

# Tareeq Jalloh

Beacon Junior Research Fellow at University College Oxford, University of Oxford  
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**AOS:** Aesthetics, Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

**AOC:** Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Political Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy of Language

## Education

2021-2025 PhD Philosophy, University of Sheffield

Title: Prospects for a Progressive Critique of Rap Music (Passed with no corrections)

Supervisors: Jules Holroyd (primary), Komarine Romdenh-Romluc (secondary)

External examiner: Karen Simecek

2020-2021 MA Philosophy, University of Sheffield

Grade: Distinction; Dissertation Supervisor: Jules Holroyd

2017-2020 BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method; London School of Economics and Political Science

Grade: First-Class Honours

## Employment

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2025 – 2028 Beacon Junior Research Fellow at University College Oxford, University of Oxford

2024 – 2025 Research Associate, 'Histories and Futures of Enterprise in the Post War Black British Popular Music Archive' (British Pop Archive), The University of Manchester

2024 Teaching Associate, Co-convenor of Level 3 / MA module, University of Sheffield

2022-2023 Convenor of Decolonisation Series, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of Sheffield

2022-2023 BAME Peer Mentoring Supervisor, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of Sheffield

2021-2022 Race Equality Intern, Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield

## Publications

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### Peer-reviewed journal articles

"Does Drill Rap Cause Violence, and, Even if it Does, Should it Be Censored?," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (2026).

This paper argues against censoring drill on the assumption that it causes violence. It makes the case that critics advancing the claim that rap causes violence will need to meet an evidentiary and justificatory burden and be sensitive to the racist social meaning of advancing such a claim.

"Prospects for a Progressive Critique of Self-Sexualizing Rap Music," *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2026).

This paper introduces a framework for understanding competing responses to self-sexualising rap by using Sukaina Hirji's (2021) analysis of oppressive double binds.

"Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps," *Journal of Applied Philosophy* (Winner of the 2025 Journal of Applied Philosophy's Best Paper Prize) (2025).

This paper uses a speech act theoretic approach to argue against the view (often advanced by the police) that drill rap music incites gang violence. Therefore, there are insufficient grounds to restrict such speech on the basis that it incites violence.

“Understanding Epistemic Injustice as Contributory Injustice: A Comment on Picinali’s Argument,” *Quaestio Facti* (2024).

This paper argues that, even if we accept that there are concerns about establishing the occurrence of testimonial injustice in criminal trials, we can reformulate the epistemic injustice that renders the trial unfair as a contributory injustice.

“Does the Critical Scrutiny of Drill Constitute an Epistemic Injustice?,” *British Journal of Aesthetics* (2022).

This paper argues that the overpolicing of drill rap and the use of drill rap music as evidence in criminal trials constitutes two types of epistemic injustice: testimonial and contributory.

## **Invited**

Summary paper on the Philosophy of Rap

This paper provides a summary of current topical research on the aesthetics of rap. It is written to be a beginning point for non-specialists, providing students teachers and scholars who are interested in the philosophy of rap to find and interpret the best research.

Stop Fretting About Threats

This paper argues that the epistemic and legal standards needed to establish whether drill music contains genuine threats are often not met by law enforcement, who advise that drill should be removed from streaming platforms because they take lyrics to include genuine threats to other gang members.

## **Book reviews**

Jalloh, T.O (2023) Review of: *Fight The Power: Law and Policy through Hip-Hop Songs*. Edited by Gregory S. Parks and Frank Rudy Cooper. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. *Popular Music* 42(1), 110-112.

## **Public philosophy**

Co-organiser [“I Didn’t Know Philosophers Did That”](#) (2025)

[Drill Music and Epistemic injustice](#), Open for Debate (2023)

[Race Equality Work in Philosophy](#), Philosophers Cocoon (2022)

## **Research impact, knowledge exchange and networks**

A strength of my research project is its great potential for impact in influencing policy surrounding the policing and prosecuting of drill music.

