

Carolyn Culbertson, PhD

Florida Gulf Coast University
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[Faculty Website](#)

Areas of Specialization

- Philosophical Hermeneutics
- Continental Philosophy
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence

- Ethics
- Medical Humanities
- Ancient Philosophy
- Feminist Philosophy

Education

- PhD, University of Oregon, Philosophy, 2010
 - Dissertation: “The Claim of Language: A Phenomenological Approach”
(Director: Dr. John Lysaker)
- MA, University of Oregon, Philosophy, 2007
- BA, Oglethorpe University, Philosophy, 2004

Academic Appointments

- Florida Gulf Coast University
 - Professor of Philosophy, 2024-present
 - Acting Chair, Dept. of Communication and Philosophy, Fall 2025
 - Program Coordinator, Philosophy BA Program, 2023-present
 - Associate Professor of Philosophy, 2018-2024
 - Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2013-18
- University of Maine Farmington
 - Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2011-13
- Elon University
 - Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 2010-11

- University of Oregon – Eugene, OR
 - Graduate Teaching Fellow, English, 2009-10
 - Graduate Teaching Fellow, Philosophy, 2004-10

Publications

Books

- *Gadamer and the Social Turn in Epistemology*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2024.
- *Words Underway: Continental Philosophy of Language*. London: Rowman Littlefield International, 2019.
- *Gadamer's Truth and Method at 65*. (Co-edited with Theodore George.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Currently in preparation and under contract.]

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Shared Understanding Before Semantic Agreement: Gadamer on the Hidden Ground of Linguistic Community.” *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* Vol. 56, no. 1 (2025).
- “Why Natural Language Processing is Not Reading: Two Philosophical Distinctions and Their Educational Import.” *Journal of Applied Hermeneutics* Vol. 2025 (2025).
- “Testimonial Justice Beyond Belief: Gert-Jan Van der Heiden’s Philosophy of Testimony.” *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* Vol. 27, no. 2 (2023).
- “The Historical Situation of Thought as a Hermeneutic Principle.” In *Truth and Method: A Polyphonic Commentary*, ed. Cynthia Nielsen and Greg Lynch. London: Rowman and Littlefield International (2022).
- “Gadamer’s Concept of Language.” In *The Gadamerian Mind*, ed. Theodore George and Gert-Jan van der Heiden. New York: Routledge, 2021.
- “Play in Conversation: The Cognitive Import of Gadamer’s Theory of Play.” In *Language and Phenomenology*, ed. Chad Engelland. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- “The Genuine Possibility of Being-with: Watsuji, Heidegger, and the Primacy of Betweenness.” *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* Vol. 11, no. 1 (2019).

- “Walker Percy, Phenomenology, and the Mystery of Language.” In *Walker Percy, Philosopher*. Edited by Leslie Marsh. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- “Losing the Measure of Health: Phenomenological Reflections on the Role of *Technē* in Health Care Today.” In *Existential Medicine*, Edited by Kevin Aho. London: Rowman and Littlefield International, 2018.
- “My Language Which Is Not My Own: Heidegger and Derrida on the Ambiguity of Linguistic Life.” *Southwest Philosophy Review* Vol. 32, no. 2 (2016).
- “The Omnipotent Word of Medical Diagnosis and the Silence of Depression: An Argument for Kristeva’s Therapeutic Approach.” *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* Vol. 9, no.2 (2016).
- “Nature and Self-Knowledge: On Schelling’s Ambiguous Role in Merleau-Ponty’s *The Concept of Nature*.” In *The Barbarian Principle: Merleau-Ponty, Schelling, and the Question of Nature*. Edited by Jason M. Wirth and Patrick Burke. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2013.
- “The Ethics of Relationality: Judith Butler and Social Critique.” *Continental Philosophy Review* Vol. 46, no. 3 (2013).
- “Finding Ourselves in Language: On the Theme of Entanglement in Heidegger’s *Unterwegs zur Sprache* and Barthes’ Literary Theory.” In *Schreiben Dichten Denken. Zu Heideggers Sprachbegriff*. Edited by David Espinet. Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klosterman, 2011.
- “The Pre-worldly Past: On Nostalgia in Freudian Psychoanalysis.” *Philosophy Today* Vol. 54 (2010).
- “Ordinary Mind and the *Mumonkan*.” *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* Vol. 2, no. 1 (2010).

