

ALICE SOWAAL

EDUCATION

- 1993–2001 University of California; MA (1996), PhD (2001) Philosophy;
Certificate, Graduate Feminist Emphasis (2001) Women's Studies
1990–3 University of California, Santa Barbara, BA (1993) Philosophy
1987–90 Santa Barbara Community College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010–present San Francisco State University, Associate Professor of Philosophy
2005–10 San Francisco State University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2001–5 Texas Tech University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and of Women's Studies
1997–8 Occidental College, Adjunct Professor in Philosophy

HONORS AND AWARDS

Academic

- 2012 SFSU Sabbatical Award (*release from teaching for Spring 2012*)
2008 SFSU Nominee for NEH Summer Stipend Competition
2008 Presidential Award, SFSU (*release from teaching for Fall 2008*)
2008 Summer Stipend, SFSU (*one month's salary for one month of research*)
2007 SFSU Nominee for NEH Summer Stipend Competition
2007 Faculty Affirmative Action Award (*one course release for Fall 2007*)
2006 Vice President's Assigned Time Award (*one course release for Spring 2006*)
2003 National Endowment for the Humanities: *NEH Summer Seminar on Feminist Epistemologies, July–August 2003; The Pennsylvania State University*
2000 Humanities Center Grant for Collaborative Research, University of California, Irvine
To organize a three-day event on feminist research, teaching, February 23–25, 2004
1998 Regents Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Irvine
1997 Regents Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Irvine
1993 Phi Beta Kappa

Teaching

- 2005 Outstanding Faculty, Texas Tech University (*one of several named by graduating seniors*)
2003 Award for Excellence in Teaching, Mortar Board, Texas Tech University
2000 Outstanding Teaching Assistant, School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine
1999 Matchette Teaching Award, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Irvine
1998 Associate Dean of Humanities Teaching Award, School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine
1998 Excellence in Teaching, School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine
1997 Selected as Teaching Assistant Coordinator, Department of Philosophy and Instructional Resources Center, University of California, Irvine

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

“Descartes’s Reply to Gassendi: How We Can Know All of God, All at Once, but Still Have More to Learn about Him” Accepted for publication in *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 19(3) 2011: 419–49.

“Mary Astell’s *Serious Proposal*: Mind, Method, and Custom,” *Philosophy Compass*, V. 2, 2007

“Cartesian Bodies,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, V. 34, N. 2, 2004

Book Chapter in Edited Book

“Idealism and Cartesian Motion,” *A Companion to Rationalism*, edited by Alan Nelson, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Company, 2005

Encyclopedia/Lexicon Article/Entry (Peer-Reviewed)

“Attributes,” for Cambridge Descartes Lexicon, edited by Lawrence Nolan (forthcoming)

“Mary Astell,” for Cambridge Descartes Lexicon, edited by Lawrence Nolan (forthcoming)

“Mary Astell,” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2008 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), forthcoming URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2008/entries/astell/>>.

Book Review

“Review of *Mary Astell: Theorist of Freedom from Domination*, by Patricia Springborg.” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 46, no. 2 (2008): 322–323.

IN PROGRESS: articles

“Mary Astell and the Development of Vice: Price, Courtship, and the Gendered Human Nature Question” (for *Feminist Interpretations of Mary Astell*; anticipated publication: 2015)

“The Cartesian Plenum: Its Simplicity, Divisibility, Variety, Modes, and Motion” (tentative title)

“Mary Astell’s Critique of John Locke on Moral and Intellectual Virtue” (tentative title)

IN PROGRESS: books

Feminist Interpretations of Mary Astell (edited collection)

(In preparation with Penelope Weiss, Professor of Political Science, Director of Women's Studies, Saint Louis University.) This edited collection of secondary literature on Mary Astell's philosophy and political theory was invited by the editors of the Pennsylvania State University Press series *Re-reading the Canon*.
(Anticipated publication: 2015)

PUBLIC LECTURES (juried unless otherwise noted)

"Mary Astell and the Development of Vice: Price, Courtship, and the Gendered Human Nature Question" (*invited*)

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Diego, April 2014

"Mary Astell on John Locke's Moral Epistemology" (*invited*)

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Minneapolis, March 2011

"Mary Astell and John Locke on the Politics of Knowledge"

Women's Political Thought in Europe during the Enlightenment, 1700-1800
August 25 – 29, 2010 (*declined*)

