

## Tiffany M. Gordon, PhD

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Dalhousie University  
 Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology  
 6299 South St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2  
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 Website: [www.tiffanymgordon.com](http://www.tiffanymgordon.com)

### Areas of Study

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Social and Political Thought, Ethics, Philosophy of Race, Feminist Philosophy

### Areas of Research

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Justice in Liberal democratic societies; Retributivism; Race and Incarceration; Prison reform;  
 Gender-based violence and intimate partner violence; Gun violence; Violence prevention.

### Education

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| 2025 | <b>PhD.</b> , Philosophy, Dalhousie University<br>Dissertation Title: “A Black Feminist’s Defence of Retribution, Incarceration and Reform”<br>Supervisor: Dr. Chike Jeffers<br>Committee Members: Dr. Greg Scherkoske, Dr. Margaret Robinson, Dr. Alice MacLachlan |
| 2016 | <b>M.A.</b> , Philosophy, McMaster University<br>Thesis: “Racial Profiling and Moral Responsibility for Racialized Crime”<br>Supervisor: Dr. Diane Enns   |
| 2013 | <b>B.A. Honours</b> , Dbl. Mjr. Pol. Sci & Phil., York University<br>Distinction: <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>  |

### Professional Development

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| 2024 | Certificate in Comprehensive Project Management, Saint Mary’s University |
| 2024 | The Project Management Course, Saint Mary’s University                   |

### Academic Positions

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| July 2025 –<br>June 2026 | <b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b> , Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University<br>Research Project: “Race and Representation in Nova Scotia’s Criminal Justice System: Analyzing the Experiences of People of African Descent in the Province’s Courts and Correctional Facilities.”<br>Advisor: Dr. Chris Giacomantonio |
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### Fellowships and Awards

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2021	Dr. P. Anthony Johnstone Bursary
2020	Dalhousie University OpenThink Initiative
2020	Traves Bursary
2019 – 2021	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Fellowship Award.
2018	Student Activist of the Year, Dalhousie University Impact Awards
2016 – 2020	Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship
2016 – 2020	Dalhousie University Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Scholarship
2015 – 2016	SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS-M) Award
2014 – 2016	McMaster University Entrance Scholarship
	McMaster University Graduate Scholarship
2013	Vanier Vingt-Deux Honour Roll
2013	Deborah Hobson Award
2008 – 2011	York University Renewable Entrance Scholarship

### Select Publications

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2025	“Enhancing Sustainable Reintegration for Formerly Incarcerated Inmates Through the Mobilizing Partnerships Project.” Proceedings from the <i>Black Communities Mental Health Conference: Overcoming Barriers and Bridging the Gaps Conference</i> . Co-authored with Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch and Nicholas Hickens. Forthcoming.
2023	“Canadian Mental Health and Well-being Handbook: An Introduction to an Africentric Approach to Black Mental Health and Racial Trauma,” <i>Black Mental Health Canada</i> . Co-authored with Dr. Anthony Briggs and Shanique Edwards.
2023	“Hearing Them: African Nova Scotian and Black Experiences of Sex Work, Childhood and Youth Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Nova Scotia,” <i>The YWCA Halifax Trafficking and Exploitation Service System (TESS) Partnership</i> . Co-authored with Teaira Cain, Katrina Jarvis and Justine Colley-Leger.
2021	“Pauline Harmange, I Hate Men Book Review.” <i>The Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy</i> . June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021. <a href="https://c-scp.org/2021/06/04/pauline-harmange-i-hate-men">c-scp.org/2021/06/04/pauline-harmange-i-hate-men</a> .
2020	“On what we can know for sure (And why who is saying it matters).” <i>Dalhousie University OpenThink Initiative</i> . <a href="https://blogs.dal.ca/openthink/on-what-we-can-know-for-sure-and-why-who-is-saying-it-matters/">https://blogs.dal.ca/openthink/on-what-we-can-know-for-sure-and-why-who-is-saying-it-matters/</a> . August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020.

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### Works in Progress

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*A Black Feminist's Defence of Retribution and Reform*, Springer, 2027. Forthcoming.

“An Africentric Approach to Restorative Justice in Nova Scotia: Research Report,” *The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute*. Co-authors: Reakash Walters, Itai Ashley, Alexandra Randolph and Randolph Riley. Forthcoming.

“The Irrationality of Racial Profiling,” co-author Dr. Tyler Hildebrand.

