

Curriculum Vitae

Rafaël De Clercq

Department of Philosophy
Lingnan University
8 Castle Peak Road
Tuen Mun, New Territories
Hong Kong SAR

Email: rafaeldeclercq@ln.edu.hk
Tel.: +852 2616 7442

Employment

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, 2021-present
Associate Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Visual Studies (joint appointment),
Lingnan University, 2020-2021
Associate Professor, Department of Visual Studies, Lingnan University, 2013-2020
& Adjunct/Affiliated Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan
University, 2013-2020
& Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies), Faculty of Arts, 2017-2020
& Head of Department, Department of Visual Studies, 2013-2017
Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Studies, Lingnan University, 2009-2013
& Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University 2009-
2013
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy (Visual Studies Program), 2008-2009
Guest Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Tilburg University, 2005 (Fall)
Postdoctoral Fellow of the Fund for Scientific Research –Flanders, 2002-2008
Research Assistant of the Fund for Scientific Research –Flanders, 1998-2002

Visiting Positions

Academic Visitor, Oxford University, Department of Philosophy, 2002 (Fall).

Education

PhD, Philosophy, KU Leuven, 2002
Affiliate PhD Student, Philosophy, University College London, 1999-2000
Licentiate, Philosophy, KU Leuven, 1997
Candidate, Philosophy, KU Leuven, 1995

Areas of Specialization

Aesthetics, Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Meta-ethics, Philosophy of Language, Social and Political Philosophy

Published and Forthcoming Papers

Forthcoming 'The Perils of Purism: The Case of the Ghent Altarpiece', *Eстетика: The European Journal of Aesthetics*.

Forthcoming (with Jiji Zhang and Jingzhi Fang, 1st author) 'Actual Causation and Minimality', *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.

2025 'How Beauty Moves', *Philosophers' Imprint* 25:21, 1-12.

2025 'Wat hebben Vlaamse filosofen tegen "onze mensen"?', in Hans Dooremalen (ed.) *Vonken van inzicht. Liber amicorum Filip Buekens*. Tilburg: Brave New Books/Departement Filosofie, Tilburg University.

2025 'The Empty World as the Null Conjunction of States of Affairs', *Erkenntnis* 90:3, 989-998.

2023 'Conservation and Restoration', in Noël Carroll & Jonathan Gilmore (eds.) *Routledge Companion to the Philosophies of Painting and Sculpture*. New York: Routledge.

2022 'The Dehumanization of Architecture', *Journal of Aesthetic Education* 56:4, 12-28.

2021 'The Importance of Cultural Preservation', in T. Allan Hillman & Tully Borland (eds.) *Dissident Philosophers: Voices Against the Political Current of the Academy*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

2020 'The Historical Ontology of Art', *The Philosophical Quarterly* 70:279, 268-281.

2019 'Aesthetic Pleasure Explained', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 77:2, 121-132.

2017 'Does the Debate About Cinematic Motion Rest on a Mistake?', *Analysis* 77:3, 519-525.

2017 'Huemer on Immigration and the Preservation of Culture', *Philosophia* 45:3, 1091-1098.

2015 'The Lazy Person's Approach to Depiction', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 73:2, 95-104.

