

## LISA VAN ALSTYNE

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### AOS

- Philosophy of Law
- History of Legal Theory
- Political Philosophy

### AOC

- Feminism
- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. candidate, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1991-1992, 1996-1998 (presently on medical leave).
- Year of study for Ph.D. in Philosophy, UCLA, 1990.
- Year of study for D.Phil in Philosophy, Wolfson College, Oxford University, 1989.
- B.A. (*magna cum laude*) in Philosophy, Harvard University, 1988.

### DISSERTATION

The dissertation explores the question of whether legal normativity is reducible to some other species of normativity or whether there are cases of legal normativity that have their own *sui generis form*. The dissertation focuses on the form of private law as a central case in point and explores and criticizes three influential attempts to explicate the normative force of private law as deriving from some more basic form of normativity – analyzing it in economic, ethical, and conventionalist terms respectively. Richard Posner’s economic analysis, Ronald Dworkin’s moral analysis, and Andrei Marmor’s conventionalist analysis of private law are each shown to fail to do justice to the essentially bipolar form of the relations governed by private law, as well as to the essentially non-instrumental character of the form of juridical judgment that bears on such relations.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- 1993: Best Graduate Student Paper, University of Pittsburgh.
- 1988: Marshall Fellowship for study in the United Kingdom (declined); Rhodes Fellowship (accepted).
- 1987: Marshall Fellowship for study in the United Kingdom (declined).
- 1986: Harvard Phi Beta Kappa, Junior 12

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2016: “Theory, Interpretation, and Law: Some Worries about Dworkin’s Account of their Relation”, *Philosophical Topics* (Vol. 44, Number 1, Spring 2016).
- 2003: “The Autonomy of Legal Norms”, in *Essays on Action, Truth, and Other Things*, eds., Krister Segerberg and Rysiek Sliwinski, Uppsala University Press.
- 1998: “Aristotle’s Alleged Ethical Obscurantism”, *Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press.

## CONFERENCES AND INVITED PAPERS

- 2014: “The Relationship between a Practice and its Point: Some Reflections on Dworkin’s Theory of Interpretation”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Tel Aviv, December 2014
- 2014: “Two Conceptions of the Form of Legal Theory”, Conference sponsored by the Minerva Center for the Humanities, Tel Aviv University and The Faculty of Law, University of Haifa, held in Nazareth, Israel, December 2014.
- 2013: “A Worry Concerning Dworkin’s Theory of Legal Interpretation”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Potsdam, May 2013.
- 2011: Roundtable on Scott Shapiro’s *Legality*, Cardozo Law School, June 2011.
- 2010: “A Matter of Equivocation: A Reading of Dworkin’s Theory of Constructive Interpretation”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, Auburn University, October 2010.
- 2007: “Learning from Aristotle How to Think about the Law”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Bergen, September 2007.
- 2007: “A Critique of Ronald Dworkin’s Conception of the Relation between Law and Morality”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Amiens, March 2007.
- 2007: “A Critique of Ronald Dworkin’s Conception of the Relation between Law and Morality”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Bordeaux, March 2007.
- 2005: “Conventionalism and the Autonomy of Legal Norms”, invited paper, Internordic Conference, Skjolden, Norway, June 2005.
- 2005: “Conventionalism and the Autonomy of Legal Norms”, invited paper, Faculty of law, University of Uppsala, May 2005.
- 2003: “The Autonomy of Legal Norms”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of Potsdam, July 2003.
- 2003: “The Limitations of Dworkin’s Moral Reading of the Law: What Do We Want in a Legal Theory?”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, Technische Universität, Berlin, July 2003.
- 2003: “Convention, Principle and Authority: A Second Look at the Hart-Dworkin Debate”, invited paper, Institute for History and Philosophy of Sciences and Technology, University de Paris 1, June 2003.
- 2003: “Normativity in the Law”, invited paper, Faculty of Law, University of Uppsala, April 2003.
- 2003: “Skepticism in the Law”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, Auburn University, February 2003.
- 2002: “How to Not Be a Skeptic about the Law”, invited paper, Law School, University of Chicago, May 2002.
- 2002: “Varieties of Legal Skepticism”, invited paper, Department of Philosophy, University of East Anglia, October 2002
- 2002: “Ronald Dworkin as Legal Reductionist”, invited paper, Conference on Wittgenstein and the Law, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, September 2002.

