

M A N U E L V A R G A S

mrvargas@ucsd.edu
vargasphilosophy.com

CURRENTLY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
Professor of Philosophy (2016)

PREVIOUSLY

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO Professor of Philosophy & Law
(2012-2017), Professor (2010), Associate (2006), Assistant (2002)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, Visiting Prof., Spring 2016
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Visiting Scholar, Philosophy, 2015-2016
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Visiting Fellow, Center for Ethics, 2009-10
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Fellow, Radcliffe Institute, 2008-09
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, V. Asst. Prof. 2005-2006
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, V. Asst. Prof. 2003-2004
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Acting Assistant Professor, 2001-2002

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATIONS

Moral Psychology, Free Will, Latin American & Latinx philosophy

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Philosophy of Law, Race, Sociology of Religion

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Joint-Ph.D. in Philosophy and Humanities, 2001

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS
A.B. in Philosophy, 1995 (Highest Honors; Departmental Citation)

HONORS & AWARDS

American Philosophical Association Book Prize, 2015
Dean's Circle Research Scholar, USF School of Law, 2015-2017
NEH Chair in the Humanities, USF, 2005-2006; 2013-2014
University Distinguished Research Award, USF, 2012
Arts & Sciences Dean's Scholar (research), USF, 2011-2012
Faculty Team Innovation Award, USF, 2010-11
NEH Fellowship and Research Award, 2009-10
NEH Summer Institute: Latin American Phil. (declined), 2005
APA Prize in Latin American Thought, 2004

GRANTS

Free Will, Agency, & Responsibility LATAM, (w/Santiago Amaya)
JTF Grant 2019—2021: \$1.2 million
Getting Better at Simple Things (with S. Amaya)
JTF Grant, 2017-2019: \$160,430
UC San Diego Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Course Development
Mini-grants 2017, 2018 (w/C. Tolley), 2020: \$1500/per
Philosophy of Self Control Sub-Award (w/R. Audi)
FSU/JTF Sub-Award, 2015-2016: \$59,336

NAMED LECTURES

The Endowed Lecture in the Humanities, Seattle University, 2022
The Griffith Lecture, George Washington University, 2021
The Gaos Lectures, National Autonomous University of Mexico, 2019
The Dewey Lecture, University of Vermont 2019
The Green Honors Chair Lecture, Texas Christian University, 2019

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Vargas, M. (under contract) *Mexican Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fischer, J.M., Kane, R., Pereboom, D., Vargas, M. (2024) *Four Views on Free Will*. (Second edition: entirely rewritten and expanded.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Vargas, M. (2013) *Building Better Beings: A Theory of Moral Responsibility*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

* Awarded the American Philosophical Association Book Prize (2015).

Fischer, J.M., Kane, R., Pereboom, D., Vargas, M. (2007) *Four Views on Free Will*. Oxford: Blackwell.

* Spanish translation published as (2013) *Cuatro perspectivas sobre la libertad*. Trans. by Inés Echavarría, Gabriela Polit, and Ricardo Restrepo. Madrid, Spain: Marcial Pons.

EDITED VOLUMES

Gallegos, L., Vargas, M., Gallegos, F., eds. (under contract) *The Latina/o/x/e Philosophy Reader*. New York: Routledge.

Shoemaker, D., Amaya, S., and Vargas, M., eds. (2024) *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility, Vol. 8: Non-Ideal Agency and Responsibility*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Vargas, M. and Doris, J., eds. (2022) *The Oxford Handbook of Moral Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Vargas, M. and Yaffe, G., eds. (2014) *Rational and Social Agency: The Philosophy of Michael Bratman*. New York: Oxford University Press.

ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, & ENTRIES

ETHICS, MORAL PSYCHOLOGY, ACTION, & LAW

- Vargas, M (forthcoming) "Counterfactual Genealogy, Speculative Accuracy, and Predicative Drift" *Inquiry*.
- Vargas, M. (forthcoming) "What is the Free Will Debate Even About?" *Harvard Review of Philosophy*.
- Vargas, M. (forthcoming) "Blame, Oppression, and Retributive Punishment" in S. Figueroa Rubio and I. Ortiz de Urbina (Eds.), *Opresión, responsabilidad y delito. [Oppression, Responsibility, and Crime]* Madrid, Spain: Marcial Pons.
- Vargas, M (2024) "[Functionalisms and the Philosophy of Action](#)" *Journal of Applied Philosophy*.
- Vargas, M. (2024) "Revisionism" in *How Free Are We?*. Edited by T. Cyr and M. Flummer. New York: Oxford University Press: 296-310.
- Nelkin, D., & Vargas, M. (2024) "Responsibility and Reasons-Responsiveness" In T. Cyr, A. Law, & N. A. Tognazzini (Eds.), *Freedom, Responsibility, and Value: Essays in Honor of John Martin Fischer* (pp.37-60). New York: Routledge.
- Vargas, M. (2023) "Revisionism" in *A Companion to Free Will*. Edited by Joseph Campbell, Kristin M. Mickelson, and V. Alan White. Oxford: Blackwell: 204-220.
- H. Argetsinger & M. Vargas, (2022) "[What's the Relationship between the Theory and Practice of Moral Responsibility?](#)" *Humana.Mente Journal of Philosophical Studies*. 15 (42): 29-62.
- Mudrik, Liad, Inbal Gur Arie, Yoni Amir, Yarden Shir, Pamela Hieronymi, Uri Maoz, O'Connor, Timothy, Aaron Schurger, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Manuel Vargas, Tillmann Vierkant, & Adina Roskies. (2022) "[Free Will Without Consciousness?](#)" *Trends in Cognitive Science*. 26 (7): 555-566.
- M. Waggoner, J. Doris, & M. Vargas. (2022) "[Situationism, Moral Improvement, and Moral Responsibility](#)" in M. Vargas & J. Doris (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Moral Psychology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 629-657.
- Vargas, M. (2022) "[Instrumentalist Theories of Moral Responsibility](#)" in D. Nelkin & D. Pereboom (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Moral Responsibility*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 3-26.
- Vargas, M. (2022) "[Feminist and Ameliorative Responsibility](#)" *Syndicate*. 3,28 (2022).
- Vargas, M (2022) "Irresponsabilidad" in C. Pereda (Ed.), *Diccionario de injusticias*. Mexico City: Siglo Veintiuno: 468-473.
- Shoemaker, D., & Vargas, M. (2021) "[Moral Torch Fishing: A Signaling Theory of Blame.](#)" *Noûs*, 55(3), 581-602.

- Vargas, M. (2021) "[Constitutive Instrumentalism and the Fragility of Responsibility](#)" *The Monist*. 104 (4): 427-442.
- Vargas, M. (2021) "[Irresponsible](#)" *Academia Letters*. Article 128.
- Vargas, M. (2020) "Negligence and Social Self-Governance" *Surrounding Self-Control*. Edited by Alfred Mele. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 400-420.
- Murray, S. and M. Vargas. (2020) "Vigilance and Control" *Philosophical Studies* 177: 825-843.
- Vargas, M. (2019) "Responsibility, Methodology, and Desert" Special issue of *Journal of Information Ethics*. 28 (1): 131-147.
- Vargas, M. (2018) "Reflectivism, Skepticism, and Values" *Social Theory & Practice* 44.2: 255-266.
- Vargas, M. (2018) "Manipulation, Oppression, and the Deep Self" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 41: 48-50.
- Vargas, M. (2018) "The Social Constitution of Agency and Responsibility: Oppression, Politics, and Moral Ecology" in *The Social Dimensions of Responsibility*. Ed. by Marina Oshana, Katrina Hutchinson, and Catriona Mackenzie. New York: Oxford University Press: 110-136.
- Vargas, M. (2017) "Contested Terms and Philosophical Debates" *Philosophical Studies*, 174.10: 2499-2510.
- Vargas, M. (2017) "Implicit Bias, Responsibility, and Moral Ecology" in *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*. Edited by David Shoemaker. New York: Oxford University Press: 219-247.
- Vargas, M. (2016) "Responsibility & the Limits of Conversation" *Criminal Law & Philosophy* 10.2: 221-240.
- Vargas, M. (2016) "The Runeberg Problem: Theism, Libertarianism, and Motivated Reasoning" in *Free Will & Theism: Connections, Contingencies, and Concerns*. Edited by Kevin Timpe and Daniel Speak. New York: Oxford University Press: 27-47.
- Vargas, M. (2015) "Desert, Responsibility, and Justification: Reply to Doris, McGeer, and Robinson" *Philosophical Studies* 172.10: 2659-2678.
- Vargas, M. (2015) "Précis of Building Better Beings" *Philosophical Studies* 172.10: 2621-2623.
- Vargas, M. (2015) "On Maurice Mandelbaum's 'Determinism and Responsibility'" *Ethics* 125.3: 854-856.
- Vargas, M. (2015) Vargas, M. and Davis, J.P. "American Legal Realism and Practical Guidance" in *Reasons and Intentions in Law and Practical Agency*. Edited by G. Pavlakos and V. Rodriguez-Blanco. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 267-292.
- Vargas, M. (2014) "Social Explanation & the Free Will Problem" in *Moral Psychology: Vol. 4: Free Will & Moral Responsibility*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. Cambridge, MA: MIT: 403-411.

