

# Alejandro Arango

Philosophy Department, Gonzaga University  
502 E Boone Ave, Spokane WA 99258  
arango@gonzaga.edu | <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1032-9542>  
[alejandroarango.net](http://alejandroarango.net)

## Areas of Specialization & Competence

- AOS Social philosophy (ontology & epistemology), Latin American and Latinx philosophy, philosophy of perception  
AOC Ethics, applied ethics, phenomenology, history of philosophy

## Academic Affiliations

- 2018– Lecturer, Gonzaga University  
2016–2018 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Tennessee State University

## Education

- 2016 Vanderbilt University, Ph.D., Philosophy  
Dissertation: *Social Enactive Perception: Practices, Experience, and Contents*  
Committee: José Medina (Chair), L. Guenther, J. Lachs, and S. Gallagher (Memphis)  
2012 Vanderbilt University, M.A. Philosophy  
2008 Binghamton University, M.A. Philosophy  
2000 Universidad Nacional de Colombia, B.A., Cum Laude, Philosophy  
1998 Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, B.A., Communication and Journalism

## Publications

### Books

- 2024 New Perspectives on the Ontology of Social Identities ([edited volume, in-press](#), out June 2024, with A. Burgos), Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy. Referenced [here](#).

### Articles

- 2023 The Social Identity Affordance View: A Theory of Social Identities. (with Adam Burgos)  
*Southern Journal of Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12542> Read published article [here](#).  
2023 Ignorance and Cultural Diversity: The Ethical Obligations of the Behavior Analyst. (with Nicole Lustig)  
*Behavior Analysis in Practice* 16 (1): 23–39. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40617-022-00701-z>.  
2022 Neither Race nor Ethnicity: Latinidad as a Social Affordance. (with Adam Burgos)  
*Journal of Social Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josp.12500>. Access pdf [here](#). Featured [here](#).  
2021 Re-Envisioning the Philosophy Classroom Through Metaphors. (with Maria Kulp, formerly Howard)  
*Teaching Philosophy*, 44(2): 121–144. <https://doi.org/10.5840/teachphil2021330141>  
2019 From Sensorimotor Dependencies to Perceptual Practices: Making Enactivism Social.  
*Adaptive Behavior*, 27(1): 31–45. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1059712318811897>  
2019 Social Enactivism about Perception — Reply to McGann.  
*Adaptive Behavior*, 27(2): 161–162. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1059712319835162>.  
2019 Expresión, intersubjetividad y mundo perceptual.  
*Acta fenomenológica latinoamericana: Vol. VII*: 279–293. Access pdf [here](#).  
2016 Animal Groups and Social Ontology: An Argument from the Phenomenology of Behavior.  
*Phenomenology & the Cognitive Sciences* 15(3): 403–22. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11097-015-9430-2>  
2015 Moral Clumsiness.  
*Think* 14(40): 93–99. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1477175615000019>  
2014 Husserl's Concept of Position-Taking and Second Nature.  
*Phenomenology and Mind*, 6: 168–76. [https://doi.org/10.13128/phe\\_mi-19561](https://doi.org/10.13128/phe_mi-19561)  
2006 Tomar En Cuenta, Pensar En Compañía, Ampliar La Mente: Sobre El Sentido de La Enseñanza de Las Humanidades.  
*Revista de la Escuela Colombiana de Ingeniería*, 53: 42–46.

## Work In-Progress

### *Books*

- From Action to Practices: A Social Theory of Perception (under contract with Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield; near completion).
- Reconsidering Latinidad: A Social Identity Beyond Race and Ethnicity (with A. Burgos, contract offered by Columbia University Press, manuscript under development)
  - ◆ *NEH Collaborative Research Grant under evaluation (submitted 11/29/2023)*
- “Peacebuilding in Colombia,” translation of a November 2023 forum with Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri (last commander and chief negotiator of FARC-EP), accompanied by an essay by each editor (with J. Abraham, Gonzaga, Political Science). *Project under development*. My essay will be titled: “Imagining Futures: Why Imagining, Why We Need It, and What the Political Imagination Can Do for Us.”

