

Leah Jule Ritterfeld, CV June 2026

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📅 03.05.1995 in Hannover, raised in Germany, the Netherlands and the United States

🆔 orcid.org/0009-0004-9154-8596

👤 Profile

Psychologist, philosopher, and psycho-social counsellor. Interdisciplinary researcher, educator, and counsellor with work experience in multicultural and international environments. Native English and German speaker, fluent in Dutch.

🎓 A. Education and Degrees

Doctoral studies in Philosophy, University of Vienna, AT 03/2022 – 03/2026

- Thesis: “*Ressentiment Redeemed: Beyond Moralizing and Pathologizing Embitterment*” (Supervised by Prof. Dr. Hans Bernhard Schmid and Prof. Dr. Jan Bransen)
- Cumulative dissertation submitted in March 2026, currently awaiting oral defense

Vocational training and degree in Psycho-Social Counselling (Lebens- und Sozialberatung), ROK Akademie, Vienna, AT 04/2023 – 09/2025

- Diploma thesis: “Zwischen Empathie und Ethik. Moralische Herausforderungen und normative Spannungsfelder in der psychosozialen Beratung” (grade: 1,0)

Extra credits in Behavioral Science Research Master, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL 09/2019 – 10/2019

M.A. Philosophy of the Behavioral Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL 09/2019 – 06/2021

- Graduated summa cum laude
- Master’s thesis: “Conspiracy Theories: Unwarranted Absurdities, Propaganda, or a Specific Way of Holding a Belief?” (Supervised by Prof. Dr. Jan Bransen)

Extra credits in Philosophy, Politics, and Society (BA), Radboud University Nijmegen, NL 09/2018 – 06/2020

Extra credits in Gender, Diversity, and Cultural Sexuality Studies (BA), Radboud University Nijmegen, NL 09/2016 – 06/2018

B.Sc. Psychology, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL 09/2015 – 06/2019

- Graduated cum laude
- Bachelor’s thesis: “Age-Related Stereotype Effects in Emotion Recognition of Moroccan Male Faces” (Supervised by Dr. Gijs Bijlstra)

Studium Generale, Leibniz Kolleg, Tübingen 10/2014 – 09/2015

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, Dortmund International School 08/2012 – 06/2014

- High Level: English, History, German
- IB Degree (37/45 points)

High School (bilingual track), Leibniz Gymnasium Dortmund 04/2010 – 06/2014

- Advanced courses: History, English
- Degree: Abitur (grade: 1,3)

High School, Cygnus Gymnasium Amsterdam, NL 08/2007 – 03/2010

B. Awards and Honours

Radboud University Study Award for Master's Thesis, <i>Radboud University Nijmegen, NL</i> https://www.ru.nl/en/about-us/news/study-award-winners-announced	08/2022
Jan Brouwer prize for Master's thesis, <i>Koninklijke Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen (Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences)</i> https://khw.nl/verslag-uitreiking-jan-brouwer-scriptieprijsen-incl-juryrapporten/	02/2022
Honours Interdisciplinary Program on Art and Science (Wetenschap Ontmoet Kunst: Da Vinci in de Eenentwintigste Eeuw), <i>Radboud Honours Academy, Nijmegen, NL</i>	03/2022 – 05/2022
Honours Interdisciplinary Program Global Problems (Health Disparities), <i>Radboud Honours Academy, Nijmegen, NL</i>	09/2018 – 07/2019
Honours Interdisciplinary Program Global Problems (The Racism Paradox), <i>Radboud Honours Academy, Nijmegen, NL</i>	09/2018 – 01/2019
Honours Disciplinary Program (Psychology), <i>Radboud Honours Academy, Nijmegen, NL</i>	06/2016 – 12/2016
Honours Interdisciplinary Program for First-Year Students, <i>Radboud Honours Academy, Nijmegen, NL</i>	09/2015 – 07/2016

C. Academic Work Experience

Academic employee (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin), <i>Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna, AT</i>	03/2022 – 03/2026
Research Stay, <i>University of Glasgow, UK</i> Prof. Dr. Michael Brady	03/2025 – 03/2025
Teaching Assistant, <i>Radboud University, Nijmegen, NL</i>	10/2021 – 03/2022
Student Teaching Assistant, <i>Radboud University, Nijmegen, NL</i>	10/2017 – 01/2021
Representing the Radboud University at Bachelor & More and Master & More fairs in Germany, <i>Radboud University, Nijmegen, NL</i>	09/2019 – 11/2019
Intern, <i>Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, NL</i> Research group Dr. Judith Holler	04/2016 – 06/2016

D. Other Work Experience (freelance)

Psycho-social counselling, <i>Freelance (online and in Vienna, AT)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual and couples counselling• Workshops and seminars	12/2023 – Present
Teaching aerial acrobatics, <i>Various studios in NL and AT</i>	07/2019 – Present

