

CLAIRE HORISK

Curriculum Vitae

March 2026

Department of Philosophy
229 Middlebush Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211-4160

horiskc@missouri.edu

EMPLOYMENT

University of Missouri
Professor 2024–present
Associate Professor 2009–2024
Assistant Professor 2000–2009

Grinnell College
Assistant Professor 1999–2000

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Philosophy, 1999
M.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Philosophy, 1997
B.A. University of Oxford, Philosophy and Psychology, First Class Honors, 1992

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language; Philosophy of Feminism.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic; Epistemology; Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy; Philosophy of Mind.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Horisk, C. (2024). *Dangerous Jokes: How Racism and Sexism Weaponize Humor*. Oxford University Press. [Hardback; ebook]

Released as an audiobook by Tantor Media, narrated by Rachel Perry.

Book Chapters and Journal Articles

- Horisk, C. and Cocroft, R. (2013). Animal Signals: Always influence, sometimes information. (With a response to comments from Ruth Millikan.) (U. Stegmann (Ed.), *Animal Communication Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Horisk, C. (2010). Explicit Truth Ascriptions. (C.D. Wright and N. Pedersen (Eds.), *New Waves in Truth*. (Series editors V.F. Hendricks & D.H. Pritchard.) Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Horisk, C. (2008). Truth, Meaning, and Circularity. *Philosophical Studies*, 137, 269-300.
- Horisk, C. (2007). The Expressive Role of Truth in Truth-Conditional Semantics. *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 57, 535-557.
- Horisk, C. (2005). What Should Deflationism be when it Grows up? *Philosophical Studies*, 125, 371-397.
- Horisk, C. (2005). The Surprise Argument for Truth-Conditional Semantics. *ProtoSociology*, 21, 20-40.
- Bar-On, D., Horisk, C. & Lycan, W. G. (2005). Postscript to "Deflationism, Meaning and Truth-Conditions". (In B. P. Armour-Garb & J. C. Beall (Eds.), *Deflationary Truth* (pp. 344-352). Chicago and LaSalle: Open Court).
- Horisk, C. (2004). Meaning Theory and Communication. *Mind and Language*, 19, 177-198.
- Bar-On, D., Horisk, C. & Lycan, W. G. (2000). Deflationism, Meaning and Truth-Conditions. *Philosophical Studies*, 101, 1-28.
- Reprinted as:
Bar-On, D., Horisk, C. & Lycan, W. G. (2005). Deflationism, Meaning and Truth-Conditions. (In B. P. Armour-Garb & J. C. Beall (Eds.), *Deflationary Truth* (pp. 321-343). Chicago and LaSalle: Open Court).

Annotated Bibliography

- Horisk, C. (2018). Racist Jokes. (In Duncan Pritchard (Ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press).

Critiques, Book Reviews, and Comments

- Horisk, C. (2021). Can McGowan Explain Hepeating? *Res Philosophica*, 98, 519-527.
- Horisk, C. (2011). *Meaning, Mind, and Matter: Philosophical Essays* by Ernie Lepore and Barry Loewer. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2011.10.28.

Horisk, C. (2004). Comments on Losonsky. *Southwest Philosophy Review: The Journal of The Southwestern Philosophical Society*, 20, 185-188.

Horisk, C. (2003). Pretense and Abstract Objects: Comments on Robertson. *Southwest Philosophy Review: The Journal of The Southwestern Philosophical Society*, 19, 85-88.

Writing for a General Audience

Horisk, C. (2024) Racist jokes among school-age children. OUPblog, <https://blog.oup.com/2024/05/kids-race-and-dangerous-jokes/>

Horisk, C. (2019). Racist jokes may be worse than racist statements. OUPblog, <https://blog.oup.com/2019/04/racist-jokes-worse-racist-statements/>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book

Horisk, C. *Ethical Listening* (working title)

Papers

Horisk, C. Demeaning Jokes, Conversational Implicature, and Uncooperative Speech.

Horisk, C. Presupposition and Demeaning Jokes.

Horisk, C. Guilty Listeners.

PRESENTATIONS

Book symposiums

Dangerous Jokes: How Racism and Sexism Weaponize Humor
The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Francisco, April 2025.

Dangerous Jokes: How Racism and Sexism Weaponize Humor
International Association for the Philosophy of Humor, The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York, January 2025.

Talks

(Does not include job talks. (R) indicates Refereed, (I) indicates Invited.)

