

# Leonardo Moauro

---

Human Abilities Centre for  
Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Schönhauser Allee 10/11, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 10119 Berlin

[leonardo.moauro@hu-berlin.de](mailto:leonardo.moauro@hu-berlin.de)

+1 (301) 300-0816

[website](#)

**Areas of Specialization** | Early Modern Philosophy, Ethics

**Areas of Competence** | Ancient Philosophy, Applied Ethics

## *Current Position*

**Postdoctoral Fellow** with the Human Abilities Centre  
*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin*

October 2023

## *Education*

### **Ph.D. Philosophy**

UC San Diego, San Diego, CA

September 2015-September 2023

Dissertation: *Perfection and Desire in Spinoza's Theory of Value*. Committee: Donald Rutherford (chair), Samuel C. Rickless, David O. Brink, Monte Johnson, Catherina Gere.

### **M.A. Philosophy**

Tufts University, Medford, MA

September 2012-May 2015

### **B.A. Political Theory, B.A. Ethics & Political Philosophy, Honors**

Brown University, Providence, RI

September 2007-May 2011

## *Publications*

1. "The Limits of Spinoza's Perfectionism" (forthcoming in *Ergo*)
2. "Perfection" and "Blessedness" [both with Donald Rutherford]. In *The Cambridge Spinoza Lexicon*, edited by Karolina Hübner and Justin Steinberg (forthcoming)
3. "Spinoza on Freedom, Feeling Free, and Acting for the Good." *Argumenta* (2023): 1-16. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.14275/2465-2334/20230.moa>
4. "Does Locke Have an Akrasia Problem?" [with Samuel C. Rickless] (2019). *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, 1(1), 9. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.32881/jomp.39>

## *Submitted for Publication*

1. "Spinoza on How Desires Determine Value Judgments" (*revised and resubmitted*)  
For Spinoza, desires must play a role in the metaphysics of value, not just the epistemology of value.
2. "Lockean Akrasia Revisited" [with Samuel C. Rickless] (*under review*)  
For Locke, *akrasia* arises when our judgments of present happiness and of future happiness conflict.

### ***In Preparation***

1. Spinoza's Value Projectivism (*14,500 words*)
2. Spinoza's Antirealist Science of Value (*13,000 words*)
3. Spinoza on the Finite: Realism and Idealism (*10,000 words*)

### ***Fellowships, Awards, Grants***

- 2022-23 *De Karman Dissertation Fellowship*, awarded by the Josephine De Karman Fellowship Trust [Amount: \$25,000]
- 2022 *Graduate Student Best Essay Prize*, "Spinoza on Freedom, Feeling Free, and Acting for the Good," UC San Diego
- 2020 *Summer Graduate Teaching Scholar*, UC San Diego [Amount: \$1,200]
- 2020, 2021 *Dissertation Fellowship*, UC San Diego
- 2016, 2017 *Research Assistantship* on Pierre Gassendi's *Syntagma Philosophicum* with Donald Rutherford, UC San Diego

### ***Selected Talks*** (\* for invited, \*\* for refereed)

- 2023 "Spinoza's Value Projectivism," *History of Philosophy Roundtable*, UC San Diego
- 2022 "Spinoza on Affect and Judgments of Value," *History of Philosophy Roundtable*, UC San Diego
- 2021 "Locke on Human Freedom," *The International John Locke Society*, Università di Napoli Federico II\*\*
- 2021 "Perfectionism in Spinoza's Ethical Theory," *History of Philosophy Roundtable*, UC San Diego
- 2020 "Moral Theory and Ideology Critique," *The UCSD Workshop on Philosophical Issues in Contemporary Social Crises*, UC San Diego
- 2020 "The Value of the Affects in Spinoza," *Virtual Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of Pennsylvania\*\*
- 2020 "Spinoza on Judgments of Good and Evil," *Seminario di filosofia morale e storia della filosofia moderna*, Università Roma Tre\*
- 2019 "An Adequate Explanation of the Inadequate in Spinoza," *History of Philosophy Roundtable*, UC San Diego
- 2019 "Transient Causation Among Finite Modes in Spinoza," *Collegium Spinozanum*, University of Groningen\*\*
- 2017 "A New Role for Moral Theory in Ideology Critique?" *Graduate Philosophy Conference*, UC San Diego

