

# RORY VARRATO

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## EDUCATION

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**Teachers College, Columbia University**, New York, NY

PhD Philosophy and Education, expected May 2025

- Dissertation: “Mortal Foresight: Learning to Live through Extinction”
- Committee: Professors Megan Laverty (advisor), David Hansen, Oren Pizmony-Levy, René Arcilla, Jack Crittenden
- Areas of specialization: critical theory, philosophy of education, psychoanalysis, social and political philosophy
- Areas of competence: American studies, environmental philosophy, foundations of education

MPhil, Philosophy and Education, 2023

**Arizona State University**, Tempe, AZ

MA Political Science, 2014

BA with Honors, History, 2011

*Additional Training*

**Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis**, New Haven, CT

Certificate, Psychoanalysis for Scholars Program, expected May 2025

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Iris Marion Young Paper Award, Radical Philosophy Association (nominated)	2024
Travel Grant, Radical Philosophy Association	2024
Fellowship, American Psychoanalytic Association	2024-2025
Matilda Levy Paper Award on Environmental Sustainability, Center for Sustainable Futures, TC	2024
Environmental Education Paper Award, American Educational Research Association	2024
Provost’s Dissertation Research Award, Teachers College	2023-2024
Provost’s Grant for Conference Presentation, Teachers College	2023
Tuition Waiver, Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis	2023-2024
Travel Grant, American Educational Research Association	2023
Support Grant, Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, U.S. Department of Education	2022
Travel Grant, Arizona State University Graduate and Professional Student Association	2013
National Merit Scholarship, PepsiCo Foundation	2006-2010

## PUBLICATIONS

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Varrato, Rory. 2024 (in press). “Extinction Rebellion: A Great Refusal for the Anthropocene.” In *The Marcusean Mind*, edited by Eduardo Altheman C. Santos, Jina Fast, Nicole K. Mayberry, and Sid Simpson. New York: Routledge.

Varrato, Rory and Michael Dowd. 2024. “Overshoot.” In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Environmental Sociology*, edited by Christine Overdeest, 437-446. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803921044.ch78>.

Hansen, David T., Megan J. Laverty, and Rory Varrato. 2020. “Reimagining Research and Practice at the Crossroads of Philosophy, Teaching, and Teacher Education.” *Teachers College Record* 122, no. 4: 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1177/016146812012200401>.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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Varrato, Rory. “Empathetic Introjection: Coetzee, Fromm, and a Learning Theory for Aesthetic Education through Narrative Art.” Article manuscript to be submitted in fall 2024.

Varrato, Rory. “Mortification as Negentropic Instrument: Toward a Transformative Psychoeducation for Biophilic Socialist Humanism.” Article manuscript to be submitted in winter 2024/2025.

Levitin, Maor, Jeremiah Morelock, and Rory Varrato, editors (listed alphabetically). *The Frommian Mind*. Edited volume in Routledge’s Philosophical Minds book series, under contract with an expected publication date of fall 2026.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Mortification as Negentropic Instrument: Toward a Transformative Psychoeducation for Biophilic Socialist Humanism,” under review for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, April 23-27, 2025, Denver, CO.

“Empathetic Introjection: Coetzee, Fromm, and a Learning Theory for Aesthetic Education through Narrative Art,” accepted for presentation at the national meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association, February 4-9, 2025, San Francisco, CA.

“Mortification as Negentropic Instrument: Toward a Transformative Psychoeducation for Biophilic Socialist Humanism,” accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia, December 4-7, 2024, Christchurch, New Zealand.

“Extinction Rebellion: A Great Refusal for the Anthropocene,” accepted for presentation at the biennial meeting of the Radical Philosophy Association, October 10, 2024, Salt Lake City, UT.

“Empathetic Introjection: Coetzee, Fromm, and a Learning Theory for Aesthetic Education through Narrative Art,” presented at the inaugural conference of the Erich Fromm Society of North America, September 15, 2024, Spokane, WA.

“Empathetic Introjection: Finding a Frommian Psychagogy in Coetzee’s Jesus Fictions,” presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Critical Theory Conference of Rome, May 5, 2024, Rome, Italy.

“Extinction Rebellion: A Marcusean ‘Great Refusal’ of the Anthropocene,” presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Critical Theory Conference of Rome, May 8, 2024, Rome, Italy.

“Irony, Perspective, and Coetzee’s Jesus: Postconventional Morality Passed into Images,” presented at the ‘Orienting a Life: Time and Perspective’ roundtable session of the Philosophical Studies in Education special interest group at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, April 16, 2023, Chicago, IL.

“Mortal Foresight: An Initial Existential Encounter,” presented at the annual meeting of the North Eastern Philosophy of Education Society, October 8, 2022, Villanova, PA.

“Mortal Foresight: Learning to Live Through Extinction: A Proposition for a Proposal,” presented at the annual meeting of the North Eastern Philosophy of Education Society, October 3, 2020, online.