Book Review Articles and Translations

- “*Fūdosei* and the Hermeneutics of Nature.” *Research in Phenomenology* Vol. 54, no. 1 (2024).
- “Review of *Proto-Phenomenology, Language Acquisition, Orality and Literacy: Dwelling in Speech II* by Lawrence J. Hatab.” *Gatherings: The Heidegger Circle Annual* Vol. 11 (2021).

- “Review of *Proto-Phenomenology and the Nature of Language: Dwelling in Speech I* by Lawrence J. Hatab.” *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (Published December 7, 2018).
- “Review of *Senses of the Subject* by Judith Butler.” *Feminist Review* Vol. 118 (2018).
- “Art and Thinking.” By Martin Heidegger. Translated by Carolyn Culbertson and Tobias Keiling. *Philosophy Today* Vol. 61, no. 6 (2017).
- “Reciprocal Mirroring.” By Martin Heidegger. Translated by Carolyn Culbertson and Tobias Keiling. *Philosophy Today* Vol. 61, no. 6 (2017).
- “Review of *Feminist Experiences: Foucauldian and Phenomenological Investigations* by Johanna Oksala.” *Human Studies: A Journal for Philosophy and Social Science* Vol. 40, no. 1 (2017).
- “Review of *Tracing Expression in Merleau-Ponty: Aesthetics, Philosophy of Biology and Ontology* by Veronique Foti.” *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* Vol. 6, no. 1 (2014).

Conference Presentations

- “Hermeneutic Virtue and the Play of Truth” – International Hermeneutics Symposium, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 2025
- “In Praise of Close Reading: A Hermeneutic and Epistemological Defense” – Hermeneutic Rationality and the Future of Hermeneutics Conference, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal, 2024
- Featured Author in Book Panel on My Book, *Gadamer and the Social Turn in Epistemology* – North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2024
- “On the Way to Language: Hatab’s Phenomenology of Language Acquisition” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2023
- “Situating Knowledge: A Hermeneutic Approach” -- New College of Florida Women in Philosophy Series – New College of Florida, 2024
- “Social Epistemology, Normativity, and Gadamerian Hermeneutics” – North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, University of Dallas, Irving, TX, 2022

- “Testimonial Justice Beyond Belief: On Van Der Heiden’s Philosophy of Testimony” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy – Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2022
- “Gadamer's Hermeneutic Conception of Understanding as Social Epistemology” – Canadian Hermeneutics Institute – University of Calgary – Virtual Conference (due to COVID), 2022
- “Hermeneutic Phenomenology in Feminist Education” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy – Virtual Conference (due to COVID), 2021
- “Teaching the History of Philosophy as a Hermeneutic Practice” – Southeastern Association for the Continental Tradition – Virtual Conference (due to COVID), 2021
- “What Good is Feminist Analysis in a Post-Truth World?” – Invited Lecture for the Colloquium Speaker Series – Texas A & M University, Virtual Presentation (due to COVID), 2020
- “Gadamer on Conversation as a Vehicle of Understanding” – Southeastern Association for the Continental Tradition – St. Leo’s University, Tampa, FL, 2020
- Featured Author in Book Panel on my book, *Words Underway: Continental Philosophy of Language* (Rowman and Littlefield International) – North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 2019
- “Play in Conversation: The Cognitive Import of Gadamer’s Theory of Play” – North Texas Philosophical Association, University of Texas Dallas, Dallas, TX, 2019
- “Hermeneutical Activity in *On the Way to Language*” – North Texas Heidegger Symposium, McKinney, TX, 2019
- “On the Place of Friendship in Judith Butler’s Thought” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, 2018
- “Rethinking Women’s Silence: Hermeneutic and Feminist Considerations” – North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, North Central College, Naperville, IL, 2018
- “Reading the *Vimalakirti Sutra*” – CoZen Symposium, San Carlos, Panama, 2018
- “Remarks on Hatab’s *Proto-Phenomenology and the Nature of Language: Dwelling in Speech*” (Book Panel with Lawrence Hatab and Daniel Dahlstrom) – Heidegger Circle, Loyola University, Baltimore, MD, 2018
- “From Modern Medical Science to the Art of Healing: Heidegger and Gadamer on the Critique of Modern Health Care” – North American Society for Philosophical

