

# Brandon W. Rdzak

Curriculum Vitae

August 2021

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Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts  
College of Liberal Arts  
Purdue University  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Early Modern Philosophy, Spinoza, Metaphysics

## AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Social-Political Philosophy

## EDUCATION

### Ph.D.

Philosophy, Purdue University, Aug. 2021

Dissertation: "It is of the nature of reason to regard things as necessary, not as contingent': A Defense of Spinoza's Necessitarianism"

Committee: Daniel H. Frank (chair), Michael Jacovides, Jan A. Cover, Chris Martin (outside reader)

### B.A.

Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2012

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021 - Present Visiting Instructor, Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts, CLA, Purdue University

2019 - 2021 Graduate Tutor Assistant, Purdue Writing Lab, Purdue University

2013 - 2019 Teaching/Research Assistant, Instructor of Philosophy, Purdue University

## PUBLICATION

2021 The Principle of Sufficient Reason and Libertarianism: A Critique of Pruss. *Philosophia*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-021-00364-0>

## PAPERS IN PROGRESS

"Who's Afraid of Modal Collapse?: A Defense of Spinoza's Necessitarianism."

"Spinoza's Necessitarianism and the Essentialist Foundation of *Ethics* 1p16."

"Spinoza, Causation, and Creation ex Nihilo."

"Spinoza's Essentialism."

"Spinoza's Dual Account of Modality."

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructor (Purdue University)**

2021	Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking & Communication II: Modern World
2018	Global Moral Issues
2017	Introduction to Philosophy
2017, 2016	Introduction to Ethics

### **Teaching Assistant (Purdue University)**

2021	Introduction to Jewish Studies (Olga Lyanda-Geller)
2015	Introduction to Philosophy (Dan Kelly)
2015	Introduction to Ethics (Patrick Kain)
2014	Religions of the West (Thomas Ryba)
2014	Environmental Ethics (Mark Bernstein)
2013	Philosophy of Religion (Michael Bergmann)

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, & HONORS**

### **Purdue University**

2021	Graduate Student Teaching Award
2021	Graduate Leadership Award (Writing Lab)
2018 - 2019	Purdue Research Foundation Grant (1 year grant)
2019	Purdue College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Award

### **University of Illinois at Chicago**

2012	College Honors
2012	High Distinction in Philosophy
2011	Honors Council Award

## **ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION**

### **Invited Presentations**

2018	"The Principle of Sufficient Reason and Necessitarianism." Indiana University-Kokomo
2014	"The Principle of Sufficient Reason." Purdue Undergraduate Philosophy Society, Purdue University
2013	"Theism, Panentheism, and the Origin of the Universe." Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

### **Papers Presented**

2019	"Who's Afraid of Modal Collapse?: A Defense of Spinoza's Necessitarianism." The American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO
2017	"Who's Afraid of Modal Collapse?: A Defense of Spinoza's Necessitarianism." Indiana Philosophical Association, Fall Meeting, Purdue University

- 2017 “Spinoza, Causation, and Creation ex Nihilo.” The American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO
- 2016 “Who’s Afraid of Modal Collapse?: A Defense of Spinoza’s Necessitarianism.” Graduate Student Symposium, Purdue University
- 2016 “The Principle of Sufficient Reason: Some Modal and Spinozistic Considerations.” Graduate Student Symposium, Purdue University
- 2015 “Spinoza’s Causal Likeness Principle and Monism.” Indiana Philosophical Association, Fall Meeting, Earlham College
- 2015 “Pruss’s Libertarianism and the Principle of Sufficient Reason.” Indiana Philosophical Association, Spring Meeting, Owensboro Community and Technical College, Owensboro, KY
- 2013 “An Ontological Argument for Monism.” Graduate Student Symposium, Purdue University
- 2012 “Theism, Panentheism, and the Origin of the Universe.” Honors College Capstone Project Public Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago

#### **Chair**

- 2018 Session on Philosophy of Language, Inclusive Philosophies Conference, hosted by Women in Philosophy, Purdue University
- 2017 Session on Political Philosophy, Inclusive Philosophies Conference, hosted by Women in Philosophy, Purdue University

#### **Commentor**

- 2016 “Comments on Levi Tenen’s ‘The Real Reason Kant Provides the ‘Wrong Kind of Reason’ for Valuing Animals’.” Indiana Philosophical Association, Fall Meeting, Prindle Institute for Ethics / DePauw University

#### **Graduate Workshops (Purdue Writing Lab)**

- 2020, 2021 “Virtual Intensive Writing Experience—Thesis & Dissertation Writers”
- 2021 “Writing Thesis and Dissertation Proposals”
- 2020 “Writing a Curriculum Vitae”
- 2020 “Writing a Teaching Philosophy”
- 2019 “Genre Analysis Part 3: Theses and Dissertations”
- 2019 “Genre Analysis Part 1: Introduction”

#### **Service to Philosophy**

- 2017 - 2019 Referee, Inclusive Philosophies Graduate Conference, hosted by Women in Philosophy, Purdue University
- 2011 Referee to Guest Editor, *Journal of Symmetry*
- 2010 - 2012 Co-President, Supposium Philosophy Club, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Affiliations**

2017 - Present American Philosophical Association  
2016 - Present Purdue Safe Zone Program Member  
2011 - 2012 Tau Sigma National Honor Society  
2008 - 2012 Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION & TRAINING****Teaching Certification (Center for Instructional Excellence, Purdue University)**

2019 Certificate of Practice in College Teaching (Focus: Diversity and Inclusion)  
2019 Certificate of Foundations in College Teaching

**Tutorial Training (Purdue Writing Lab)**

2019 Tutoring Practicum  
2020, 2021 L2 Training (specialized training for tutoring English Language Learners)

**Safe Zone Training (Division of Diversity and Inclusion)**

2016, 2020 Training in campus support of LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and faculty

**LANGUAGES**

Latin: Reading level knowledge  
Polish: Introductory level knowledge

## REFERENCES

Daniel H. Frank  
Professor of Philosophy  
Director of Jewish Studies Program  
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Neal Grossman  
Associate Professor Emeritus  
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