

# Michele Merritt, Ph.D.

Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages  
Arkansas State University  
2105 Aggie Road  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Email: mmerrittATastate.edu  
Web: www.michelemerritt.com  
1.813.785.9313  
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

## Areas of Specialization

Feminist Philosophy, especially critical adoption studies; Philosophy of Cognitive Science, especially non-human animal cognition

## Areas of Competence

Queer Theory; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Science; Phenomenology of Dance/Sport/Movement

## Current Position

- ≡ Associate Professor, Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages, Arkansas State University

## Previous Positions

- ≡ Coordinator, Women and Gender Studies Program, Arkansas State University (Fall 2016 – Spring 2020)
- ≡ Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida (2011 – 2012)
- ≡ Visiting Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina, Department of Philosophy (2009 – 2011)

## Education

- ≡ Ph.D. Philosophy, University of South Florida, Defended October 14, 2010  
Dissertation Title: *“Queering Cognition: Extended Minds and Sociotechnologically Hybridized Genders”* Doctoral Dissertation Committee: Quill Rebecca Kukla (co-chair); Shaun Gallagher (co-chair); Andy Clark; Alex Levine; Thomas Williams.
- ≡ M.A. Philosophy, University of South Florida, May 2007  
Thesis Title: *“Minimally Innate Ideas”* (Defended Spring 2007) Chair: Daniel Weiskopf
- ≡ M.A. Applied Linguistics, University of South Florida, May 2007  
Comprehensive Linguistic Analysis (Fall 2007) and Treatment Plan (Spring 2007)
- ≡ B.A. Philosophy, University of North Florida, Cum Laude, December 2002.  
(Attended 2000-2002) Senior Honor’s Thesis Title: *“Critical Examination of Husserl’s Pure and Personal I”* (Defended November 2002) Chair: John Maraldo

## Publications

### *Books*

- ≡ 2021: *Minding Dogs: Humans, Canine Companions, and a New Philosophy of Cognitive Science*, University of Georgia Press.

### *Book Chapters*

- ≡ Forthcoming, with Ryan Gustafsson (University of Melbourne): “Adopting Silence: On Adoptee Disenfranchisement and Epistemic Injustice”, in L. Cassidy & M. Lotz. eds. "Adoption: Philosophical Perspectives and Reflections", Lexington Books.
- ≡ 2019: “Stereotype Threat and the Female Athlete: Swimming, Surfing, and Sport Martial Arts”, co-

authored with Audrey Yap (University of Victoria), Caren Diehl (U.A.E. University), & Cassie Comley (University of Oregon), to appear in: *The MIT Press Handbook of Embodied Cognition and Sport Psychology*, edited by Massimiliano L. Cappuccio (U.A.E. University).

- ≡ 2014: “Making (Non)Sense of Gender”, in T. Froese & M. Cappuccio, eds. *Enactive Cognition at the Edge of Sense-Making: Making Sense of Non-Sense*, part of the series: *New Directions in Cognitive Science*. Palgrave-MacMillan.

#### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

- ≡ In Production, *Depressed Dogs and Hysterical Women: A Feminist Critique of Psychopharmacology*, Critical Animal Studies.
- ≡ Under Review, *Being Adopted, Being Disenfranchised: The Absent Conversation Among Feminists*
- ≡ In press/2022: “My Adoption, My Abortion: Getting Clear on What Counts as a Reproductive Choice”, *Adoption and Culture, Special Issue on the Dobbs Decision*, ([online: November 2022](#); due in print December)
- ≡ 2022: “Rediscovering latent trauma: An adopted adult’s perspective,” *Child Abuse and Neglect: Special Issue on Adoption and Trauma*, 130(2).
- ≡ 2021: “Adoptees online: Community-building, collective affect, and a new generation of activists,” *Adoption and Culture*, 9(2): 219-46.
- ≡ 2021: “Dances with dogs: interspecies play and a case for sympoietic enactivism,” *Animal Cognition*, 24: 353-69.
- ≡ 2015: “Dismantling Standard Cognitive Science: It’s time the Dog has its Day”, *Biology and Philosophy* 30(6), 811-829.
- ≡ 2015: “Thinking-Is-Moving: Dance, Agency, and a Radically Enacted Mind” *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 14(1), 95-110. DOI:10.1007/s11097-013-9314-2, online version, 2014.
- ≡ 2013: “Instituting Impairment: Extended Cognition and the Construction of Female Sexual Dysfunction” *Cognitive Systems Research* (25-26), 47-53.
- ≡ 2011: “The Cure for the Cure: Networking the Extended Mind” *Philosophical Psychology* 24(4), 463-485.
- ≡ 2008: “Nativism and Neurobiology: Representations, Representing, and the Continuum of Cognition.” *Review of General Psychology*, July Issue.

