

MELISSA MCBAY MERRITT

University of New South Wales
School of Humanities and Languages
Sydney, NSW 2052
Australia
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 2764
Email: m.merritt@unsw.edu.au

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh; 2004
Dissertation: “Drawing from the Sources of Reason: Reflective Self-Knowledge in Kant’s First *Critique*” (Advisor: Steve Engstrom; Second Reader: John McDowell)
B.A., Philosophy, Yale University; 1994

Academic positions

ARC Future Fellow; 2019-2022
Associate Professor, Philosophy, School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales; 2020-
Senior Lecturer, Philosophy, School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales; 2013-2019
Lecturer, Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of New South Wales; 2009 – 2013
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University; 2004-2009

Research areas: Kant, Ethics, Moral Psychology, Aesthetics
History of philosophy (esp. of ethics)

Publications

1. Books

Kant on Reflection and Virtue. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/kant-on-reflection-and-virtue/6BFD04D5BECDA401E31DCFE0612B1722>

- Winner of the North American Kant Society Book Prize, 2019.
- Dean’s Research Award for Best Monograph, UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2019.
- Reviewed in *Ethics*, *Mind*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Kantian Review*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Con-Textos Kantianos*, *Society for German Idealism and Romanticism Review*, and *The Philosophical Review*.

The Sublime. Kant Elements Series (series editors: Allen Wood, Howard Williams, and Desmond Hogan). Cambridge University Press, 2018.
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/sublime/35110A6DFD734453C0780E8B2FE328C0>

2. Refereed Journal Articles

- “Kant and Stoic Affections,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- “Feeling and Orientation in Action: A Reply to Alix Cohen,” *Kantian Review* 26 (2021): 363-69. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1369415420000515>
- “Nature, Corruption, and Freedom: Stoic Ethics in Kant’s *Religion*,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 29 (2021): 3-24. DOI: 10.1111/ejop.12553
- “Respect, Love, and Individuals: Murdoch as a Guide to Kantian Ethics,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 25 (2017): 1844-1863. DOI: 10.1111/ejop.12280
- “Attention and Synthesis in Kant’s Conception of Experience” (with Markos Valaris), *Philosophical Quarterly* 67/268 (2017): 571-592. DOI: 10.1093/pq/pqw085
- “Practical Reason and Respect for Persons,” *Kantian Review* 22 (2017): 53-79. DOI: 10.1017/S1369415416000376
- “Motherhood in Ferrante’s *The Lost Daughter*: A Case Study of Irony as Extraordinary Reflection,” *Philosophy and Literature* 41 (2017): 185-200. DOI: 10.1353/phl.2017.0012
- “Varieties of Reflection in Kant’s Logic,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 23 (2015): 478-501.
- “Kant on Enlightened Moral Pedagogy,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 49 (2011): 227-253.
- “Kant’s Argument for the Apperception Principle,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 19 (2011): 59-84.
- “Kant on the Transcendental Deduction of Space and Time: An Essay on the Philosophical Resources of the Transcendental Aesthetic,” *Kantian Review* 14 (2010): 1-37.
- “Reflection, Enlightenment, and the Significance of Spontaneity in Kant,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 17 (2009): 981-1010.
- “Analysis in the *Critique of Pure Reason*,” *Kantian Review* 12 (2007): 60-88.
- “Science and the Synthetic Method of the *Critique of Pure Reason*,” *Review of Metaphysics* 59 (2006): 517-539.

3. Book chapters

- “The Ancient Background of Kant’s Conception of Virtue”, in *The Aristotelian Kant*, edited by Thomas Land and Wolfram Gobsch. Forthcoming.
- “Kant and Psychological Monism: the Case of Inclination”, in *Palgrave Handbook of German Idealism and Analytic Philosophy*, edited by James Conant and Jonas Held. Palgrave, forthcoming.

“Murdoch and Kant”, in *The Murdochian Mind*, edited by Mark Hopwood and Silvia Panizza. Routledge, 2022.

“Kant on Evil”, in *Oxford Handbook of Kant*, edited by Andrew Stephenson and Anil Gomes. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Humour, Common Sense, and the Future of Metaphysics in the *Prolegomena*”, in *Kant’s Prolegomena: A Critical Guide*, edited by Peter Thielke. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

“Mendelssohn and Kant on Virtue as a Skill”, in *The Routledge Handbook of Skill and Expertise*, edited by Ellen Fridland and Carlotta Pavese. Routledge, 2020.

