

Mario Schärli

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RESEARCH AREAS

Specialisation Early Modern Philosophy, Kant, German Idealism
Competence Epistemology, Metaphysics, 20th-Century Continental Philosophy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025–2028 Research Associate, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
DFG project “Reasonable Ideas”

2027 Visiting Postdoc, New York University
Sponsor: A. Jauernig

2025 Research Associate, University of Zurich
SNSF project “Kant’s Pre-Critical Meinongianism”; left to take up the DFG position

2024–2025 Visiting Postdoc, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Sponsor: T. Rosefeldt

2023–2024 Visiting Fellow, Princeton University
Sponsor: D. Hogan

2022 Project Leader “Geschichte der Schweizer Philosophie”, University of Lucerne
With P. Blum; funded by the Research Committee (FoKo), University of Lucerne

2021 Research Associate, University of Lucerne
SNSF project “Being Without Foundations”

2019–2020 Visiting Scholar, Columbia University
Sponsor: C. Peacocke

2015–2021 Graduate Assistant, University of Fribourg
Chair for Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (G. Soldati)

2010–2015 Undergraduate Assistant, University of Basel
Chair for History of Philosophy (E. Angehrn and G. Hindrichs)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022–2023 Scientific Officer, Swiss National Science Foundation

EDUCATION

2021 PhD in Philosophy, University of Fribourg, *summa cum laude*
Dissertation: *Weltverhältnis und Weltverlust. Versuch über Skepsis und Metaphysik der Modalität*
Committee: G. Soldati, R. Bader, T. Rosefeldt, G. Hindrichs

2015 MA, University of Basel, *summa cum laude*
Major: Philosophy; Minor: Geography

2012 BA in Philosophy and Geography, University of Basel, *summa cum laude*

HONOURS AND GRANTS

HONOURS

- 2024 UK Kant Society Essay Prize, runner-up
 2015 Max Fäh Prize for the best Master's thesis, University of Basel

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026–2027 Princeton–HU Strategic Partnership Initiative (with A. Chignell and T. Rosefeldt)
 2025–2026 Swiss National Science Foundation Return Grant
 2023–2025 Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship
 2022 Project Grant, Research Committee (FoKo), University of Lucerne (with P. Blum)
 2019–2020 Swiss National Science Foundation Doc.Mobility Fellowship
 2018 Printing subsidy, Berta Hess-Cohn Foundation, Basel (with M. N. Sommer)
 2016, 2024 Two travel grants, Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences
 2015–2019 Three travel grants, Association of Research Staff, University of Fribourg
 2015–2023 Conference funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the SAGW, ETH Zürich, the University of Basel, and private foundations, partly as co-applicant
 2010–2015 Study fellowships, University of Basel and Canton Basel-Landschaft
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PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- forthcoming Kant's Pre-Critical Metaphysics of Existence
Ergo.
 forthcoming Orientation and Optionality. The Discretionary Nature of Doctrinal Beliefs about Special Metaphysics in Kant
Philosophical Topics.
 2026 Dreams and Paintings. Descartes, Skepticism, and the Constitution of Mental States
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 113/2, 379–393.
 2026 Possibility, Actuality, and Determinacy. Baumgarten's Metaphysics of Contingent Existents
History of Philosophy Quarterly 43/1, 27–52.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- forthcoming Analytic Inclusion and Synthetic Addition. The Syntheticity of Existential Judgments and Non-Existent Objects in the “100 Thalers Passage”
 In *Proceedings of the XIV. International Kant Congress*.
 forthcoming Von der Phänomenologie zur Noumenologie und zurück. Troxlers anthropologischer Ansatz im zeitgenössischen Kontext
 In *Ignaz Paul Vital Troxler. Philosophische Kontexte und Perspektiven* (= problemata 159). Eds. B. Hilmer & B. Orland. Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt: frommann-holzboog.
 2026 Galilei's Strategy of Subjectivisation
 In *Reading the Book of Nature Across Sciences, History and Philosophy. Proceedings of the Conference to Celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Galilei's Il Saggiatore*. Ed. D. Pietrini. Firenze: Società Editrice Fiorentina, 93–117.
 2024 Ewige Antizipation. Zukunft in objektivem und absolutem Geist
 In *Erkenne Dich selbst – Anthropologische Perspektiven II* (= Hegel-Jahrbuch, Sonderband 18). Eds. B. Bowman, M. Gerhard & J. Zovko. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 416–423.