#### *Edited Issues in Journals*

- ≡ Special Issue in *Cognitive Systems Research: Socially Extended Cognition*, with S. Varga, co-editor. Online: August 2013, in print: December, 2013, Volume 25-26.

#### *Book Reviews*

- ≡ 2015: “Kristin Andrews: The animal mind: an introduction to the philosophy of animal cognition.” *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, DOI: 10.1007/s11097-015-9442-y.

#### *Popular Media Publications*

- ≡ 2022: “We Should be Fighting for a World Without Adoption”, *The Nation*, October/November Issue, url: <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/adoption-parenting-choice/>

#### **Awards and Honors**

- ≡ Scholarship Award, College of Liberal Arts and Communication, April 2022
- ≡ Finalist and college representative for Chancellor’s Medal for Scholarship and Creative Activities, Arkansas State University, April, 2022
- ≡ Leadership in Diversity Award, Arkansas State University, April, 2019
- ≡ Faculty of the Game, Honoring Faculty who make a Difference to Athletes, Fall 2017

- ≡ Teaching Grant, Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (summers 2017, 2015, 2014 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009), Princeton, Franklin and Marshall, and Skidmore College Sites. Course Titles: Human Nature and Technology, Philosophy of Mind, Logic
- ≡ Full Tuition and Travel Grant, Summer School on Social Cognition and Social Narrative, San Marino, Italy, 2008 - Travel Grant, Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness Twelfth Annual International Meeting, 2008
- ≡ Teaching Assistantship, University of South Florida, Department of Philosophy (2003-2008)
- ≡ Teaching Assistantship, University of South Florida, Department of Applied Linguistics (Spring 2007)
- ≡ Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Student, University of North Florida (2002-2003)
- ≡ Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Paper, University of North Florida (2001)
- ≡ Four-year Academic Scholarship, Oglethorpe University

### **Grant Funded Research**

- ≡ (2014-2017) Co-Investigator for: “*Dangerous Embodiments*”, Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Awarded Spring.
- ≡ (2014) Provost’s Faculty Development Award, to fund project “*Depressed Dogs, Heartbroken Humans, and a New Philosophy of Emotions*”, Arkansas State University.
- ≡ (2014) Eleanor Lane Foundation Travel Grant, to fund travel to Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi, India, Arkansas State University
- ≡ (2008) Summer School/Collegium: “*Social Cognition and Social Narrative*,” San Marino, Instructors: Stephen Fiore, Shaun Gallagher, Joelle Proust, Dan Hutto, Peter Hobson, Corrado Sinigaglia, Stephen Stich, Dan Zahavi
- ≡ (2007-2009) Junior-Researcher member, “*Theoretical and conceptual advances in the cognitive neuroscience of self-representation: Representations of the minimal self in self-narrative*” Part of the CNCC (Consciousness in a Natural and Cultural Context), Shaun Gallagher, director. Funded by the National Science Foundation <http://www.philosophy.ucf.edu/pcs/basic.html>.

### **Invited Presentations**

- ≡ *Commentary on Ken Cheng’s Master Lecture*, Comparative Cognition Society, annual meeting, April 15, 2023
- ≡ *Is Adoption An Option?* Minnesota State University Women’s Center invited symposium, with Lina Vanegas, co-founder of Adoptees for Choice, October 18, 2022.
- ≡ *Dances with Dogs: Interspecies Play, Sympoiesis, and Co-Creative Cognition*, “Embodied Cognition and Dance,” University of Memphis, July 19-22, 2021.
- ≡ *Nosewise Dogs: Basic Minds Meet Content in Interspecific Interactions*, Hendrix College “Noble Conversations” Series, September 2018.
- ≡ *Non-Human Thinkers: Emotions and Ethical Responsibility in the Evolving Field of Cognitive Ethology*, William Paterson University, February 11, 2016.
- ≡ *Body Image Disruptions and Social Emotions*, Mississippi State University, November 20, 2015.
- ≡ *Emotional Attunement in Human-Canine Interactions: A Case for Extended Emotions*, Clemson University, November 6, 2015.
- ≡ *Sensitivity and the Social: A Two-Way Relation*, New University of Lisbon, “Self and the Social” Symposium, March 6-8, 2014.
- ≡ *The Socio-Sexually Extended Mind*, University of Memphis, symposium on Socially Extended Cognition, November 17, 2011.
- ≡ *When Cognitive Science and Queer Theory Collide*, Flagler University, Philosophy Club Symposium, November 11, 2011.
- ≡ *Enacted Cognition, Mental Institutions, and Socio-Functionally Extended Minds*. Free University, Symposium on “Socially Extended Cognition and Affect.” Berlin, March 21-

22, 2011.