- My 2022 paper has already demonstrated impact by being used in a criminal trial case comment – by rap expert Dr Abenaa Owusu-Bempah— to contest the use of drill rap music as evidence.
- I have also served as a rap expert in a criminal trial where the prosecution claimed that a phone rap written by the defendant is relevant evidence. Using my research, I provided the defence with a report emphasising that the lyrics should not be taken as evidence that the defendant has committed the offence by paying attention to three areas: 1) that drill rap is mainstream; 2) a brief historical context to justify that drill rap is commercially successful and an exciting part of British youth culture; 3) why drill rap lyrics shouldn’t be taken as biographical. This report assisted in getting some of the rap song lyrics that the prosecution wanted to use removed from the trial.
- I am a participant of the **Prosecuting Rap Network** and the **Art Not Evidence Network**. Both networks look to challenge the use of rap in the criminal justice system, which in turn challenges the stigmatisation and criminalisation of Black and working-class young men and boys.

## Grants, Awards and Honours

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- Journal of Applied Philosophy's "Best Paper Prize" 2025 (£1400)
- British Society of Aesthetics Postdoctoral Fellow, offered but not taken up due to the Junior Research Fellowship (approx. £66,000)
- 2021-2025 Faculty of Arts and Humanities Scholarship Award, University of Sheffield, full fees and living expenses for 3.5 years of PhD research (approx. £80,000).
- 2024: £4000 from Global Wales Partnership Fund for Philosophy of Drill workshop University of Cardiff
- 2024: British Society for Aesthetics Travel Grant, £800 to present work on whether drill incites violence at UC Berkeley
- 2024: American Society of Aesthetics Irene H Chayes Travel Grant, \$400 to present work on speech act theory and drill music at UC Berkeley
- 2024: American Society of Aesthetics Irene H Chayes Travel Grant, \$250 to present work on Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps in Philadelphia
- 2024: Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, Funded £2400 to co-develop module in Applied Philosophy
- 2022: Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of Sheffield, funding award of £3913 to lead a Decolonisation Lecture Series
- 2022: Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of Sheffield, funding award of £2806 to lead a BAME Peer Mentoring Network
- 2021-2024: Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, multiple travel grants (approx. £1500)

## Selected Talks

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### Invited

- 2026 Africana Philosophy in the UK Panel  
Society of Applied Philosophy, Annual Conference
- 2026 Violence, Rhymes and Double Binds  
Race and Resistance Seminar, University of Oxford
- 2026 Violence, Rhymes and Double Binds  
Centre for Engaged Philosophy Workshop, University of Sheffield
- 2026 Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps  
University of Waterloo's Feminist Philosophy Reading Group
- 2025 Does Drill Rap Cause Violence? (Over)Policing Rap Music  
St John's College, University of Oxford
- 2025 Stop Fretting About Threats  
LSE Criminal Justice Forum
- 2025 Does Drill Rap Cause Violence? (Over)Policing Rap Music  
The Open University
- 2025 Philosophy of Rap  
Ethics Untangled Podcast, University of Leeds
- 2025 Does Drill Rap Cause Violence? (Over)Policing Rap Music  
St John's College, University of Oxford
- 2025 Philosophy and Criminalising Rap  
Unlawful Soundings: Rap, Culture, and the Criminal Law, International Webinar
- 2025 Race Equality and Diversity Work at Sheffield and Manchester University

- Workshop on Diversity and Decolonisation, University of Birmingham
- 2025 Exploring the Career Benefits of Postgraduate Study in Philosophy: BME Perspectives  
King's College London
- 2025 Does Drill Cause Violence  
World Philosophies Lecture Series, University of Edinburgh
- 2025 Epistemic Injustice in the Criminalisation of Rap Music  
Socio-Epistemic Uses and Abuses of Art University of Leeds
- 2025 I Didn't Know Philosophers Did That, Institute of Philosophy, Senate House (London)
- 2024 Does Drill Cause Violence?  
Folks Need to Chill About Drill, Workshop at the University of Cardiff
- 2024 Symposium (with Professor Anne Eaton and Professor Shirley-Anne Tate) on Aesthetics and Oppression  
British Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, University of Oxford
- 2024 Drill Music and Epistemic Injustice  
Episteme Reading Group, University of Cambridge
- 2023 Against Restricting Rappers' Freedoms  
Engaged Philosophy, Inclusive Philosophy Workshop, University of Sheffield