Derogatory Speech: Conversations, Hearers, and Listeners
Slurring Terms Across Languages, Online, November 2025. (I)

- Derogatory Jokes and Generalized Conversational Implicatures. (I)
Northwestern University, February 2021.
- Derogatory Jokes and Conversational Implicatures (I)
University of Connecticut, October 2019
- Derogatory Jokes, Derogatory Propositions, and Presupposition (I)
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, April 2017.
- Presupposition and Derogatory Jokes (I)
Mutual Belief in Pragmatics, Shan'xi University, Taiyuan, China, August 2016
- Presupposition and Demeaning Jokes (R)
ILCLI International Workshop on Semantics, Pragmatics, and Rhetoric, Donostia, Spain,
November 2011
- Conventional Implicature and Strong Speaker Orientation (R)
The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Vancouver, April 2009
- The Expressive Role of Truth in Truth-Conditional Semantics. (I)
Context and Content, University of Oslo, Norway, April 2006
- Truth and Implicature. (I)
Washington University, St. Louis, November 2005
- Kölbel and Williams on Skim Semantics. (R)
The Central States Philosophical Association, Lexington, KY, October 2005
- Truth, Meaning, and Circularity. (I)
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, December 2004
- Disquotationalism and Truth Ascriptions. (R)
The Central States Philosophical Association, Chicago, October 2003
- 'Scuse Me While I Kiss This Guy: Disquotational Truth and Blind Ascriptions. (R)
The American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, April 2002
- What should deflationism (not) be when it grows up? (I)
University of Oklahoma, March 2002
- Circularity and truth-conditional theories of meaning. (I)
University of Missouri-St. Louis, September 2001
- Extensionality and Truth Theories of Meaning. (R)
The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Albuquerque, April 2000

Extensionality and Truth Theories of Meaning. (R)
The Iowa Philosophical Society, University of Iowa, October 1999

Deflationism and Truth Theories of Meaning. (R)
The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Washington, D.C., December 1998

Deflationism and Truth Theories of Meaning. (R)
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of
Hertfordshire, July 1998

Deflationism and Truth Theories of Meaning. (R)
Joint Meeting of the North and South Carolina Philosophical Societies, Columbia, SC,
February 1998

Comments

Comments on Nikki Ernst's "The Applied, The Non-Ideal, and the Engaged: Some Notes on
How to Do Political Philosophy of Language" (I)
The American Philosophical Association, Central Division, New Orleans, February 2024.

Comments in Author Meets Critics session on Mary Kate McGowan's *Just Words: On Speech
and Hidden Harm* (I)
The American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, February 2020.

Comments on Michael Glanzberg's "Not All Contextual Parameters are Alike" (I)
Kline Workshop on Context-Sensitivity in Language, University of Missouri, Columbia MO,
November 2016

Comments on Elisabeth Camp's "Figurative Speech in Antagonistic Contexts: Deniability,
Pedantry, and Lying" (I)
Kline Workshop on Semantics, Pragmatics, and Epistemology, University of Missouri,
Columbia MO, October 2011

Comments on Jens Timmerman's "Kantian Dilemmas: Moral Conflicts in Kantian Ethics" (I)
Kline Workshop on Kantian Ethics, University of Missouri, Columbia MO, April 2011

Michael P. Lynch's *Truth as One and Many*. (I)
Author Meets Critics, The Society for Realist-Anti-Realist Discussion, The American
Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, February 2010

Comments on Anne Bezuidenhout's "Information Structure and the Semantics/Pragmatics
Interface." (I)
Contextualism Workshop, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, September 2009

Comments on Wolfram Hinzen's "Predication and Truth in a Bilingual Perspective." (I)

Non-Canonical Predication Workshop, University of Western Ontario, May 2009

Comments on Emma Borg's "Must a Semantic Minimalist be a Semantic Internalist?" (I)

Kline Workshop on Meaning, University of Missouri, Columbia MO, April 2009

Comments on Mylan Engel's "Contextualism and the Problem of Knowing What One Says." (I)

The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Portland, OR, March 2006

Comments on Tomis Kapitan's "Indexicals and Modality." (I)

The Central States Philosophical Association, Iowa City, October 2004

Comments on Michael Losonsky's "Frege's 'Bedeutung' and Mill's 'Denotation'." (I)