- ≡ *Lived Bodies and Loaded Dice: Images, Schemas, and the Making of 'The Female Subject.'* University of Central Florida, Phenomenology and Cognitive Science Symposium, May 22, 2009.

### **Peer-Reviewed Papers Delivered at Professional Conferences**

- ≡ *My Existence is a F\*cked Up Talking Point: On Being Adopted in a Post-Roe World*, Philosophy in the Contemporary World, “Everything is F\*cked” Session at the American Philosophical Association, Central Division Annual Meeting, February 2023.
- ≡ *Commentary on Daniel Groll’s “Conceiving People: Genetic Knowledge and the Ethics of Egg and Sperm Donation,”* Author Meets Critic Session at the American Philosophical Association, Central Division Annual Meeting, February 2023.
- ≡ *Trading Traumas: Disruptive Psychopharmaceutical Interventions in Human and Non-human Animal Lives*, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, February 2020.
- ≡ *Pathologizing Pets: A Critical Examination of Psychopharmacological Veterinary Practice*, “Minding Animals 4”, Eastern Kentucky University, March, 2019.
- ≡ *Problematizing Emotional Support Animals*, at “Minding Animals 4”, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de Mexico, January 17-24, 2017.
- ≡ *Well-Adjusted Wives and Good Dogs: Feminism, Animal Welfare, and Liberation from the Pharmiararchy*, University of Kentucky Women and Gender Studies 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, September 16, 2017.
- ≡ *Doing Disability with Dogs*, Panel Participant at “Living with Animals 3” biennial conference, Eastern Kentucky University, March 23-26, 2017.
- ≡ *Domesticated Disability: Canine Coupling and Problematic Partnerships*, part of the invited panel on “The Ethics and Social Ontology of Human-Pet Relationships,” at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Annual Meeting, January 7-11, 2017.
- ≡ *Embodied Subjectivity, Radical Enactivism, and the Phenomenology of Dance*, at “Engagement: Symposium on the Philosophy of Dance,” Texas State University, September 8-11, 2016
- ≡ Panel on “(Un)disciplining Bodies,” Paper title: *Light and White: Race, Class, Gender, and The Anorexic-Athletic Aesthetic*, at the Eastern Division of the American Association for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 15, 2016.
- ≡ *AnyBody Not My Own: Collective Emotions and the Constitution of Eating Disorders*, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 30-April 3, 2016.
- ≡ *Depressed Dogs, Heartbroken Humans, and a New Philosophy of Emotions*, Eastern Kentucky University, “Living with Animals” second biennial conference, March 19-22, 2015.
- ≡ *Dismantling Standard Cognitive Science with Dognition*, Rhodes College, Midsouth Philosophy Society, Annual Meeting, March 13-14, 2015.
- ≡ *Dogs and Dualisms: What the Humanities Can Learn from Canine Cognition*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. “Minding Animals” third international triennial meeting, January 13-20, 2015.
- ≡ *Dogmented Thinking: Meaning Making in Canine-Human Coupling*, Rhodes College, Midsouth Philosophy Society, Annual Meeting, February 21-22, 2014.
- ≡ *Canine Co-Cognition: Dogs and Participatory Sense-Making*, at “Living With Animals”, Department of Psychology sponsored conference at Eastern Kentucky University, March 20-22, 2013.
- ≡ *The Cure for the Cure: Googling the Extended Mind*, at the Joint Annual Meeting for the South Carolina Philosophical Society/North Carolina Society for Philosophy, Queen’s University, Charlotte, NC, February 2010.
- ≡ *Authoring and Owning Bodies in Action: Refining the Agency/Ownership Distinction*, at “Winter School on *The Phenomenological Mind*,” San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy,

January 2010.