- 2001: “Aristotelian Corrective Justice”, invited paper, Passions, Thought and Virtue, Conference in honor of Lilli Alanen, Uppsala University, Dept. of Philosophy, October 2001.
- 2001: “Aristotle’s Theory of Moral Education”, invited paper, seminar in the History of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Uppsala University, October 2001.
- 2001: “Posner’s Economic Analysis of Law”, invited paper, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, June 2001.
- 2000: “Functionalism in the Law”, invited comment, Conference on Skepticism and Interpretation, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, June 2000.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Visiting Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Uppsala (Sweden), 2003 and 2005

- The Autonomy of Legal Norms (2003)
- Two Theories of Law: Dworkin vs. Posner (2005)

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh, 1992-9.

- Philosophy and Feminism
- History of Early Modern Philosophy
- Existentialism
- Ancient Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Film

- Courses Taught as sole instructor while at the University of Pittsburgh

- Philosophy of Religion
- Concepts of Human Nature

## **COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH**

### **Introductory**

- Concepts of Law – An Historical Introduction  
(Plato’s Crito, Book V of Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, selections from Hobbes, Bentham, Holmes, Kant, Hegel, John Austin)
- Introduction to Analytic Philosophy of Law  
(Fuller, Hart, Dworkin, Posner, Martin Stone, Ripstein, Mackinnon)
- Introduction to Philosophy of Religion  
(Anselm, Aquinas, Lessing, Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky, Barth, Wittgenstein)
- Philosophical Theories of Constitutional Interpretation  
(Scalia, Strauss, William Van Alstyne, Dworkin)
- Philosophical Problems of Gender, Sexual Identity, and Race  
(Elizabeth Anderson, Sally Haslanger, De Beauvoir, Foucault, Paul Veyne, David Halperin, Dubois, Tommy Shelby, Anthony Appiah.)
- Introduction to Feminist Philosophy  
(Wollstonecraft, Mill, Taylor, Margaret Fuller, De Beauvoir, Okin, Gilligan, Nancy Bauer, Mary Anne Case, Mackinnon, Nussbaum)

**Intermediate (Prerequisite of at least one philosophy course.)**

- The Concept of Law: HLA Hart and His Critics  
(Hart, Woosley, Dworkin, Raz, Marmor, Shapiro, Coleman)
- Kant's Doctrine of Right  
(Kant, Hegel, Ripstein, Stone, Laurence, Willaschek, Gobsch)
- Law's Empire: Ronald Dworkin and His Critics  
(Dworkin, Hart, Posner, Woosley, Raz, Coleman, Shapiro)
- Feminist Jurisprudence  
(Mackinnon, Estrich, Minnow, Case, Wohlgast)
- The Principle of Freedom of Speech: Philosophical Advocates, Critics, and Problems  
(Mill (On Liberty), Geof Stone)
- Philosophy and Pornography  
(Mackinnon, Nancy Bauer, Rae Langton, Jennifer Hornsby, Linda Williams)
- Philosophical Foundations of Tort Law  
(Weinrib, Calabresi, Posner, Postema, Coleman, Stone, Ripstein)
- Neo-Kantian Jurisprudence  
(Weinrib, Stone, Ripstein)

**Advanced (For advanced majors and interested graduate students)**

- Ernest Weinrib's The Concept of Private Law
- Richard Posner's Economic Analysis of Law
- The Hart-Dworkin Debate
- The Philosophical Foundations of the Distinction between Private and Public Law
- Affirmative action, Anti-discrimination, and Equal Protection: Philosophical Problems
- John Rawls' A Theory of Justice