

# ***Bas Ben Martien Tönissen***

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## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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**Areas of Specialization:** Kant, Early Modern Philosophy

**Areas of Competence:** Moral Psychology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

## **EMPLOYMENT**

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**Princeton University Center for Human Values**, 2025.

Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion (3PR).

## **EDUCATION**

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**University of California San Diego (UCSD)**, PhD in Philosophy, 2025.

Dissertation: 'Finite, feeling, but free: Kant on evil and action.' Committee: Eric Watkins, Lucy Allais (co-chairs), Dana Nelkin, Clinton Tolley, Piotr Winkielman (Psychology).

**Humboldt Universität Berlin**, DAAD visiting doctoral researcher, 2023-2024.

**Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz**, Visiting researcher, 2023.

**St. Andrews & Stirling Graduate Programme in Philosophy (SASP)**, MPhil, 2017.

**University College Roosevelt (UCR)**, BA (Summa cum laude) in Liberal Arts & Sciences, 2013.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Papers:

**“Do good people love themselves? On rational self-love in Kant.”** *Kant-Studien*, 115(4), 2024: 433-453.

Conference proceedings:

**“Kant’s three stages of evil as stages of the heart.”** Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Kant Congress*, 2027.

Translation:

**Selections from Kant’s *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals***. In Russ Shafer-Landau, *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Oxford University Press), 2024. Translation commissioned to be maximally accessible to beginning readers.

Book reviews:

**“Alice Pinheiro Walla, *Happiness in Kant’s Practical Philosophy: Morality, Indirect Duties, and Welfare Rights*.”** *Kant-Studien*, 116(3), 2025: 453-457.

**“Thomas E. Hill, Jr., *Beyond Duty: Kantian Ideals of Respect, Beneficence, and***

**Appreciation.”** *Utilitas*, 35(2), 2023: 164-167.

**“Critical notice of Allen W. Wood, *Kant and Religion.*”** *Kant-Studien*, 113(1), 2022: 161-173.

## UNDER REVIEW/IN PREPARATION

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*Full drafts available upon request.*

“Kant on frailty and human weakness” (under review)

“Change of heart: Kant on atemporal succession and temptation”

“Kant’s concept of the heart: a developmental account”

“Self-forgiveness: reconciling ourselves with who we used to be.”

## PRESENTATIONS

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\* *Refereed talk*    \*\**Invited talk*

- 2025**        **“Kant’s concept of the heart: a developmental account”**  
 ‘Love, Hate, and Reactive Attitudes’, Boston University\*\* (forthcoming)  
**“Change of heart: atemporal succession and temptation in Kant”**  
 History of Philosophy group, Johns Hopkins University\*\* (forthcoming)  
 DC/Baltimore Kant workshop, Towson University (forthcoming)  
**“Kant’s concept of the heart and its development”**  
 APA Pacific Division meeting, San Francisco\*  
**“Kant, Mendelssohn, and the possibility of atemporal change”**  
 North American Kant Society (NAKS) Pacific Study Group, San Francisco State University\*  
**Comments on Scott Forschler, “What is the logical form of Kant’s categorical imperative?”**  
 APA Central Division meeting (virtual)
- 2024**        **“Kant’s concept of the heart and its development”**  
 NAKS Midwest Study Group, Marquette University /University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee\*  
**“What kind of thing are Kant’s three stages of evil?”**  
 14<sup>th</sup> International Kant Congress, Universität Bonn\*  
**“Wie Kant uns hilft, Übeltäter verantwortlich zu halten ohne Scheinheiligkeit”**  
 Berliner Kant Marathon (for non-specialist audience; held in German)  
**“Being without limit: radical evil and the desire to ‘Be like God’”**  
 ‘Historical perspectives on freedom and evil’, The Ohio State University\*
- 2023**        **“The frailty of the human heart: Kant on moral weakness”**  
 Colloquium on Classical German Philosophy, Humboldt Universität Berlin  
 Kant in Progress workshop, University of St. Andrews\*  
**“Being without limit: radical evil and the desire to ‘Be like God’”**  
 ‘Kant’s Moral Vision as Affirmative Religion’, University of Notre Dame\*  
**“Moral hangover: weakness of will in Kant’s action theory”**  
 NAKS Biennial, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México\*

