LISA THOMAS-SMITH

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Teaching Experience

Clemson University

Lecturer, August 2021 – Present

Courses:

Introduction to Logic (5 semesters)
Introduction to Philosophy (6 semesters)
Introduction to Ethics (6 semesters)
Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality (2 semesters)
Philosophy and Race (2 semesters)
Environmental Ethics (3 semesters)
Philosophy of Mind (1 semester)

University of Colorado at Boulder

Lecturer, January 2021 to May 2021

Courses:

Philosophy and Psychology
Philosophy and Race

University of Colorado at Boulder

Graduate Part Time Instructor (2017 to 2020), Instructor of Record

Courses:

Philosophy and Race
Introduction to Philosophy
Critical Thinking
Contemporary Social Problems
Ethics
Reading Writing and Reasoning
Philosophy and Gender

University of Colorado, Boulder

Teaching Assistant (2013-2016)

Courses:

War and Morality

Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy and Society

Environmental Ethics

Philosophy of Religion

Education

PhD Dual PhD in Philosophy and Cognitive Science, 2021
University of Colorado at Boulder
Dissertation Title: "In Praise of Habit"
Committee: Iskra Fileva (Chair), Robert Rupert, Leanne Hirshfield
Tamara Sumner, Ajume Wingo

MA University of Colorado at Boulder 2018
Philosophy

BA University of Illinois 2010
Philosophy, Magna cum Laude

AA Georgia Perimeter College 2002
Mathematics

Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Moral Psychology

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Religion, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Race, Philosophy of Gender, Philosophy and Psychology, Environmental Ethics

Honors and Awards

University of Colorado at Boulder Teaching Excellence Award **Spring 2019**

Nominations provided by department faculty to the Graduate School. Under ten awardees are chosen from all graduate part time instructors teaching on campus.

Research Assistantship **Spring 2015**

Assistantship awarded with the offer to enter the PhD program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Research in: well-being, desire and motivation theory, responsibility and identity.

Research Assistantship **Summer 2015**

Awarded for the Summer Philosophy Seminar. The seminar gathered fifteen undergraduate philosophy majors for daily faculty lectures and discussions led by the research assistants.

Works in Progress

"The Problem of Property," – Property rights are taken as a given and are an integral part of the American culture. Further, many take the property right to be the foundational right, lexically prior to all the others, and close to absolute in its force. I will challenge the rationality of claiming that the property right is limited to that to which we have exclusive and private use, and advocate for a conception which respects social obligations as well as that which we have a rational right and need.

"Moral Obligation vs. Psychological Safety," – Humans often make ethics choices based on intuition and the need to be accepted and in tune with social groups. Our moral beliefs are often influenced by the need to belong rather than on our rational endorsement of ideas. This paper will explore the tension between our need to belong and our epistemic obligations to endorse rational moral ideas.

Conference participation

- APA Pacific, April 2025: Book Symposium on Jennifer Saul's *Dogwhistles and Figleaves: How Manipulative Language Spreads Racism and Falsehood*
- Commentator: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado at Boulder, August, 2017. Commented on Amanda Askell's and Tyler John's paper, "Moral Offsetting"
- Commentator: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado at Boulder, August 2018. Commented on Matthias Barker's paper: "Practical Perception: New and Improved(!)"

Professional Training

Quality Matters Certificate: Improve Your Online Classroom, 2024

Certificate in College Teaching, 2021

University of Colorado at Boulder, Graduate Teacher Program

Exploring Diversity and Inclusion in College Classrooms

University of Colorado at Boulder, Graduate Teacher Program

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association

International Society for Moral Psychology

Professional Service

Chair Review Committee, 2026
Clemson University, Department of Philosophy and Religion

Grant Committee: Wake Forest Character Initiative, 2026
Clemson University, Department of Philosophy and Religion

Chairs Advisory Committee, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
Clemson University, Department of Philosophy and Religion

Teagle Fellow, 2023-2025
Clemson University, Department of Philosophy and Religion

ICS/PSYC Faculty Search Committee (Graduate participant), 2019
University of Colorado at Boulder, Institute of Cognitive Science

ICS Awards Committee, 2018-2021
Student run governing board which allocates travel and research funding for graduate students
University of Colorado at Boulder, Institute of Cognitive Science

Conference Co-Organizer
Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, April 2016
University of Colorado at Boulder

Philosophy Outreach Program of Colorado
Outreach teaching volunteer for local high-school students, August 2012 to May 2014

Climate Committee
Philosophy Department graduate member of Committee for Climate, August 2015 to May 2016

Prior work Experience

Software Product Manager/Business Analyst (2003-2013) - ISGN

My responsibilities for multiple mortgage software products included:

- Managing a team of writers, developers, and QA specialists in the U.S. and India for three software offerings
- Analyzing customer needs and compliance requirements to determine best methods for accommodating the requirements.
- Analyzing market trends and prioritizing changes
- Writing/Editing functional specifications, Help, and readme files for software changes and enhancements
- Organizing, prioritizing, and managing product changes through the software development life cycle

References furnished upon request