

## **AMELIA MARIE WIRTS, ESQ.**

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Assistant Professor (2020–present)**

Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Ph.D.** in Philosophy, August 2020

Department of Philosophy, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

**Dissertation:** *Criminal Oppression: A Non-Ideal Theory of Criminal Law and Punishment*

Committee: David Rasmussen (Chair), Jorge L. A. Garcia, Paulo Barrozo, Charles Mills, and Erin Kelly

#### **J.D.**, *summa cum laude*, 2017

Boston College Law School, Newton, MA

#### **M.A.** in Philosophy, 2012

Department of Philosophy, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

#### **B.A.** in Philosophy, *summa cum laude* and departmental honors, 2009

#### **B.A.** in Communication Studies, *summa cum laude*, 2009

Concurrent degrees earned from the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Journalism and Communication, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Philosophy of Law

Social and Political Philosophy

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of Race

Feminism

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“Discriminatory Intent and Implicit Bias: Title VII Liability for Unwitting Discrimination,”  
*Boston College Law Review*, 58.2 (2017), 809–56.

Review of Alessandro Ferrara, *Democratic Horizon: Hyperpluralism and the Renewal of Political Liberalism* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014) in *Journal of Classical Sociology* 15.2 (2015), 226–230.

“A Defense of the Lifeworld: The Source of Normativity in a Democracy.” in “Symposium on Hugh Baxter’s *Habermas and the Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*.” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 40.2, (2014) 215–223

## PRESENTATIONS

“‘Criminal’ as Oppressed Group,” North American Society for Social Philosophy International Conference, July 2019, San Francisco, CA.

“Empathy and Intersectionality: Toward a Feminist Prison Abolitionism,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Society for Analytical Feminism Group Panel, April 2019, Vancouver, Canada.

Commentator on “What We Owe to Ourselves,” by Emmalon Davis, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, January 2019, New York, NY.

“‘Empathy’ and Intersectionality: A Non-Ideal Theory Approach to Feminist Praxis,” Clough Graduate Workshop, Boston College, October 2018, Chestnut Hill, MA.

“Discriminatory Intent and Implicit Bias: Title VII Liability for Unwitting Discrimination,” Clough Graduate Workshop, Boston College, November 2016, Chestnut Hill, MA.

“The Role of Restorative Laws in Eliminating Oppression and Legitimizing Political Structures,” Society for Analytical Feminism Conference, September 2016, Lowell, MA.

“Legitimacy, Oppression, and the Violence Against Women Act,” Hypatia Conference, May 2015, Villanova, PA.

“Beyond Legitimacy: Deliberative Democracy and Justice,” North American Society for Social Philosophy’s Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2014, Ashland, OR.

“Problem of Pluralism, Constructivism, and the Political Right to Justification,” Author-Meets-Critics Roundtable with Rainer Forst, Philosophy and Social Science Colloquium at the Institute of Philosophy at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, May 2014, Prague, Czech Republic.

“The Principle of the Secular Rationale in Political Deliberation,” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Personalist Discussion Group, December 2013, Baltimore, MD.

“An International Duty of Restitution,” The Oxford Program on Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict’s Workshop, “Human Rights—In and After Conflict,” Merton College, March 2013, Oxford, UK.

“The Role of Normative Principles in Non-Ideal Theory: A Critique of Amartya Sen’s Comparative Approach in *The Idea of Justice*,” Northern New England Philosophical Association Conference, October 2012, Lowell, MA.

Critic on Author Meets Critics Panel for Hugh Baxter's *Habermas: The Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*, North American Society for Social Philosophy International Conference, June 2012, Boston, MA.

"The Duty of Restitution: Immigration and National Borders," at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Radical Philosophy Association Group Session, April 2012, Seattle, WA.

Commentator on "Misguided Systems Theory in Habermas' Legal Theory," by Kevin Gray, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, December 2011, Boston, MA.