### *Articles*

- Desiderata for accounts of Latinidades and Afro-Latinidades. **Invited article** in preparation for Fall 2024 issue of *American Philosophical Association Newsletter Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*
- Afro-Latinidad, Affordances, and Anticolonialism (advanced draft)
- Resting Content: Uncertainty in Everyday Perceptions (with Carolyn Cusick, revising for resubmission)
- More than Intersubjectivity: Jorge Mañach and Jorge Portilla on Sociality (advanced draft)
- Ethical selves as guests and hosts: non-indifference, moral orientation, and systemic racism (advanced draft)
- Animate motion, human movement, and Siegel’s hijacked perceptions (in progress)

## Presentations & Talks

### *Invited*

1. Perception and Social Being  
Pacific APA Symposium *Perception Matters*. March 2024.

### *Selected*

2. Social Identities as Social Affordances (with A. Burgos)
  - a. Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality Conference, 2022
  - b. New Perspectives on the Ontology of Social Identities Workshop, 2022
  - c. Critical Social Ontology Workshop, 2022
3. Afro-Latinidad in an Anticolonial Key as Crucial for an Account of Latinidad in The U.S (with A. Burgos),
  - a. Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, 2023
  - b. APA Committee for Hispanic/Latinx Issues in Philosophy, 2023
  - c. Latinx Philosophy Conference. 2022
4. Neither Race nor Ethnicity: Latinidad as a Social Affordance (with A. Burgos).
  - a. Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2021
  - b. Social Ontology Conference, 2021
  - c. Gonzaga Philosophy Department Colloquium, 2021
5. Augustine on the Objects of Perception: Lessons for the Contemporary Debate on Perceptual Normativity
  - a. Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2021
  - b. Gonzaga Philosophy Department Colloquium, 2020
6. Socialidad, acción colectiva y *collective affordances*: algunas limitaciones de los conceptos de intersubjetividad e intencionalidad colectiva (Sociality, collective action and collective affordances: some limitations of the concepts of intersubjectivity and collective intentionality).  
VII Coloquio de Fenomenología, Puebla, México, 2021
7. Dos interpretaciones latinoamericanas pragmatistas-fenomenológicas de la subjetividad e intersubjetividad (What Can Pragmatism Contribute to Phenomenology? Two Latin American Accounts of Social Phenomena).  
Peruvian Workshop in Phenomenology and Hermeneutics, Lima, Perú, 2020
8. The Aspectuality of Perception  
Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2019
9. High-level properties and social identities  
Main, Brain and Behavior interdisciplinary group, Gonzaga University, 2018

10. Perceptual Geographies  
Caribbean Philosophical Association, New York, 2017
11. Social Identities and Other Minds  
Phenomenology Roundtable, San Jose, CA. San José State University, 2017
12. Our Understanding of Others Involves the Perception of High-Level Perceptual Properties  
Empathy, Direct Perception and Other Minds, University of Copenhagen, 2017
13. Expresión, intersubjetividad y mundo perceptual  
Círculo Latinoamericano de Fenomenología, Universidad Católica Argentina, Buenos Aires, 2016
14. The Concept of Position-Taking and the Pragmatic Dependence of Perception  
Husserl Circle, Dartmouth College, 2014
15. Can Culturally Generated Perceptual Content Be Nonconceptual?  
Summer School in Phenomenology and the Philosophy of Mind, University of Copenhagen, 2012
16. Perceptual Topographies: Nonconceptuality beyond Vision and Touch  
Tennessee Philosophical Association, 2012
17. Socrates' Alter Ego in Plato's Hippias Major  
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, New York, 2009
18. Socrates Dismisses, Ion Resists: Philosophical Discourse and Artistic Experience in Plato's Ion  
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, New York, 2008

## Commentaries

1. On Jeff Johnson's "Philosophical Argument and Storytelling," Northwest Philosophy, 2021
2. On Jesse Wilson's "Pains as Objects of Perception," Northwest Philosophy, 2019
3. On Andrew Naylor's "Theories of Personal Identity Biological Continuity vs. Brain-Realized Psychological Continuity," Tennessee Philosophical Association, 2015
4. Author-Meets-Critics session on Talia Welsh's "The Child as Natural Phenomenologist," Tennessee Philosophical Association, 2014
5. On Alex Madva's "The Structure of Implicit Social Attitudes," Eastern APA, 2012