- Vargas, M. (2014) "Razian Responsibility" *Jurisprudence* 5.1: 161-172.
- Vargas, M. (2013) "Situationism and Moral Responsibility: Free Will in Fragments" in *Decomposing the Will*. Edited by Till Vierkant, Julian Kiverstein and Andy Clark. New York: Oxford University Press: 325-349.
- Vargas, M. (2013) "If Free Will Doesn't Exist, Neither Does Water" in *Exploring the Illusion of Free Will and Moral Responsibility*. Edited by Gregg Caruso. Lanham, MA: Lexington: 177-202.
- Vargas, M. (2013) "How To Solve the Problem of Free Will" in *The Philosophy of Free Will: Essential Readings From the Contemporary Debate*, ed. by P. Russell and O. Deery, New York: Oxford UP: 400-416.
 * Translated and reprinted as "Wie Das Problem Der Willensfreiheit Gelöst Werden Kann" in S. Walter, ed., *Grundkurs Willensfreiheit Paderborn*, Germany: mentis Verlag (2018): 353-369.
- Vargas, M. (2012) "Why the Luck Problem Isn't" in *Philosophical Issues 22: Action Theory*. Edited by Ernest Sosa, Enrique Villanueva, and Berit Brogaard. Oxford: Blackwell: 419-436.
- Vargas, M. (2014) "Reconsidering Scientific Threats to Free Will" in *Moral Psychology: Vol. 4: Free Will & Moral Responsibility*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. Cambridge, MA: MIT: 217-225.
- Vargas, M. (2011) "Revisionist Accounts of Free Will: Origins, Varieties, and Challenges" in *The Oxford Handbook of Free Will*, 2nd ed. Edited by Robert Kane. New York: Oxford University Press: 457-84.
- Vargas, M. (2011) "The Revisionist Turn: A Brief History of Recent Work on Free Will" in *New Waves in Philosophy of Action*. Edited by J. Aguilar, A. Buckareff, K. Frankish. New York: Palgrave Macmillan: 143-172.
- Vargas, M. (2010) "Responsibility in a World of Causes" *Philosophic Exchange* 40: 56-78.
- Vargas, M. (2009) "Revisionism about Free Will: A Statement and Defense" *Philosophical Studies* 144.1: 45-62.
- Vargas, M. (2009) "Reasons and Real Selves" Special issue on Determinism, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility in *Ideas y Valores: Revista Colombiana de Filosofía* 58.141: 67-84.
- Vargas, M. (2009) "Taking the Highway on Luck, Skepticism, and the Value of Responsibility" *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 6.2: 249-265.
- Vargas, M. (2008) "Moral Influence, Moral Responsibility" in *Essays on Free Will & Moral Responsibility*. Edited by Nick Trakakis & Daniel Cohen. Cambridge Scholars Publishing: 90-122.
- Vargas, M. & Nichols, S. (2007) "Psychopaths and Moral Knowledge" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* 14.2: 157-162.

- Nichols, S. & Vargas, M. (2007) "How to Be Fair to Psychopaths" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* 14.2: 153-155.
- Vargas, M. (2006) "On the Importance of History for Responsible Agency" *Philosophical Studies* 127.3: 351-382.
- Vargas, M. (2006) "Practical Reason, Instrumental Irrationality, and Time" *Philosophical Studies* 126.2: 241-252.
- Vargas, M. (2006) "Philosophy and the Folk: On Some Implications of Experimental Work for Philosophical Debates on Free Will" *The Journal of Cognition and Culture* 6.1&2: 239-254.
- Vargas, M. (2005) "The Revisionist's Guide to Responsibility" *Philosophical Studies* 125.3: 399-429.
- Vargas, M. (2005) "The Trouble with Tracing" *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 29.1 (2005): 269-291.
- Vargas, M. (2005) "Compatibilism Evolves? Some Varieties of Dennett Worth Wanting" *Metaphilosophy* 36.4 (2005): 460-475.
 * Reprinted in *Daniel Dennett: Critical Assessment of Leading Philosophers*, ed. by John Symons, New York: Routledge (2014).
- Vargas, M. (2004) "Libertarianism and Skepticism about Free Will: Some Arguments Against Both" *Philosophical Topics* 32.1&2: 403-426.
- Vargas, M. (2004) "Responsibility and the Aims of Theory: Strawson and Revisionism" *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 85.2: 218-241.
 * Reprinted in *Free Will and Reactive Attitudes*, ed. by Michael McKenna & Paul Russell, Burlington, VT: Ashgate (2008): 297-318.

