

Karin Nisenbaum

Department of Philosophy, Boston College
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Employment:

Boston College, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, since 2020
Colgate University, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2016–2020
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mandel Postdoctoral Fellow, Scholion Center, 2014–2016
University of Denver, Visiting Scholar, Center for Judaic Studies, 2013–2014
Colorado College, Visiting Instructor, Philosophy Department, Fall 2013 and Spring 2014

Areas of Specialization: Kant, German Idealism, and 19th & 20th Century Jewish Thought

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Metaphysics, 19th & 20th Century Continental Philosophy (including Existentialism, Phenomenology, and Critical Theory)

Education

University of Toronto,
Ph.D. Philosophy, 2014
Dissertation: *For the Love of Metaphysics*
Committee: Paul Franks (advisor), Sergio Tenenbaum, Ulrich Schlösser, Robert Gibbs

University College Dublin,
M.A. Continental Philosophy with 1st class honors, 2006

University of Chicago,
B.A. Philosophy with honors, 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

Published Works

Book

For the Love of Metaphysics: Nihilism and the Conflict of Reason from Kant to Rosenzweig,
Oxford University Press, 2018.

Reviewed in:

[*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*](#)
[*Society for German Idealism and Romanticism Review*](#)
[*Hegel-Studien 53/54*](#)

Articles and Book Chapters

“Schelling’s Systematization of Kant’s Moral Philosophy: Divine Craftsmanship as the Human Moral Telos,” in *Schellings Freiheitsschrift: Methode, System, Kritik*, edited by Thomas Buchheim, Thomas Frisch, and Nora C. Wachsmann, Mohr Siebeck (forthcoming in January 2021).

“The Fate of Practical Reason: Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God’s Existence,” in *Kantian Legacies in German Idealism*, edited by G. Gentry, Routledge (forthcoming 2021).

“Zuidervaart in Conversation with Rosenzweig: Artistic Truth, Life-Giving Disclosure, and Revelation,” in *Seeking Stillness or The Sound of Wings: Works on Art, Truth and Society in Honour of Lambert Zuidervaart*, edited by M. DeMoor, P. Ennerson, and M. Klaassen, Wipf and Stock (forthcoming in 2021).

“Practical Knowledge and the Subjectivity of Truth in Kant and Kierkegaard: The Cover of Skepticism,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 26:2(2018), 730–745.

“F.W.J. Schelling,” co-authored with Daniel Whistler, in *Religion and European Philosophy: Key Thinkers from Kant to Žižek*, edited by P. Goodchild and H. Phelps, Routledge, 2017. 44–59.

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom,” *Journal of Philosophical Research* 41(2016): 453–498.

“Modern Jewish Philosophy: Universal Human Questions Phrased in Concepts Derived from the Jewish Tradition,” critical notice of *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era*, edited by M. Kavka, Z. Braiterman, and D. Novak, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 23(2015): 111–125.

“Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig,” *Proceedings of the International Rosenzweig Gesellschaft* 1(2014): 96–107.

“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*, edited by D. Whistler and A.P. Smith, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010. 105–127.

Book Reviews

Review of Dennis Vanden Auweele’s *Pessimism in Kant’s Ethics and Rational Religion*, in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 58(2): 409–410 (2020).

Review of Eric Santner’s *On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald*, in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 16(2008): 115–120.

Scholarly Work in Progress

“Fichte’s Perfectionist Solution to the ‘Paradox’ of Kantian Autonomy and the ‘Dilemma’ of post-Kantian Autonomy.”

“Jacobi über das Gute,” commissioned entry for the Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, edited by Birgit Sandkaulen

“Jacobi über Glück, Glückseligkeit” commissioned entry for the Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, edited by Birgit Sandkaulen

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.

“Coetzee, Profesor,” *Letras Libres*, 6:61, 102–03, Winter 2004.

Awards and Honors

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Advanced Researchers 2019–2022

Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowship 2014–2017

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers 2014–2016 (declined)

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, September 2009

Tikvah Fund Scholarship, September 2010

Lieba Sharon Wilensky Lesk Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies, 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, December 2007

Connaught Tuition Scholarship, June 2007

University College Dublin

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

University of Chicago

Phi Beta Kappa, June 2003

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.

Selected Talks

“Post-Kantian Themes in Katharina Kraus' *Kant on Self-Knowledge and Self-Formation*”

Author Meets Critics Panel at the Eastern APA Meeting, January 2021 (together with Julia Peters)

“Fichte's Perfectionist Solution to the ‘Paradox’ of Kantian Autonomy and the ‘Dilemma’ of post-Kantian Autonomy”

University of Bochum, Research Center for Classical German Philosophy, December 2020 (invited talk)

University College Dublin, November 2020 (invited talk)

“The Unconditioned in Human Knowledge: A Theoretical Puzzle, or a Practical Demand?”