"Mary Astell and John Locke on Knowledge and Belief" (*invited*)

Women, Philosophy, and History: A Conference in Celebration of Eileen O'Neill and her Work, Barnard College, Columbia University, October 2–3, 2009

"Astell and Locke: Reason and Faith, Spinsters and Mechanics"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Pasadena, February 2008

"Mary Astell's *Serious Proposal*: Mind, Method, and Custom"

Owl of Minerva, Student Philosophy Forum, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, November 2006 (*invited*)

Tenth California Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, California State University, Long Beach, October 20, 2006 (*invited*)

Bay Area Feminist Philosopher's Workshop, University of San Francisco, September 30, 2006 (*invited*)

"Mary Astell: Variety among Minds"

California State University, Bakersfield, April 2006 (*invited*)

Hamilton College, September 2004 (*invited*)

National Women's Studies Association, Milwaukee, June 2004

"Mary Astell: Passion for Empire"

American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Las Vegas, April 2005

Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s), Ohio State University, October 2003

"Cartesian Modes, Motion, and Mechanism"

Texas A&M University, October 2004 (*invited*)

“Ignorance: A Technology of the Closet”

Ethics and Epistemology of Ignorance Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, April 2004

“Descartes Talk: Analytic Feminist Philosophy, Logical Positivism, and Interpretations of Descartes”

The Pennsylvania State University, July 2003 (*invited*)

“Mary Astell’s Ladies: Education, Courtship, and Imperialism” (with Amber Andaloro, Texas Tech University)

National Women’s Studies Association, New Orleans, June 2003

“Descartes versus Gassendi: We Can Know All of God, All at Once, but Still Have More to Learn”

California State University, Long Beach, May 2002 (*invited*)

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, April 2002

South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, New Orleans, April 2002

“Mary Astell: Dualism, Salvation, and Education”

Pacific Southwest Women’s Studies Association Conference, San Diego State University, April 2001

“Cutting It Up, Cartesian Style”

The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Los Angeles, March 1998

“Buttresses of Cartesian Mechanism”

Early Modern Studies Graduate Symposium, Claremont Graduate School, March 1998

“Tertiary Bodies”

Descartes, Cartesianism, and Anti-Cartesianism Conference, University of California, Irvine, June 1997

“Cartesian Bodies”

Southern California Philosophy Conference, University of California, Irvine, October 1996

INVITED COMMENTS

“Comments on Adam A. Kovach’s ‘Descartes on the Folly of Trying to Define Truth’”

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Cleveland, April 2003

“‘On Sensible Ends,’ Replies to Alison Simmons”

The Fifth Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley, September 1998

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for *The Modern Schoolman* (soon to be re-named *Res Philosophica*)

Reviewer for Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy (California Institute of Technology, 2009)

Reviewer for article in *Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science*, edited by Heidi Grasswick, series editor Elizabeth Potter; Kluwer Academic Publishing

Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*

Reviewer for *Feminist Philosophy Reader*, edited by Alison Bailey and Chris J. Cuomo, New York: McGraw-Hill Education

ORGANIZATION OF ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, San Francisco State University, February 23–24, 2008

As the principal organizer, I procured funding (\$2,050), hired Graduate Student Assistants, publicized the seminar, and arranged incidentals. I worked with my two co-organizers to design and distribute the call for papers and review abstract submissions (60 submissions, 8 selected).

Medieval and Early Modern Women Interest Group, National Women's Studies Association (2006–7)

As chair, I designed the call for papers, reviewed abstract submissions, chaired the panel, and held the business meeting at the national conference.

Medieval and Early Modern Women Interest Group, National Women's Studies Association (2002–4)

As co-chair, I worked with the other co-chair to design the call for papers, to review abstract submissions, to co-chair the panel, and to hold the business meeting at the national conference.

South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, October 4–5, 2002, Texas Tech University

As the principal organizer, I designed and distributed the call for papers, organized the review committee, reviewed abstract submissions, procured \$1,500 in funds,

publicized the seminar, and arranged incidentals (seminar room, hotel, travel, dinner reservations).

Review Committee for the National Women's Studies Association Conference, 2002
As a member of this committee, I reviewed submissions for the conference.

