

Karin Nisenbaum

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Employment:

University of Denver, Visiting Scholar and Lecturer, Center for Judaic Studies, 2013–2014
Colorado College, Visiting Instructor, Philosophy Department, Fall 2013, and Spring 2014

Areas of Specialization: Kant & German Idealism, 18th & 19th Century Continental Philosophy, and Modern Jewish Thought

Areas of Competence: Epistemology & Metaphysics, Phenomenology, and Critical Theory

Education

PhD Philosophy and Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, November 2013
MA Continental Philosophy with 1st class honors, University College Dublin, 2006
Thesis: *Extraversion: From the Constituting Ego towards the Constituted Witness*
BA Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2003

Non-degree Programs

Leo Baeck Fellow at the Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, January–May 2013
Visiting Assistant in Research, Yale University, January–April 2012
Second Annual Summer School in German Philosophy, Bonn University, July 2011

Dissertation Abstract: For the Love of Metaphysics: From the Revolution in Thinking towards the Renewal of Thinking

Committee: Paul Franks, Robert Gibbs, Ulrich Schlösser, and Sergio Tenenbaum
External Examiner: Sebastian Gardner

One of Kant's most original insights is the notion that we can construct a philosophical argument—a transcendental argument—whose central premise makes a first-personal appeal to our conception of ourselves as moral agents. The epistemic force that accrues to the concepts, ideas, or principles that are justified by this form of philosophical argument can be characterized as “moral belief” or “moral certainty.” My dissertation has two interrelated aims: First, to exhibit the most significant repercussions of this basic Kantian insight for philosophical methodology, for our conceptions of human freedom and moral agency, and for the possibility of religious belief. Second, to show that Franz Rosenzweig's theism is supported by what we may regard as a transcendental argument that reveals the conditions of possibility for understanding ourselves as beings endowed with ethical value.

Awards and Honors

Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowship 2014—2017

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, October 2012—September 2013

University of Toronto

Shiff Family Graduate Student Award in Jewish Studies, September 2012

Tikvah Fund Graduate Fellowship, September 2011

Tikvah Fund Scholarship, September 2010

Lieba Sharon Wilensky Lesk Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies, September 2009

Tikvah Fund Graduate Fellowship, September 2009

Martha Lile Love Essay Award for the best essay written by a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy during the preceding academic year, July 2009

George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy, 2008

Cheesbrough Fellowship in Philosophy, March 2008

Cheesbrough Fellowship in Philosophy, December 2007

Connaught Tuition Scholarship, June 2007

University College Dublin

Professor Magennis Memorial Prize in Philosophy (awarded to the top MA student each year), 2005–2006

MA with 1st class honors, 2006

University of Chicago

BA with general honors, 2003

Phi Beta Kappa, June 2003

Dean's list, 1999–2003

Publications

Refereed Journal Article

“Understanding the Body's Critique,” *Perspectives: International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy*, Autumn 2008.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“From the Revolution in Thinking to the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption*,” in *After the Postsecular and the Postmodern: New Essays in Continental Philosophy of Religion*, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010.

“Tzimtzum in Schelling's Middle Period,” in *Religion and European Philosophy: Key Thinkers from Kant to the Present*, Acumen Publishing, forthcoming in 2014.

Book Review

Review of Eric Santner's *On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald*, in the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, Vol. 16 Issue 1, 101.

Literary Publications

“Coetzee, Profesor,” *Letras Libres*, 6:61, 102-03. January 2004.

“Dimitri Karamazov, el Amor de Hijo,” *Vitral*, Winter 2003.

Other Scholarly Work

“A Different Tenor: Songs of Love and Sorrow—Re-Engaging the Social Ethics of Music,” *Toronto Journal of Theology*, Vol. 27 Issue 1, 87–106.

Index for Rebecca Comay's *Mourning Sickness: Hegel and the French Revolution*, Stanford University Press, 2010.

Presentations

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”

University of Tübingen, April 2013.

New York German Idealism Workshop, The New School, October 2012.

“Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig”

Roundtable on Methodology in Philosophical and Religious Thinking, University of Denver, May 2014.

Workshop of the Leo-Baeck Fellowship Programme, Rastatt, Germany, July 2013.

International Society for Religion, Literature, and Culture, University of Copenhagen, October 2012.

“Transcendental Arguments for Theism in Schelling and Rosenzweig”

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 2012.

Franz Rosenzweig Congress, University of Toronto, September 2012.

“Rosenzweig and Schelling on the Ethical Significance of Theological Categories”

Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, October 2011.

Centre for Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto, April 2011.

“Why is there a Realm of Experience? Love and Defiance as the Two Forms of Human Individuation”

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Colorado College, June 2014.

Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, February 2013.

“Freedom, Moral Agency, and Religious Belief in Kant, Schelling, and Rosenzweig”

Workshop of the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, Brighton, UK, November 2012.

“Teleological Explanation in Hegel’s Subjective Logic”

Second Annual International Summer School in German Philosophy, Bonn University, July 2011.

“From the Revolution in Thinking towards the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption*”

Biennial Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, University of Oxford, September 2010.

“Songs of Love and Sorrow: Re-Engaging the Social Ethics of Music”

Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, April 2010.

“Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology: Expressive Gestures and the Contribution of Perception to our Idea of Truth”

100 Years of Merleau-Ponty: A Centenary Conference, Sofia University, Bulgaria, March 2008.

“Understanding the Body’s Critique”

Transcendence Incarnate: The Corporeality of the Spiritual and the Spirituality of the Corporeal, University of Oxford, September 2007.

“Repeating to Repair: Freud, Ricoeur and Benjamin”

Perspectives on the Body and Embodiment, University College Dublin, Ireland, June 2007.

“In Response to M.Bréhier: Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology”

First Annual Postgraduate Conference in Philosophy, University College Cork, Ireland, May 2006.

Teaching Experience

University of Denver

Sole instructor for “Perfectionism and Idealism in German and Jewish Philosophy,” PHL 3701, Winter 2014.
Colorado College

Sole instructor for “Philosophy and Literature: The Brothers Karamazov,” PHL 141, Spring 2014.
Sole instructor for “Modern Jewish Philosophy,” PHL 203, Fall 2013.

University of Toronto

Tutorial leader for “Introduction to Continental Philosophy,” PHL 217S, Summer 2012
Teaching assistant for “Social and Cultural Philosophy” PHL 323H1F, Fall 2011.
Teaching assistant for “Literature & Philosophy” PHL 388H1F, Summer 2011.
Sole instructor for “Philosophy of Judaism” PHL 224H5F, Fall 2010.
Teaching assistant for “Social and Cultural Theory” PHL 323H1S, Winter 2010.
Teaching assistant for “Introduction to Existentialism” PHL 220H5F, Fall 2009.
Tutorial leader for “Introduction to Continental Philosophy” PHL 316S, Fall 2008.
Teaching assistant for “Social and Cultural Philosophy” PHL 323H1S, Spring 2008.
Teaching assistant for “Topics in Philosophy of Feminism”, Spring 2008.

Spanish instructor at Vanderpoel Academy, Chicago, September 2003 – June 2004.

Academic Service

Research Assistant for Professor Paul W. Franks, University of Toronto, 2010–2012.
Member of the Steering Committee, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, 2009.
Organizer for “Centre for Jewish Studies: First Annual Graduate Student Conference,”
University of Toronto, April 2009.
Organizer for “Experience and Truth: Eighth Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy,”
University of Toronto, May 2008.
Organizer for “Putnam at 80: A Conference in Honor of the Life and Work of Hilary Putnam,” University
College Dublin, March 2007.
Assistant to Professor Maria Baghramian, editor for the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, and to Professor
James O’Shea, book review editor for the *Journal*, Dublin, Ireland, 2005-6.

Professional Affiliations

Member of the American Philosophical Association, 2010–present.
Member of the Association for Jewish Studies, 2011–present.
Member of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, 2011–present.
Member of the International Rosenzweig Society, 2012–present.
Member of the Schelling Society, 2011–present

Editorial and Writing Experience

Sprach-Denken, Newsletter of the North American Branch of the International Rosenzweig Society, Co-editor,
September 2012–present.
The University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought. Founder & Executive Editor, September 2009–September 2012.
International Journal of Philosophical Studies (Dublin, Ireland). Editorial intern, 2005–6.
Letras Libres (Chicago, IL). Correspondent, September 2003–December 2004.
Vital (Chicago, IL). Correspondent, September 2003–December 2004
The Chicago Review (Chicago, IL). Editorial intern, June–September 2001.
Euphony (Chicago, IL). Editorial assistant, March 2001–June 2001
The Rufino Tamayo Museum Writing Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico. Participant, September 1997–
November 1997; February 1998–April 1998.
The San Miguel de Allende Writing Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico. Participant, June 1996.

Graduate Coursework

University of Toronto:

Seminar in 17th & 18th Century Philosophy: Leibniz (Marleen Rozemond)
Seminar in Kant (Paul Franks)
Truth and Authenticity: Heidegger’s Being and Time (Lambert Zuidervaart)

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (Rebecca Comay)
 Perception and Beauty (Sonia Sedivy)
 Aristotle's Metaphysics (Lloyd Gerson)
 Franz Rosenzweig (Paul Franks)
 Kant's Ethics (David Novak)
 Paradoxes of Progress: Jürgen Habermas's Theory of Communicative Action (Lambert Zuidervaart)
 Seminar in Nineteenth Century Continental Philosophy: Kant and Post-Kantianism (Paul Franks)
 Philosophy of Religion: 20th Century Jewish Philosophy (Robert Gibbs)
 Philosophy of Language and Epistemology (Benjamin Hellie)
 Topics in Continental Philosophy (Paul Franks and Ulrich Schlösser), audited
 From Kant to Hegel (Ulrich Schlösser), audited

University College Dublin:

Merleau Ponty's Phenomenology of Perception (Tim Mooney)
 Edmund Husserl: Founder of Phenomenology (Dermot Moran)
 Paradigms of Cultural Criticism (Maeve Cooke)
 Phenomenology and Religion (Richard Kearney)
 The Idea of the Aesthetic Community (Brian Elliott), audited
 The Philosophy of Radical Experience (Brian O'Connor), audited

Languages

Spanish (native); French (full research command); German (full research command);
 Modern Hebrew (basic reading)

References

Paul W. Franks

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