### Research Positions and Projects

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2024 – 2025      **Manager**, Data Collection and Justice System Accountability Unit, The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

2024 – 2025      **Title:** “Truth and Transformation: Advancing Gender Equity for Black Women, Girls, Gender Diverse and Trans People in Canada.” **Role:** Project Collaborator. WomenatthecentrE project, via the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.

2024 – 2025      **Lead Researcher**, “An Africentric Approach to Restorative Justice in Nova Scotia.” Research Project, Funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, delivered through the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.

2023              **Project and Service Delivery Coordinator**, The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

2019 – 2021      **Research Assistant**, “Mobilizing Partnerships Project: Taking Steps Together to Support Re-Integration,” Principal Investigator: Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch, Dalhousie University. Funding Agency: Public Health Agency of Canada.

2019              **Survey Developer**, “Campus Climate Survey,” under direction from Dalhousie University’s 5.2 Steering Committee.

### Grants

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2025 – 2026      **Title:** The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute’s Restorative Justice Pilot Program. **Funding Agency:** The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. **Dates:** April 2025 – March 2026. **Funding Recipient:** The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute. **Total:** \$323, 000.00. **Role on Application:** Lead researcher and program developer.

2025 – 2026      **Title:** Partnering with Communities to Better Understand Structural Determinants of Health Inequities. **Principal Applicants:** Lane J., Jarvis

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K., Wozney L. **Co-Applicants:** Alizadeh N., Cassidy C., Doucette N., Forbes N., Gordon T., Lane K., Macdonald M., MacKenzie A., McCulloch H., MacIsaac K., Martin-Misener R., Oladimeji B., Pennell C., Prince S.M.K.Z., Sarty-Boutilier H., Waldron I., Wang J., Wong H. **Collaborators:** Beresford T., Gordon S., Jacquard D., MacEachern K., Smith N. **Competition:** Catalyst Grant: Moving Upstream – Structural Determinants of Health. **Funding Agency:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research. **Dates:** March 2025 – February 2026. **Total:** \$124, 479.

- 2024 – 2025      **Title:** An Africentric Approach to Restorative Justice in Nova Scotia. **Funding Agency:** The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. **Dates:** April 2024 – March 2025. **Funding Recipient:** The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute. **Total:** \$250, 000.00. **Role on Application:** Co-Applicant.
- 2022 – 2024      **Title:** “Mobilizing Partnerships Project: Taking Steps Together to Support Re-Integration, Phase 2.” Principal Investigator: Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch, Dalhousie University. **Funding Agency:** Public Health Agency of Canada. **Dates:** 2022 – 2024. **Total:** \$400, 000. **Role on Application:** Research Assistant.
- 2022              **Title:** “Bail and Youth Justice in Nova Scotia: Culturally Informed and Community-Based Approaches.” **Funder:** Nova Scotia’s Department of Justice. **Total:** \$450, 000.00. **Role on Application:** Project Researcher and Principal Author.

## Instructor/Teaching

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Instructor Winter 2025	Lecturer, PHIL 4700/5700, <i>Philosophy of Race</i> , Dalhousie University
Winter 2022	Lecturer, CTMP 2115, <i>The Idea of Race in Philosophy, Literature and Art</i> , The University of King’s College
Winter 2022	Lecturer, PHIL 2020, <i>Legal Thinking</i> , Dalhousie University
Fall 2020	Lecturer, PHIL 2160/GWST 2500, <i>Philosophical Issues of Feminism</i> , Dalhousie University
Summer 2020	Instructor, <i>Refining Your Learning Skills for Academically Dismissed Students</i> , Dalhousie University
Winter 2019	Lecturer, PHIL 2720, <i>Ethics and the Good Life</i> , Dalhousie University
Summer 2018	Prison Programming, Facilitation and Publication Coordinator the Central

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	Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, on behalf of <i>Books Beyond Bars</i>
Summer 2017	Creative Writing Facilitator at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, on behalf of <i>Books Beyond Bars</i>
Tutoring Summer 2020	Writing Tutor, Refining Your Learning Skills for Academically Dismissed Students, <i>College of Continuing Education</i> , Dalhousie University
Summer 2018	Writing Tutor, Refining Your Learning Skills for Academically Dismissed Students, <i>College of Continuing Education</i> , Dalhousie University
Fall/Winter 2017 -2018	Senior Tutor, <i>Writing Center</i> , Dalhousie University

