

Tiffany M. Gordon, PhD

Dalhousie University
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
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Areas of Study

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

Areas of Research

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

Education

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

Professional Development

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

Academic Positions

July 2025 – June 2026	Postdoctoral Fellow , Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University 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.” Advisor: Dr. Chris Giacomantonio
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Fellowships and Awards

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

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 th , 2021. c-scp.org/2021/06/04/pauline-harmange-i-hate-men .
2020	“On what we can know for sure (And why who is saying it matters).” <i>Dalhousie University OpenThink Initiative</i> . https://blogs.dal.ca/openthink/on-what-we-can-know-for-sure-and-why-who-is-saying-it-matters/ . August 14 th , 2020.

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Works in Progress

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

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

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

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

Winter 2024	“Retributivism, Prison Abolition and Gender-Based Violence,” SOSA 328, <i>Sociology of Law</i> , Dalhousie University. March 14 th , 2024.
Winter 2023	“Race, Incarceration and Policing in Canada,” <i>Centering Black Canadian Health</i> , Dalhousie University. March 30 th , 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 th , 2022.
Fall 2021	“Civil Disobedience and Protest: Letter from Martin Luther King Jr.,” PHIL 1810, <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Dalhousie University. November 29 th , 2021.
Fall 2020	“The Burden of Political Resistance.” AHIS-3117, <i>The Art of Recrafting Failure</i> , NSCAD University. October 28 th , 2020. Zoom.
Winter 2019	“Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham.” HIST 3551, <i>Topics in Modern History</i> , Dalhousie University. March 13 th , 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 rd , 2018.
Summer 2017	“African Philosophy.” <i>Dalhousie University Burnside Correctional Facility Education Program</i> . Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. July 4 th , 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

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 22nd, 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. June 19th, 2020.

2020 “Halifax’s Books Beyond Bars.” *This Magazine*. April 6th, 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

2025 Participant. “How to Research Academic Communities Conference.” University of Missouri, Missouri, United States. June 16th – 18th, 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 31st, 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 1st, 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 22nd, 2023.

2021 Co-Presenter. "The Irrationality of Racial Profiling" (with Tyler Hildebrand). *North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference*. July 15th – July 17th, 2021. (Refereed).

2019 Presenter, "Collective Moral Responsibility for Racialized Crime." *Black Research Symposium*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. February 8th – 9th, 2019. (Refereed).

2017 Presenter, "The Epistemic Implications of the Jian Ghomeshi Case," *Public Issues Public Reason Conference*. Carleton University, Ottawa, ON. November 9th, 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 13th 2017. (Refereed)

2017 Panelist, "Prison Abolitionism and Rights," *Canadian Federation of Students' Racialised and Indigenous Student Experience Conference*. Ryerson University, Toronto, ON. September 30th, 2017.

2017 Commentator on Sandra DeVries' "Multiraciality in the Philosophy of Race," *The Canadian Philosophical Association Conference*. Ryerson University, Toronto, ON. May 29th 2017. (Refereed).

2017 Panelist, "Best Practices in Canadian Philosophy," *Dalhousie University Colloquium*. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. May 5th, 2017.

2015 Presenter, "Blacks, Human Rights, Theory," the *Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Conference*, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON. May 8th – 9th, 2015. (Refereed).

Comprehensive Exams/ Graduate Courses

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. Igneski, McMaster University

Select Departmental, University and Committee Work

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 th – 30 th , 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

“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.