## Teaching Experience

### Gonzaga University

- Ethics (with an emphasis on epistemic responsibility)
- Philosophy of Human Nature (currently with a focus on Latin American philosophy)
- Reasoning

### Tennessee State University

- Introduction to the Philosophy of Race, Gender, and Class
- Introduction to Philosophy

### Vanderbilt University

- Introduction to Philosophy (focus on epistemology; or focus on perception) (writing-intensive)
- General Logic
- Philosophy of mind (TA)

### Binghamton University

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Environmental Ethics and Policy
- Descartes, Hume, and Kant (TA)

### Escuela Colombiana de Ingeniería, Humanities Department, Bogotá, Colombia, 2002-2006

- Lecturer, taught different courses in general humanities, including thematic explorations of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the Modern Age, and the Contemporary World

### Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia, 2004-2005

- Lecturer, Intro to Ethics, Mass-Media Theory

## Public Philosophy

1. Panelist, “Blackness Beyond the Nation State” roundtable discussion, part of the *Black and Latinx Heritage Lecture Series* at Gonzaga University. February 2024.
2. Guest at *Aula Divergente* podcast, [episode on migrations](#). May 2023
3. Cultural Ignorance, Biases, Awareness, and Ongoing Humility  
Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy. Gonzaga’s Office of Inclusive Excellence. Sessions for staff and faculty. Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024 (upcoming)
4. The New BABC Ethics Code and Cultural Diversity  
Seattle Children’s Autism Center at Seattle Children’s Hospital (Approved Continuing Education (ACE) talk). With Dr. Nicole Lustig. September 2021
5. Filmosophy Lecture Series: My Octopus Teacher  
Gonzaga, event to attract students to philosophy major and minor. September 2021
6. Learning Who You Are: Good Hosts and Good Guests  
Dean’s Research and Creativity Forum, Gonzaga, March 2020
7. La pregunta es ética, no legal, para Jorge Rodrigo Tovar  
In: *El Tiempo* (highest circulation newspaper in Colombia). <https://bit.ly/2XacPN8> Op-Ed Column. 28 May, 2020
8. Perception and Movement  
Panel participant at Creator’s Table Church “Movement and Spirituality”. February 2020
9. Anatomy, Cartography, Geography: Getting to Know Different Spaces  
Layers of Mapping Workshop, Tennessee State University, March 2017
10. What We See  
Digital Story for Curb Center’s Mellon Summer Institute in Digital and Public Humanities. <http://bit.ly/1WRf3Lh>
11. Perceptual Practices”  
Finalist. 3-Minute Thesis Competition (for non-specialized public), Graduate Student Council, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2013. <http://youtu.be/f8YsOYj-YaI>

## Competitive Awards & Honors

- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Humanities Education, 2016-2018
- Berry Publication Prize (Best Student Publication), Vanderbilt, Philosophy Department, 2016
- Thomas M. Weser International Student Leadership Award (a yearly awardee selected from all the international students across the university), Vanderbilt University, 2016
- Berry Student Publication Award, Vanderbilt, Philosophy Department, 2014, -15
- Honor (top-up) Fellowship (a competitive award across The Graduate School), Vanderbilt University, The Graduate School, 2010-2015
- University Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, The Graduate School, 2010-2015
- Best Graduate Student Paper, American Academy of Religion (Eastern Division), May 2009
- Philosophy Research Fellowship, Binghamton University, Philosophy Dept., 2008, 2009
- University Fellowship, Binghamton University, Philosophy Department, 2006-2010

## Professional Development

- Arrupe Faculty Seminar (a mission-integration seminar), 2023-2024  
Office of Mission Engagement, Gonzaga University
- The Why and How of Hybrid Pedagogy in a Post-Pandemic World/Digital Tools for Participation Workshop, Fall 2022  
Instructional Design and Delivery Office, Gonzaga University
- Ignatian Colleagues Formation Program, 2020- 2021  
Gonzaga Office Of Mission and Ministry.
- Diversity Edu: Personal Skills for a Diverse Campus, Fall 2020  
Gonzaga University Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion
- Course Design Institute, February 2019  
Center for Teaching & Advising, Gonzaga University

