

Borhane Blili-Hamelin

Department of Philosophy, Columbia University

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization

- History of Philosophy (18th to 20th Century German). Social and Political Philosophy. Metaethics.

Areas of Competence

- Ethics. Philosophy of Gender and Race. Aesthetics.

EDUCATION

Columbia University 2009–19

- Ph.D., Philosophy (Degree Granted: May 23, 2019)
- Dissertation: *Topography of the Splintered World: Hegel and the Disagreements of Right*
- Abstract: *For Hegel, serious, painful disagreement among reasonable individuals is part of the very fabric of our intellectual, moral, and social lives. Disagreement about what matters cannot be eliminated. Traditionally, this kind of interpretation is thought to be incompatible with Hegel's epistemic and metaphysical ambitions: that reason has absolute power to explain all there is, leaving no significant question without an adequate answer. But if genuine disagreement cannot be eliminated, then at least some significant practical normative questions must remain without fully adequate answers. I develop a novel strategy for reconciling these two fundamental aspects of his approach to practical norms and values in his Philosophy of Right. Through what I call topographic explanations, Hegel takes on the task of explaining why the world is structured in such a way that (a) some significant questions necessarily remain open to painful disagreement, and that (b) the world remains a worthy home for our deepest aspirations.*
- Committee: Frederick Neuhouser (Sponsor), Axel Honneth, Wolfgang Mann, Lydia Goehr

Université de Montréal 2007–09

- M.A., Philosophy (Thesis Submitted 2009-08; Degree Granted 2011-02-03)
- Thesis: *Liberté? Réflexion sur un Problème dans l'Ethique de Theodor Adorno*
- Advisor: Iain MacDonald

McGill University 2004–07

- B.A., First Class Honours in Philosophy, with Minor in Music Technologies.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Columbia University Faculty Fellow 2009–16

FQRSC Doctoral Scholarship	2009–12
• (\$60,000, over 3 years) Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture	
FQRSC Master’s Scholarship	2008–09
• (\$15,000) Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture	
SSHRC Master’s Scholarship	2007–08
• (\$17,500) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	

TEACHING ASSISTANT

*Through Columbia University’s Philosophy Department, unless otherwise noted. Classes for which I facilitated weekly discussion sections are preceded by *.*

* Introduction to Women’s and Gender studies	Spring 2016
• Professors Laura Ciolkowski & Shamus Khan. The Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Columbia University.	
Introduction to Philosophy (Prof. Elliot Paul)	Spring 2013
Science and Religion (Prof. Philip Kitcher)	Fall 2012
* Metaphysics (Prof. Achille Varzi)	Spring 2012
Philosophy and Feminism (Prof. Christia Mercer)	Fall 2011

SERVICE

Community

Facilitator and Co-Organizer through the <i>Rikers Education Project</i>	2016-17
• <i>Rethink</i> philosophy and critical thinking program at the Rose M Singer Center for women on Rikers Island. Three programs of 6 weekly workshops (Spring 2016, Fall 2016, and Spring 2017.) With the help of the Heyman Center for the Humanities (Justice-in-Education initiative).	

Academic

Co-Organizer of the <i>New York German Idealism Workshop</i>	2013–16
Co-Organizer of the <i>Fichte’s Foundations of Natural Right</i> Symposium	Oct 2014
• Columbia University and the New School for Social Research	
Co-Organizer of the <i>Naturalism in German Idealism</i> Conference	Oct 2013
• Columbia University and the New School for Social Research	
Graduate Student Representative	2010–11
• Columbia University Department of Philosophy	

PRESENTATIONS

- Forbidding what Ought to Be: Adorno's Concept of "Bann"* Jul 2011
- *Potentiality and Normativity* Conference at Université de Montréal, organized in collaboration with the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a.M.
- Justification, Skepticism, and Pragmatist interpretations of Hegel* Nov 2013
- Philosophy Graduate Workshop, Columbia University
- Physiognomy or Phenomenology? Husserl and Adorno the Role of Intuition in Philosophy* Nov 2008
- Workshop on *Phenomenology and Dialectics*, Université de Montréal.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

*All graduate coursework at Columbia University unless otherwise noted. Audited courses are preceded by *.*

Moral Psychology (Jesse Prinz, CUNY Graduate Center)

Metaethics (Stephanie Beardman)

What Are Values? (Katja Vogt)

Topics in Political Philosophy: Political Liberalism (Akeel Bilgrami)

European Social Philosophy: Capitalism (Frederick Neuhouser)

Problems of Social Philosophy: Hegel and Durkheim (Frederick Neuhouser)

* Problems of Social Philosophy: Weber and Lukács (Axel Honneth & Frederick Neuhouser)

* Recognition Theory (Axel Honneth)

* Social Ontology (Rahel Jaeggi & Frederick Neuhouser)

Advanced Ethics Survey (Katja Vogt)

* Blame and Forgiveness (Macalester Bell)

The Ethical Project (Philip Kitcher, Quodlib.)

* Naturalistic Ethics (Philip Kitcher)

Art and Philosophy (Isabelle Thomas-Fogiel, University of Montreal)

Nietzsche (Frederick Neuhouser)

Hegel (Frederick Neuhouser)

* Hegel & Dewey (Axel Honneth)

Fichte's System of Ethics (George Di Giovanni, McGill University)

Kant's Practical Philosophy (George Di Giovanni, McGill University)

Adorno's Living Dialectics (Iain MacDonald, University of Montreal)

Husserl (Isabelle Thomas-Fogiel, University of Montreal)

Philosophy of Mind (John Morrison)

* Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind: Rationality and Moral Psychology (Akeel Bilgrami & Jon Elster)

* Epistemology (Jeff Helzner)

* Philosophy of Psychology: Subjects of Consciousness (Christopher Peacocke)

LANGUAGES

French (native). English (fluent). German (reading).