



Unshareable Fears, Fearing Alone, and Narrative Self-Estrangement

MARCH 29, 2024; 3-5PM at South Kedzie Hall RM 530

Among moral claims of which I am most suspicious, two seem particularly doubtful: the first insists on minimizing regret; the second asserts the need to resist our fears. Because much like regret, fear is too complex a human experience for a single discussion, I focus on the inward-looking fear of one's own badness and otherness. I call this eidetic fear—eidetic because of its phenomenological vividness—and argue that it can lead to narrative self-estrangement. I claim that eidetic fears are mistakenly left out of discourses about fear as a moral emotion. I suggest that rather than rejecting eidetic fears as purely destructive to the self, we re-consider their role in helping us to embrace the contingency and relationality of all our identities.

Who is Anna Gotlib?

Anna Gotlib is an associate professor of philosophy at Brooklyn College CUNY, specializing in feminist bioethics, neuroethics, moral psychology, and philosophy of law. She received her Ph.D. from MSU and J.D. from Cornell Law School. Anna is editor-in-chief of IJFAB, and was a Fulbright Specialist Scholar at the University of Iceland. She is working on an international project on feminist ethics funded by the Icelandic Research Fund.



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