Workshop on Speaking, Teaching, Writing Feminism, Guest Presenter: Nancy Bauer,
University of California,
Irvine, February 23–25, 2000
As the principal organizer, I conceived the idea for the three-day workshop, procured \$3,000 in funds, and organized several events: Bauer's presentation in the Brown Bag Colloquia Series in Women's Studies; "Interdisciplinary Symposium on Teaching Feminism," with Nancy Bauer, Susan Greenhalgh, Nancy Naples, Banu Subramaniam, and Robyn Wiegman as guest presenters; "Dissertation Workshop," led by Bauer.

CHAIR OF ACADEMIC PANELS

"History of Philosophy: With Attention to Difference," American Philosophical Association,
December 2007, Baltimore

"Female Political and Social Agency in the Early Modern Period," National Women's Studies
Association, June 2007, Saint Charles, Illinois

"Invited Symposium: Descartes' Metaphysics of Substance," American Philosophical
Association, April 2007, San Francisco

"The Ethics of Abortion," American Philosophical Association, March 2006, Portland

"Ambiguity, Desire, and Transgression: Charting Gender in Early Modern Europe" (co-chair)
National Women's Studies Association, June 2004, Milwaukee

"Astell and Drake on Freedom from Domination," paper by Patricia Springborg
Conference on Early Modern Women Philosophers, November 2003, University of Florida

"Women and Rhetoric: 15th, 16th, and 17th Centuries"
Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference, October 2003, Ohio State University

"Questioning Femininity in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods" (co-chair)
National Women's Studies Association, June 2003, New Orleans

"Descartes and Malebranche on the Dustbin Theory of Mind"
American Philosophical Association, March 2003, San Francisco

"Leibniz and Occasionalism"
The 2000 California Conference on Early Modern Philosophy, University of California,

Irvine

COURSES TAUGHT (at SFSU unless otherwise marked)

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Phil 303: Modern Philosophy
Phil 365: Science and Civilization
Phil 382: Women and Philosophy: Philosophy of Feminism
Phil 605: Metaphysics
Phil 770: Descartes
Phil 772: Seminar in Cartesianism
Phil 772: Seminar in Locke
Phil 795: Early Modern Philosophy
Phil 5308: Graduate Seminar in Philosophy of Race, Gender, and Sexuality (Texas Tech)

STUDENT ADVISING (San Francisco State University)

2013-14 M.A. Committee Chair: David Marrufo-Ojeda (Philosophy M.A. candidate)
2013-14 M.A. Committee Member: Adam Bobella (Philosophy M.A. candidate)
2012-13 M.A. Committee Chair: Ryan Manley (Philosophy M.A., 2013)
2010-13 M.A. Committee Chair: Chiara Bandini (Philosophy M.A., 2013)
2011-12 M.A. Committee Chair: Syl Koçienda (Philosophy M.A., 2012)
2010-12 M.A. Committee Chair: Patrick Smith (Philosophy M.A., 2012)
2010-12 M.A. Committee Chair: Jason Jacobi (Philosophy M.A., 2012)
2010-11 M.A. Committee Chair: Helen Sakkaris (Philosophy M.A., 2011)
2010-11 M.A. Committee Member: Ken Feinstein (Philosophy M.A. candidate)
2009-10 M.A. Committee Chair: Saja Parvisian (Philosophy M.A., 2010)
2008-9 M.A. Committee Chair: Gloria Hammad (Philosophy M.A., 2009)
2008-9 M.A. Committee Chair: Jamie Lindsay (Philosophy M.A., 2009)
2008-9 M.A. Committee Member: Heather Roenspie (Philosophy M.A., 2009)
2006-7 M.A. Committee Chair: Loren Stewart (Philosophy M.A., 2006)
2006-7 M.A. Committee Chair: Michael Scalzi (Philosophy M.A., 2007)

STUDENT ADVISING (Texas Tech University)

2003-5 Radhica Ganapathy (Fine Arts Doctoral Program), Member of Dissertation Committee: "Birthing the Color 'I': Autobiography and Minority Performance"
2002-4 Yvonne Reeves, Master's Paper in Philosophy: "Knowledge Claims and Cross-Cultural Judgments: International Feminism, 'FGM', and Epistemology of Ignorance"
2002-3 Brian Roa, Master's Paper in Philosophy: "Paulo Freire: Education, Representation, and Liberation"

2001–2 Ryan Caldwell, Master’s Paper in Philosophy: “Exposing the Domination of Language: An Investigation of Irigaray’s ‘Women on the Market’”