- 2019 Eine jede Philosophie dreht sich um den ontologischen Gottesbeweis? Die Spur natürlicher Theologie in Adornos *Negativer Dialektik*
In *Das Ärgernis der Philosophie. Metaphysik in Adornos Negativer Dialektik*. Eds. M. N. Sommer & M. Schärli. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 237–278.
- 2018 Die Spontaneität des Verstandes
In *Natur und Freiheit. Akten des XII. Internationalen Kant-Kongresses*. Ed. V. e. a. Waibel. Berlin – Boston: de Gruyter, 1385–1393.
- 2018 Zukunftsbewusstsein. Grundriss einer Phänomenologie der Erwartung
In *Erwartung. Zukunft zwischen Furcht und Hoffnung*. Eds. E. Angehrn & J. Küchenhoff. Weilerswist: Velbrück, 35–64.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- forthcoming A Paralogism is a Paralogism. Comment on Watkins on Willaschek on Kant *Public Reason*.
- 2020 Review of Oppy (2018)
Dialectica 74/1, 163–169.
- 2019 *Das Ärgernis der Philosophie. Metaphysik in Adornos Negativer Dialektik*
Ed. with M. N. Sommer. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- 2012 D. Miller, Die Idee globaler Demokratie. Eine Kritik
Translated from English (“The Idea of Global Democracy. A Critique”). In *Die Idee der Demokratie*. Ed. B. Hilmer. Basel, 63–81.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- under review Paper on Kant’s Supreme Principle of Pure Reason
- draft Paper on Descartes on the creation of the eternal truths
- draft Paper on indeterminacy, middle knowledge and divine omniscience in Baumgarten
- draft Paper on existential judgments in Kant’s critique of the ontological argument
- invited Review of M. Zinkin, *Depth* (OUP, 2025), for the *European Journal of Philosophy*

TALKS

UPCOMING

- 11/2026 The Dilemma of Analytic Existential Judgments. Analyticity and Synthetcity in Kant’s Refutation of the Ontological Argument
Eastern Study Group of NAKS, University of Toronto
- 11/2026 Invited talk
History of Philosophy Seminar, King’s College London
- 12/2026 Invited talk
The Demarcation of the Knowable and the Unknowable, University of Heidelberg
- 3/2027 What is Kant’s Supreme Principle of Reason?
Pacific APA, Portland

REFEREED (SELECTION)

- 4/2026 Baumgarten’s Actualist Modal Epistemology. Indeterminacy, Middle Knowledge, and Divine Omniscience
BSHP Annual Conference, King’s College London
- 2/2026 Positings and Posits
APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago

- 1/2026 Real Possibility Requires Real Possibilia
APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore
- 10/2025 NAKS Biennial, Montreal
- 11/2025 The Optionality of Special Metaphysics
Midwest Study Group of NAKS, University of Notre Dame
- 8/2025 Mind-Dependence, Grounding, and Inheritance
Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy Conference, University of Turin
- 2/2025 Kant's Denial and the Metaphysics of Existence
APA Central Division Meeting, online
- 1/2025 Analytic Inclusion and Synthetic Addition
APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York
- 9/2024 14th International Kant Congress, University of Bonn
- 12/2024 Needs of Theoretical Reason
Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy Midterm Conference, Reggio Emilia
- 10/2024 Kant's Metaphysics of the Non-Existent
Kant 300 Years From Now, University of Catania
- 9/2024 Perceptual Irreflexivity
Goethe Epistemology Meeting, Frankfurt am Main
- 6/2024 Kant on Possibilia
Amsterdam Kant Conference, University of Amsterdam
- 6/2023 Galilei's Annihilation of Colours. From Irreality to Subjectivity
Il Saggiatore 400th Anniversary Conference, Florence
- 5/2016 Geschichte als "andere Zeit"
31st International Hegel Congress, University of Bochum
- 9/2015 Die Spontaneität des Verstandes
12th International Kant Congress, University of Vienna