E. Academic Teaching

“Moralisches Wachstum und psychische Gesundheit” (B.A. seminar, in English and German), <i>University of Vienna</i> https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=180061&semester=2025W	10/2025 – 02/2026
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<p>“Moral Growth and Mental Health” (B.A. seminar, in English), <i>University of Vienna</i> https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=180006&semester=2025S</p>	<p>05/2025 – 06/2025</p>
<p>“Resentment, Ressentiment, Resilience” (B.A. seminar, in English), <i>University of Vienna</i> https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=180096&semester=2024W</p>	<p>10/2024 – 02/2025</p>
<p>“Resentment, Ressentiment, Resilience” (B.A. seminar, in English), <i>University of Vienna</i> https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=180188&semester=2024S</p>	<p>03/2024 – 06/2024</p>
<p>“Einführung ins Wissenschaftliche Arbeiten” (B.A. seminar, in German), <i>University of Vienna</i> https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=180004&semester=2023W#gr4</p>	<p>10/2023 – 02/2024</p>
<p>“Psychological Ethics” (B.A. course, teaching assistant in English and Dutch), <i>Radboud University Nijmegen, NL</i></p>	<p>10/2021 – 03/2022</p>
<p>Student teaching assistant for B.A. courses, Radboud University Nijmegen, NL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/2020-01/2021: “Ethics for Psychologists” (in English) • 11/2019-02/2020: “Ethics for Psychologists” (in English und Dutch) • 11/2018-02/2019: “Ethics for Psychologists” (in English) • 09/2018-02/2019: “Statistics 2” (in English) • 01/2018-03/2018: “Psychometrics and Decision-Making” (in English) • 10/2017-02/2018: “Statistics 2” (in English and Dutch) 	<p>10/2017 – 01/2021</p>

F. Research

Submitted Papers

- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2026). Pathology or Protest? A Philosophical Analysis of Post-Traumatic Embitterment Disorder. Manuscript submitted to *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology*; revisions under review.
- Ritterfeld, L. J., & Brady, M. (2026). Post-Traumatic Diminishment as the Opposite of Post-Traumatic Growth. Manuscript submitted to *Philosophical Psychology*; revisions under review.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2026). Redeeming *Ressentiment*: Against Inferiority-Based Accounts and Toward a Phenomenology of Embitterment. Manuscript submitted to *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*; under review.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2025). Between Vice and Psychopathology: Rethinking *Ressentiment* through the Lens of Post-Traumatic Embitterment Disorder. Manuscript submitted to *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*; under review.

Publications

- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2026). [Review of the book *Here Lies Bitterness: Healing From Resentment*, by C. Fleury]. *Phenomenological Reviews*. <https://reviews.ophen.org/2026/04/15/cynthia-fleury-here-lies-bitterness-healing-from-resentment/>
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024). Seductive Yet Destructive: An Attempt at Navigating the Complexities and Pitfalls of Victimhood and Self-Victimization. *dePICTions*, 4. <https://parisinstitute.org/seductive-yet-destructive/>
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2021). Conspiracy Theories: Unwarranted Absurdities, Propaganda, or a Specific Way of Holding a Belief? A Critical Response to Quassim Cassam’s Approach to Conspiracy Theories and a Proposal of Conceptually Distinguishing Between Conspiracy Theories, Theorists, and Theorizing. Master’s thesis, Radboud University. <https://theses.uibn.ru.nl/server/api/core/bitstreams/e051b29d-ef9b-49f8-afbb-65533f4cc8e7/content>

- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2021). Is It Justified to Evaluate Female Genital Mutilation Categorically Different From Male Circumcision? An Examination of Inconsistency Based on Cultural Bias and Making Distinctions Between Religious and Cultural Practices. *Splijtstof*. <https://www.splijtstof.com/archive/is-it-justified-to-evaluate-female-genital-mutilation-categorically-different-from-male-circumcision/>
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2021). Ian Hacking's Dynamic Nominalist Approach and What It Means For #MeToo. *Splijtstof*, 49(2).
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2017). Gendered Products. *Raffia*. <https://raffia-magazine.com/2017/12/01/gendered-products/>

Invited Talks

- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2025, June). "Bridging Condemnation and Compassion: Rethinking the Incel Case." Invited presentation for the Feminist Sexual Ethics Society Workshop "Let's Talk About Sex and Sexuality," University of Vienna.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, June). "Lonely Lives, Isolated Minds." Invited guest lecture for Prof. Dr. Jean-Baptiste Pettier's Moral Anthropology seminar, Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, March). "Ressentiment Revisited: An Examination of the Incel Community Through the Lens of Ressentiment." Invited speaker for the Maria Montessori Meetings, Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2021, December). "How to Talk to Conspiracy Theorists." Invited speaker for the Maria Montessori Meetings of the Radboud University Social Sciences Faculty, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. <https://www.ru.nl/fsw/vm-fsw/vm-montessori-meetings/montessori-meetings/montessori-meeting-speaker-leah-ritterfeld/>

