AHMET AKTAS

Curriculum Vitae

Purdue University
Department of Philosophy
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PhilPapers: https://tinyurl.com/dwywtcx6
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SPECIALIZATION

AOS: Early Modern Philosophy; Social and Political Philosophy.

AOC: 20th Century European Philosophy; Moral Psychology; Topics in Philosophy of Mind.

EDUCATION

2023-present **PhD, Philosophy** | Purdue University (Indiana, US)
Dissertation **Reason, Affects, and Democracy: Essays on Spinoza's Political Philosophy**
Committee: Dan Frank (Advisor), Dan Smith, Molly Scudder.

Dissertation Abstract: This dissertation comprises three exegetical papers on Spinoza's account of reason and affects in political life. The first essay examines whether Spinoza successfully bridges the normative and descriptive aspects of his political theory, arguing that the communication of reasons and affects together determines what reason's dictates require in particular circumstances. The second centers on political psychology: What kind of affective dispositions are required for sustaining a well-functioning democracy, such that citizens are motivated to act reasonably and respond tolerantly and capaciously in the face of disagreement and conflict? The third examines the power, limits, and paradoxical role of government in creating and sustaining those very affective dispositions.

2021 – 2023 **M.A., Philosophy** | Middle East Technical University (METU) (Ankara, Türkiye)
Thesis Title: Precarious Necessity: Deleuze and the Theory of Thought
Committee: Assoc. Prof. Corry Shores, Prof. Daniel W. Smith, Assoc. Prof. Barış Parkan

2016 – 2021 **B.A., Philosophy** (with a minor in French) | Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Türkiye), High Honors

2020 – 2021 **Visiting Student, Philosophy** | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris, France)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2026	APA Graduate Student Stipend ($300) x 2 (Eastern & Central)
2024, 2025	PROMISE Grant ($1.000) | Purdue College of Liberal Arts
2023-2025	Fulbright PhD Scholarship ($100.000)
2021-2023	2210/E Graduate Scholarship (Continuation of the Undergraduate Scholarship)| The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
2016- 2021	2205 Undergraduate Scholarship (Supporting the top 0.01% of Turkish students in the National University Entrance Exam) | The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Aktas, Ahmet. 2026. "Empowering Sadness: Spinoza on Grief, Love, and Loss." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2026.2672616
2. Aktas, Ahmet. Forthcoming. "Precarious Necessity in a Contingent World: Time, Thought, and Necessity in Deleuze." *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*.
3. Aktas, Ahmet. 2025. "Was Spinoza a Deleuzian: Rethinking the Politics of Emotions and Affects." *Theory, Culture & Society*. 42 (3). pp. 95-114 https://doi.org/10.1177/02632764241301334
4. Aktas, Ahmet. 2024. "Thrown into the World, Attached to Love: On the Forms of World-Sharing and Mourning in Heidegger." *Human Studies*. 47, pp. 479–499. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10746-023-09701-6
5. Aktas, Ahmet. 2018. "A Critical Assessment of Spinoza's Theory of Affect: Affects, Beliefs, and Human Freedom" (in Turkish), *Beytulhikme An International Journal of Philosophy* 8 (1), pp. 251-272. https://doi.org/10.18491/beytulhikme.446507

Invited Articles and Book Chapters

6. Aktas, Ahmet & Shores, Corry. Forthcoming. "The Fascinating Communication of Plants: Phyto-Semiogenesis through Deleuze & Guattari." Ed. Valeria Bizzari, Springer, Phaenomenologica Book Series.
7. Aktas, Ahmet 2026. "Rethinking the Spinoza–Machiavelli Encounter for the Twenty-First Century" [In Turkish, for a special issue "Spinoza's Philosophers, Philosophers' Spinoza"], *Doğu Batı*. 115. pp. 33-54.
8. Aktas, Ahmet 2025. "Is Sadness Useful? Two Correctives on the Nature of the Affects and Their Relation to Good Life in Spinoza" [In Turkish, for a special issue "Spinoza Problem"], *Doğu Batı*. 114. pp.136-169.

