

AHMET AKTAS

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy, Purdue University
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EDUCATION

- PhD, Philosophy | Purdue University | 2023-present | GPA 3.96
- M.A., Philosophy | Middle East Technical University (Ankara) | 2021 – 2023 | GPA 4.0
 - *Thesis Title:* Precarious Necessity: Deleuze and the Theory of Thought
Committee: Assoc. Prof. Corry Shores, Prof. Daniel W. Smith, Assoc. Prof. Barış Parkan
- B.A., Philosophy (with a minor in French) | Boğaziçi University (Istanbul) | 2016 – 2021 | High Honors
- Minor, Philosophy | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris) | 2020 – 2021

AOE: Spinoza, 20th Century Continental Philosophy, History of Political Thought

AOC: Political Theory, Philosophy of Emotions, Metaphysics of Mind

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Fulbright PhD Scholarship (worth \$100,000) | 2023-2025
- 2210/E Graduate Scholarship (Continuation of TUBITAK Scholarship 2205) | The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) | 2021-2023
- 2205 Undergraduate Scholarship (supporting the best 0,01% of Turkish students in the National Exam) | The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) | 2016- 2021
- PROMISE Grant (\$1,000) x2 | Purdue College of Liberal Arts | 2024, 2025

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

5. Aktas, Ahmet. Forthcoming. “Precarious Necessity in a Contingent World: Time, Thought, and Necessity in Deleuze.” *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*.
4. 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>
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>
2. 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>
1. 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 Journal Articles

2. Aktas, Ahmet, 2026. "Rethinking the Spinoza–Machiavelli Encounter for the Twenty-First Century: Freedom within the Spiral of Governance, Friendship, and Law" [In Turkish], *Doğru Batı* Special Issue On "Spinoza's Philosophers, Philosophers' Spinoza", issue 115.
1. Aktas, Ahmet 2025. "Is Sadness Useful? Two Correctives on the Nature of the Affects and Their Relation to Good Life in Spinoza" [In Turkish], *Doğru Batı* Special Issue On "Spinoza Problem", vol 28, issue 114.

Book Reviews

2. The Review of *Aesthetics in Grief and Mourning: Philosophical Reflections on Coping with Loss* by Kathleen Marie Higgins, Review of Metaphysics 78 (2).
<https://doi.org/10.1353/rvm.2024.a947057>
1. The Review of *Insurrectionist Ethics: Radical Perspectives on Social Justice*, edited by Jacoby Adeshei Carter & Darryl Scriven, Forthcoming in The Journal of Moral Philosophy

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Presentations

1. "Affective Challenges to Deliberative Democracy" | APA Central (Symposium Session) | 2026
2. "Affective Challenges to Deliberative Democracy" | APA Eastern (Poster Session) | 2026
3. "Governing Through Affects: Spinoza on The Political Uses and Abuses of Passive Joys" | North American Society for Spinoza (NASS) Conference | 2025 (May)
4. "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"
5. "Was Spinoza a Deleuzian: Rethinking the Politics of Emotions and Affects" | Society for the Study of Affect (SSA) Conference | 2024 (October)
6. "World-Building and World-Losing" | Annual Conference of the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology | 2024 (September)

Other Presentations

1. "Was Spinoza a Deleuzian: The Birth of Affect in Deleuze" | Purdue University | The Fall 2023 Graduate Symposium.
2. "Spinoza's Account of Grief" | North American Society for Spinoza (NASS) Philosophical Salon for Junior Scholars | 2024 (May)

POPULAR PHILOSOPHY WRITINGS

1. 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).
2. Aktas, Ahmet. 2021. "Moby Dick: A Spinozist Tritone Fugue", in *ThinKnow Magazine*, vol 2, pp. 23-27.

LITERARY WRITINGS & TRANSLATIONS INTO TURKISH

1. Carol Ann Duffy, [Alem'in Karısı](#), Translation: Ahmet Aktas 160. Kilometre Yayınları. (Turkish Translation of Carol Ann Duffy's famous poetry collection World's Wife). 2025.
2. Turkish translation of "12 Poems by Iryna Shuvalova", with Semiha Mengüllüoğlu, published online on www.160incikilometre.com. 2022.
3. Turkish Translation of "Communism and Poetry" by Alain Badiou, in Bu Çağ (Bu Çağ Poetry Journal), vol. 2. pp. 1-5. 2022
4. Aktas, Ahmet and Mehmet Avcı. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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. 39-41. 2021
8. 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.

LANGUAGES

- Turkish (Fluent),
- English (Fluent)
- French (Full Research Command)
- German (Intermediate)

OTHER ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

- Founder and organizer of [Deleuze Research Group](#) at Purdue University | 2023- Present
- Referee for *Body & Society*
- Conference Organizer [%100 Deleuze Symposium](#), Ankara | 2025
- Undergraduate conference organizer and reviewer | Purdue University | 2024 & 2025 & 2026
- A contributor of [Phil-Free Community](#)

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- [Spinoza Circle in Turkey](#)
- APA Eastern Division