Hermeneutics, Loyola University, Baltimore, MD, 2017

- “Walker Percy, Phenomenology, and the Mystery of Language” – North Texas Heidegger Symposium, McKinney, TX, 2017
- “The Inseparability of Reading and Writing: Cy Twombly and Roland Barthes” – North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2016
- “Reading Nishida’s ‘Basho’” – CoZen Symposium, San Carlos, Panama, 2016
- “The Genuine Possibility of Being-With: Heidegger, Watsuji, and the Primacy of Betweenness” – International Association for Japanese Philosophy at the American Philosophical Association, Washington D.C., 2016
- “The Life of the Other is Also Our Life: Friendship and Radical Alterity in Judith Butler’s Ethics” – Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2015
- “The Genuine Possibility of Being-With: Heidegger, Watsuji, and the Primacy of Betweenness” – Heidegger Circle, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD, 2015
- “The Omnipotent Word of Medical Diagnosis and the Silence of Depression: An Argument for Kristeva’s Clinical Approach” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 2013
- “My Language Which Is Not My Own: Heidegger and Derrida’s Challenge to Linguistic Determinism” – Heidegger Circle, New Haven, CT, 2013
- “The Ethics of Relationality: Judith Butler and Social Critique” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Rochester, NY, 2012
- “Speech and Ambiguity in Kristeva’s *Black Sun*” – Kristeva Circle, Albany, NY, 2012
- “Sincerity in the Performance: The Relevance of Confucian *Li* Today” – Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, San Diego, CA, 2012
- “Holding Your Memory: The Politics of Remembering Together in Derrida and Kristeva” – The Time of Revolution and the Revolution of Time, SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, 2011
- “The Ontology of Waste: Barthes on Twombly” – Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition, San Francisco University, San Francisco, CA, 2010
- “The Pre-worldly Past: On Nostalgia in Freudian Psychoanalysis” – Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Arlington, VA, 2009

- “Finding Ourselves in Language: On the Theme of Entanglement in Heidegger’s *Unterwegs zur Sprache*” – Heidegger Gesellschaft, Marbach am Neckar, Germany, 2009
- “The Ethics of Rhetoric: Political Oratory in Aristotle and Emerson” – Northwest Philosophy Conference, Eugene, OR, 2008
- “Ordinary Mind in the *Mumonkan*” – Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, East West Center, Honolulu, HA, 2008
- “The *Geheimnis* of Language in Paul Celan’s Meridian” – Participants’ Conference at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Citta di Castello, Umbria, Italy, 2007
- “Awakening Words: Poetic Language in the Zen Tradition” – Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, Seattle University, Seattle, WA, 2007
- “Thinking God: Hegel and the Pantheism Controversy” – Spinoza Society Meeting at the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, 2006
- “Hegel and Jacobi: On Thinking and Intuiting” – American Philosophical Association, Portland, OR, 2006
- “Necessity out of the Force of Wonder” – Merleau-Ponty and Schelling Conference, Florence, Italy, 2005
- “Waiting for the Inevitable: A Reading of Time and Sacrifice in the Death of Socrates” – Ancient Philosophy Society Meeting, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 2005
- “Suffer me the Insufferable: Paul Celan’s Affliction” – Participants’ Conference at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Citta di Castello, Umbria, Italy, 2004

Courses Taught

Key to symbols: Asterisk () indicates that I have taught the course multiple times.*

Florida Gulf Coast University (2013-present)

- Ethics in Theory and Practice*
- Philosophy of Human Communication*
- Philosophy of Health and Illness
- Ancient Philosophy*
- Special Topics in Ethics: Virtue Ethics*
- Major Figures in Philosophy: Hans-Georg Gadamer*
- Major Figures in Philosophy: Plato

- Major Figures in Philosophy: Judith Butler*
- Feminist Philosophy*
- Introduction to Philosophy*
- Contemporary Moral Issues*
- Self in Asian Philosophy*
- Special Topics: The Ethics of Memory*
- Special Topics: Philosophy of Art
- Special Topics: Philosophy of Love and Sex
- Honors First-Year Sequence: Gender, Knowledge, and Power I*
- Honors First-Year Sequence: Gender, Knowledge, and Power II*
- Directed Independent Study*
- Capstone Seminar in Philosophy

Courses Taught at University of Maine Farmington (2011-13)

- Special Topics: Contemporary Japanese Philosophy
- Asian Philosophy
- Consciousness and Experience (20th Century Continental)
- Ethics
- Language and Selfhood
- What is the Good Life? (Ancient Philosophy)
- Contemporary Moral Problems*
- Critical Thinking*
- Directed Independent Study