MEXICAN, LATIN AMERICAN, & LATINA/O/X/E PHILOSOPHY

- Vargas, M. (2022) "[If Aristotle had Cooked: The Philosophy of Sor Juana](#)" *The Journal of Mexican Philosophy*. 1.1: 13-38
- Vargas, M. (2022) "[Comparative What? Latin American Challenges to Philosophy-as-Worldview](#)" *Comparative Philosophy*. 13 (2) 81-93.
- Vargas, M. (2022) "Hispanics, Latinxs, Philosophers" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*. 21 (2): 13-21.
- Vargas, M. (2020) "[The Philosophy of Accidentality](#)" *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*. 6 (4): 391-409.
- Vargas, M. (2019) "[Latinx Philosophy](#)" *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.).
- Vargas, M. (2019) "Canonical Philosophy, Mexican Philosophy" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*: 8-13.
- Vargas, M. (2019) "Disagreement and Convergence on the Case of Latin American Philosophy, For Example: Reply to Pereda and Sanchez" *Comparative Philosophy* 10.1: 209-213.

- Gracia, Jorge & Vargas, Manuel, (2018) "[Latin American Philosophy](#)" *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Edward N. Zalta (ed.) (Substantive revision date: Summer 2018; original version 2013).
- Vargas, M. (2010). "The Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case" *Comparative Philosophy* 1.1: 33-52.
- Vargas, M. (2007) "Real Philosophy, Metaphilosophy, and Metametaphilosophy" *CR: The New Centennial Review* 7.3: 51-78.
- Vargas, M. (2005) "Eurocentrism and the Philosophy of Liberation" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*. Spring: 8-18.
 * Winner of the first APA Prize in Latin American Thought.
- Vargas, M. (2000) "Lessons from the Philosophy of Race in Mexico" *Philosophy Today*, vol. 44, SPEP Supplement vol. 26: 18-29.
 * Revised and translated as "Biología y la Filosofía de la Raza en México: Bulnes y Vasconcelos" *Construcción de las Identidades Latinoamericanas: Ensayos de Historia Intelectual*, ed. by A. Granados and Carlos Marichal. México, D.F.: Colegio de México, (2004).

REVIEWS

- Review of Derk Pereboom, *Wrongdoing and the Moral Emotions*. In *The Philosophical Review*. 133.1 (2024).
- Review of Carlos Sánchez and Robert Sanchez, *Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century: Essential Readings*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. (September 27, 2018). <<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/mexican-philosophy-in-the-20th-century-essential-readings/>>
- Review of Carlos Alberto Sánchez, *Contingency and Commitment: Mexican Existentialism and the Place of Philosophy*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (September 24, 2016). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/70086-contingency-and-commitment-mexican-existentialism-and-the-place-of-philosophy/>>
- Review of Shaun Nichols, *Bound: Essays on Free Will and Moral Responsibility*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (July 27, 2015). <<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/59528-bound-essays-on-free-will-and-responsibility/>>
- Review of John Martin Fischer, *Our Stories: Essays on Life, Death, and Free Will*. In *Ethics*. 120.3 (2010): 600-604.
- Review of Alfred Mele, *Effective Intentions: The Power of the Conscious Will*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. (September 14, 2009). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=17385>>
- Review of James Stacey Taylor, ed. *Personal Autonomy: New Essays on Personal Autonomy and its Role in Contemporary Moral Philosophy*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (August 21, 2006). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=7363>>
- Review of G. Floistad, *Contemporary Philosophy: Volume 8: Philosophy of Latin America*. In *Philosophy in Review* 24, no. 4 (2004): 259-261.
- Review of Nomy Arpaly, *Unprincipled Virtue*. In *Journal of Ethics* 8:2 (2004): 201-204.
- "Crossing the Borders of Philosophy: Some Thoughts on the 14th Interamerican Congress" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*. 99: 2 (Spring 2000): 217-219.

