

Diversity Statement

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I was brought up in Argentina, where issues about identity and race are very different from the USA, and where the main social justice concern is usually about (extreme) poverty. During my graduate studies in the US I have been able to broaden my sensibilities with respect to these matters while retaining my earlier perspective. Columbia has been very welcoming to me, and I am sincerely grateful for that. My experiences in graduate school, as well as my studies in social epistemology have made me well aware of the advantages of engaging with diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and arguments.

When I started my Ph.D I was only the second Latino in Columbia's Philosophy Department, including both students and professors. A few years later, a small number of other Latino students joined the department. We worked together to make our community more visible, and to mentor undergraduate students from different minorities. Inspired by the American Association of Mexican Philosophers Conference in 2015, we organized the first national Latinx Philosophers Conference, hosted at and supported by Columbia University. Two subsequent conferences were held at Rutgers in 2017 and 2018, and the 2019 one will take place at the University of Miami. In the context of these conferences I learned that, in the USA, Argentina does not face the same stereotypes as other Latin American countries. During the past few years, I have also mentored several applicants from Latin America on how to navigate the US academic system.

My most important experience comes from my participation in the outreach program *Rethink*. Over the last few years, I led philosophical discussion sections with court-involved youth, victims of domestic violence, and teenagers from violent homes. As a co-organizer of the program, I was delighted when in 2015 it won the [recognition](#) as the best outreach philosophy program by the American Philosophical Association.

In order to incorporate different voices into the discussion, I ensure gender and racial diversity among the authors that we read in my classes, and I am also always aware of those who might otherwise be easily silenced. In this respect, I believe that personality traits (mainly introversion) and background (mainly education) are of crucial importance. I've found it helpful to allow the participating students to choose who among those who volunteer will have the floor next, on the condition that they choose the person who has spoken the least. This helps them recognize the play between dominant and silent voices.

The question of the (epistemic) value of diversity is a major part of my research. My work on probabilistic pooling engages with the question of how to achieve consensus in the case of diverse opinions. I am currently working on issues around the Diversity Prediction Theorem, which

quantifies the positive contribution of diversity prediction to collective accuracy. Finally, the issue of cognitive diversity and wisdom of the crowd are of general concern for social epistemology.

As I mentioned before, I am grateful that I was always treated with consideration, as well as being assessed for the rigor of my thinking. I sincerely hope to empower minorities in the profession in the same way so that they can bring new perspectives to the conversation.