past" Philosophy East and West, 70 (4): 881-905. 2020
- S Aronowitz and T Lombrozo, "Learning through Simulation" *Philosophers' Imprint*, 20. 2020
- "Memory is a Modeling System"Mind & Language,34 (4): 483-502. 2018

BOOK CHAPTERS

- S Aronowitz* and L Nadel* "Space, and not Time, Provides the Basic Structure of Memory"
 - in L Nadel and S Aronowitz (Ed.s), Space, Time, and Memory, OUP, forthcoming
- "A Planning Theory of Incoherence in Belief"
 in E Schwitzgebel and J Jong (Ed.s), The Nature of Belief, OUP, forthcoming
- "The Parts of an Imperfect Agent"
 in U Kriegel (Ed.), Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind (Volume 3), OUP, 2023
- S Aronowitz*, S Robins* and A Stolk, "Memory Structures and Cognitive Maps" in F De Brigard and W Sinnot Armstrong (Ed.s), Anthology of Philosophy and Neuroscience, MIT Press, 2022
- D Singer* and S Aronowitz*, "What Epistemic Reasons Are For: Against the Belief-Sandwich Distinction"
 - in Meaning, Decision, and Norms: Themes from the Work of Allan Gibbard, University of Michigan Press, 2022

SMALLER PUBLICATIONS

- "The Time-Course of Action, Mental or Otherwise"
 Journal of Consciousness Studies (book symposium on Wu, Movements of the Mind), in press.
- "Representational structures only make their mark over time: A case from memory" Behavioral and Brain Sciences (commentary article) 2023.
- "The Problem of New Theories"
 The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology, in press.
- Review of The Fragmented Mind Philosophical Review, 2023
- Review of Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Memory Memory Studies, 2021

- "Retrieval is central to the distinctive function of episodic memory"
 Behavioral and Brain Sciences (commentary article) 41, E2: 2018.
- "Exploring by Believing"
 Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (conference proceedings) 2017.
- * = equal contribution.

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "Value Learning and Value Change"
 PPE at the Frontier, University of Buffalo
- 2024 "Learning How to Value"

 Bounded Rationality Workshop University of California, Berkeley
 Colloquium Stanford University
- 2023-24 "What Goes in to the Division of Possibilities?"

 Colloquium University of Wisconsin, Madison

 Duke-UNC Epistemology Workshop

 Colloquium University of California, Davis
 - 2023 "Memory Causation beyond the Episodic" Causation Workshop CPM, University Grenoble Alpes
 - 2023 "Unfolding the Space of Memory" with Shirin Fahimi Humanities Symposium Vanier College
 - 2022 "Values in the Space of Possibilities"

 Colloquium University of Maryland
 Summer Mind Workshop Columbia University
 - 2022 "Reconsidering the Evidence-as-Object Theory" Colloquium Western University
 - 2022 "Agency in Learning a Task"

 RLDM Workshop on Reinforcement Learning as a Model of Agency Brown University
 - 2022 "The Afterlife of Observations" APA Pacific Vancouver
 - 2022 "Two Challenges from Semanticization" Colloquium University of Kansas
 - 2022 "Evidence: Old, New, and Recycled"

 APA Central Chicago

 Keynote, Issues in Philosophy of Memory II
 - 2022 "From Episodic to Semantic and Back" Perception Workshop - UC San Diego
 - 2021 "A Planning Theory of Belief" University of Colorado
 - 2021 "Multiple Cognitive Structures" Philosophy of Science Association
 - 2021 "The Parts of a (Mostly) Rational Agent" Society for Philosophy and Psychology (poster)

- 2020 "Experiential Explanations in Iterated Learning", with Casey Lewry and Tania Lombrozo
 - Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (poster)
- 2020 "The Challenge from Semanticization"

 Bochum-Grenoble Memory Colloquium (virtual)
- 2020 "Perspectives in Film: Mine, Yours, and No One's", with Grace Helton Aesthetics, Cognitive Science, and the Imagined World Princeton University
- 2020 "The Parts of a (Mostly) Rational Agent" MindWork - UT Austin
- 2019 "A Machine that Trains Itself"