2014 (with Neven Sesardic, 2nd author) 'Women in Philosophy: Problems with the

- Discrimination Hypothesis', *Academic Questions* 27:4, 461-473.
- 2014 'Building Plans as Natural Symbols', *Architecture Philosophy* 1:1, 61-78.
- 2014 (with Wai-Yin Lam & Jiji Zhang, 1st author) 'Is There a Problem with the Causal Criterion of Event Identity?', *American Philosophical Quarterly* 51:2, 109-119.
- 2013 'A Simple Solution to the Paradox of Negative Emotion', in Jerrold Levinson (ed.) *Suffering Art Gladly: The Paradox of Negative Emotion in Art*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2013 'Locke's Principle is an Applicable Criterion of Identity', *Noûs* 47:4, 697-705.
- 2013 'The Metaphysics of Art Restoration', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 53:3, 261-275.
- 2013 (with Jiji Zhang & Way-yin Lam, 3rd author) 'A Peculiarity in Pearl's Logic of Interventionist Counterfactuals', *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 42:5, 783-794.
- 2013 'Reflections on a Sofa-Bed: Functional Beauty and Looking Fit', *Journal of Aesthetic Education* 47:2, 35-48. An earlier version appeared in 2010 in the Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics Conference in Udine, Italy.
- 2013 'Beauty', in Berys Gaut & Dominic Lopes (eds.) *Routledge Companion to Aesthetics*. 3rd edition. London: Routledge.
- 2012 'Architecture', in Anna Christina Ribeiro (ed.) *The Continuum Companion to Aesthetics*. London: Continuum. Revised paperback edition published in 2015 as *The Bloomsbury Companion to Aesthetics*.
- 2012 'On some putative graph-theoretic counterexamples to the Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles', *Synthese* 187:2, 661-672.
- 2011 'Modern Architecture and the Concept of Harmony', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 51:1, 69-79.
- 2011 'Aesthetic Properties', in Theodore Gracyk & Andrew Kania (eds.) *Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music*. London: Routledge.
- 2009 'Scruton on Rightness of Proportion in Architecture', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 49:4, 405-414.
- 2009 'The Aesthetic Creation Theory of Art', *Sztuka i Filozofia* 35, 20-24.
- 2008 'Aesthetic Ideals', in Kathleen Stock & Katherine Thomson-Jones (eds.) *New Waves in Aesthetics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2008 'The Structure of Aesthetic Properties', *Philosophy Compass* 3:5, 894-909.
- 2008 'Lopes on the Ontology of Japanese Shrines', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 66:2, 93-94. With a reply from Dominic McIver Lopes in the same issue (discussion section).
- 2007 'Melody and Metaphorical Movement', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 47:2, 156-168.
- 2007 'A Note on the Aesthetics of Mirror Reversal', *Philosophical Studies* 132:3, 553-563.
- 2006 'Presentism and the Problem of Cross-Time Relations', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 72:2, 386-402. Reprinted in Ernâni Magalhães & L.

Nathan Oaklander, eds. (2010) *Presentism: Essential Readings*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

- 2005 (with Leon Horsten, 1st author) 'Closer', *Synthese* 146:3, 371-393.
- 2005 'The Aesthetic Peculiarity of Multifunctional Artefacts', *British Journal of Aesthetics* 45:4, 412-425.
- 2005 'A criterion of diachronic identity based on Locke's Principle', *Metaphysica* 6:1, 23-38.
- 2005 'Aesthetic Terms, Metaphor and the Nature of Aesthetic Properties', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 63:1, 27-32.
- 2004 (with Leon Horsten, 1st author) 'Perceptual indiscriminability: In defence of Wright's proof', *The Philosophical Quarterly* 54:216, 439-444.
- 2004 'The Legitimacy of Modern Architecture', *The Philosophical Forum* 35:2 (Special issue on Ethics & Architecture), 135-146.
- 2002 (with Paul Cortois, 1st author) 'Autographic and Allographic Aspects of Ritual', *Philosophia* 29:1-4, 133-147.
- 2002 'Two Conceptions of Response-Dependence', *Philosophical Studies* 107:2, 159-177.
- 2002 'The Concept of an Aesthetic Property', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 62:2, 167-176.
- 2000 'Aesthetic Ineffability', *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 7:8-9, 87-97. Journal issue appeared also as Joseph Goguen & Erik Myin (eds.) *Art and the Brain II*, Exeter: Imprint Academic.
- 1999 (with Paul Cortois, 2nd author) 'Rituele taalhandelingen', in J. Baars & R. Starmans (eds.) *Het Eigene en het Andere: Filosofie en Globalisering* (Acta van de 21^{ste} Nederlands-Vlaamse Filosofiedag), Delft: Eburon, 79-92.

Book Reviews*

- 2022 Review of A Philosopher Looks At Architecture, by Paul Guyer, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 62:3, 503-505.
- 2016 Review of Resemblance and Representation: An Essay in the Philosophy of Pictures, by Ben Blumson, *British Journal of Aesthetics* 56:3, 317-320.
- 2015 Review of The Aesthetics of Design, by Jane Forsey, *Mind* 124:494, 627-630.
- 2014 Review [book note] of The Critical Imagination by James Grant, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92:1, 208-209.

*Not included: 19 book reviews (in Dutch) for *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, published between 2000-2008.

Other Writings

2024 'How Beauty Moves', *New Work in Philosophy*

(<https://newworkinphilosophy.substack.com/p/rafael-de-clercq-lingnan-university>)

2020 '美學的訴求' (A Plea for Aesthetics'), 星島日報 (Sing Tao Daily).

