Karen S. Emmerman, PhD
Independent Scholar
Affiliate Instructor, University of Washington Philosophy Department
www.karensemmerman.com
ksemmerman@gmail.com

Education

PhD, Philosophy, University of Washington 2012

Dissertation: "Beyond the Basic/Nonbasic Interests Distinction: A Feminist Approach to Inter-Species Moral Conflict and Moral Repair"

Committee: Sara Goering (chair), Lori Gruen, Stephen Gardiner, Jean Roberts

M.A., Philosophy, University of Washington 2005
M.A., Philosophy, Georgia State University 2003

B.A., Philosophy and French, Oberlin College, *cum laude* 1996
Université de Paris, III 1994-1995

Areas of Specialization: Ecofeminist Theory, Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy for Children

Areas of Competence: Bioethics, Feminist Ethics, Metaethics

Book

Defending Animals, Disappointing People: An Ecofeminist Approach, Bloomsbury 2026.

Articles, Chapters, and Reviews

"Welcoming 'The Animal': Including Other-than-Humans in the Philosophy Classroom," (2025) in *Innovations in Teaching Philosophy*, ed., Brynn Welch (Bloomsbury Academic).

"Not Just for the Kids: Using Children's Literature and P4C Methods in the College Classroom," (2024) in *The Art of Teaching Philosophy*, ed., Brynn Welch (Bloomsbury Academic).

"Feminist Veganism," (2024) in *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Animals*, ed. Chloë Taylor.

"Inter-Animal Moral Conflict and Moral Repair: A Contextualized Ecofeminist Approach in Action." (2022). Carol J. Adams and Lori Gruen, eds., *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth,* second edition (Bloomsbury Press).

"Is That a Philosophical Question? The Tension between Democratizing the Classroom and Building Skills in Philosophy for Children," *Metaphilosophy*, Vol. 52 (2), April 2021.

"Tiger King, Charismatic Megafauna, and the Problem of Looking," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, American Philosophical Association Blog Series, June 2020.

"Moral Arguments Against Zoos," (2020). Robert Fischer, ed., *Routledge Handbook of Animal Ethics*.

"What's Love Got to Do with it? An Ecofeminist Approach to Inter-Animal and Intra-Cultural Conflicts of Interest," (2019). *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice,* 22 (1), February 2019: 77-91. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-019-09978-6.

"Sanctuary, Not Remedy: The Problem of Captivity and the Need for Moral Repair," (2014). Lori Gruen, ed., *The Ethics of Captivity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

"Inter-Animal Moral Conflict and Moral Repair: A Contextualized Ecofeminist Approach in Action." (2014). Carol J. Adams and Lori Gruen, eds., *Ecofeminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth* (Bloomsbury Press).

Review of Joyce M. Barry, *Standing Our Ground: Women, Environmental Justice, and the Fight to End Mountaintop Removal*, *Environmental Values* 23 (2), April 2014.

Review of Lisa Kemmerer, ed. *Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice*, *Hypatia* 27(3), Summer 2012, doi: 10.1111/j.1527-2001.2012.01279.x

Review of Paul W. Taylor, *Respect for Nature*, 25th Anniversary Edition, *Ethical Perspectives* 18(4), 2011.

Presentations

"Defending Animals, Disappointing People," Book presentation and talk
- Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
- October 2026

"Philosophy with Young People: An Educators' Workshop," Workshop
- Gig Harbor Public Library, Gig Harbor, WA October 2026
- As part of Humanities Washington Speaker Bureau

Defending Animals, Disappointing People book launch, Elliott Bay Books, Seattle, WA September 2026

"Building Philosophical Skills in Early Elementary School," Presentation

- Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) Conference, Tufts University June 2025
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"Is that a Philosophical Question? The Tension between Democratizing the Classroom and Building Skills in Philosophy for Children," Presentation

- Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) Conference, Seattle, WA, June 2022

"Defending Animals, Disappointing People: A Relational, Ecofeminist Approach to Recreational Hunting,"

- University of Nevada Los Vegas Philosophy Department, May 2021
- The Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals Virtual Colloquium Series, February 2022.

Comments on Ben Almassi's *Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds*, Author Meets Critics Session, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, February 2021.

"Philosopher-in-Residence: Reflections on Growing a Program and Questions of Sustainability," Presentation

- Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) Conference, Winter Park, FL, June 2019 (with Debi Talukdar)

"Is that a Philosophical Question? The Tension between Democratizing and Classroom and Building Skills in Philosophy for Children," Paper Presentation

- 2nd International PaSCO Network Meeting, University of Southern Denmark, October 2019

"Creating a Philosophical School Culture," Presentation

- Gerler Symposium on Race & Equity in Philosophy for Children," University of Washington, May 2018

"What's Love Got to Do with It? An Ecofeminist Approach to Inter-Animal and Intra-Cultural Conflicts of Interest," Paper Presentation

- Invited Keynote Speaker, Kline Workshop on Animal Ethics, University of Missouri Department of Philosophy, April 2018

"Ethics and Sanctuary Work," invited presentation

- Project Chimps Sanctuary, Morganton, GA, February 2017
- Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, Gainesville, FL, February 2017

"Ethics and Animal Advocacy," invited presentation

- Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, Gainesville, FL, February 2017

"Emptying the Cages" ethics presentation and panel participation (invited)

- North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance Workshop, Tacoma, WA, September 2016.

