

Leonardo Moauro

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Advanced Studies in the Humanities
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Areas of Specialization | Early Modern Philosophy, History of Ethics

Areas of Competence | Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Moral Psychology

Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Human Abilities Centre

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

October 2023-current

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-February 2015

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

Brown University, Providence, RI

September 2007-May 2011

Publications

1. “**Perfection**” and “**Blessedness**” [both with Donald Rutherford] (forthcoming in *The Cambridge Spinoza Lexicon*, edited by Karolina Hübner and Justin Steinberg)
2. “**The Limits of Spinoza's Perfectionism**” (2024). *Ergo an Open Access Journal of Philosophy* 11: 35. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.6789>
3. “**Locke's Diagnosis of Akrasia Revisited**” [with Samuel C. Rickless] (2024). *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 6. <https://doi.org/10.25894/jmp.1864>
4. “**Spinoza on Freedom, Feeling Free, and Acting for the Good**” (2023). *Argumenta, Journal of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy*: 1-16. <http://doi.org/10.14275/2465-2334/20230.moa>
5. “**Does Locke Have an Akrasia Problem?**” [with Samuel C. Rickless] (2019). *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, 1: 9. <http://doi.org/10.32881/jomp.39>

Work In Progress (titles redacted for blind review)

6. [A paper on **Spinoza's theory of moral motivation**] (*revise and resubmit*)
7. [A paper on **Spinoza's theory of evaluative judgment**] (*under review*)
8. [A paper on **Spinoza's theory of value**] (*draft available upon request*)
9. [A paper on **Spinoza's account of the highest good**] (*draft available upon request*)

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 [Amount: \$500]
- 2020** *Summer Graduate Teaching Scholar*, UC San Diego [Amount: \$1,200]
- 2016, 2017** *Research Assistantship* on Pierre Gassendi’s *Syntagma Philosophicum* with Donald Rutherford, UC San Diego

Selected Presentations (* for invited, ** for refereed, *** for scheduled)

- 2025** “Liberty, Suspension, and Akrasia in Locke,” *John Locke Society Group Session*, APA Pacific 2025***
- 2025** “Reality and Ideality in Spinoza’s Conatus Doctrine,” *Workshop on Power and Essence: Perspectives on Spinoza’s Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics*, Human Abilities Centre***
- 2024** “Spinoza’s Value Projectivism,” *THouGHtS 2024*, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*
- 2024** “Transeunt Causation in Spinoza,” *Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy*, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen*
- 2024** “Mereology and Laws of Nature in Spinoza,” *Vanderbilt Modern Philosophy Seminar Series*, Vanderbilt University**
- 2024** “Spinoza’s Anti-Realist Science of Value,” *Human Abilities Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2023** “Perfection and Desire: Spinoza on Good and Evil.” *Colloquium Series*, California State University, Fullerton*
- 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** “Transient Causation Among Finite Modes in Spinoza,” *Collegium Spinozanum*, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen**

Professional Service

- 2025** Co-Organizer, *Workshop on Power and Essence: Perspectives on Spinoza's Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics*, Human Abilities Centre
- 2024** Leader, *International Doctoral Seminar: Introduction to Spinoza's Metaphysics*, University of South Bohemia
- 2023-** Translator for the *Journal of Spinoza Studies* (English-Italian)
- 2022** Co-Organizer, *Modern Philosophy Graduate Workshop*, 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

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

- 2024** Freedom in Early Modern Philosophy (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)
- 2022** Ethics and Society II (*UC San Diego Philosophy*)
- 2021** Science, Society, and Values (*UC San Diego Philosophy*)
- 2020** Introduction to Philosophy (*UC San Diego Philosophy*)
- 2019** Introduction to Philosophy (*UC San Diego Academic Connections*)
- 2018** People, Emotions, Government (*UC San Diego Academic Connections*)

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
- 2016, 2023** Introduction to Ethics
- 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021** Ethics and Society

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
Non-Native Spanish (intermediate), French (basic), German (basic)
Translating Latin, Ancient Greek

References

Donald Rutherford | Prof. Emeritus of Philosophy, UC San Diego • drutherford@ucsd.edu
Samuel C. Rickless | Professor of Philosophy, UC San Diego • srickless@ucsd.edu
Dominik Perler | Full Professor of Philosophy, HU Berlin • dominik.perler@hu-berlin.de
David O. Brink | Distinguished Prof. of Philosophy, UC San Diego • dbrink@ucsd.edu
Monte Johnson | Professor of Philosophy, UC San Diego • mrj001@ucsd.edu