INVITED (SELECTION)

- 6/2026 To P or Not To P. Complete Determination in Kant's Intelligible World
Kant's Metaphysics of the Intelligible World, Goethe University Frankfurt
- 6/2025 Noumenal Freedom and Noumenal Modality
Agency and Potentiality, University of Basel
- 5/2025 The Ideal of Pure Reason
Seminar "The Philosophy of Kant", Princeton University
- 3/2025 The Ontological Argument
Seminar "Special Topics in the History of Philosophy: Rationalism and Kant", Princeton and Rutgers
- 2/2025 Force All the Way Down
Goethe University Frankfurt
- 4/2024 Created Possibilities and Possible Creations
Metaphysics Group, Princeton University
- 3/2024 The Dilemma of Analyticity
Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion, Princeton University
- 2/2024 Kant on Merely Possible Objects
NY/NJ Research Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York
- 1/2019 Manifestation. Die Überwindung der kantischen Darstellungsproblematik in Hegels We-
senslogik
Darstellung in Farbe, ETH Zürich

6/2018	Political Imagination. On Utopia Perceiving, Imagining, and Judging. Themes from the Philosophy of Fabian Dorsch, University of Fribourg
5/2018	Zukunft und Zufall, oder: das Seiende, insofern es erwartet wird Erwartung. Zwischen Furcht und Hoffnung, University of Basel
11/2017	Frege on Existence and Number The Nature of Existence, University of Lucerne

TEACHING

GRADUATE SEMINARS

2019	Spinoza's Rationalism (Fribourg, German, with G. Soldati and P. Engisch)
2018	Kant: Reason and Normativity (Fribourg, German, with G. Soldati)
2017	Intentionality (Fribourg, German, with G. Soldati)
2016	Adorno, <i>Negative Dialectics</i> (Basel, German, with M. N. Sommer)

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINARS

2021	Textual Analysis: Classics of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Fribourg, French)
2020	Introduction to Hegel's Metaphysics (Fribourg, French)
2019	The Metaphysics of Possible Worlds: Leibniz and Lewis (Fribourg, French)
2018	Proofs and Refutations of the Existence of God (Fribourg, German)
2018	Sense and Reference from Frege to Kripke (Fribourg, German)
2017	Textual Analysis: Time from Zeno to McTaggart (Fribourg, German)
2016	Self-Knowledge in Plotinus and Schelling (Fribourg, German, with J. Tusi)
2015	Hegel's <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Fribourg, German)

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIALS

2015	Schelling, <i>On the Essence of Human Freedom</i> (Basel, German)
2014	Hegel, <i>Philosophy of Right</i> (Basel, German)
2014	Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i> (Basel, German)
2013	Hegel's Philosophy of Absolute Spirit (Basel, German)
2013	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (Basel, German)
2012	The Beginning of Philosophy: Presocratics to Aristotle (Basel, German)
2012	Nietzsche, <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i> (Basel, German)
2011	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> (Basel, German)
2011	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> (Basel, German)

TEACHING FOR NON-PHILOSOPHERS

2016–2019	Philosophy for Non-Philosophers (Fribourg, French, three master's courses)
2012–2015	Political and Social Philosophy (Philosophical Academy Lucerne, German, three courses)

SUPERVISION

PhD	Informal mentoring of Christoph von Villiez and Myriam Stihl
MA	Examiner in three oral Master's examinations
BA	More than 50 proseminar, seminar, and bachelor theses