"Socially Constructed Grief in Mothers of Premature Infants," invited presentation

- Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit Nursing Workshop "Being with Grieving Families," University of Washington Medical Center, January 2016

Ruth Anderson Public Debate Series, "Resolved: Do Not Eat Anything (sic) with a Face"

- Pacific Lutheran University, October 2014

"Resident Orientation: Addressing Specific Challenges While Empowering New Physicians to Build Dynamic Relationships with Patients and Families" with Brandelyn Bergstedt

- Institute for Patient- and- Family- Centered Care, 6th International Conference on Patient-and-Family-Centered Care, Vancouver, BC, 2014

"The Journey to Patient and Family-Centered Care: Importance of Partnerships for Effective Practice and Culture Change" with Lori Chudnofsky, RNC, MN, Terry Skoda, BSN, Alia Tindall, BSN, RN

- Institute for Patient- and- Family- Centered Care, 6th International Conference on Patient-and-Family-Centered Care, Vancouver, BC, 2014

"Inter-Animal Moral Conflict and Moral Repair: A Contextualized Ecofeminist Approach in Action"

- Finding a Niche for All Animals: A Conference Honoring the Ecofeminist Work of Marti Kheel, Wesleyan University, November 2012.

"Beyond Animal Rights: Inter-Species Conflicts of Interest and the Problem of Moral Remainders,"

- Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, September 2011

"Beyond the Basic/Nonbasic Interests Distinction: Inter-species Conflicts of Interest and the Problem of Overdemandingness"

-Meeting of the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, San Diego, April 2011

"What's Love Got to do with It? Partiality, Human Interests, and Inter-animal Conflicts"

-Sex, Gender, Species Conference, Wesleyan University, February 2011

"Irreconcilable Differences: An Environmental Ethicist Takes on the Grandparents,"

- Hypatia 25th Anniversary Conference, University of Washington, October 2009
-Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, 2010

"Premature Guilt: Motherhood and Self-Reproach in the NICU,"

-Philosophical Inquiry into Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Mothering, University of Oregon, May 2009.
-Pacific Northwest Association of Neo-Natal Nurses, Seattle, WA, 2009

Comments on "Wilderness Radicals or the Role of Wilderness in Creating an Ecological Society," Fourth Biennial Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, University of Washington, 2007

Comments on "Mainstream Environmental Approaches and Ecological Feminism: A Consideration of and Response to the Criticisms," Second Biennial Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, University of Washington, 2003

Teaching Experience

As Main Instructor:

Advanced Topics in Animal Welfare (400 level)	2015, 2018-20, 2023
Philosophy for Children (200 level)	2018-2023
Ethical Reasoning (200 level)	2017
Exploring Inter-Locking Oppressions: Animals, Gender, Difference	2015 (400 level)
Moral Issues of Life and Death	2009, 2013, 2014
Exploring Inter-Locking Oppressions: Animals, Gender, Difference	2013 (200 level)
Introduction to Medical Ethics	2010
Introduction to Philosophy	2008
Contemporary Moral Problems	2x in 2008

As Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Philosophy	2007, 2004
Introduction to Ethical Theory	2003, 2005
Contemporary Moral Problems	2004
Environmental Ethics	2004, 2005

Academic Employment

Education Director, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization	2022-2026
Education Director, UW Center for Philosophy for Children	2020-2021
Part-Time Lecturer, Seattle University Philosophy	Spring 2017
Part-Time Lecturer, UW Department Philosophy	2013-present
Part-Time Lecturer, UW Comparative History of Ideas	2013-present
Philosopher-in-Residence, John Muir Elementary	2013-present
Philosophy Teacher, Nova High School	Fall 2013
Pre-Doctoral Lecturer	2007-2009
Program on Values in Society Research Assistant	2005-2006
Graduate Teaching Assistant	2003-2005

Academic Awards and Honors

Graduate School Flanagan Dissertation Fellowship	2011-2012
Lead Teaching Assistant	2008-2009
Departmental Teaching Award, UW Philosophy	2004 and 2005
UW Graduate School Top Scholar Award	2003-2004
Honors in Philosophy, Oberlin College	1996

Professional Experience

Humanities Washington Speaker, 2026-2028 (two-year term)

Senior Associate Editor, *Precollege Philosophy and Public Practice (P4)* (2020-2026)

Reviewer for *Hypatia, Environmental Ethics, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Science, Technology, and Human Values*, *Sloth: A Journal of Emerging Voices in Human-Animal Studies*, and *Animal Studies Journal.*

Co-Organizer, University of Washington Critical Animal Studies Working Group (2010-2014)

Board Member, University of Washington Center for Philosophy for Children (2012-present)

Program Reviewer Association for Professional and Practical Ethics (2015)

Managing Editor, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2010-2011)

Editorial Assistant, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2009-2010)

UW Medical Center Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council Member (2007-present)

UW Medical Center Steering Committee for Patient and Family Centered Care (2010-present)

Editing for George Rainbolt, *The Concept of Rights* (2001-2002)

Editing for Kit Wellman and R.G. Frey, eds. *A Companion to Applied Ethics* (2003)

Languages
French