Public Pieces, Literary Writings & Translations

1. Carol Ann Duffy, Alem'in Karısı, Translation: Ahmet Aktaş 160. Kilometre Yayınları. (Turkish Translation of Carol Ann Duffy's famous poetry collection World's Wife). 2025.
2. Aktas, Ahmet and Sibel Nisam Samlı. 2023. "Bir Ders Arası Sohbeti: Değer mi Hiç?,"in *Gençlerle Başbaşa: Felsefenin Bahçesinde* by Yıldız Silier, Yordam Kitap, 2023. (A philosophical Essay in the form of dialogue discussing cynicism, appeared in one of the sections dedicated to the essays authored by students in a book by Yıldız Silier).
3. Turkish translation of "12 Poems by Iryna Shuvalova", with Semiha Mengüllüoğlu, published online on www.160incikilometre.com. 2022.
4. Turkish Translation of "Communism and Poetry" by Alain Badiou, in *Bu Çağ* (Bu Çağ Poetry Journal), vol. 2. pp. 1-5. 2022
5. Aktas, Ahmet and Avcı, Mehmet. 2022. "Becoming-Verb of Poetry" ("Şiirin Eylem Oluşu," Essay in Turkish on a Deleuzian analysis of two eminent contemporary Turkish Poets, co-authored with Mehmet Avcı), in *Bu Çağ* (Bu Çağ Poetry Journal), vol. 2, pp. 9-11.
6. Aktas, Ahmet. 2021. "Revealing Gesture" ("Açımlayıcı Jest", Essay in Turkish on contemporary movements in Turkish poetry), in *Bu Çağ* (Bu Çağ Poetry Journal), vol. 1, pp. 89-97.
7. Turkish Translation of "Carol Ann Duffy: Interview by Andrew McAllister," in *Natama Şiir ve Eleştiri Dergisi* (Natama Journal of Poetry and Literary Criticism), vol. 21, pp. 42-50. 2021.
8. Turkish Translation of Carol Ann Duffy's poem Mrs Faust, in *Natama Şiir ve Eleştiri Dergisi* (Natama Journal of Poetry and Literary Criticism), vol. 21, pp. pp. 39-41. 2021
9. Aktas, Ahmet. 2021. "The Poet of the Other: Carol Ann Duffy" (An essay in Turkish on the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy), in *Natama Şiir ve Eleştiri Dergisi* (Natama Journal of Poetry and Literary Criticism), vol. 21, pp. 36-38.
10. Aktas, Ahmet. 2021. "Moby Dick: A Spinozist Tritone Fugue," in *ThinKnow Magazine*, vol 2, pp. 23-27.

Book Reviews

9. The Review of *Aesthetics in Grief and Mourning: Philosophical Reflections on Coping with Loss* by Kathleen Marie Higgins, *Review of Metaphysics*, 78 (2). https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/rvm.2024.a947057
10. The Review of *Insurrectionist Ethics: Radical Perspectives on Social Justice*, edited by Jacoby Adeshei Carter & Darryl Scriven. *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 23, 249-252. https://doi.org/10.1163/17455243-20262007

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

1. "Affective Challenges to Deliberative Democracy" | APA Central (Symposium Session) | 2026
2. "Two Disregarded Distinctions in Spinoza" | North American Society for Spinoza (NASS) Philosophical Salon for Junior Scholars | 2026 (May)