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2026, January). "Between Vice and Psychopathology: Rethinking Ressentiment Through the Lens of PTED." Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Philosophical Society of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2025, August). "Redeeming Ressentiment: From Inferiority to Embitterment." Presentation at the workshop "From Bitterness to Disappointment and Back," University of Vienna.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2025, June). "Ressentiment, Resentment, and Embitterment Disorder: Reframing Emotional Responses to Perceived Injustice." Presentation at the Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference, Gdańsk, Poland.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, August). "Ressentiment Revisited: An Investigation of Self-Poisoning as Exemplified by Incels and Conspiracy Theorists." Presentation at the World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, Italy.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, March). "From Loneliness to Extremism: The Path of Ressentiment as Exemplified in the Incel Community." Presentation at the Extremism and Subjectivity Workshop, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, March). "Love-less Lives, Isolated Minds: An Examination of the Incel Community Through the Lens of Love as an Epistemic Virtue." Online presentation for the Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, March). "Lonely Lives, Isolated Minds: An Examination of the Incel Community Through the Lens of Ressentiment." Presentation at the Politicized Loneliness Workshop, Helsinki, Finland.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2024, January). "Love-less Lives, Isolated Minds: The Epistemic Fallout of Incels." Presentation at the International Love Studies Conference, Gran Canaria, Spain.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2023, August). "Who Would Want to Be an Incel?" Presentation at the Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Ritterfeld, L. J. (2023, June). "Love-less Lives, Isolated Minds: The Epistemic Fallout of Incels." DocWIP presentation, Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna.

F. Service

Managing Editor, *Journal of Social Ontology*

- 05/2022-03/2026

Organization of Conferences and Workshops

- 08/2025: Co-organizer, workshop “From Bitterness to Disappointment and Back,” University of Vienna. Organized with Prof. Dr. Hans Bernhard Schmid and Dr. Niels de Haan. <https://philevents.org/event/show/130614>
- 10/2024–02/2025: Co-organizer, Weekly Writing Evenings for doctoral students, Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy.
- 08/2022: Co-organizer, Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality Conference, University of Vienna. Member of the local organizing team led by Prof. Dr. Hans Bernhard Schmid.

Media Appearances

- 01/2025: Participation in video series “Presenting early-stage researchers” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ash4k8ivjY>, University of Vienna
- 02/2024-08/2024: Co-development of podcast collaboration “Ontologies of Love” with Dr. Jessica Symons and Katherine Elizabeth Joseph
- 02/2024: Invited speaker for Eurozine’s talkshow *Standard Time* episode “The Ways of Love”.
- 09/2023: Expert interviewee for the student documentary “OVERTUIGD” on conspiracy theories, produced by Pieter van Lelyveld, Olivier Braams, and Olivier van Rooijen of Stedelijk Gymnasium Haarlem. <https://youtu.be/w57iffzAuNc?si=Qdjef85HOXIH0Qcx>
- 03/2023: Invited for a discussion on conspiracy theories by Floortje Appel for a TV broadcast project, “upd8,” at Hogeschool Utrecht. Engaged online conversation and consultation on the topic, including the reasons people believe in conspiracy theories and the potential dangers of such beliefs.
- 11/2022: Consulted by Eva de Breed, director and researcher, for the television program “Dwarsdenkers” on NPO2. Contributed expertise on the topic of conspiracy theories and extreme beliefs.
- 03/2022: Cited and thesis discussed in the article “Waarom de complotdenker altijd gelijk heeft” by Riëks op den Akker. Engaged in a detailed correspondence and debate with the author. <http://rieksopdenakker.nl/index.php/2022/03/06/hoe-groot-is-de-kans-dat-de-complotdenker-gelijk-heeft/>
- 02/2022: Interviewed by Lodewijk Dros for the Dutch newspaper *Trouw* on the topic of conspiracy theories: “Complotdenkers vatten tegenbewijs op als een poging om de samenzwering geheim te houden.” <https://www.trouw.nl/religie-filosofie/complotdenkers-vatten-tegenbewijs-op-als-een-poging-om-de-samenzwering-geheim-te-houden~b082fe59/>

I. Further Certificates and Courses

Gottman Method Couples Therapy – Level 1

Gottman Institute

Trauma-Sensitive Yoga Foundational Training

Reclaim Embodiment, via TCTSY
(Trauma Center Trauma Sensitive
Yoga)

Somatic Therapy and Body-Based Healing

Niel Asher Education