

Department of Philosophy, 0126 Major Williams Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

claudiodamato.com • claudio1@vt.edu • (765) 250-6292

CLAUDIO D'AMATO

Curriculum Vitae

Last updated: April 2020

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

2013 –	Instructor: Department of Philosophy	<i>Virginia Tech</i>
2017 –	PPE Program Associate	<i>Virginia Tech</i>

RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization:	Global ethics, global distributive justice, social-political philosophy, capability approach, normative ethics, applied ethics.
Competence:	Development economics, history of ethics, intersectional social justice, transnational labor activism, Latin American liberation theology.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2017	ASPECT (Ethical & Social Thought concentration) – Virginia Tech <i>Dissertation: “Human Capabilities and Collectivist Justice”</i>
M.A. 2011	Philosophy – Virginia Tech <i>Thesis: “Epistemic Circularity and Reliabilist Justification”</i>
B.A. 2009	Philosophy, Writing – Wartburg College (Summa Cum Laude)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division (APA)
Human Development and Capabilities Association (HDCA)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2020 Instructor of Record, Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech
- PHIL 2304: Global Ethics (Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
 - PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019)
 - PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)
- 2013-2017 Instructor of Record, Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech
- PHIL 2304: Global Ethics (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014 online, Spring 2015, Summer 2015 online, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
 - PHIL-PSCI 3016: Political Theory (Fall 2014)
 - PHIL 4974H: Independent Study (Fall 2016)
 - Assistant to instructor of record, Prof. Joseph C. Pitt
- 2011-2012 Instructor of Record, Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech
- PHIL 2304: Global Ethics (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
 - PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
 - PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality (Summer 2012)
- 2009-2011 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech
- PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice (Spring 2010, Spring 2011)
 - PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality (Fall 2009, Fall 2010)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020
- “Collectivist Capabilitarianism.” *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* 21:1. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19452829.2020.1732887>
- 2016
- “A Non-Liberal Account of Development.” *SPECTRA: The Social, Political, Ethical, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives* 5:2. <http://doi.org/10.21061/spectra.v5i2.371>
- 2014
- “Human Capabilities and the Racial Contract.” *SPECTRA: The Social, Political, Ethical, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives* 3:1. <http://doi.org/10.21061/spectra.v3i1.291>
 - “Sweatshop Resistance and Activism: The Story of Villa Altagracia.” *Reflections & Explorations: Graduate Commentary Blog*. College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech.
 - “Performative Slacktivism: ‘Saving’ the World with Facebook Likes.” *Reflections & Explorations: Graduate Commentary Blog*. College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2017 Fellow in the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Program at Virginia Tech (Fall 2017)
Recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the ASPECT Program at Virginia Tech (Fall 2017)
- 2013 Recipient of Graduate Teaching Assistantship from the ASPECT Program and Department of Philosophy at Virginia Tech (Fall 2013 to Spring 2017)
- 2012 Recipient of Ross Fellowship from the Graduate School and Department of Philosophy at Purdue University (Fall 2012 to Spring 2013)
- 2011 Recipient of the Marjorie Grene Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student from the Department of Philosophy at Virginia Tech (Spring 2011)
- 2009 Recipient of Graduate Teaching Assistantship from the Department of Philosophy at Virginia Tech (Fall 2009 to Spring 2011)
Recipient of the Outstanding Senior Award from the Department of English and Modern Languages at Wartburg College (Spring 2009)
Recipient of the Award of Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship from the Office of the Dean of Faculty at Wartburg College (Spring 2009)

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 ▪ Presenter. "Lessons from the Internal Colony Model: A Capability Approach to Appalachian 'Development'." *42nd Appalachian Studies Conference*. Asheville, NC. March 15, 2019.
- 2018 ▪ Presenter. "Children of the Downturn: Capability and New Poverty in Central Appalachia." Co-authored paper with Olivia Lowery (Hollins University). *41st Appalachian Studies Conference*. Cincinnati, OH. April 7, 2018.
- Presenter. "Should Humanitarians Tolerate Local Oppression to Avoid Global Imperialism?" *Justice Across Borders* conference. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. March 25, 2018.
- Respondent. "Nationalism and Imperialism." Panel at the *2018 ASPECT Graduate Conference: Doing Interdisciplinarity*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. March 23, 2018.
- 2017 ▪ Panelist. "Emerging Theories of the Human Condition." Roundtable panel in the *Advancing the Human Condition Symposium*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. November 28, 2017.