Courses Taught at Elon University (2010-11)

- Contemporary Philosophy (20th Century Continental)
- Philosophy of Art
- Ethical Practice*
- Directed Independent Study

Courses Taught at University of Oregon (2005-10)

- Philosophy of the Arts
- Philosophy of Religion
- Eastern Philosophy
- College Composition II*
- College Composition I*

Collegium Phaenomenologicum (Intercollegiate Summer Program)

- Graduate Text Seminar for Dr. Brian Schroeder's Course, "Between Earth and

- Our Nature: *Phūsis, Logos, Place-Time, Time-Being*,” 2017
- Graduate Text Seminar for Dr. Michael Naas’s Course, “Where Plato Draws the Line: Between Human Life and its Others,” 2012

Languages

- English – Native speaker
- German – Reading proficiency, some speaking knowledge
- Spanish – Reading proficiency, some speaking knowledge
- Attic Greek – Reading proficiency

Professional Service

Service to the Profession

1. Editorial and Executive Council Leadership

- Series Editor, *Contribution to Hermeneutics* book series, Springer Press (2024-present)
- Editorial Board Member, *Gadamer Studies* (2025-present)
- President, North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics (2022-present)
- Vice President, North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics (2018-2022)
- Member of Board of Directors, Southeastern Association for the Continental Tradition (2019-2024)

2. Service as Referee for Peer-Reviewed Journals, Academic Presses, and Competitive Research Funds

- Referee (2011-present): *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*; Springer Publishing; *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*; *Studia Phaenomenologica*; *Journal of Applied Hermeneutics*; *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy*; *South African Journal of Philosophy*; Rowman and Littlefield International; *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*; *Human Studies: A Journal for Philosophy and the Social Sciences*; *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*; Anthem Books; W.W. Norton; Bloomsbury Press
- Served as Referee for Icelandic Research Fund (2015)

3. Service as Moderator or Respondent at Conferences

- Moderator: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in Toronto, Ontario, Canada (2023); North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics in Calgary, Alberta, Canada (2023); North Texas Philosophical Association in Dallas, TX (2019); Heidegger Circle in Chicago, IL (2016); Kristeva Circle in Nashville, TN (2014)
- Served as Respondent for: Dr. John Krummel at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in New Orleans, LA (2014); Panel on “Community, History, and Praxis” at the Heidegger Circle in St. Petersburg, FL (2014); Dr. Jeremy Bell at

the Ancient Philosophy Society in Tampa, FL (2014); Dr. Pol Vandeveldel at the Heidegger Circle in Cincinnati, OH (2009); Melanie Shepherd at Northwest Philosophy Conference in Portland, OR (2007)

4. External Program Review

- Served as External Reviewer for Misericordia Philosophy Department (2020-2021)

5. Community Engagement

- Served as co-facilitator for the Southwest Florida Community Feminist Reading Group (2019-2020)
- Served as Judge for Southwest Florida Regional High School Ethics Bowl competition (2017, 2018)

University Service (Faculty Governance)

1. Department of Communication and Philosophy

- Acting Department Chair (Fall 2025)
- Program Coordinator, Philosophy BA Program (2023-present)

2. Peer Review Committee for College of Arts and Sciences

- Chair of the Peer Review Committee (2021-2023)
- Member of the Peer Review Committee (2018-2024)

3. FGCU Scholars Leadership Team

- Humanities Representative on the FGCU Scholars Leadership Team (2016-2020)

4. University-wide Faculty Affairs Team

- Member (2024 to present)

5. Participation in Search Committees

- As Chair of Search Committee: Chair of Search for Philosophy Assistant Professor (2020-2021); Chair of Search Committee for Philosophy/ Religion Assistant Professor (2017-18)
- As Member of Search Committee: Member of Search Committee for Associate Director of the Honors College (2018-19); Member of Search Committee for Communication Studies Assistant Professor (2015-16); Member of Search Committee for Religious Studies Assistant Professor (2014-15); Member of Search Committee for Communication Studies Associate Professor (2021-22)

6. Other Service on University Committees

- At FGCU: Member of the President's Reorganization and Resource Rebalancing Taskforce (2020-2021); Member of the College-level Writing Skills Taskforce (2015); Member of College of Arts and Sciences Working Group for Program Review Team (2014)
- At University of Maine Farmington: Member of the University-wide Committee on Interdisciplinary and General Education (2012-13)