

Berker Basmacı
Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas
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WORK

2025– **Assistant Professor**, Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas,
Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye

EDUCATION

- 2019–2025 **Ph.D.** Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
Dissertation: “Hegel’s Logic and the Aesthetics of Sensuous Singularity”
Committee: Jay M. Bernstein, Paul Kottman, Dmitri Nikulin, Julia Peters
Assistant Professor, Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas,
Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye
- 2016–2018 **M.A.**, Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
Thesis title: Kant’s Copernican Revolution in Philosophy
- 2013–2016 **B.A.**, Philosophy, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye
Summa cum laude
- 2011–2016 **B.A.**, Sociology, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2014 **Research Abroad.**, Philosophy, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (Summer Term)
- 2006–2011 **German High School Diploma**, Deutsche Schule Istanbul

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Aesthetics, Hegel Studies, Kant Studies

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Mind, History & Philosophy of Science, History of Modern Art

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024 “Circumventing the the Metaphysical Deduction: Space, Time, and the Table of Categories in Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason.” *Idealistic Studies* 54 (3). [Forthcoming]
- 2024 “Brandom on Hegel’s Objective Idealism: An Ecological Amendment.” In *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* XVI-1 <https://doi.org/10.4000/11p4y>

- 2023 “Transandantal Hayal ve Mantık: Kant’ın Kategoriler Tablosunun Kökenine Alternatif bir Bakış [*Transcendental Imagination and Logic: An Alternative Look at the Origin of Kant’s Table of Categories*, in Turkish].” In *Kant Çalışmaları Dergisi*, 1: 85–124.

Chapters in Books

- 2025 [Forthcoming] “Marian Devotion and the Painterly Divine.” In *Mary and Philosophy*. Edited by Michaël Bauwens and Joseph Terry (Publisher TBA).
- 2025 [Forthcoming] “Özgürlüğün Görünümleri: Hegel’de Sanat Fikri [In Turkish: *The Appearances of Freedom: The Idea of Art in Hegel*].” In *Estetiğin Alternatif Tarihi*. Edited by Ayşe Taşkent and Gamze Keskin. Istanbul: Akademim.

Book Reviews

- 2025 “Carolyn Iselt, *Individualität und Kunst: Zum Problem ihrer normativen Bestimmung in Hegels Phänomenologie des Geistes*.” *Hegel-Studien* 58, 206–209.
- 2021 “Karen Ng, *Hegel’s Concept of Life: Self-Consciousness, Freedom, Logic*.” *Idealistic Studies* 51 (1):103-107. Doi: [10.5840/idstudies20215111](https://doi.org/10.5840/idstudies20215111)

Translations

- 2025 Houlgate, Stephen. *Rubun Fenomenolojisi: Bir Hegel Okuma Kılavuzu*. Istanbul: Babil Kitap (Original Title: *Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit*, London: Bloomsbury [2013]) (Forthcoming)
- 2017 Zweig, Stefan. *Uykusuz Dünya*. Istanbul: Zeplin Kitap (Original Title: *Die schlaflose Welt: Aufsätze und Vorträge aus den Jahren 1909-1941*. Fischer)

TEACHING

2025–Present: **Full-Time Faculty**

Bilkent University, Program in
Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas

Courses:

- Ancient Humanities
- Modern Humanities

2025

Part-Time Faculty

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY.

Courses: Spring 2025

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Ethics & Morality
- Ethics for Healthcare Professionals

2023

Part-Time Instructor

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Course: Hegel’s Aesthetics (Summer 2023)

- 2022–3 **Teaching Fellow**
 The New School, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, New York, NY
 Course: History and Philosophy of Science
 Complete responsibility for the course, syllabus design, learning goals, assessments, managed online platforms for group discussion, and created a podcast series to complement lectures
<https://open.spotify.com/show/51FVgj1aPmmBJhlHULsek5>
- 2021 **Teaching Fellow**
 The New School, Parsons School of Design
 Course: Integrative Seminar I
 Complete responsibility for the course, syllabus design, assessments
- 2022–2023 **Teaching Assistant**
 The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
 Course: Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit I and II (with Prof. Jay M. Bernstein)
 Collaborated with the professor in lecture preparation, graded assignments, and held office hours
- 2020–2022 **Teaching Assistant**
 The New School University Lecture Program
 Courses (with Prof. Paul Kottman):
 - Aesthetics
 - Book to Film
 Taught discussion sections, graded weekly assignments and term papers, and managed online platform for discussion
- 2020–2021 **Teaching Assistant**
 Course: History of Modern and Contemporary Art (with Prof. Rory O’Dea)
 Taught recitation sections, graded weekly assignments and term papers, and managed online platform for discussion

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- 2024 “Idealism, Critique, and the Problem of Modern Art in Hegel’s Aesthetics,” Bilkent University Philosophy Colloquium, Nov 14th.
- 2024 “Art as the Manifest Actuality of the Good,” The 35th International Hegel Congress of the International Hegel Society, Technical University of Georgia, September 1st.
- 2024 “Das Positiv-Vernünftige der Sinnlichen Einzelheit in Hegels Kunstbegriff”
 Universität Jena, Blockseminar Hegels Philosophie der Natur, July 20th.
- 2024 “Hegels Logik und die Sinnliche Einzelheit der Kunst,” Klassische Deutsche Philosophie: Zeitgenössische Perspektiven (Heidelberg – Tübingen), Heidelberg Workshop, July 3rd.
- 2024 “Kunst und die Logik der Einzelheit in Hegels Ästhetik,” Forschungskolloquium des Forschungszentrum für Klassische Deutsche Philosophie/ Hegel-Archiv, June 25th.