3. "The Motivation Problem in Deliberative Democracy" |APA Eastern (Poster Session) | 2026
4. "Governing Through Affects: Spinoza on The Political Uses and Abuses of Passive Joys" | North American Society for Spinoza (NASS) Conference | 2025 (May)
5. "One or Many Cognitions? A Theoretical Sketch for the Ontological Pluralism of Cognitions" | The Southern Society for Philosophy or Psychology (SSPP) 116th Annual Meeting | 2025 (April) & Commentary on "Not quite dead yet: A Heideggerian take on the phenomenology of Obsessing"
6. "Spinoza's Account of Grief" | North American Society for Spinoza (NASS) Philosophical Salon for Junior Scholars | 2024 (May)
7. "Was Spinoza a Deleuzian: Rethinking the Politics of Emotions and Affects" | Society for the Study of Affect (SSA) Conference | 2024 (October)
8. "World-Building and World-Losing" | Annual Conference of the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology | 2024 (September)

Invited

9. "Grief and Meaning-Making" | APA Pacific (Session Sponsored by American Society for Aesthetics) | 2027 (March)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Purdue 2026 (Fall)	Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Moral Psychology. As a Teaching Assistant for Daniel W. Smith, I gave lectures, constructed exams, and evaluated them.
Purdue 2025 (Fall)	Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, and Epistemology. As a Teaching Assistant for Daniel Kelly, I gave lectures, constructed exams, and evaluated them.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Purdue University

2026	Founding Member, Purdue Cognition Agency and Intelligence Center (CAIC)
2023 - Present	Founder and Organizer, Deleuze Research Group, Purdue University
2026	Conference Coordinator, Purdue Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
2025	Graduate Student Representative
2024	Student Mentor, Purdue Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
2024 & 2025	Reviewer, Purdue Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Service to the Profession

Referee	Philosophia, Body & Society
2025	Conference Organizer, %100 Deleuze Symposium, Ankara

2021 Committee Member of Phil-Free Community

LANGUAGES

Turkish	(Native)
English	(C2, Fluent)
French	(C1, Full Research Command)
German	(B1, actively learning)
Latin	(A2, actively learning)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Value Theory & Political Phil

Political Communication: The Ethics of Speech and Listening	J.P. Messina & Molly Scudder	(Purdue)
Political Philosophy—Mill to Nancy	James Griffith	(METU)
Seminar in Ethics	Leonard Harris	(Purdue)
Philosophy of Money (Audit)	Christopher Yeomans	(Purdue)
Polit. Phil Reading Group x4	J. P. Messina	(Purdue)

History of Philosophy

Ancient Greek Theories of the Soul	Lea Schroeder	(Purdue)
Ontology and Metaphysics of Aristotle and Plato	Dan Frank	(Purdue)
Epictetus	Refik Guremen	(METU)
Islamic & Jewish Phil. and their Critique by Spinoza	Dan Frank	(Purdue)
Independent Study on Spinoza	Mike Jacovides	(Purdue)
Philosophy of Kant	Jacqueline Mariña	(Purdue)
Nietzsche (Audit)	Daniel Smith & James Mollison	(Purdue)
Hegel's Encyclopedia Logic	Elif Cirakman	(METU)
L'épreuve du réel	Jocelyn Benoist	(Université Paris 1 Sorbonne)
Du scepticisme à la postmodernité	Quentin Meillassoux	(Université Paris 1 Sorbonne)

20th Century European Philosophy

Seminar on Deleuze	Daniel W. Smith	(Purdue)
Introduction à la Phénoménologie	Renaud Barbaras	(Université Paris 1 Sorbonne)
Philosophy of Communication I	Corry Shores	(METU)
Philosophy of Communication II	Corry Shores	(METU)

Seminar on Heidegger	Aret Karademir	(METU)
Deleuze Reading Group x6	Daniel W. Smith	(Purdue)

Mind & Norms

Reason and Cognition	Javi Gomez Purdue)	(Purdue)
Philosophy and AI (Audit)	Corey Maley	(Purdue)
Seminar on Norms (Audit)	Daniel Kelly & Evan Westra	(Purdue)
Philosophy of Technology	Daniel W. Smith	(Purdue)
Philosophy of Technology	Murat Bac	(METU)
Mathematical Logic	Dana Tulodziecki	(Purdue)
Studies in Theory Know	Michael Bergman	(Purdue)

REFERENCES

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