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Report of Research Activity
June – December 2021

The short-term postdoctoral research grant by SAP has allowed me to work on four projects (one book chapter, two articles and one public philosophy blog piece) in the last six months. In what follows, I will talk about each project briefly and state what stage they are currently in.

1. Claims to Newsworthiness: Attention Orienters, Relevance Setters (Book Chapter)

In November 2021, I submitted a book chapter titled “Claims to Newsworthiness: Attention Orienters, Relevance Setters” for a collection called *Toward a Political Philosophy of Science: Democracy, Science, and Technology*, edited by Obed Frausto. Currently, the editor is in conversation with a couple of presses. This chapter is an effort to reframe ‘newsworthiness’ for political epistemology and to offer a way of understanding what ‘claims to newsworthiness’ do and why that is important. It proceeds in three parts. In the first part, I briefly introduce some formulations of newsworthiness in journalism studies in order to clarify further the direction I am taking in this chapter. In an effort to situate newsworthiness in political epistemology, in the second part, I reframe newsworthiness in relation to relevance and discuss epistemic containment. The third part demonstrates the relation between claims to newsworthiness and epistemic containment by drawing on Kyle Whyte’s discussion of crisis epistemology in the context of both environmental and refugee “crises.”

2. Administrative Violence (Article)

In August 2021, I and two co-authors completed our article on Administrative Violence. In this article, we argue that violence in settler colonial societies is often taxonomized to deflate the role administrative systems play in shoring up white supremacy and structural inequality. We offer an account of administrative violence as a critical feature of the design of social structures and of the domains that govern the distribution of harm in settler-colonial societies like the U.S. We prioritize the epistemic dimensions of administrative violence while accounting for the routine, systemic, and coordinated patterning of harms that result from institutionalized violence. We have received a ‘revise and resubmit’ from a journal and we will be working on it in the next few months.

3. Structured Failures: *Knowing* in Asylum (Article)

In August 2021, I completed the first draft of the article “Structured Failures: *Knowing* in Asylum.” I presented the article first at the Manchester for Political Theory Workshop (“Epistemic Injustice in Asylum Policy and Practice”) in September 2021, and at the Public Philosophy Network Conference (“Engagement, Policy, and Practice”) in October 2021. The paper aims to shed some light on the constitutive elements of the epistemic landscape of the asylum regime in the U.S and identifies, at least, four elements: the range of epistemic affordances, the charade of epistemic agency, the governance of comprehensibility, and the assignment of worth. Currently, I’m finalizing my draft (based on the feedback from the conferences) and preparing it for submission to a journal.

4. Eligible to Travel: An Epistemic Approach to Visas (Public Philosophy Blog Piece)

This blog piece will look into the epistemic dimensions of the non-immigrant visa procedures and focus on two problems in that context: 1. Problem of Standards, and 2. Problem of Disclosure. The ‘problem of standards’ calls attention to the arbitrary, ambiguous, and inconsistent standards used in non-immigrant visa procedures. While the ‘problem of standards’ points out that the operative logics of visa eligibility is underdetermined, the ‘problem of disclosure’ calls attention to how the logics of rejection are never disclosed. The blog piece will be submitted to the Blog of the APA by January 9, 2022.