- ≡ *Phrenological Paranoia: Re-Membering How to Read Sociotechnologically Hybridized Bodies*, at “(Re)Visioning Gender,” 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Somatechnics Research Centre Conference, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, November 2009.
- ≡ *Reconstruction at the Intersextion: Beyond Heteronormativity, Power and Postmodernity*, at the Florida Philosophical Association’s Annual Meeting, Daytona Beach, FL, November, 2008.
- ≡ *It’s Not All in Your Head: An Externalist-Process Approach to Consciousness*, at the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness Twelfth Annual International Meeting, Taipei, Taiwan, June 19-22, 2008.
- ≡ *Experimenting with Narrative: A Review of the CNCC Project to Date*, with Leon de Bruin, at “Metacognition,” Second Biennial Meeting, Ioannina, Greece, May 8-10, 2008.
- ≡ *Undoing Transgender, Transcending Binaries, and Becoming What We Already Were*, at “Transomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Transgender Embodiment,” International Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, May 1-3, 2008.
- ≡ *The ‘Phallusy’ of Medical Technology in Transformative Surgeries*, at “Gender and Technology,” National Conference, University of Texas, Austin, April 10-11, 2008.
- ≡ *Cyborg Sex: Dispelling the Disorder of Wanting to Change*, at “Cognition: Embodied, Embedded, Enacted, Extended,” International Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, October 20-24, 2008.
- ≡ *Misrepresenting Representational Nativism: The Assumption of Multiple Realizability and a False Dilemma*, at “Intersections Between the Humanities and Neuroscience,” International Conference at Bucknell University, Lewisville, April 27-30, 2007.

## **Teaching Experience**

### Arkansas State University

Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2022, 2020, 2017, 2015; Spring 2013)

Animal Minds (Spring 2022, 2020)

Topics in Feminist Philosophy (Fall 2021, 2018, 2016; Spring 2014)

History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2023, 2017, 2015; Fall 2012)

Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Fall 2014)

Metaphysics (Spring 2016; Fall 2013)

Introduction to Philosophy (Every Semester)

### Johns Hopkins University (Summer 2015) and Skidmore College (Summer 2014, 2013)

Logic: Principles of Reasoning (part of Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Summer School)

### University of Central Florida, Graduate Level

Embodiment and Cognitive Science (Spring 2012)

### University of Central Florida, Undergraduate Level

Formal Logic II – Metalogic (Spring 2012); Introduction to Philosophy (Fall, 2011); Formal Logic I (Fall, 2011)

### University of South Carolina

Human Nature and Technology (Fall 2010, Summer 2010); Mind and Nature; (Fall 2010, Spring 2011);

Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2010); Philosophy of Sex (Fall 2009, Spring 2011);

Logic (Fall 2009-Spring 2011)

Princeton University (Summer 2009; Summer 2012)

Human Nature and Technology (part of Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Summer School)

Franklin and Marshall College (Summer 2011)

Philosophy of Mind (part of Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Summer School)

University of Tampa

Logic (Fall 2008, Spring 2009)

University of South Florida

Philosophy of Mind (Summer 2010, 2009, 2008, Spring 2007, Summer 2007) Acquisition of Knowledge (Honor's College, Fall 2008); Science and Society (Spring 2009, Spring 2008); Critical Thinking (Fall 2007, Spring 2006); Introduction to Formal Logic (Fall 2006); Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2005)

**Professional Memberships**

- ≡ Society for the Study of Animal Minds
- ≡ American Philosophical Association (APA)
- ≡ Women and Gender Studies, Arkansas State University
- ≡ Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC) Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP)
- ≡ International Linguistics Association (ILA)

**Service**

- ≡ Member, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Fall 2022-present)
- ≡ Chair: Promotion, Retention, and Tenure Committee, Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages, 2022-2023 (member, 2021-2022)
- ≡ Chair: Department of Philosophy Search Committee, Summer 2021
- ≡ Department Promotions/Handbook Committee, Fall 2017 – Spring 2021
- ≡ Organizer, “Southern Feminisms”, conference at Arkansas State University, October, 2016
- ≡ Co-Coordinator, Cognitive Science Minor, Arkansas State University, Fall 2012 – present
- ≡ Faculty Sponsor, Gay-Straight Alliance, Fall 2016 – present
- ≡ Sexual Assault Awareness Training, Arkansas State University, 2015 and 2016
- ≡ Assessment Committee, Arkansas State University, Fall 2012 – present
- ≡ Curriculum Committee, Arkansas State University, Fall 2013 – Spring 2016
- ≡ Faculty Co-Sponsor, Philosophy Club, Arkansas State University, 2012 – 2018
- ≡ Library Liaison to the Department, University of Central Florida (2011-2012)
- ≡ Committee Member, Philosophy Curriculum, University of Central Florida (2011-2012)
- ≡ President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, USF (2006-2007)
- ≡ Treasurer, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, USF (2004-2006)

**Graduate Coursework**

- ≡ Transcripts Available Upon Request; GPA: 3.92