- Inclusive Pedagogical Practices Workshop, January 2019  
College of Arts and Sciences, Gonzaga University
- Mellon Certificate in Humanities Education, 2016  
The Center for Teaching and The Graduate School, Vanderbilt University
- Mellon Institute in Digital and Public Humanities, 2016  
Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities & The Curb Center, Vanderbilt University
- Certificate in College Teaching, 2012-2013  
The Center for Teaching and the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University
- German Language Studies, Summer 2012  
interDaF/Herder-Institut, Universität Leipzig
- German Language Studies, Summer 2011  
German School, Middlebury College

## Languages

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. German (intermediate)        | 4. English (near native)    |
| 2. French (intermediate)        | 5. Spanish (native speaker) |
| 3. Latin (basic reading skills) |                             |

## Professional Leadership & Service

- Co-organizer, “Peacebuilding in Colombia,” forum with Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, last commander and peace negotiator of FARC-EP. Gonzaga, November 2023
- Inclusive Excellence Leadership (IEL) Academy, Instructor. Gonzaga, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024 (upcoming)
- Member, Board of Directors, Teaching Philosophy Association (Teaching Phil. journal), from June 2022
- Prize for Excellence in Philosophy Teaching Selection Committee 2022, 2023
- Organizer, New Perspectives in the Ontology of Social Identities Workshop, June 2022
- Book Reviews coordinator at the Latin American Phenomenology Circle, since Spring 2022
- Faculty Development Subcommittee and Steering Committee for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Program. Gonzaga University, Fall 2018
- ISSS Vanderbilt Advisory Board. Alumni Representative, 2016-2018
- Intercultural Competence QEP Subcommittee Member. Tasked with drafting a proposal for an undergraduate residential immersion experience. Office of the Vice Provost. Vanderbilt, 2015-16
- Search Committee Member, International Student and Scholar Services Office, Vanderbilt, 2015
- Co-Founder & President, Latin American & Caribbean Vanderbilt Student Assoc. (LACS), 2014-16
- International Orientation Leader, International Students and Scholars Services, Vanderbilt University, August 2013, 2015
- Senator (Philosophy-SPEL Graduate Student Organization) to Graduate Student Council, Binghamton University, 2007-2008

## Referee Service

Philosophical Psychology, Consciousness and Cognition, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Adaptive Behavior, Synthese, Topoi, Teaching Philosophy, Rowman and Littlefield

## Professional Memberships

1. Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP)
2. Husserl Circle
3. American Philosophical Association
4. Latin American Phenomenology Circle
5. International Social Ontology Society
6. Caribbean Philosophical Association

## References

### **Dr. José Medina**

Walter Dill Scott Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
Northwestern University  
Telephone: 847-467-7536  
(Previously at Vanderbilt, Dissertation Committee Chair)  
Email: [jose.medina@northwestern.edu](mailto:jose.medina@northwestern.edu)

### **Dr. Lisa Guenther**

Professor and Queen's National Scholar in Political Philosophy and Critical Prison Studies  
Department of Philosophy  
Queen's University  
(Previously at Vanderbilt, Dissertation Committee)  
Email: [lisa.guenther@queensu.ca](mailto:lisa.guenther@queensu.ca)

### **Dr. Shaun Gallagher**

Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Memphis  
Telephone: 901-678-3357  
Email: [s.gallagher@memphis.edu](mailto:s.gallagher@memphis.edu)

### **Dr. Maria Kulp (formerly Howard)**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Gonzaga University  
Telephone: 509-313-4724  
[howardm@gonzaga.edu](mailto:howardm@gonzaga.edu)

### **Dr. Charles Lassiter**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Center for the Applied Humanities, Director  
Gonzaga University  
Telephone: 509-313-6761  
[lassiter@gonzaga.edu](mailto:lassiter@gonzaga.edu)