“Sublimity and Joy: Kant on the Aesthetic Constitution of Virtue,” in *The Palgrave Kant Handbook*, pp. 447-467. Edited by Matthew C. Altman. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

“Kant on the Pleasures of Understanding,” in *Kant on Emotion and Value*, pp. 126-145. Edited by Alix Cohen. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

“The Moral Source of the Kantian Sublime,” in *The Sublime: from Antiquity to the Present*, pp. 37-49. Edited by Timothy Costelloe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

“Kant and Kantian Epistemology” (with Markos Valaris), in *Epistemology: The Key Thinkers*. Edited by Stephen Hetherington, pp. 131-152. London: Continuum, 2012.

4. Minor pieces

“Analysis,” “Pedagogy,” and “Sublime” [3 entries] in *The Cambridge Kant Lexicon*, edited by Julian Wuerth. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Review of *Emotion, Reason, and Action in Kant*, by Maria Borges. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 23 January 2020. <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/emotion-reason-and-action-in-kant/>

Response to Colin McLear, Francey Russell, and David Sussman, book symposium on *Kant on Reflection in Virtue*, in *Society for German Idealism and Romanticism Review* 2 (2019): 84-97.

Book note of *Wisdom Won from Illness*, by Jonathan Lear. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 96 (2018): 625. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2017.1365090>

Review of *Manifest Reality: Kant’s Idealism and His Realism*, by Lucy Allais. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 95 (2017): 391-94. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00048402.2016.1168857>

Review of *Immanuel Kant: Key Concepts*, edited by Will Dudley and Kristina Engelhard. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 27 October 2011. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/27135-immanuel-kant-key-concepts/>.

Review of *The Kantian Sublime and the Revelation of Freedom*, by Robert Clewis. *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 18 (2010): 529-532.

“Early Modern Epistemology,” in *New Dictionary for the History of Ideas*. Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005.

“Ad Reinhardt,” in *Encyclopedia of New York City*. Edited by Kenneth Jackson. Yale University Press, 1995.

Fellowships and Awards

Dean’s Research Award, Best Monograph, for *Kant on Reflection and Virtue*, 2019

North American Kant Society Book Prize for *Kant on Reflection and Virtue*, 2019

Australian Research Council (ARC), Future Fellowship: “Reason, Value, and Virtue: Assessing the Stoic Legacy in Kantian Ethics” (FT180100494, AU\$850,525), 2019-2022

Australian Research Council (ARC), Discovery Project, Chief Investigator: “Enlightened Judgment: Reflection and Cognitive Virtue in Kant’s Critical Philosophy” (DP130100172, AU\$135,000), 2013-2015

Fellow, Forschungskolleg Analytic German Idealism, Universität Leipzig, May-June 2013

Research Promotion Grant, UNSW, 2012

NEH Summer Seminar participant stipend, “Scottish Enlightenment Aesthetics and Its Reception in Germany,” directed by Paul Guyer and Rachel Zuckert at the University of St. Andrews, 2007

Research Initiation Grant, Georgia State University, 2005-2006

Winner of the *Review of Metaphysics* Dissertation Essay Competition, 2005

Anna Margaret and Mary Sloan Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2003-2004

American Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women, 2001-2002

Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship (declined), 2001-2002

Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2001

Summer Language Fellowship, Deutsche Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), 1999

Tuition Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University (seminar with Michael Fried on Diderot, Baudelaire, Fry and Greenberg), 1998

University of Pittsburgh Teaching Fellowship (when not on other fellowship), 1996-2003

Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1995-1996

Ellen Battel Stoeckel Fellowship, Yale University, School of Art (Norfolk), 1993

Public engagement

Radio guest: ABC Radio Southeast NSW – a segment on “The Sublime”, with Simon Lauder and Adriane Reardon, 13 September 2021.

Public talk: “The Stoic Theory of Emotions,” Inner West Council Philosophy Talks Series, 18 July 2019.

Review of *Kant and the Science of Logic* by Huaping Lu-Adler for *Philosophy Now* (Issue 132, June/July 2019), a popular philosophy magazine.