CONFERENCES ORGANISED

- 2026 Representing the Unconditioned
Conference of the Princeton–HU Strategic Partnership Initiative, HU Berlin
- 2026 Kant and the Supreme Principle of Reason
HU Berlin
- 2023 Swiss Philosophy
With P. Blum, Monte Verità
- 2021 Kant on Armchair Knowledge and the Necessity of the Categories
Workshop with A. Moore, Fribourg
- 2018 Was ist Geist? What is Mind? Qu'est-ce que l'esprit?
Swiss Society of Philosophy Conference; with G. Hindrichs and M. N. Sommer, Basel
- 2018 Descartes, Kant, and Subjectivity
Masterclass and workshop with J. Almog, Fribourg
- 2018 Causation and Reference
Masterclass and workshop with J. Campbell, Fribourg
- 2016 Hegels Logik und der hermeneutische Realismus
Masterclass and workshop with A. F. Koch, Fribourg
- 2016 Negative Dialektik. Archäologie eines Konzepts
Conference; with M. N. Sommer, Basel
- 2015 Intentionality and the Primacy of Metaphysics
Masterclass and workshop with C. Peacocke, Fribourg
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**EDITORIAL**

- 2021–2025 Member of the Editorial Committee, *Dialectica*
- 2017–2019 Book review section, *Studia Philosophica*

REFEREEING

- since 2019 *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, History of Philosophy and Logical Analysis, Kant-Studien, Open Philosophy, Philosophical Topics, Theology and Science, Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung*
- 2017 Lake Geneva Graduate Conference

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2018–2019 Academic staff representative, appointment committee, University of Fribourg
- 2018 Academic staff representative, structure committee, University of Fribourg
- 2017–2021 Coordinator, Philosophy for Non-Philosophers, University of Fribourg
- 2016–2019 Academic staff representative, Department Council, University of Fribourg
- 2012–2014 Student representative, Faculty Council, University of Basel
- 2012–2013 Student representative, appointment committee, University of Basel

OTHER

- 2017–2022 Expert, Matura examinations in philosophy, Gymnasium Oberwil
- 2014–2026 Advisory board, Philosophische Gesellschaft Basel

READING GROUPS ORGANISED

2026	Kant on the Regulative Use of Ideas, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2025–2026	Kant on the Supreme Principle of Reason, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2023	Kant Work-in-Progress Group, Princeton University
2017	Strawson and Sellars, University of Fribourg
2014–2016	Hegel's <i>Science of Logic</i> , University of Basel
2012	Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, University of Basel
2011	Merleau-Ponty's <i>Phenomenology of Perception</i> , University of Basel

MEMBERSHIPS

current	American Philosophical Association; British Society for the History of Philosophy; North American Kant Society; UK Kant Society; Philosophische Gesellschaft Basel
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OUTREACH

2022	“Schweizer Philosophie und Migration”, philosophie.ch
2021	“Die Kulturgeschichte des Fetisch-Begriffs”, radio interview, SRF 2, srf.ch
2019	“Zeitpfeil und Zukunftsreise”, talk and conversation with R. Simon, literary festival on time, Basel
2018	“Wir sind Fetischisten!”, <i>universitas</i> 1, unifr.ch
2017	“Gerechter Krieg, Terrorismus und humanitäre Intervention”, workshop at Gymnasium Oberwil
2012–2021	Recurring speaker, public lecture series, Solothurn: political rights (2012), the present (2016), freedom and responsibility (2016), consumption and freedom (2021)
2011–2015	Freelance philosophy journalist for <i>Neue Zürcher Zeitung</i> , <i>Basler Zeitung</i> , and <i>TagesWoche</i> : about 30 articles, essays, and reviews, including a five-part series on Rousseau (<i>TagesWoche</i> , 2012) and an interview with Günter Figal (<i>BaZ</i> , 2011)

LANGUAGES

German	native
Italian	fluent
English	fluent (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency, C2)
French	fluent (DALF, C2)
Ancient Greek	reading

REFERENCES

Gianfranco Soldati

Professor Emeritus of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy
Université de Fribourg
gianfranco.soldati@unifr.ch

Ralf Bader

Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy
Université de Fribourg
ralf.bader@unifr.ch

Tobias Rosefeldt

Professor of Classical German Philosophy
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
tobias.rosefeldt@hu-berlin.de

Desmond Hogan

Professor of Philosophy
Princeton University
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Andrew Chignell

Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor
Princeton University
chignell@princeton.edu

Gunnar Hindrichs

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gunnar.hindrichs@unibas.ch