### ***Professional Service***

- 2023- Referee for the *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*
- 2023- Translator for the *Journal of Spinoza Studies* (English-Italian)
- 2022 Co-Organizer, *Modern Philosophy Graduate Workshop*, UC San Diego
- 2021-22 Liaison, *UCSD Philosophy Professionalization Series*, UC San Diego
- 2021 Co-Organizer, *Spinoza on Freedom Workshop*, UC San Diego
- 2020-22 Advisory Board Member, *Summer Program for the Advancement of Women in Philosophy*, UC San Diego
- 2017-19 Graduate Student Representative, *Philosophy Department*, UC San Diego

### ***Teaching Experience***

#### **Instructor of Record** | *UC San Diego Philosophy*

- 2022 Ethics and Society II
- 2021 Science, Society, and Values
- 2020 Introduction to Philosophy

#### **Co-Instructor of Record** | *UC San Diego Academic Connections*

- 2019 Introduction to Philosophy
- 2018 People, Emotions, Government

#### **Teaching Assistant** | *UC San Diego Philosophy*

- 2022 Philosophy in the Americas
- 2022 The Meaning of Life
- 2019, 2021 Philosophy and the Rise of Modern Science
- 2019 Introduction to Logic
- 2018, 2021 Ethics and Society II
- 2016, 2023 Introduction to Ethics
- 2015, 2016 Ethics and Society I

#### **Teaching Assistant** | *UC San Diego Revelle Humanities Program*

- 2018 Modern Culture
- 2018 Enlightenment, Romanticism, Revolution
- 2017, 2019 Rome, Christianity and the Middle Ages
- 2017 Renaissance, Reformation and Early Modern Europe
- 2017 Foundations of Western Civilization

**Graduate Coursework** (“\*” for audited, otherwise completed for credit)

**History of Philosophy**

Ancient Theories of Wisdom (Rutherford and Johnson)  
Perfectionism: Ancient and Modern (Rutherford and Brink)  
Locke (Rickless)  
Spinoza and Leibniz (Rutherford)  
The Constitution of Experience (Tolley)  
Leibniz (Rutherford)\*  
Kant (Watkins)\*  
Eighteenth Century European Moral Sentimentalism (Rickless)\*  
Individual, Community, and the Common Good (Brink, Rutherford, and Tolley)\*

**Ethics and Moral Psychology**

Compensation and Restitution (Bazargan-Forward)  
Blame (Brink and Nelkin)  
Emotion (Fulkerson)  
Normativity and Prudence (Brink)\*

**M&E and Other**

Philosophical Approaches to Racism (Hardimon)  
The Philosophy of Philosophy (Sher)  
Truth in Ethics (Sher)  
Varieties of Reference (Grush)

**Languages**

Native        English, Italian  
Reading      Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)  
Translating   Latin, Ancient Greek

**References**

Donald Rutherford | Prof. Emeritus, Philosophy, UC San Diego • [drutherford@ucsd.edu](mailto:drutherford@ucsd.edu)  
Samuel C. Rickless | Professor of Philosophy, UC San Diego • [srickless@ucsd.edu](mailto:srickless@ucsd.edu)  
David O. Brink | Distinguished Prof. of Philosophy, UC San Diego • [dbrink@ucsd.edu](mailto:dbrink@ucsd.edu)  
Monte Johnson | Professor of Philosophy, UC San Diego • [mrj001@ucsd.edu](mailto:mrj001@ucsd.edu)