## INVITED TALKS

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“Earth Day at 50,” panel at the Yale Environmental Sustainability Summit, November 2, 2019, New Haven, CT.

“Love in the Age of Extinction: A Critical Analysis of Intimacy in Film and Television,” departmental talk at the annual meeting of the Film and Education Research Association, March 19, 2018, New York, NY.

“Friendship in the Age of Facebook,” invited talk at TEDx Grandview Avenue, February 23, 2013, Pittsburgh, PA, <https://youtu.be/ZVRbSuY3h9w>.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Teachers College, Columbia University**, Department of Arts and Humanities

*Graduate Student Instructor*

- Course taught: Identity and Ideals: Visions of Human Flourishing: Psychoanalysis and Education, Spring 2025
- Course co-taught: Philosophies of Education (Professor David Hansen and PhD student Sara Hardman), Fall 2019

**Fordham University**, Department of Philosophy

*Adjunct Professor*

- Course taught: Philosophy of Human Nature, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

**Columbia University**, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Center for American Studies  
*Lead Teaching Assistant*

- Course assisted: Introduction to American Studies (Professor Roosevelt Montás), Spring 2023

**New York University**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development  
*Course Assistant*

- Course assisted: Learning and the Meaning of Life (Professor René Arcilla), Spring 2022, Spring 2023

**Scottsdale Preparatory Academy**, part of Great Hearts Academies  
*Teacher*

- Courses taught:
  - Humane Letters: The American Tradition (9<sup>th</sup> grade), 2014-2016
  - Economics (10<sup>th</sup> grade), 2015-2016
  - U.S. History (6<sup>th</sup> grade), 2014-2015

**Arizona State University**, School of Politics and Global Studies  
*Teaching Assistant*

- Courses assisted:
  - Political Ideologies (Professor Jack Crittenden), Spring 2014
  - Problems of Democracy (Professor Avital Simhony), Fall 2013
  - History of Modern Political Philosophy (Professor Terence Ball), Spring 2013
  - Government and Politics (Professor Richard Herrera), Fall 2012

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Freedom and Citizenship**, Columbia University, Center for American Studies and Double Discovery Center  
*Graduate Coordinator*, 2017-2019

- Coordinated summer residential program, trained undergraduate teaching assistants, and managed year-long projects

**Research Assistant**, Teachers College, Columbia University, Program in Philosophy and Education  
*Assistant to Professors David Hansen and Megan Laverty*, 2017-2018

- Organized an academic conference at Teachers College for November 9-11, 2017
- Prepared for publication a special journal issue, *Teachers College Record* 122, no. 4 (2020)

## **SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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### **Reviewer**

- American Educational Research Association annual meeting, 2025
- North American Association for Philosophy and Education annual meeting, 2024
- Arizona State University Graduate and Professional Student Association travel grant program, 2012-2013

### **Academic Service**

- Chair, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions, Erich Fromm Society of North America inaugural conference, 2024
- Chair, May 5<sup>th</sup> parallel session, 16<sup>th</sup> Critical Theory Conference of Rome, 2024
- Treasurer, Graduate Student Committee, Program in Philosophy and Education, 2017-2018

### **Volunteer Experience**

- Coordinator, Rethink, Columbia University, Department of Philosophy, 2016-2017
- Research Volunteer, Earthwatch, Fort Arceia and the Roman Empire, June 2013, South Shields, UK

## **ACTIVISM**

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### **Extinction Rebellion NYC**

*Co-founder*

- President, nonprofit Extinction Rebellion Organizing Committee, Inc., 2019-2023
- Spokesperson, 2018-2020

## LANGUAGES

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**German**, reading knowledge at CEFR B2

– CUNY Language Reading Program, Levels 1 and 2, Summer 2020

**Italian**, reading knowledge at CEFR B2, speaking knowledge at CEFR A2

## CITIZENSHIP

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– United States

– Italy (pending; expected December 2025)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Educational Research Association (Div. E:  
Counseling and Human Development)

American Philosophical Association

American Philosophical Practitioners Association  
(Primary Certified in Client Counseling)

American Psychoanalytic Association

American Psychological Association (Div. 39:  
Psychoanalysis)

Association for Philosophy and Literature

Association for Philosophy of Education

John Dewey Society

North Eastern Philosophy of Education Society

North American Association for Philosophy &  
Education

Philosophy of Education Society

Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain

Radical Philosophy Association

## REFERENCES

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### **Dr. Megan Laverty**

Professor and Director, Program in Philosophy and Education

Teachers College, Columbia University

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### **Dr. David Hansen**

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### **Dr. Oscar Hills**

Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine

Education Committee Chair and Faculty, Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis

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### **Dr. René Arcilla**

Professor of Philosophy of Education

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### **Dr. Roosevelt Montás**

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