2020 'The Interview', in *A Call from the Prehistoric Time: Works by TANG Ying Mui, Grace*. Hong Kong: Brownie Publishing Ltd. [An interview with Hong Kong artist Grace Tang]

2017 'The Work of Lantian D.', *Hortus Conclusus: Lantian D.* [Catalog text]

Presentations and Talks

"The Place of Value in a World of Causes", Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium 2026: Naturalistic Philosophy and Grounding, Taiwan, May 2026

"The Perils of Purism: The Case of the Ghent Altarpiece", Peking University (School of Arts PhD seminars), China, Dec 2025 (Invited)

"The Perils of Purism: The Case of the Ghent Altarpiece", Heritage and Conservation: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Nature and Culture, Renmin University of China, China, May 2025 (Invited keynote lecture)

"Beauty and Secondary Epistemic Seeing", Lingnan-Genoa-Kobe Value Theory Conference, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR, Apr 2025 (Invited)

"The Place of Value in a World of Causes", 2nd Hong Kong Metaphysics Conference, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR, Oct 2024 (Invited)

"The Place of Value in a World of Causes", Analytic Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art Forum, Peking University, China, Oct 2024 (Invited)

"Actual Causation and Minimality", Formal Approaches to Metaphysics, University of Konstanz, Germany, Sep 2024 (Invited)

"Beauty and Secondary Epistemic Seeing", Department of Philosophy, Peking University, China, Apr 2024 (Invited)

"How beauty moves", Workshop in Theoretical Philosophy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR, Aug 2023 (Invited)

"How beauty moves", School of Philosophy and Social Development, Huaqiao University, China, Jun 2023 (Invited)

"The Dehumanization of Architecture", Scottish Aesthetics Forum, University of St Andrews, UK, Nov 2021 (Invited)

"The Dehumanization of Architecture", Public Space: The Real and the Ideal, International Society for the Philosophy of Architecture, Monte Verità, Switzerland, Jul 2021

“Art Restoration: From Metaphysics to Ethics”, Department of Philosophy, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, Dec 2020 (Invited)

“The historical ontology of art”, Lingnan-Southampton Conference on the Ontology of Art, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, May 2018

“Does the debate about cinematic motion rest on a mistake?”, Workshop on the Philosophy of Cinema, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, May 2017

“Aesthetic pleasure explained”, LU-SYSU Philosophical Forum, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, Nov 2015 (Invited)

“The lazy man’s approach to depiction”, Department of Philosophy, Ryerson, University, Canada, Feb 2014 (Invited)

“The lazy man’s approach to depiction”, Philosophy Seminar, Department of Philosophy, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, Sep 2013 (Invited)

“Is ‘depicts’ semantically ambiguous?”, The Philosophy of Pictures Workshop, Department of Philosophy, NUS, Singapore, Jun 2013 (Invited)

“Is there a problem with the causal criterion of event identity?”, Tokyo Forum for Analytic Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, May 2013 (Invited)

“The metaphysics of art restoration”, Aesthetics Research Group Seminar, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, Dec 2012 (Invited)

“Is there a problem with the causal criterion of event identity?”, Stockholm Philosophy Colloquium , Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, Dec 2012 (Invited)

“Is there a problem with the causal criterion of event identity?”, Philosophy Seminar, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, Nov 2012 (Invited)

“The metaphysics of art restoration”, Art and Metaphysics, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, May 2012 (Invited)

“Restoring beauty”, Theories of Beauty , KU Leuven & University of Antwerp, Antwerp & Leuven, Belgium , May 2011 (Invited)

“Locke’s Principle is an applicable criterion of identity”, Metaphysics Workshop , Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, Nov 2010 (Invited)

“Locke’s Principle is an applicable criterion of identity”, Philosophy Seminar, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, Oct 2010 (Invited)

“Functional Beauty and Looking Fit”, European Society for Aesthetics Conference, Udine, Italy, May 2010

Comments on Hanna Kim, “Impossible Metaphors or Why ‘Beautiful’ Can’t Be Used Metaphorically”, 2010 ASA Pacific Division Meeting, American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Grove, USA, Apr 2010 (Invited)