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy at Boston College, Graduate Fellow (2012–2014, 2018–2020) and Academic Law Fellow (2014–2017)

Boston College Law Review (2015–2017)

Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College (2011–2012)

Phi Beta Kappa (2005)

Phi Beta Kappa Oregon Six Award Winner (2005)

Outstanding Woman Graduate of the School of Journalism and Communication (2005)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Taught as Primary Instructor unless further specified*

#### ***Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 2010) (Two Sections)***

Fall 2019, University of Massachusetts at Lowell

#### ***Race, Gender, and the Law (PH 151)***

Fall 2019, Worcester State University

#### ***Philosophy of Law (PH 238)***

Spring 2019, Worcester State University

#### ***Introduction to Ethics: Human Conduct and Values (PH 130)***

Fall 2013, Worcester State University

#### ***Philosophy of Law (PL 500, grad/undergrad/law)***

Fall 2013, Boston College (took over as primary instructor due to faculty illness November 3)

#### ***Philosophy of the Person 2: Justice, Autonomy, and Equality (PL 70)***

Spring 2012, Boston College

#### ***Philosophy of the Person 1: Justice, The Individual and The Community (PL70)***

Fall 2011, Boston College

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE*****Law Clerk for Judge Harris L. Hartz***

United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Albuquerque, NM

August 2017–August 2018

I conducted legal research, compose bench memoranda and draft opinions on federal law, civil and criminal procedure, and jurisdiction.

***Napolitano Summer Intern***

Prosecution and Judicial Appeals Department Massachusetts Commission Against  
Discrimination, Boston, MA

May 2016–August 2016

I assisted in briefing full commission opinions and briefs for judicial review and preparing discrimination cases for prosecution.

***Employment Law Intern***

Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights and Economic Justice,\* Boston, MA

August 2015–December 2015

I assisted in briefing a federal appellate Title VII, racial employment discrimination case against the Boston Police Department. I drafted internal memoranda on summary judgment standards, Title VII disparate impact standards, and issue preclusion.

\* Renamed Lawyers for Civil Rights in 2018

***Intern for Judge Indira Talwani***

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

June 2015–August 2015

I conducted research in diverse legal areas including federal civil procedure, immigration, and federal anti-discrimination law. I composed bench memoranda and draft opinions.

**ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

*Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy at Boston College, Graduate Coordinator, September 2018–Present.*

I plan, coordinate, and participate in weekly Clough Graduate Workshops, where fellows and faculty discuss an academic paper by a Clough Fellow. I also coordinate special events with the Clough Graduate Fellows and host visiting faculty and presenters.

*Boston College Law Review, Student Editor and Executive Articles Editor, July 2014–May 2017*

In addition to supporting Articles Editors, during my second year of law school, I wrote a short comment on an appellate case and a student note exploring the possibility for employer liability for discriminatory acts arising from unconscious or implicit bias. My note was one of approximately fifteen student notes chosen for publication that year. I was elected Executive Articles Editor for third year of law school. In that role, I solicited and selected scholarly articles for publication, communicated with our outside/nonstudent authors, managed eleven articles editors, and collaborated with fellow Executive Board Members in overseeing the journal.

*Philosophy and Social Criticism, Managing Editor, September 2012–August 2014*

As Managing Editor, I assisted the Editor in the daily operations of the journal, including assigning referees, organizing issues, communicating with authors, and planning special issues.

*Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, Co-Chair, October 12, 2013*

I co-organized a one-day workshop entitled “Applied Political Philosophy and Ethics.”

*Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, Graduate Student Mentor, July 2013*

I acted as a mentor for approximately fifteen undergraduate philosophy majors from underrepresented groups in philosophy. I advised students on the graduate school application process, life as a graduate student, and what it is like to be a woman in philosophy. During this week-long program, I stayed with the students on campus at Rutgers, building relationships and discussing philosophy and academic life. I am still in touch with several students, and I advised them as they applied to graduate programs and continue in their philosophy careers.

*Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, Co-Chair, October 13, 2012*

I co-organized a one-day workshop entitled “Pluralism, Public Reason, and the Moral Underpinnings of Liberalism” with keynote speaker Robert Audi (Notre Dame) and a panel led by Erin Kelly and Ian Johnstone (Tufts).

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Massachusetts Bar, Member (BBO #698776)  
American Philosophical Association  
North American Society for Social Philosophy  
Society for Analytical Feminism  
National Lawyers Guild