Review of Mario Sáenz, *The Identity of Liberation in Latin American Thought*. *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*. 00:1 (Fall 2000): 73-4.

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Currently: William Albuquerque, Kathleen Connelly, Juliana Gaona (Music), Imani Howard; Ying Liu, Joseph Martinez (co-chair), Sam Ridge (co-chair), Ahmed Siddiqi.

Henry Argetsinger (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego) [chair]
Ph.D. Completed: 2023.

Emma Duncan (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego)
Ph.D. Completed: 2023.

Jada Wiggleton-Little (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego)
Ph.D. Completed: 2023. Current position: Asst. Prof., Ohio State University (tenure-track)

Shawn Wang (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego)
Ph.D. Completed: 2022. Current position: Asst. Prof., University of Washington (tenure-track).

Cami Koepke (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego) Ph.D. Completed: 2022.
Current position: Lecturer, California State University Long Beach

Jonathan Knutzen (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego)
Ph.D. Completed: 2020. Current position: NYU Center for Bioethics Faculty Fellow.

Cory Davia (Department of Philosophy, University of California San Diego)
Ph.D. Completed: 2020. Educational Developer, University of the Pacific.

Christopher Lewis (Department of Philosophy, Stanford University)
Ph.D. Completed: 2020. Position: Assistant Professor, Harvard Law School.

Fernando Rudy (Department of Philosophy, Stanford University)
Ph.D. Completed: 2016. (Co-director, with M. Bratman) Currently: Research Faculty, UNAM.

Christopher Franklin (Department of Philosophy, University of California Riverside)
Ph.D. Completed: 2010. Currently: Professor, Grove City College.

Matthew King (Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland)
Ph.D. Completed: 2008. Currently: Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ORGANIZATIONS

External interdisciplinary research projects and affiliations

Neurophilosophy of Free Will, Chapman U., 2019-2023
Institute for Law and Philosophy, U. San Diego, 2020-2023
Kadish Center for Morality, Law, and Public Affairs at UC Berkeley, 2007-2017

Disciplinary affiliations and editorial boards

Ethics, Editorial Board, 2022-2025
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, Editorial Board, 2016-current
Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Advisory Editor 2014-current
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Subject Editor: Latin Am. Philosophy, 2006-2010, from 2014
Journal of Mexican Philosophy, Editorial Board Member, 2022-current
Comparative Philosophy, Advisory Board Member, 2019-current

Comparative Philosophy, Editorial Committee, 2009-2018
American Association of Mexican Philosophers, from 2014
Society for Mexican American Philosophy, from 2015

University of San Francisco

Departmental & Program Affiliations: Philosophy (2002-2017); The Honors Program in the Humanities (2006-2017); Latin American Studies (2002-2008); The Saint Ignatius Institute (2004-2008)

USF Committee Work: Co-director, Task Force for The Center for Excellence in Research and Scholarship (2010-2011); Faculty Development Fund (2010-2015); Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees University Life Committee, 2005-2006; Humanities Advisory Board, USF College of Arts and Sciences (2002-2008); Latin American Studies Advisory Board, USF College of Arts and Sciences (2003-2007); USF Faculty/Staff Diversity Working Group (2004-2005)

Director, The Saint Ignatius Institute, University of San Francisco, 2006-2008

A Great Books program & living-learning community. Responsibilities included: hiring & recruiting faculty, student recruitment, advising approximately 110 students, developing and instituting a new curriculum (including design of a service-learning course), overseeing study abroad programs, and administering a variety of service and community life events.

UC San Diego

Affiliations: Philosophy (from 2016); Latin American Studies (from 2016); Institute for Practical Ethics (from 2017); Chicana/Latina Studies (from 2019); Mexican Philosophy Lab, co-director (from 2018).

Service (selected): Graduate Admissions (2018); PATH Program, Division of Arts & Humanities (2018-2020); Senate Committee for Academic Information Technology (2018-2021); Philosophy Placement Director (2022-2023); Philosophy Climate Committee (2022-2023).

The American Philosophical Association

National Board of Officers

Pacific Division Representative to the National Board of Officers, 2011-2014

Co-chair, Task Force on Members and Membership Services, 2011-2012

Committee on Committees, 2011-2014

Defense of Professional Rights Committee, 2011-2014

Pacific Division Program Committee 2010-2011

Pacific Division Nominating Committee 2016-2017

Task Force on Diversity in Graduate Curricula 2022-2023