The Southwest Philosophical Society, Memphis, November 2003

Comments on Teresa Robertson's "(In the Myth/story) The Number 17 Crosses the Rubicon." (I)

The Southwest Philosophical Society, Kansas City, November 2002

Comments on Sarah Sawyer's "Externalism and Empty Terms." (I)

The Central States Philosophical Association, Columbia, MO, October 2002

Comments on Douglas Patterson's "Substantivalism and the Liar Paradox." (I)

The Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis, October 2001

Talks for a General Audience

Dangerous Jokes, Skylark Bookshop, Columbia, MO, October 2024

Dangerous Jokes, University of Missouri Philosophy Club, April 2024

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

MSF Philosophy in Media Fellow, Trade Books and Publication, Marc Sanders Foundation,
\$1,500

Arts and Humanities Domestic Travel, College of Arts and Science, \$1,500

Arts and Humanities Research and Creative Works Fellow, Office of the Provost, University of
Missouri, \$14,500, 2024—2026

Mid-Career Research Development Fellow, Office of the Provost, University of Missouri,
2022—2024

Great Books, University of Missouri, \$15,000, Fall 2022

Research Leave, College of Arts and Science, \$5,000, Calendar Year 2021

Research Leave, University of Missouri, \$8,108, 2015–2016

Center for Arts and Humanities Grant-Writing Fellowship, University of Missouri, \$8,000,
Spring 2012

(Teaching release to pursue external funding for book project.)

Faculty International Travel Grant, Research Council, University of Missouri, \$1,500, 2011

Research Board Grant, University of Missouri, \$10,000, 2005–2006

(Research leave)

Research Board Grant, University of Missouri, \$6,000, 2001

(Summer research support)

Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Carolina, \$12,000, 1997–1998

William N. Reynolds Fellowship, University of North Carolina, \$36,000, 1992–1994, 1995–1996

Scholarship, University College, Oxford, 1989–1992

Susan Mary Rouse Prize (Psychology), University of Oxford, 1989

TEACHING

Fellowships and Awards for Teaching and Mentoring

Arts & Science Faculty Fellowship, University of Missouri, \$5000, 2015–2016

Alumnae Anniversary Award, University of Missouri, 2015

(For faculty women who are notable for their teaching excellence and/or other contributions to the education of women.)

University of Missouri 2012 Tribute to Women Honoree

(For women who have worked to create an environment of equity, fairness and justice for women, and helped promote the advancement of women through education, advocacy, support and activism.)

Professional Development (Teaching)

Writing Intensive Workshop, Campus Writing Program, 2021

Faculty Institute for Inclusive Teaching, University of Missouri, 2019–2020

Wakonse Fellow, 2001

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Logic/How to Think

Introduction to Philosophy/The Big Questions

Elementary Logic

Philosophy and Gender

Philosophy of Language

Topics in Humanities: How Racism and Sexism Weaponize Humor

Bioethics: Preserving Life and Choosing Death

Philosophy of Language and Cognition

Social Justice in Medicine

Senior Seminar: Wittgenstein

Writing Intensive Courses

Philosophy of Language

Philosophy and Gender

Honors Courses

Introduction to Philosophy/The Big Questions

Introduction to Logic/Critical Thinking

Graduate Courses Taught

Philosophy of Language Seminar (Topics: What is said; Propositional Attitudes and the Problem of Substitutivity; Philosophy of Language and Society (pornography, slurs, hate speech, generics, toxic speech); Conversational Pressure; Dogwhistles and Figleaves).

Topics in Philosophy (Concept of oppression, metaphysics of race, metaphysics of gender.)

Dissertation Seminar (Topic: preparation for dissertation-writing and job search)

Formal Logic

Recent Anglo-American Philosophy (Topics: Davidson's Philosophy of Language; Minimal Semantics and Contextualism)

Seminar in Logic (Topic: Truth)

Philosophy of Language

Honors Theses

Stephanie Hake (Advisor) 2011

Mark Gum (Reader) 2009

Meaghan Everett (Advisor) 2003

Master's Committees

Beth Barker (Member) 2018 (Winner of the Scott T Davey Prize for Excellence)

Alek Willsey (Director) 2017 (Winner of the Scott T Davey Prize for Excellence)

Thomas Reynolds (Director) 2012

Leo Yan (Director) 2011 (Winner of the Scott T Davey Prize for Excellence)