“Functional Beauty and Looking Fit”, CEPHAD 2010: The Borderland Between

- Philosophy and Design Research, CEPHAD, The Danish Design School, Copenhagen , Denmark , Feb 2010
- “A Simple Solution to the Paradox of Negative Emotion” , The Paradox of Negative Emotions in Art, KU Leuven & UC Louvain, Leuven & Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, Mar 2009 (Invited)
- “A Simple Solution to the Paradox of Negative Emotion”, Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong SAR, 2009 (Invited)
- “Roger Scruton’s Philosophy of Architecture”, Scruton’s Aesthetics, University of Durham, U.K., Jul 2008
- “On Some Putative Graph-Theoretic Counterexamples to the Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles”, Eidos Metaphysics Conference, Department of Philosophy, University of Geneva, Geneva , Switzerland , Jul 2008
- “Four Issues in the Philosophy of Architecture”, Interpreting Architecture, Institute of Philosophy, Prague, Czech Republic, Jun 2008
- “Aesthetic Ideals”, American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Grove (Calif.), U.S.A., Apr 2008
- (with Leon Horsten) “A New Counterexample to Weak Verificationism?”, Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society, Bristol, U.K., 2007
- “Comments on Crispin Wright, The Perils of Dogmatism”, New Perspectives in Epistemology, KU Leuven, Belgium, 2007 (Invited but cancelled]
- “Melody and Metaphorical Movement”, 64th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics, Milwaukee, U.S.A., 2006
- “A Criterion for Concreta”, First Meeting of the Dutch-Flemish Society for Analytic Philosophy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2006
- “A Note on the Aesthetics of Mirror Reversal”, Fifth European Conference of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP5), Lisbon, Portugal, 2005
- “In Defence of an Alternative Conception of Response-Dependence”, Workshop on Response-Dependence, Turku, Finland, 2005
- “A criterion of diachronic identity based on Locke’s Principle”, 8th Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Pullman, Washington, U.S.A., 2005 (Cancelled)
- “The Aesthetic Peculiarity of Multifunctional Artefacts”, ASA Pacific Division Meeting in Asilomar, California, U.S.A. (Cancelled)
- “Are cross-temporal relations a problem for presentism?”, Joint Session of The Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern-Ireland, 2003
- “Relations between temporally separated entities: a problem for presentism?”, Logic and Philosophy of Science in Belgium: The Next Generation, Leuven, Belgium, 2003
- (with Leon Horsten) “Acceptable criteria of identity by approximation”, Representing

and Inferring, Bergamo, Italy, 2002

“Is Strong Supervenience Compatible with Antinaturalism?”, Fourth European Congress for Analytic Philosophy (ECAP4), Lund University, Sweden, 2002

“Roger Scruton on Modern Architecture”, XVth International Congress of Aesthetics: Aesthetics in the 21st Century, Makuhari, Japan, 2001

(with Paul Cortois) “Rituele taalhandelingen en taalgebeurtenissen: etnopragsmatiek vs. filosofie van de antropologie?”, Tweede Vlaams-Nederlands Congres voor Algemene en Bijzondere Wetenschapsfilosofie, Leusden, The Netherlands, 2001

“Aesthetic properties defined?”, Value, Art, and Ethics, Southampton, UK, 2000

“Aesthetic properties defined?”, Analysing Aesthetics, Leeds, UK, 2000

(with Paul Cortois) “Rituele taalhandelingen”, 21ste Nederlands-Vlaamse Filosofiedag, Tilburg, The Netherlands, 1999

“Aesthetic Ineffability”, Cognitive Science Conference on Consciousness, Perception, and Art, Brussels, Belgium, 1999

“Aesthetic Ineffability”, Analytic Aesthetics Workshop. Leuven, Belgium, 1999

“Aesthetic Ineffability”, Annual Meeting of the British Society of Aesthetics, Oxford, UK, 1999

(with Paul Cortois) “Autographic and Allographic Aspects of Ritual”, The Interplay of Science, Philosophy, and Religion, Leuven, Belgium, 1998

Responding to Jerrold Levinson, “Varieties of Musical Pleasure: Thrills, Chills, and other Delights”, Philosophy of Music Workshop, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1998

Teaching Experience*

At Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR:

Appreciating Art; Perception and Depiction; Metaphysics; Visual Studies: An Analytic Introduction; Exploring Visual Media; Special Topics: Aesthetic Properties; Philosophy of Visual Arts; Philosophy of Architecture; The Origin and Functions of Art; Morality and Markets; Avant-Garde Art; Existence and Being; Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation; Critical Perspectives in Art History (two 3-hour classes); Life and Death; Methodology sessions for postgraduate students in Visual Studies and the Arts Faculty; one-off Faculty of Arts Masterclass (for senior high school students).