### Guest Lectures

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Winter 2024	“Retributivism, Prison Abolition and Gender-Based Violence,” SOSA 328, <i>Sociology of Law</i> , Dalhousie University. March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.
Winter 2023	“Race, Incarceration and Policing in Canada,” <i>Centering Black Canadian Health</i> , Dalhousie University. March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.
Winter 2022	“Black Racialization at an Elite University,” CTMP 4002, <i>The Deconstruction of the Tradition</i> , the University of King’s College. March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022.
Fall 2021	“Civil Disobedience and Protest: Letter from Martin Luther King Jr.,” PHIL 1810, <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University. November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021.
Fall 2020	“The Burden of Political Resistance.” AHIS-3117, <i>The Art of Recrafting Failure</i> , NSCAD University. October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020. Zoom.
Winter 2019	“Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham.” HIST 3551, <i>Topics in Modern History</i> , Dalhousie University. March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2019.
Fall 2018	“Awareness and Reclaiming Rights: Making New Traditions and Assertions in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter Continued.” SOSA 3016, <i>Colonialism and the Body</i> , Dalhousie University. December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2018.
Summer 2017	“African Philosophy.” <i>Dalhousie University Burnside Correctional Facility Education Program</i> . Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.
Winter 2017	“John Rawls ‘A Theory of Justice.’” PHIL 1010Y, <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University. March 29, 2017.

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Fall 2016 “L. A. Paul and Transformative Experiences.” PHIL 2720, *Ethics and the Good Life*, Dalhousie University. November 1, 2016.

### Select Media

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- 2025 “Review into domestic killings in N.S. must be followed by 'radical action,' says advocate.” *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/review-into-domestic-killings-in-n-s-must-be-followed-by-radical-action-says-advocate-1.7437333#:~:text=For%20about%20a%20year%2C%20the%20domestic%20violence%20death,and%20others%20who%20become%20implicated%20in%20the%20violence.> January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.
- 2020 “Taking Steps Together: Dal Health researcher awarded \$75,000 to support the mental health of Black Canadians.” *Dalhousie University Faculty of Health*. [https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/news-events/news/2020/06/19/taking\\_steps\\_together\\_\\_dal\\_health\\_researcher\\_awarded\\_\\_75\\_000\\_to\\_support\\_the\\_mental\\_health\\_of\\_black\\_canadians.html](https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/news-events/news/2020/06/19/taking_steps_together__dal_health_researcher_awarded__75_000_to_support_the_mental_health_of_black_canadians.html). June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- 2020 “Halifax’s Books Beyond Bars.” *This Magazine*. April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. <http://this.org/2020/04/06/halifaxs-books-beyond-bars>.
- 2018 “Nova Scotia NDP Propose Immediate Moratorium on Random Police Checks,” *The Star*, April 6, 2018. <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2018/04/06/nova-scotia-ndp-propose-immediate-moratorium-on-random-police-checks.html>
- 2017 “Lack of Diversity Can Affect Studies and Career Aspirations,” *The Globe and Mail*, October 18, 2017, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/canadian-university-report/lack-of-faculty-diversity-can-affect-studies-and-career-aspirations/article36637410/>
- 2017 “Philosophy Student Brings Creativity, Compassion to Considering Canada’s Prisons,” *Dal News*, August 9, 2017, <https://www.dal.ca/news/2017/08/09/phd-student-brings-creativity--compassion-to-considering-canada-.html>

### Select Presentations and Conferences

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- 2025 Participant. “How to Research Academic Communities Conference.” University of Missouri, Missouri, United States. June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (Refereed).
- 2025 Commentator on Alexia Cipriani’s “A Hegelian Analysis of the Social Functionality of Crime and Retributive Punishment: An Approach to Restorative Justice.” *International Association for Philosophy of law, Social Philosophy*. York University, Toronto, On. May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. (Refereed).
- 2024 Co-Presenter. “The Irrationality of Racial Profiling” (Dr. with Tyler Hildebrand). Policing, Policy, and Philosophy Initiative (3PI) Virtual Symposium. Zoom Discussion. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. (Refereed).
- 2023 Presenter. “Prison Abolitionists, Carceral Feminists and Black Women’s Empowerment Advocates on Violence Against Women.” *Dalhousie University Philosophy Colloquium*.