- Presenter. “A Non-Liberal Account of Global Development.” *2017 ASPECT Graduate Conference: Aesthetics, Politics and Ethics in Fractured Times*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. April 1-2, 2017.
- 2016
 - Presenter. “Communities, Capabilities, and Service-laden Humanitarian Ethics.” *2016 ASPECT Graduate Conference: Crisis in Transformation*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. April 1-2, 2017.
- 2015
 - Respondent. “Toward a Political Economy of the Humanities: Untimely Arguments in the Wake of (Post)Structural Adjustment.” Paper by Prof. Raji Soni and Prof. Ralph Callebert. *ASPECT Program Working Paper series*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. April 20, 2015.
 - Presenter. “Love in the Time of Violence: The Moral Imperative to Revolution in the Writings of Camilo Torres, Revolutionary Priest.” *2015 ASPECT Graduate Conference: Representations of Resistance*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. March 20-21, 2017.
- 2014
 - Presenter, Discussant. “Development as Agency: Radical Redirections for Postcolonial Humanitarian Aid.” *Debating Development and Humanitarianism Symposium with Prof. Ilan Kapoor*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. April 11, 2014.
 - Presenter. “The Impossibility of Development: Poverty, Capabilities, and Savior Complexes.” *2014 ASPECT Graduate Conference: Critical Ecologies*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. March 21-22, 2014.
- 2011
 - Presenter. “Do Parental Religious Impositions Violate Children’s Free Exercise?” *34th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL. March 2011.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Joseph C. Pitt

Professor, Department of Philosophy ▪ (540) 231-5760 ▪ jcpitt@vt.edu
 237 Major Williams Hall, MC 0126, 220 Stanger St, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Michael Moehler

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy ▪ (540) 231-7543 ▪ moehler@vt.edu
 229 Major Williams Hall, MC 0126, 220 Stanger St, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Brett L. Shadle

Professor, Department of History ▪ (540) 231-8362 ▪ shadle@vt.edu
 428 Major Williams Hall, MC 0117, 220 Stanger St, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Francois Debrix

Professor, Department of Political Science ▪ (540) 231-0694 ▪ fdebrix@vt.edu
202 Major Williams Hall, MC 0192, 220 Stanger St, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

MAJOR WRITING PROJECTS

- 2015-2017 Ph.D. dissertation: “Human Capabilities and Collectivist Justice.”
ASPECT Program, Virginia Tech.
- Committee chair: Joseph C. Pitt (Dept. of Philosophy)
Committee members: Michael Moehler (Dept. of Philosophy),
Brett Shadle (Dept. of History), Dale Wimberley (Dept. of Sociology)
- Summary. The dissertation develops a new version of Amartya Sen’s and Martha Nussbaum’s capability approach to global distributive justice. It rejects some of its liberal, democratic, and humanist commitments and replaces them with more distinctly collectivist and communitarian ones. Further, it recommends that capability theorists and humanitarian aid workers who use the capability approach should significantly amend the normative reasons for their reliance on capability as a metric of economic justice. Capability is more just, more effective, and less vulnerable to criticism when it is properly relativized to local normative standards that reflect communal politics.
- 2010-2011 M.A. thesis: “Epistemic Circularity and Reliabilist Justification.”
Department of Philosophy, Virginia Tech.
- Committee chair: Joseph C. Pitt (Philosophy)
Committee members: Walter Ott (Philosophy), Lydia Patton (Philosophy)
- Summary. The thesis offers a solution to an ongoing problem for reliabilist theorists of epistemic justification, which are vulnerable to some skeptical charges of vicious circularity that their foundationalist counterparts can avoid. Instead of arguing that cognitive faculties are in fact reliable (e.g., via evolutionary argument) or retreating into epistemic holism (e.g., our cognitive structure is sound so long as it is internally self-consistent), I suggest that reliabilists refuse to accept the skeptical challenge altogether. Through the work of Thomas Reid, I argue that reliabilists should adopt the quasi-foundationalist strategy of simply assuming the reliability of certain “prime faculties,” such as memory and sense perception. While this is undoubtedly circular, it is neither an avoidable nor, therefore, a vicious circle, and the resulting theory is still distinctly reliabilist (albeit now in a necessarily more virtue-epistemic sense).