## Refereed

- 2024 Against Restricting Rappers' Freedoms  
Royal Musical Association Philosophy of Music Annual Conference, King's College London
- 2024 Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps  
Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference, University of Swansea
- 2024 Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps  
Art, Imagination and Morality Workshop, University of Oxford
- 2024 Against Restricting Rappers' Freedoms  
American Society of Aesthetics Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2024 Speech Acts and Unspeakable Raps  
American Society of Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, Berkeley, California
- 2023 Against Restricting Rappers' Freedoms  
Engaged Philosophy, Inclusive Philosophy Workshop, University of Sheffield **(by invitation)**
- 2023 Against Restricting Rappers' Freedom  
MANCEPT Workshop: Controversial Art and Freedom of Expression, University of Manchester
- 2023 Self-Objectification and Oppressive Double Binds, Budapest  
European Society for Aesthetics Annual Conference
- 2023 Prospects for a Progressive Critique of Rap: The Challenge of Oppressive Double Binds  
Aesthetics and the Body Conference, University of Kent
- 2023 Prospects for a Progressive Critique of Rap: The Challenge of Oppressive Double Binds  
Understanding Value Conference, University of Sheffield
- 2022 Does the Critical Scrutiny of Drill Constitute an Epistemic Injustice  
Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh

## Lecturing and Teaching

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### Tutorial Leader (University of Oxford)

2026: Ethics (second- and third-year undergraduates). Syllabus Design, designing and facilitating tutorials, setting and marking of essays.

2026: Social Philosophy (Advanced Studies in England undergraduate). Syllabus Design, designing and facilitating tutorials, setting and marking of essays.

### **Lecturer (University of Manchester)**

2025: Music and Identity. Co-convenor of module for MA students. Writing and delivering a lecture, designing and facilitating a seminar, student feedback and support, setting and marking of assessments.

### **Lecturer (University of Sheffield)**

2024: Applied Philosophy: Rap, Implicit Bias and Sexual Attraction. Co-convenor of module for final year undergraduate and MA students. Module design, writing and delivering lectures, designing and facilitating seminars, student feedback and support, setting and marking of assessments.

### **Guest Lecturer (University of Cardiff)**

2023: Ethics of Knowing. Writing and delivering a lecture, designing and facilitating a seminar, student feedback and support.

### **Seminar Leader (University of Sheffield)**

2023: Social Philosophy. Final year undergraduate and MA module. Seminar facilitation, marking assessments, student consultation and feedback.

2022: History of Western Ethics. First year undergraduate module. Seminar facilitation, marking assessments, student consultation and feedback.

## **Academic Service**

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Reviewer, British Journal of Aesthetics (2025)

- Acted as a peer reviewer for the journal

### **Event Organisation:**

2022 – 2023: Convenor of Decolonisation Lecture Series: This monthly series aimed to include speakers whose work challenges dominant colonial perspectives in the humanities and social sciences

- 2023: Tommy J Curry – Feminism as Racist Backlash: How Racism Drove the Development of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Feminist Theory
- 2023: Manjeet Ramgotra – Decolonising Political Theory
- 2023: Leon Sealey-Huggins: Climate Justice in Spite of Empire: A Case Study Between the Caribbean and UK
- 2023: Rachana Kamtekar – Proto-Racism
- 2023: Kadija Sesay – Where Does Colonisation End and Decolonisation Begin for Black Publishers
- 2022: Elvis Imafidon – Decolonising Philosophy: Paying Attention to Pedagogy
- 2022: Felix Maringe – Decolonising Higher Education in Global North Settings: Opportunities and Impediments

2022 – 2024: Organiser of Minorities and Philosophy Annual Lectures: These lectures involved the promotion of philosophical work from marginalised people or perspectives

- 2024: Patrice Haynes – Taking African Ontologies Seriously
- 2023: Esa Diaz-Leon – Gender Identity, First-Person Authority, and Philosophy of Mind
- 2022: Azita Chellappoo – Feminist Epistemology and Knowledge Production in “Obesity Science”

2024: Co-organiser of “Philosophy of Drill Event” at The University of Cardiff: Interdisciplinary workshop, including discussions on philosophy, sociology and legal questions surrounding the criminalisation of drill music.

2023: Co-organiser of the Media and Oppression Workshop (Sheffield): The goal of this event was to share work and learn collaboratively, on topics surrounding screen media’s role in perpetuating and combatting oppression

2022-2024: Lead of Minorities and Philosophy Sheffield Chapter: MAP is a collective of students of all levels, wanting to address structural injustices in academic philosophy and remove barriers that impede participation in academic philosophy for members of marginalised groups. The events we run attempt to foreground the work and experiences of minorities within professional philosophy (those groups that are and have been currently underrepresented).

2021-2022: Organiser of Sheffield’s Philosophy of Race Reading Group.

## **Referees**

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Available upon request