- 2021**      **“Self-forgiveness: inspirations from Kant”**  
‘Kant on the self’, Princeton University\*
- 2020**      **“Black resistance and revolution in Kant’s political philosophy”**  
Workshop ‘Philosophical Issues in Contemporary Social Crises’, UCSD  
**Comments on Anastasia Berg, “Kant on moral self-opacity”**  
APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago
- 2019**      **“Self-love and moral progress in Kant”**  
NAKS Eastern Study Group, Brandeis University\*  
**“The possibility of aesthetic accountability”**  
Agency and Responsibility Group (ARG), UCSD
- 2017**      **“Kant, moral failure, and the guise of the good.”**  
UK Kant Society Annual Conference, University of St Andrews\*  
**“The paradox of method in the Critique of Practical Reason.”**  
VII. Multilateral Kant-Colloquium, Martin-Luther Universität Halle\*
- 2016**      **“Towards a Moorean-Kantian constructivism”**  
Dublin Graduate Philosophy Conference, Trinity College Dublin\*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Primary course instructor

Introduction to Western Philosophy (University College Roosevelt, June term 2025)  
Ethics & Society I (UCSD, Summer session 2023)  
Understanding Evil (UCSD, Summer session 2022)

### Teaching assistant (UCSD)

Teaching assistant (TA) for 19 undergraduate courses, 15 in philosophy and 4 in a Humanities writing program.

- Teaching two weekly or semiweekly sections of 20-30 students, which involves providing additional context to course material, and leading discussions and activities allowing students to engage with that material.
- Assisting students with questions and course assignments, in office hours and by email.
- Grading and providing feedback on all assignments.

### Pedagogical training

Minnesota Center for Canon Expansion and Change (CCEC) summer program (2022)  
Introduction to College Teaching, UCSD Engaged Teaching Hub (2021)  
Revelle Humanities pedagogy seminar (2019)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Co-organizer of Princeton Project for Philosophy and Religion (3PR) Working Group (2025)

Head Teaching Assistant for UCSD Philosophy (2022-2023)

Organizing committee for UCSD Early Modern Philosophy graduate workshop (2022)

Workshop instructor for UCSD Summer Program for the Advancement of Women in Philosophy (SPAWP) (2022)

Graduate representative for UCSD Philosophy (2019-2021)

Referee for European Journal of Philosophy (2025), Manuscripta (2025), Kantian Review (2x 2024), Journal of Transcendental Philosophy (2024), Journal of the American Philosophical Association (2022)

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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### Trainer/project manager, DebatUnie (then Cogency Debate Education: 2013-2015)

Teaching and developing debate, argumentation, and presentation workshops for all levels of Dutch education (primary to tertiary, beginning to advanced debaters).  
Organizing and hosting nationwide debating competitions, as well as smaller-scale events.

### Competitive debating (2009-2017)

Winner of major tournaments in London (2012), Rotterdam (2014), Groningen (2015).  
ESL quarterfinalist at both European and Worlds Debating Championships (2013).  
Finalist and/or top 10 speaker at over twenty major competitions.

Extensive experience as adjudicator, including Chief Adjudicator of Cicero Tournament Tilburg (2013) and Deputy Chief Adjudicator of Dutch Nationals (2014).

## LANGUAGES

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|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| English | Fluent                        |
| Dutch   | Fluent                        |
| German  | Full professional proficiency |
| French  | Intermediate proficiency      |
| Latin   | Reading/translating           |

## REFERENCES

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Prof. Eric Watkins, UC San Diego: [ewatkins@ucsd.edu](mailto:ewatkins@ucsd.edu)

Prof. Lucy Allais, Johns Hopkins University/University of the Witwatersrand: [lallais1@jhu.edu](mailto:lallais1@jhu.edu)

Prof. Andrew Chignell, Princeton University: [chignell@princeton.edu](mailto:chignell@princeton.edu)

Prof. Clinton Tolley, UC San Diego: [ctolley@ucsd.edu](mailto:ctolley@ucsd.edu)

Prof. Dana Nelkin, UC San Diego: [dnelkin@ucsd.edu](mailto:dnelkin@ucsd.edu)

Prof. Jens Timmermann, University of St. Andrews: [jt28@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:jt28@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Prof. Tobias Rosefeldt, Humboldt Universität Berlin: [tobias.rosefeldt@philosophie.hu-berlin.de](mailto:tobias.rosefeldt@philosophie.hu-berlin.de)

Prof. Monique Wonderly, Johns Hopkins University (teaching reference): [mwonderly@jhu.edu](mailto:mwonderly@jhu.edu)