 New Work on Choice and Belief Arizona State University
- 2019 "Belief, and its Fraying Edges"

 European Society for Philosophy and Psychology University of Athens
- 2019 "Experiential Explanation", with Tania Lombrozo Society for Philosophy and Psychology (Pre-Conference Workshop) - UC San Diego
- 2019 "Process/Representation Individuation"

 Natural Kinds in Cognitive Science York University
- 2019 "Episodic Recycling" Issues in Philosophy of Memory 2 Grenoble
- 2018 "History as a Science in Islamic Modernism"

 Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference University of British Columbia
- 2018 "Formal Epistemology as Sequential Choice" Recent Debates in Formal Epistemology University of Cologne

COMMENTS

- 2024 On Wayne Wu, "Movements of the Mind" Book Symposium, Pacific APA
- 2024 On Nicholas Shea, "The Frame Problem and the If-Then Problem" Neural Mechanisms Online
- 2023 On L. A. Paul, "Value by Acquaintance" Princeton Mind Workshop

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-2026 Connaught New Faculty Award, 25,000 CAD
- 2024-2028 SSHRC Insight Grant, for "Navigating the Space of Possibilities", 79,000 CAD
- 2021-2022 NSF Conference Award (Perception, Cognition & Action) , for "Memory, Space, and Time" (as PI, Co-PI Lynn Nadel), 56,000 USD
- 2018-present Summer Seminar in Neuroscience and Philosophy Sub-Award, with Sarah Robins and Arjen Stolk. Project: "Investigating Memory Structure with iEEG", 15,000 USD
 - 2017-8 Rackham Graduate School Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 30,00 USD
 - 2017 Marshall Weinberg Dissertation Award, 7,500 USD
 - 2014 Marshall Weinberg Summer Fellowship, 3,500 USD

2014 Learning Analytics Fellowship, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, 2,000 USD

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- 2022-present Associate Editor, Open Mind Journal
 - 2021-2024 Executive Committee Member, Society for Philosophy and Psychology
 - 2020-22 Executive Committee Member, Cognitive Science Graduate Program, University of Arizona
 - 2015-2018 Coordinator, Michigan MAP Chapter (Minorities and Philosophy)
 - Referee Ethics, Synthese, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Ergo, Journal of Islamic Philosophy, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy of Science, Philosophers' Imprint, Erkenntnis, Philosophical Psychology, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, Mind and Language

ORGANIZATION

- 2022-2023 Program Chair, Society for Philosophy & Psychology annual meeting
 - 2020 Co-organizer, Workshop on Cognitive Science and the Imagined World
 - 2020,22 Program Committee, Formal Epistemology Workshop
- 2013-2018 Coordinator, Mind and Moral Psychology Group
- 2016-2017 Coordinator, Complex Systems Advanced Academic Workshop
 - 2016 Co-organizer, 9th Annual Workshop on Decisions, Games and Logic
 - 2013 Co-organizer, Philosophy and the Subpersonal Conference

RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Winter 24 Minds & Machines
- Winter 24 Graduate Seminar: The Philosophy and Psychology of Decisions (with Paul Bloom)
 - Fall 23 Philosophy and Psychiatry
- Winter 23 Introduction to Philosophy of Science
- Fall 22 & 23 Cognitive Science of Conceptual Thought
 - Fall 22 Graduate Seminar: Memory
 - Spring 22 Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence
 - Fall 21 Jewish Philosophy
 - Fall 20&21 Mind, Matter and God
 - Spring 21 Graduate Seminar: Rationality across Scales
 - Fall 20 Philosophy and Psychiatry

Other Skills

IT R, Matlab, JavaScript, NetLogo, some Python

Languages Serbo-Croatian(advanced), Farsi(basic), Latin(intermediate), Spanish(advanced)