- 2024 “Art and the Logic of Singularity in Hegel’s Aesthetics,” Warwick Continental Philosophy Conference, June 14th.
- 2023 “Brandom on Hegel’s Objective Idealism: An Ecological Amendment,” Boğaziçi University Philosophy Colloquium, Nov 10th.
- 2023 “Piramidin Yargısı: Hegel’de Sanat, Yaşam, ve Mantık,” 2. Lisansüstü Felsefe Çalıştayı (*The 2nd Turkish Graduate Philosophy Workshop*), October 30th
- 2022 “Kant’ın Kategoriler Tablosu ve Transandantal Estetik,” 1. Lisansüstü Felsefe Çalıştayı (*The 1st Turkish Graduate Philosophy Workshop*), December 4th
- 2020 “Transcendental Imagination as Judgment in the B-Deduction,” The New School Kant Studies Research Group, November 10th
- 2019 “Kant’s Copernican Revolution in Philosophy” *Bogazici University Practical Philosophy Workshop*, February 2019

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

This dissertation addresses the contested role of aesthetics in Hegel’s philosophy. In contrast to the prevailing view, which regards art as a limited medium for manifesting truth—a limit supposedly surpassed by pure thought—I argue that this perspective overlooks the subtleties of Hegel’s stance, especially because it creates a dichotomy between sensuous appearances and a metaphysical conception of truth. Through an examination of Hegel’s theory of artistic beauty in his late lectures on aesthetics, in tandem with his theory of conceptuality in the latter part of the *Science of Logic*, I demonstrate that artworks embody a vital conceptual content that significantly contributes to our understanding of the categories in Hegel’s logic. I argue that Hegel’s notion of the “absolute idea,” or the “ideal,” which expresses the complete saturation of an object with its concept, is best understood through the unique model of intelligibility provided by works of art. In distinction from other forms of the idea, such as life and cognition, artworks exemplify the ways in which an object can be determinate and meaningful in its singularity. In the first part, I develop a new interpretation of Hegel’s logic as a theory of “historical ecology” and explain the significant role of artworks in this framework. My reconstruction demonstrates how Hegelian conceptuality is paradigmatically expressed by the organic/ecological and self-conscious/historical processes that he calls the “concrete universal.” In these emergent formations, conceptual universality exhibits itself as the immanent form of singular objects, as exemplified in life and spirit. However, both these conceptual frameworks tend to diminish the significance of the individual or singular element as the determining factor, relegating it to a mere function of a broader universality, such as the life of the species or the political state. Artistic forms, on the other hand, supervene on the logical structures of organic and social life with an inferential content that foregrounds the singularity of the object. I argue that, for Hegel, this makes possible the manifestation of the idea, despite the reality of the non-ideal in the form of death, ignorance, and violence.

LANGUAGES

English: *Fluent*

German: *Fluent (Reading, writing, and speaking)*

- Goethe Institut Deutsches Sprachdiplom Stufe C1 (2011)

Ancient Greek: *Intermediate*

Arabic: *Intermediate (Reading)*

Turkish: *Native*

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2020 Topics in Pedagogy (Dr. Ryan Gustafson and Dr. Maggie Koozer)
The New School

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2024–25 Dissertation Fellowship, the New School for Social Research

2024 Kurzzeitsstipendium für Nachwuchswissenschaftler (May-July), Institut für
Klassische Deutsche Philosophie/Hegel-Archiv, Ruhr Universität Bochum,
Germany

2019–24 Prize Fellowship (2019–2024), The New School for Social Research

2016–18 Provost's Scholarship (2016–2019), The New School for Social Research

2016 High Honor Certificate, Boğaziçi University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

“Hegel's Hermeneutics,” University of Padova, May 23rd, 2023. Conference Panel Chair

Kritike: An Online Journal of Philosophy, April-May 2022. Peer Reviewer - Referee

Lisansüstü Felsefe Çalıştayı [*Graduate Philosophy Workshop*]. Co-Founder

A yearlong series of talks by graduate students in Türkiye and abroad.

<https://x.com/Felsefecalistay?s=20>

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- North American Kant Society
- American Society for Aesthetics
- British Society for Aesthetics
- Society for German Idealism and Romanticism
- European Society for Aesthetics
- Kant Çalışmaları Topluluğu [Turkish Kant Society]

REFERENCES

Prof. Jay M. Bernstein Department of Philosophy
The New School for Social Research.

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Department of Liberal Studies
The New School for Social Research.
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Prof. Dmitri Nikulin
Department of Philosophy
The New School for Social Research
nikulind@newschool.edu

Prof. Rory O'Dea
The School of Art and Design History and Theory
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