

Michael Joseph Lara

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Education

Master of Arts in Philosophy

May 2021

California State University, Long Beach

Graduate GPA: 4.00

Thesis: *Ability Asymmetry Pluralism: Know-how's Asymmetrical Dependence on Abilities*

(Committee: Dr. Charles Wallis, Dr. Cory Wright, Dr. Max Rosenkrantz)

- Gilbert Ryle presents readers with a dichotomy between anti-intellectualism and intellectualism. I argue that this is a false dichotomy, and a third position—pluralism—exists. Through exegesis of the literature in know-how, I show that all participants are *ability asymmetry pluralists* wherein abilities are always necessary for epistemically evaluable ascriptions of knowing-how.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with Honors

May 2019

California State University, Long Beach

Philosophy Major GPA: 4.00

Honors Thesis: *What Mary Might Have Known*

Advisor: Dr. Wayne Wright

- Through an exposition of Frank Jackson's Knowledge Argument against physicalism, I argue that the burden is on the anti-physicalist to show that physicalism is false, and not on the physicalist to show that physicalism is true. This is particularly evident when an argument against physicalism relies on intuitions about 'qualia'.

Areas of Interest

- Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science, Aesthetics

Awards

Graduate Research Fellowship Award

Fall 2020

California State University, Long Beach

- Only ten per university—one in the College of Language Arts—awarded each year

Outstanding Officer of the Year

Academic Year 2019-20

California State University, Long Beach

- President, Student Philosophy Association; Awarded by Associated Students Incorporated

President's List

Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2019

California State University, Long Beach

Research Experience

Graduate Research Fellowship

Academic Year 2020-21

California State University, Long Beach

Research Project: *The Spectrum of Knowing How*

- One of the most enduring legacies of Gilbert Ryle's *Concept of Mind* consists in its propagation of a mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive false dichotomy regarding the nature of know-how. Anti-intellectualists suppose that know-how consists exclusively in abilities. Intellectualists follow Jason Stanley in claiming that know-how is a species of know-that. Ryle's argument from gradability shows that intellectualists cannot rely explicitly on propositional knowledge in epistemically evaluable ascriptions of know-how.

Professional Presentations

"Gradeability of Knowledge-How." 33rd Annual Associated Student Research Competition (Forthcoming), CSU Long Beach, CA, February 2021.

"On Epistemic Agency." 3rd Annual Student Speaker Series, CSU Long Beach, CA, September 2020.

"Perceptual Attitude Mindreading: Non-Linguistic Behavior Prediction." 32nd Annual Associated Student Research Competition, CSU Long Beach, CA, February 2020.

"Martin Luther King to Kendrick Lamar: Conspiracies Against African American Presidencies in the United States." 3rd Annual History Graduate Student Association Conference, CSU Long Beach, CA, November 2019.

"What Mary Might Have Known: An Exposition of the Knowledge Argument Against Physicalism." 9th Annual Philosophy Day Symposium, CSU Long Beach, CA, May 2019.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Assistant

Fall 2020

Dr. Jan Haldipur

Sociology 100 – Introduction to Sociology

California State University, Long Beach

Graduate Assistant

Fall 2020

Vanessa Dixon

Sociology 342 – Critical Criminology (2 Sections)

California State University, Long Beach

Graduate Assistant**Fall 2020**

Vanessa Dixon

Sociology 423 – Child Abuse and Prevention

California State University, Long Beach

Graduate Assistant**Spring 2019**

Dr. Christa Johnson

Philosophy 100 – Introduction to Philosophy

California State University, Long Beach

Student Life and Development Experience

President, Student Philosophy Association**Academic Year 2019-20**

California State University, Long Beach

- Elected by the previous board and members
- Organized the annual CSULB Philosophy Student Speaker Series

Treasurer, Student Philosophy Association**Academic Year 2018-19**

California State University, Long Beach

- Tracked usage and accumulation of funds by the SPA

Professional Affiliations

- The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (APA)
- The Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA)

Professional Experience

Technical Service Advisor (Sociology Department)**Fall 2020**

California State University, Long Beach

- Assisted the department of Sociology with general technical and network related troubleshooting for students and faculty, specifically contributing to the smooth transition from in-person to online instruction during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Focused heavily on designing proper course templates for moving in-person exams and essays into online formats with ease, developed contemporary discussion channels between faculty and students, constructed Zoom templates and group-learning scenarios for faculty to have better control of their student's group and individual projects, and did so in ways that will contribute to the return of in-person learning post-pandemic.

Instructional Course Design**Academic Year 2020-21**

California State University, Long Beach

This position has been an incredible opportunity to refine my pedagogical skills, think critically about what it means to teach, and widen my perspective on university level course development and administration. My responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Designing course structures with novel educational methods because of restrictions placed on in-person instruction due to Covid-19.
- Preserving critical educational tools and content across multiple technical platforms from Zoom to BeachBoard (the CSULB dashboard application), especially as it relates to the transition to online instruction during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Personal website development for Vanessa Dixon which allows for repeatable use of course materials from semester to semester as well as long-term communication with former students and sharing of educational materials with former and current students.
- Generation of other miscellaneous educational media such as how-to instructional videos for undergraduates on succeeding at a University level.