Interview with Richard Marshall for *The End Times* series, [3:AM magazine](#).

Guest on *The Minefield*, with Waleed Aly and Scott Stephens, [ABC Radio National](#); 1 August 2018, “Can we still enjoy the labours of morally ‘tainted’ artists?”.

Public talk: “The Sublime as an Aesthetic and a Moral Concept,” Blackheath Philosophy Forum, 27 May 2017.

Academic talks

“Astonishment, Admiration, and Kantian Providentialism”, North American Kant Society session at the American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting (held online), 28 February 2021.

“How Does Herder Think about Value?”, symposium on Rachel Zuckert’s *Herder’s Naturalist Aesthetics*, Chicago Consortium for German Philosophy, 29 January 2021.

“Pleasure and Orientation in Kant and Stoicism”, UNSW, Pleasure, Preference, and Value: a Workshop, 12 December 2019.

“Nature, Corruption, and Freedom: Stoicism in Kant’s *Religion*”, Northwestern University, German Philosophy Workshop, 4 November 2019; UNSW Philosophy Seminar, 30 July 2019.

“Kant and Psychological Monism”, Harvard University, History of Philosophy Workshop, 25 February 2019.

“Replies”, author-meets-critics session on *Kant on Reflection and Virtue*, at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, held in Denver, 22 February 2019.

“Mendelssohn and Kant on Virtue as a Skill”, Philosophy seminar, University of Western Sydney, 19 September 2018.

“Temperament and Assent: Reconsidering Kant in the Light of Stoicism”, Macquarie University Philosophy Department, Work in Progress Seminar, 22 May 2018.

“Does Kant Countenance Clear-eyed Weakness of Will?” *Happiness, Virtue, and the Meaning of Life* Conference, Notre Dame University Australia, Sydney, 25 August 2017.

“Kantian Cognitive Virtue.” Society for German Idealism and Romanticism session at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle WA, 12-16 April 2017.

“Stoic *Eupatheiai* in Kant’s Ideal of Virtue.” *Kantian Virtues* workshop, University of St. Andrews, 26 October 2016.

“Love, Respect, and Individuals: On Murdoch as a Guide to Kantian Ethics.” North American Kant Society, Pacific Study Group meeting, November 2016; Australian National University, Moral and Political Philosophy seminar talk, 10 October 2016; Australian Catholic University, Philosophy seminar talk, 7 October 2016; Edinburgh University, moral philosophy seminar series, 28 October 2016; Lingnan University, 28 November 2016.

- “Sublimity and Joy: Kant on the Aesthetic Constitution of Virtue.” Kant and Hegel: Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art, conference held at Monash University, 15 April 2016; also presented at Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, 30 November 2016.
- “Practical Reason and Respect for Persons.” Workshop on the Sociality of Personhood, UNSW, 19 February 2016.
- “Motherhood in Elena Ferrante’s *The Lost Daughter*: A Case Study of Irony as Extraordinary Reflection”. Symposium on the work of Jonathan Lear, University of Sydney, 11 December 2015.
- “Attention and Synthesis in Kant’s Conception of Experience” (with Markos Valaris). Harvard University Kant Reading Group, 20 November 2015.
- “Perception, Attention, Experience.” University of Adelaide philosophy colloquium, 23 October 2015; and Dartmouth College philosophy colloquium, 13 November 2015.
- “Kant on Virtue as a Skill.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, 1 April 2015; and 12th International Kant Congress, Vienna, 21 September 2015.
- “Kant on the Requirement to Reflect.” University of Sydney, SHAPE Seminar Series, 6 June 2014.
- “The Prospects of Kantian Moral Realism.” North American Kant Society, Eastern Study Group meeting; held at Temple University, Philadelphia, 2-3 May 2014. Revised version presented at Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Meeting, Australian National University, 10 July 2014.
- “Virtue and Reflection: Some Lessons from Kant’s Qualified Conception of Virtue as a Skill.” Nature and Culture in German Romanticism and Idealism, conference held at UNSW and University of Sydney, 12-14 March 2014.
- “Stern and the Prospects of Kantian Moral Realism.” Book symposium on Robert Stern’s *Understanding Moral Obligation*, Universität Leipzig, 22-24 May 2013.
- “Reconsidering Practical Judgment.” University of Melbourne, Many Moral Rationalisms ARC workshop, January 2013.
- “Kant on the Pleasures of Understanding.” University of Sydney, Philosophy Department Seminar Series, November 2012.
- “A Kantian View of Moral Reflection.” Australian National University, Research School for the Social Sciences, Thursday Philosophy Seminar, September 2011; revised version presented at Macquarie University, Philosophy Department Seminar Series, March 2012; revised version presented at Universität Leipzig, June 2013.
- “Kant on Enlightened Moral Pedagogy.” University of Sydney, Philosophy Current Projects Seminar, October 2010.
- “Cognitive Virtue and Cognitive Self-Determination.” *Engaging McDowell*, conference organized under the auspices of the Centre for Time, University of Sydney, June 2010.
- “The Moral Source of the Kantian Sublime.” San Francisco State University, February 2009.

