

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS

# TEMPEST M. HENNING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

"TURNING DOWN THE  
GASLIGHTING DIAL  
WITH EPISTEMIC  
CLOSURE"



*DATE: Friday, Jan. 24th, 2020*

*TIME: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

*EVENT LOCATION: HIB 55 Seminar Room*

This paper seeks to thwart the charge that assertions of racial microaggressions are infallible, and thus they should not be asserted and more strongly, the concept is a faulty tool. Ultimately, I argue that despite racial microaggressions being heavily tied with phenomenological experiences, they are indeed fallible. What makes a racial microaggression a microaggression isn't merely because I say I experienced one – there are particular necessary and sufficient conditions that constitute the case. I believe skeptics of racial microaggressions are conceiving such experiences to be infallible because the skeptics are not adequately tracking epistemic entailment, which is why I turn to the closure principle to highlight what exactly the skeptics of racial microaggressions are misunderstanding. I also utilize the epistemic closure principle, because I believe it can serve as a defense against racial gaslighting.

*For further questions, please contact Gloria Simpson at  
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