Kok Yong Lee (Member) 2010

Scott Davey (Second Reader) 2009

Devin Frank (Second Reader) 2009

Ashton Sperry (Second Reader) 2008

Jonathan Vertanen (Co-Director) 2008

Eric Heidenreich (Member) 2006

Casey Brow (Member) 2004

Dissertation Committees

Jean Janasz (Adviser) in progress

Alek Willsey (Adviser) 2020

Devin Frank (Second Reader) 2015

Christopher Strelluf (PhD in Linguistics, Outside Reader) 2014

Brian Montgomery (Member) 2012

Darin Finke (Member) 2011

Jason Hedderman (Member) 2008

Yeongseo Yeo (Member) 2003

Teaching Mentor

Christian Culak Spring 2024

Argon Gruber Spring 2023

Tianqin Ren Fall 2022

Stephanie Hull 2014–2015 (Winner of the Bondeson Prize for Excellence in Teaching 2015)

Deanna Roop 2014

Wenwen Fan 2011–2012

Crystal Allen 2011–2012 (Winner of the Bondeson Prize for Excellence in Teaching 2011)

POSTDOCTORAL AND FACULTY MENTORING

National mentoring

Facilitator, “Mentoring the Mentors” Workshop, American Philosophical Association, Online, Fall 2023

Host, Mentoring Project for Early-Career Women in Philosophy, Columbia, MO (Budget 31K), 2023

Facilitator, “Mentoring the Mentors” Workshop, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, 2017

Mentor for the Mentoring Project for Early-Career Women in Philosophy, 2015

(Five mentees working in philosophy of language, then employed at University of Western Michigan, City College of New York, University of Memphis, Davidson College, and Centenary College of Louisiana.)

Department mentoring

Mentor for Preparing Future Faculty Postdoctoral Fellow, 2022–2023, 2024–2026

Mentor for Junior Faculty Member, 2018–present

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

National Service

Member-at-Large, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Executive Committee, 2016–2019

Philosophy Panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships program, 2015

Program Committee for the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2012

Program Review

External Reviewer for the University of Oklahoma Department of Philosophy’s Annual Assessment of the Major, 2018

Tenure Review

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2021

Campus Service

Tenure Probationary Extension Committee, 2011–2012

Departmental Service

Chair of the Personnel Committee (Tenure case, 2025-2026)
Chair Ad Hoc Committee for Raise Policy Revision 2024–2026
Awards Committee Member 2023–2025
Preparing Future Faculty Inclusive Excellence Search Committee 2023–2024
Awards Committee Chair, 2022–2023
Kline Chair Search Committee, 2022–2023
Graduate Affairs Committee Spring, 2022
Undergraduate Affairs Committee Spring, 2022
Placement Committee, 2019–2020
Search Committee, NTT position in Medical Ethics, 2019–2020
Awards Committee Co-Chair 2018-2019, Chair 2019–2020
P&T/Personnel Committee (Tenure case, author of Research Report), 2019
Director of Graduate Admissions, 2016–2017
Colloquium Coordinator, 2016
Placement Committee, 2014–2015
Future of the Department Ad Hoc Committee, 2013–2014
Director of Graduate Studies, 2010–2012
Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee, 2010–2012
Status of Women Committee, 2011–2012
Graduate Advisor, 2007–2012
Director of Graduate Admissions, 2009–2010
Director, Kline Workshop Spring 2009, Fall 2011
Search Committee, Philosophy of Mind and Psychology, 2006–2007
Bylaws and Revision of P&T Guidelines Committee, 2005
Course Director, Introduction to Logic, 2000–2004, 2008
Search Committee, Kline Chair, 2000–2003
Search Committee, Metaphysics, 2001–2002
Speakers Coordinator, 2000–2001
Search Committee, Metaphysics Position, 2000–2001

Professional Development

Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Success and Development (Scholarship provided by UM system), Spring 2019

Faculty Affiliations

Linguistics Program, University of Missouri, 2000–present
Women's and Gender Studies, University of Missouri, 2000–present
Linguistics Program, Grinnell College, 1999–2000

Referee

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, EurAmerica: A Journal of European and American Studies, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, Journal of Philosophical Research, Mind & Language, Noûs, Oxford University Press, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophia (Philosophical Quarterly of Israel), Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Pragmatics and Cognition, Synthese; The Central States Philosophical Association, The Southwest Philosophical Society, The University of Missouri Research Board

Memberships

The American Philosophical Association

References available on request