Commentator on Arthur Ripstein, “Acquired Rights” (Chapter 3 of *Kant’s Legal and Political Philosophy*). Center for Ethics Manuscript Workshop, Georgia State University, May 2008.

“Kant’s Establishment of the Apperception Principle.” University of Oxford, January 2008; New School for Social Research, February 2008.

“Spontaneity and Originality in Kant.” University of Montana, 2008; Claremont-McKenna College, January 2007; Northwestern University, February 2006.

“Science and the Synthetic Method of the *Critique of Pure Reason*.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, 2005.

“Analysis, Synthesis, and the Proof-structure of the Transcendental Deduction.” Fourth Athens-Pittsburgh Symposium (Delphi, Greece), June 2003.

“The Role of Beauty in Michael Fried’s Art Criticism.” Princeton University Department of Art and Archaeology, Graduate Student Symposium, March 2002.

“Brandom’s Account of Perception and the Problem of Spontaneity.” University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy, Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, April 2000.

Teaching Experience

University of New South Wales, Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, 2009-present

Georgia State University, Assistant Professor, 2004-2009

University of Chicago, Visiting Lecturer, 2000 (Winter and Spring Quarters)

University of Pittsburgh, Teaching Fellow 1997-2003 (when not on other fellowship)

Courses Taught

Postgraduate Seminars:

Smith’s *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Georgia State University)

Kant’s *Critique of Judgment* (Georgia State University)

Kant on Spontaneity and Freedom (Georgia State University)

Upper-level Undergraduate and M.A.-level:

Advanced Moral Theory (University of New South Wales)

Capstone course for majors: Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (University of New South Wales)

Hume (Georgia State University)

Early Modern Aesthetics (Georgia State University)

Kant’s Practical Philosophy (Georgia State University)

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (Georgia State University)

Kant’s *Critique of Judgment* (University of Chicago)

Plato and Aristotle on the Soul (University of Chicago)

Mid-level Undergraduate:

Aesthetics (University of New South Wales)

Moral Theory (University of New South Wales)

History of Modern Philosophy (University of Pittsburgh, Georgia State University, UNSW)

History of Ancient Philosophy (University of Pittsburgh)

Introductory Undergraduate:

Introduction to Moral, Social and Political Philosophy (University of New South Wales)

The Relevance of Beauty: an interdisciplinary introduction to aesthetics (Georgia State University)

Introduction to Philosophical Problems, Writing Intensive (University of Pittsburgh)
Introduction to Symbolic Logic (University of Pittsburgh)

Research Supervision

PhD theses directed at University of New South Wales: Sophie Vivian (2018, co-supervisor); Anna Blum (joint supervisor; in progress); Wendy Luna (co-supervisor; in progress).

MA theses directed at University of New South Wales: Will Taylor (in progress; thesis on Stoic moral epistemology); Sasha de Valence (in progress; thesis on aesthetic normativity and Kant); Christopher Rowe-Spencer, “The Saint and the Hero: Integrating Act- and Agent-focused Ethics” (2016); Will Cunningham, “Moral Theories, Moral Principle” (2015)

MA theses directed at Georgia State University: Timothy Crews-Anderson, “The Impossibility of Evil Qua Evil: Kantian Limitations on Human Immorality” (2006); Sarah Alexander, “Kant’s Resolution to the Antinomy of Pure Reason” (2007); Maria Gourova, “The Aesthetic Idea and the Unity of Cognitive Faculties in Kant’s Aesthetics” (2008); Theresa Creighton, “Kant, Jefferson, and the Place of Individual Freedom in the Republican Constitutional State” (2008); Raleigh Miller, “Kantian Conceptualism and Apperception” (2009).