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- Zoom Discussion. September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
- 2021 Co-Presenter, “The Irrationality of Racial Profiling” (with Tyler Hildebrand). *North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference*. July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. (Refereed).
- 2019 Presenter, “Collective Moral Responsibility for Racialized Crime.” *Black Research Symposium*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. February 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. (Refereed).
- 2017 Presenter, “The Epistemic Implications of the Jian Ghomeshi Case,” *Public Issues Public Reason Conference*. Carleton University, Ottawa, ON. November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. (Refereed).
- 2017 Presenter, “The Philosophical Implications of the Jian Ghomeshi Case,” *Atlantic Region Philosophers’ Association Conference*. St. Mary’s University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. October 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. (Refereed)
- 2017 Panelist, “Prison Abolitionism and Rights,” *Canadian Federation of Students’ Racialised and Indigenous Student Experience Conference*. Ryerson University, Toronto, ON. September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- 2017 Commentator on Sandra DeVries’ “Multiraciality in the Philosophy of Race,” *The Canadian Philosophical Association Conference*. Ryerson University, Toronto, ON. May 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. (Refereed).
- 2017 Panelist, “Best Practices in Canadian Philosophy,” *Dalhousie University Colloquium*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- 2015 Presenter, “Blacks, Human Rights, Theory,” the *Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Conference*, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON. May 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. (Refereed).

## Comprehensive Exams/ Graduate Courses

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Comprehensive Exams Passed  
 Ethics and Social and Political Thought  
 Early Modern Philosophy  
 Epistemology  
 Metaphysics

### Completed Graduate Courses

Winter 2018 PHIL 2130, *Logic and Deduction*, Dr. Watt, Dalhousie University  
 Winter 2017 PHIL 5191, *Topics in History of Philosophy*, Dr. Kapusta, Dalhousie University  
 Winter 2017 PHIL 5115, *Topics in Ethics I*, Dr. Scherkoske, Dalhousie University  
 Winter 2017 PHIL 5111, *Kantian Ethics*, Dr. Scherkoske, Dalhousie University  
 Fall 2016 PHIL 5220, *Contemporary Phil. Issues*, Dr. Fenton, Dalhousie University  
 Fall 2016 PHIL 5190, *Topics in History of Phil. I*, Dr. Hymers, Dalhousie University  
 Fall 2016 PHIL 5051, *Epistemology*, Dr. Hildebrand, Dalhousie University  
 Fall 2015 PHILOS 6A03, *Early Modern Philosophy*, Dr. Sassen, McMaster University  
 Winter 2015 PHILOS 731, *Philosophy of Technology*, Dr. Allen, McMaster University  
 Winter 2015 PHILOS 6F03, *Recent Europe Philosophy*, Dr. Enns, McMaster University  
 Fall 2014 PHILOS 6C03, *Constitutional Law*, Dr. Waluchow, McMaster University  
 Fall 2014 PHILOS 759, *Applied Ethics*, Dr. Gedge, McMaster University

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Fall 2014      PHILOS 764, *Social & Political*, Dr. Ignieski, McMaster University

### Select Departmental, University and Committee Work

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2025 – Present	Board Member, Be The Peace Institute, Nova Scotia
2024 – Present	Representative for the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute, Nova Scotia Domestic Violence Death Review Committee
2018	Conference Collaborator, <i>Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy Annual Conference</i> , Cape Breton University, Cape Breton NS. September 28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
2017	Black Graduate Student Representative, Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students, Dalhousie University
2016 – 2022	Black Student Advising Center Mentor, Dalhousie University
Summer 2017	Facilitator of <i>This Bridge Called My Back</i> Reading Group, Dalhousie University

### Dissertation Abstract

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“A Black Feminist’s Defence of Retribution, Incarceration and Reform” is concerned with the intersection between the criminal justice systems in the U.S. and Canada and gender-based violence in both countries. The main question that I seek to answer is whether prisons should be abolished. The answer I propose is that prisons must be reformed and alternative systems of accountability such as restorative justice should be employed but punishment and incarceration should still play a role in holding people accountable for certain kinds of harm. To reach this conclusion I consider, and reject, traditional and contemporary arguments provided against retributivism. I also consider cases of gender-based violence against Black women and argue that, in certain instances, justice in a liberal democratic society requires responding to wrongdoing with punishment in the form of incarceration. I advocate in favour of six “Pillars” of reform: prison reform, legal reform, restorative justice, moral education, reparations and a basic minimum income.