**Taylor Leigh Tate**

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**EDUCATION**

**The University of Connecticut** 2018-Present

Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy

**St. John's University** May 2017

Bachelor of Art in Philosophy, Bachelor of Art in Political Science

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

**Dissertation Proposal: Spiritually Impoverishing Discourse: A Philosophical Study**

My dissertation examines spiritually impoverishing discourse— that is language practices and conversational norms that work to crush, break, suffocate, silence, agitate, disturb, and murder people’s spirit. Through my line of inquiry, it will be made evident that we ingest language. We consume it. The language we digest and absorb can either nourish or poison us. As a source of nourishment, language can be edifying, empowering, ennobling, and enriching. As a source of harm, language can undermine the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual health of individuals and communities, causing pain, suffering, and unease—like a toxin, bacteria, or virus. In cases where toxic speech brings about spiritual harms, people experience potent experiences that impoverish their inner life and/or belief systems.

**Areas of Specialization**: Toxic Speech, Politics of Language, Black Feminism, Womanism, African American Religious Existentialism, Spiritual Impoverishment, Nihilism

**Areas of Competence:** Africana Philosophy, Queer Phenomenology, Social Ethics, Virtue and Vice Theory, Philosophy of Education

**PUBLICATIONS**

PEER REVIEWED REVIEWS & COMMENTARY

**“Richard Rorty: Outgrowing Modern Nihilism.”,** Philosophy of Global Affairs, (In Review)

Forthcoming **“Queering Black Atlantic Religions Review”,** The APA Blog: Black Issues in Philosophy. 2021.

**"Black Women Philosophers Conference at the CUNY-Graduate Center",** The APA Blog: Black Issues in Philosophy <https://blog.apaonline.org/2019/04/30/black-issues-in-philosophy-black-women-philosophers-conference-at-the-cuny-graduate-center/> (2019)

**PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

“Black Liberation Panel”, Life in My Days, 2021.

“Spiritually Impoverishing Language”, Annual South Western Philosophy Graduate Conference, Arizona State University, 2021.

“In Defense of Nonlinear Love”, Radical Love Across Difference, Boston-area Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS), 2021.

“Reframing Access in Digital Pedagogy”, Digital Pedagogy Lab, University of Colorado Denver, 2021.

"Spiritual Rituals that Empower the Spirit." PNW AAR/SBL/ASOR meeting, University of Alberta, 2020.

“Epistemic Arrogance in disparate conditions.” Vice Epistemology Conference. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2020.

“Coming Home.” Lecture, Dignity, Power and Place in the Caribbean, The University of the Virgin Islands, Saint Croix. 2020.

“On Fanon.” Lecture, University of Connecticut, 2019.

"Conditioned to Reason." Lecture, University of Florida, 2017.

"Oppression.” Lecture, Waterloo University Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2016.

**Awards, Certificates, Fellowships**

Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Certificate, The University of Connecticut Spring 2021

Digital Pedagogy Lab Fellowship, The University of Colorado Spring 2021

Travel Fellowship, The University of Connecticut Spring 2020

SET Award: Excellence in Teaching, The University of Connecticut Fall 2020

**TEACHING**

Philosophy and Social Ethics course Spring 2018. Fall 2018. Fall 2019. Spring 2020. Spring 2021.

Non-Western and Comparative Philosophy course: Fall 2018. Spring 2019. Fall 2020.

*As a graduate teaching assistant, I teach 80-100 students per course.*

**FACILITATOR**

Social Stigma and Homelessness: The limits of Social Change Hartford, CT, 2019 The Kiss the Sky Project

**ADDITIONAL STUDIES**

Participant, Rutger's Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. 2016.

Participant, Princeton's Compass Workshop. 2017.

Participant, Caribbean Philosophical Association Summer School. Summer of 2018-2020

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Creator of Kiss the Sky, a nonprofit working to make philosophy accessible to people, Editor at Philosophy and Global Affairs,Graduate Student Senator at UCONN, representative of the Minorities and Philosophy Association at UCONN, representative of Graduate Students of Color Association at UCONN, member of the Graduate Union at UCONN, member of UConn Collaborative Organizing Coalition (UCCO) at UCONN, member of CT Bail Fund member in New Haven, member of Restoring Justice in Houston, Tx

**REFERENCES**

**Professor and Department Head Lewis Gordon:** lewis.gordon@uconn.edu

**Professor Heather Battaly:** heather.battaly@uconn.edu

**Professor Thomas Bontly:** thomas.bontly@uconn.edu