At Ryerson University, Canada

One-off, 3-hour session of a Graduate Seminar on the Philosophy of Design

At Tilburg University, The Netherlands:

Metaphysics

At KU Leuven, Belgium:

Epistemology (introduction), Epistemology (advanced), Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy, Logic Exercises, Philosophy of Science Seminar (co-taught)
*Not included: supervision of MA dissertations (KU Leuven) and Directed Research Projects (Lingnan University).

MPhil and PhD Supervision (Main Supervisor)

Shen Nanyun, *Aesthetic Cognitivism: Acquiring Propositional Knowledge from Fiction* (2024) (MPhil)

Shamik Chakravarty, *Fictional Characters and Their Discontents* (2020) (PhD)

Henri Tung Kwok Wah, *The Aesthetics of the Hong Kong Built Environment* (2014) (PhD)

Karen Ma, *Appropriateness in Design* (2011) (MPhil)

Awards and Grants

Long Service Award, Lingnan University, 2024

Faculty Research Grant, HK\$ 21,600, 2011-2012

Initial Research Activities Fund, HK\$ 40,000, 2008-2011

Service to the Profession

External Examiner, PhD Thesis Examining Committee for Mr Wu Wei, Department of Philosophy, Chinese University of Hong Kong, August 2025

Associate Editor, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Feb 2020-present

Member, Extended Pool of Expert Panel Members, Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders, Feb 2019-present

Member, Editorial Board of *Architecture Philosophy*, Jan 2014-present

Area Editor, Aesthetics, *PhilPapers*, Feb 2011-present

Referee, Academic journals, institutions, presses, 2002-present

Philosophical Explorations (x2), *Logique & Analyse* (>12), *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Algemeen Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Wijsbegeerte*, *Erkenntnis* (x16), *Synthese* (x14), Austrian Science Fund, *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *British Journal of Aesthetics* (x14), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Philosophical Research* (x2), *Dialectica* (x4), *Ethical Perspectives*, Oxford University Press, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (x19), *Prolegomenon*, *Philosophical Papers* (x3), *Estetika* (x7), *Mind* (x3), *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of*

Philosophy, Journal of Value Inquiry (x3), *Diametros, Polish Journal of Philosophy, Architecture Philosophy, Aesthetic Investigations* (x4), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (x14), Israel Science Foundation (x3), *Inquiry, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Analysis* (x2), *Frontiers in Psychology*, Czech Science Foundation, Routledge (x6), *Philosophical Studies* (x3), *Grazer Philosophische Studien, Cogent Arts and Humanities, The Philosophical Quarterly* (x3), Palgrave Macmillan, *Philosophers' Imprint, Contemporary Aesthetics* (x2), Bloomsbury Academic (x2), *Ergo* (x2), Jackman Humanities Institute (University of Toronto), *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism, Studies in Conservation, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Principia: an international journal of epistemology, Philosophia*

Co-organizer (with Mikael Pettersson, Andrea Sauchelli and Lee Walters), Lingnan-Southampton Conference on the Ontology of Art, Lingnan University, May 2018

Co-organizer (with Paisley Livingston, Mikael Pettersson, and Andrea Sauchelli), Philosophy of Cinema Conference, Lingnan University, May 2017

Guest Examiner, Final Studio Project Review, School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Apr 2016

External Examiner, PhD Thesis Examining Committee for Mr Lee Jin Soo, Department of Philosophy, Hong Kong University, Sep 2015

Co-organizer (with Paisley Livingston, Mikael Pettersson, and Andrea Sauchelli), Aesthetics and Ethics Conference, Lingnan University, May 2015

Co-organizer (with Mette Hjort), What Environment Do We Want? Environmental Aesthetics and Its Implications, Lingnan University, Nov 2011

Co-editor, *Algemeen Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Wijsbegeerte*, Jan 2007-Aug 2008

Co-organizer (with Leon Horsten), Criteria of Identity, KU Leuven, 2004

Co-organizer (with Aldo De Martelaere), Analytic Aesthetics Workshop, KU Leuven, 1999

Service to the University

[Available on request.]

Service to the Community

Advisor, Sketch Hong Kong (Arts in Heritage Research Limited), May 2014-Jun 2015

Discussant, Peace and Sustainable Living Documentary Film Festival, Mar 2011

Jury Member, General Public Representatives Panel of 'Harmonized Neighborhood: Sustainable Building Design Competition', Nov 2009