Honours theses directed at University of New South Wales: William Taylor, “Making Oneself Worthy of Friendship: Kant on Friendship, Character, and Reflection” (2018); Jessica Hung, “Through Korsgaard: Reflection, Imagination, and Coexistence” (2017); Vera Nolte-Wilson, “The *Critique of Judgment*, Purposiveness, and Representing People” (2016); Harriet Levenston, “Visual Aesthetic Pleasure: A Challenge to Kant” (2012); Christopher Rowe-Spencer, “Virtue and Reason” (2012).

Service

Editorial roles:

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, associate editor, 2019- present

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, deputy editor, 2013- present

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, book reviews editor, 2013-2019

PhilPapers.org, section editor (Kant: Aesthetics), 2011-present

General academic service:

Adviser in workshops for academic staff writing ARC fellowship applications, organized by the UNSW Research Strategy Office (2021) and by the Faculties of Law and Arts and Social Sciences (2020)

Member of the Advisory Board for the School of Philosophy and Theology, Notre Dame University Australia, 2019-2020

Australian Research Council, assessor of grant and fellowship proposals (2017, 2016, 2015, 2013)

Australian Research Council, peer evaluator for Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) (2018)

Referee for: *Analysis* (2018); *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (2021, 2017); *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (2015, 2013, 2011); *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* (2013); *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2020 – twice, 2018); *European Journal of Philosophy* (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017); *History of Philosophy Quarterly* (2017); *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (2020, 2018, 2015, 2013 and 2008); *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (2019); *Journal of Modern Philosophy* (2021); *Kantian Review* (2020, 2018, 2016,

2015 and 2012); *Mind* (2018); *Nous* (2020); *Parrhesia* (2017), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2021).

Reader/adviser for: Cambridge University Press (2019, 2018); Oxford University Press (2016, 2013, 2011)

Service marking: PhD thesis (LaTrobe University, 2016)

To the university, etc:

Philosophy discipline coordinator, UNSW, 2016 - 2018

Contributed to a MOOC, “Disability and the Good Life”, organized by Professor Kelley Johnson, UNSW, 2016

Philosophy Seminar (Colloquium) Series Coordinator, 2014- 2015

School of Humanities and Languages representative on UNSW committee for Workplace Health and Safety, 2013- 2015

Philosophy Curriculum Review Committee (UNSW), 2011- 2012

UNSW School of Humanities and Languages Research Committee, 2011- 2013

Undergraduate Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2009

Program Coordinator, Georgia State University - Universität Bielefeld exchange, 2005-2008

Honors adviser for philosophy majors, Georgia State University, 2006-2009

Chair of Visiting Instructor Search Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, Spring 2008

Graduate Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2007-2008; 2005-2006

Assessment Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2006-2007

Senior Faculty Search Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2006-2007

Chair of Junior Faculty Search Committee (19th-century continental), GSU Philosophy Department, 2005-2006

Faculty Search Committees , GSU Philosophy Department, 2004-2005

Junior Faculty Search Committee, University of Pittsburgh Philosophy Department, 2000-2001

President, Philosophers in Graduate School, University of Pittsburgh, 2000-2001

Librarian, Grünbaum Reading Room, University of Pittsburgh, 1999

To the community:

Yale Alumni Schools Committee: conducting evaluative interviews with applicants to Yale College, 2009- 2013, 2015-

Affiliations: North American Kant Society; American Philosophical Association; Australasian Association of Philosophy.

Research languages: German (fluent reading), ancient Greek (proficient reading), Latin (proficient reading), French (proficient reading).

Non-academic employment

Editorial assistant, Yale University Press, 1994

Project editor and illustrations editor for *Encyclopedia of New York City* (a joint project of the New-York Historical Society and Yale University Press), 1994-1995

Communications Assistant and Speechwriter, Catholic Relief Services, 1994-1995