SERVICE TO SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy

2007–14 Graduate Coordinator

Workshops, Colloquia Organization and Participation

2009-12 Principal Organizer for SFSU Early Modern Philosophy Colloquia Series

2006–14 Workshop on Applying to Graduate School: What to Take Philosophy to a Higher Degree? (annual workshop for all students interested in advanced degrees in philosophy)

2009 Principal Organizer for SFSU Philosophy’s Graduate Student Symposium (March 2009)

2009 Chair a panel of “The Experimental Side of Modeling,” organized by Bas van Fraassen and Isabelle Peschard (March 2009)

Committee Work

20010-11 Faculty Search Committee (Phil Law)

2008–9 Faculty Search Committee (Metaphysics and Epistemology; 18th & 19th c.)

2007–8 Faculty Search Committee (Ethics)

2006–7 Faculty Search Committee (Ethics, Social and Political; Phil. of Science)

2005–6 Faculty Search Committee (Position in Asian Philosophy)

2005–7 Committee to Review the Department (section on Students)

General Community

2006–8 University Interdisciplinary Council

2006–7 University Scholarship Committee

2006 (Sp) TEC Committee in the College of the Humanities

Presentation at SFSU

“Disciplines and Disciplinarity: A Foucaultian Analysis,” Presentation at (Re)Discover SF State Faculty and Staff Development Retreat (January 22, 2007)

SERVICE TO TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy

Committee Work

- 2003–5 Scholarship Committee, Department of Philosophy
- 2003–5 Committee to Review the Tenure Policy
- 2001–5 Committee to Review Graduate Applications
- 2003–5 Secretary (this was a rotating position shared by all members of the department)
- 2002 Acting Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Philosophy (Aug. – Oct.)
- 2001–2 Committee Work for the Department of Philosophy: Development of the Strategic Plan; Development of the Undergraduate Program; Search Committees (for two positions)

Faculty Mentor: Mentorship on Teaching

- 2005 (Sp) Mentor for Chad Preseley, Graduate Part-Time Instructor
- 2005 (Sp) Mentor for Daniel Hagy and Terry Heatter, Teaching Assistants
- 2002 (F) Mentor for Joe Long and Viral Amin, Teaching Assistants
- 2002 (Sp) Mentor for Marissa Kelberlau and Yvonne Reeves, Teaching Assistants
- 2001 (F) Mentor for Marissa Kelberlau, Teaching Assistant

Workshops

- 2001,3 Workshop on Applying to Graduate School: “Want to Take Philosophy to a Higher Degree?”

Program in Women’s Studies

Committee Work

- 2001–4 Member of Women’s Studies Council
- 2003–4 Curriculum Committee, Program in Women’s Studies

Texas Tech University

Committee Work

- 2001–2 Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Issues for Students, Faculty, and Staff

Faculty Mentor: Mentorship for On-Campus Groups

- 2001–2 Faculty Mentor: Phi Sigma Tau,
- 2001–2 Faculty Mentor: Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

Moderator

- 2005 Panel on the Creative Process (College of Visual and Performing Arts)
- 2003 Talk-Back Session on *Little Girls Don’t Do That*, Moderator, October 13, 2003

Presentations at Texas Tech University

“Descartes’s Rationalism,” Presentation to Philosophy Café, November 3, 2004

“How Queer is ‘Queer Eye for the Straight Guy?’” Presentation to Queers and Allies, Texas Tech University Student Group, September 15, 2003

“The Masculine Body and Straight Women in *Angels in America*,” paper presented as part of a Fine Arts Doctoral Program-Spring 2003 Focus Event’s Panel Discussion on *Angels in America*, February 17, 2003

“What Is Interdisciplinarity, and Why Does It Matter to Feminists?,” invited presentation in WS 5320, Feminist Research Methods, Dr. Rebecca Rickly

“Descartes versus Gassendi: We Can Know All of God, All at Once, but Still Have More to Learn,” invited presentation to Department of Philosophy, February 2002

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

1997	Workshop on the Job Market and Teaching Philosophy
	Workshop on Teaching Undergraduate Philosophy Courses
1997–8	Year-long Training Seminar for New Teaching Assistants

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association
Leibniz Society of North America
National Women’s Studies Association
Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophers
Society of Women in Philosophy