Invited talk to the Research Colloquium of Andrea Kern
Leipzig University, January 2020

“Schelling's Systematization of Kant's Moral Philosophy”

Systematic Metaphysics: Prospects and Problems
Hebrew University, January 2020 (invited talk)

“Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God's Existence”

Yale University, February 2019 (invited talk)

“Realizing our Capacity for Practical Knowledge of the Good: Kant on Virtue and Happiness in the Highest Good”

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2018 (invited talk)

- “Hegel’s Antigone”
 Humanities Colloquium
 Colgate University, October 2018
- “Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion and the Postulate of God’s Existence”
 Kant’s *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*
 Research Center for Analytic German Idealism
 University of Leipzig, June 2018 (invited talk)
- “Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”
 Le Moyne University, November 2017 (invited talk)
- “The Philosopher’s Toolbox”
 Humanities Colloquium
 Colgate University, October 2017
- “When Criticism Turns into Dogmatism: Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion & the Postulates of Practical Reason”
 Invited Talk at the University of Potsdam, July 2017.
 North American Schelling Society
 UNAM, Mexico City, February 2017.
- “The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”
 University of Notre Dame, February 2016 (invited talk)
- “Rosenzweig and Wittgenstein on Reason, Revelation, and Moral Imagination”
 Symposium on Moral Imagination
 Tel-Aviv University, June 2015
- “Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”
 Haifa University, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited talk)
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited talk)
- “The Jointure of Being: Schelling’s Perfectionist Moral Outlook”
 The Society for German Idealism, Pacific APA meeting, April 2015.
 North American Schelling Society meeting, Bard Graduate Center, August 2014.
- “The Human Word as a Response to the Word of God and Human Words and Actions as the Means for the Unification of God”
 University of Copenhagen & Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture, April 2015.
 Franz Rosenzweig Congress, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, October 2014.
- “Schelling’s Perfectionism and Rosenzweig’s Judaism”
 Images of Perfection: An Interdisciplinary Conference in the Study of Religion
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 2015.

- “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”
 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*”
 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 as Primary Instructor

Boston College

Conceptions of God in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Jewish Philosophy, Spring 2021

Perspectives on Western Culture, Fall 2020

University of Potsdam

The Highest Good in Kant, Fichte, and Schelling (co-taught with Johannes Haag)

Colgate University

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, Spring 2019

Philosophy of Literature, Spring 2019

Moral Perfectionism, Fall 2018

Kant & 19th Century Philosophy, Spring 2017, Spring 2018

Legacies of the Ancient World, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Ethics, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Formation of the Self & the Pursuit of the Good in Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and Kierkegaard
Spring 2016

Freedom and Reason: Kant through Hegel & beyond, Spring 2015

University of Denver

Perfectionism and Idealism in German and Jewish Philosophy, Winter 2014

Colorado College

Philosophy and Literature: The Brothers Karamazov, Spring 2014

Modern Jewish Philosophy, Fall 2013

University of Toronto

Philosophy of Judaism, Fall 2010

Service to the University

Placement Director, Boston College Philosophy Department, starting Fall 2020

Search Committee, Philosophy Department, Colgate University, Fall 2017

Member of the Institutional Review Board, Colgate University, 2017–2019

Service to the Profession

Co-organizer (with Samantha Matherne, Katharina Kaiser, and Kristin Primus) for “Berlin Summer Colloquium in Post-Kantian Philosophy,” workshop at Humboldt University of Berlin, 2018.

Collaboration partner for “Schellings Philosophie der menschlichen Freiheit,” directed by Prof. Thomas Buchheim and funded by the Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, 2015–2018.

Co-organizer (with Brady Bowman and Dalia Nassar) for “Schelling and Empiricism,” workshop at Humboldt University of Berlin, 2016.

Organizer for “Reconsidering the Significance of Kant’s Critical Revolution: Transcendental Arguments, Practical Postulates, and Philosophical Fictions,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2015.

Member of the Steering Committee, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, 2009.

Co-organizer for “Centre for Jewish Studies: First Annual Graduate Student Conference,” University of Toronto, April 2009.

Co-organizer for “Experience and Truth: Eighth Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy,” University of Toronto, May 2008.

Co-organizer (with Maria Baghramian) for “Putnam at 80: A Conference in Honor of the Life and Work of Hilary Putnam,” University College Dublin, March 2007.

Referee for: Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury Press, Austrian Science Fund, Epoché

Professional Memberships

North American Kant Society, 2016–present.
American Philosophical Association, 2010–present.
Association for Jewish Studies, 2011–present.
North American Schelling Society, 2011–present.
International Rosenzweig Society, 2012–present.
Member of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, 2011–2013.

Languages

Spanish (native speaker)
French (full research command)
German (full research command)
Modern Hebrew (basic knowledge)

References

Frederick Beiser

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Yale University
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Tel: 1-203-432-1683
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Tel: 1-410-516-7523
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Ulrich Schlösser

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Philosophy Department
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