

Rhea Ienni

Loyola University Chicago
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RESEARCH

AOS: Philosophy of Disability; Social and Political Philosophy

AOC: Ethics (including Bioethics); Philosophy of Gender; Social Epistemology

EDUCATION

- 2020-2026 Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago
Dissertation: *Don't Force Me to Explain: Rethinking Access Outside of Compulsory Intelligibility*
Advisor: Eyo Ewara
Expected Defense September 2025
- 2022 Certificate of Advanced Study in Bioethics and Health Policy, Loyola University Chicago
- 2017 M.A. in Philosophy, University of New Mexico.
Thesis with Distinction: *The Space that Precedes Silence: Understanding Barriers to Self-Advocacy through Foucault, Bartky, and Mills.*
Chair: Ann Murphy. Committee Members: Adrian Johnston, Emily McRae.
- 2015 B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, Minor in Psychology, University of New Mexico

PUBLICATIONS

“Access Without the Demand for Explanation: Glissant, Disability, and the Right to Access Opacity” *The Journal of Philosophy of Disability*

“Sometimes My Crip Experience Doesn't Make Sense to Me and that's Okay: Disability, Hermeneutic Injustice, and the Supposed Harms of Self Opacity”—*Submitted for Publication*

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025-2026: Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago Graduate School Fellowship Committee

2025: Graduate Student Teaching Award, Loyola University of Chicago Council of Graduate School Programs

2024: The S. Kay Toombs Prize for the Best Paper Addressing Disability, Ableism, Research in Philosophy of Disability, and/or Research in Critical Disability Studies, *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*

2023: Funded Graduate Assistant: PIKSI-Rock (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key) Summer Institute. Pennsylvania State University

2022: The S. Kay Toombs Prize, *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*.

2020-2025: Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Loyola University Chicago Philosophy Department

January 2018; December 2018: Psychology Departmental Award for work in Pediatric Neuroscience Lab, University of New Mexico: a) “For contribution to projects on brain morphometry and electrophysiology” (MRI and EEG) b) “For contribution to development of a new study protocol and publication on prevention studies”.

Spring 2016: Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of New Mexico Philosophy Department

PRESENTATIONS

“For Whom Must I Be Intelligible? Complicating Fricker’s Notion of Hermeneutic Injustice in the Context of Disability” colloquium presentation, *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, February 2025.

“Sometimes My Crip Experience Doesn’t Make Sense to Me and that’s Ok: Disability, Hermeneutic Injustice, and the Supposed Harms of Self Opacity” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, September 28-30, 2024. K. Toombs award for best work in Philosophy of Disability.

“Rethinking the Harms of Hermeneutic Injustice and Disability through Glissant and Mingus” *Midwest Race Theory Workshop*, Marquette University, April 12th, 2024.

“Accommodation Without the Demand for Explanation: Glissant, Disability, Opacity,” *Phenomenology and Critique Conference*, Loyola University-Marquette University, November 4-6, 2022.

“Accommodation Without the Demand for Explanation: Glissant, Disability, Opacity,” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, College Station, Texas, October 12-15, 2022. K. Toombs award for best work in Philosophy of Disability.

“Glissant and Opacity” *Radical Philosophy Association Conference*, Virtual, November 11-13, 2021.

“Glissant and Opacity” accepted by but not presented at *The Caribbean Philosophical Association*, Virtual, June 18-19, 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Loyola University Chicago Teaching Scholar Fellow 2025-2026

Role: Mentor to other graduate student teachers

Instructor of Record:

Loyola University Chicago:

Ethics Spring 2025
Philosophy and Persons Fall 2024
Philosophy and Persons Spring 2024
Philosophy and Persons Fall 2023

Graduate Assistant:

Pennsylvania State University:
PIKSI-Rock, Summer 2023.

Teaching Assistant:

Loyola University Chicago:

Philosophy and Persons Spring 2023 (Eyo Ewara)
Social and Political Philosophy Fall 2022 (Jennifer Gaffney)
Philosophy and Persons, Introduction to Ethics Spring 2022 (Eyo Ewara) (Vincent Samar)
Philosophy and Persons [4 sections] Fall 2021 (Peter Hartman) (Kirstin Irwin)
Political Philosophy, Spring 2021 (David Ingram)
Philosophy and Persons, Fall 2020 (Eyo Ewara)

University of New Mexico:

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2016 (Joachim Obherst)

WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES

Midwest Race Theory Workshop, Marquette University, April 12th, 2024

Funded Graduate Assistant: PIKSI-ROCK (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key) Summer Institute, Pennsylvania State University

Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Loyola University Chicago, 2022-2023.

SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative, Committee for Accessibility, Disability, and Inclusion, *The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, 2024-2025

Editorial Assistant, *Arendt Studies*, 2022-2023.

Graduate Student Advisory Council Representative for the Association of Graduate Students in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, 2021-2022.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Philosophy and Disability
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

American Philosophical Association