Mario Schärli

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RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization	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*

HONORS AND GRANTS

HONORS

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

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*. Eds. V. L. Waibel, M. Ruffing & D. Wagner. 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 Syntheticity 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
12/2026	Chains of Reason: Kant on Prosyllogisms and the Unconditioned Midwest Study Group of NAKS, University of Chicago
3/2027	What Is Kant's Supreme Principle of Reason? Pacific APA, Portland
6/2027	Invited talk Conference on Kant and the Law of Excluded Middle, University of Notre Dame

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 Colors. 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 Wesenslogik 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, *Negative Dialectics* (Basel, German, with M. N. Sommer)

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINARS

2021	Textual Analysis: Classics of Modern 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 *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Fribourg, German)

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIALS

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

TEACHING FOR NON-PHILOSOPHERS

2016–2019	Philosophy for Non-Philosophers (Fribourg, French, four 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 ORGANIZED

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. W. 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

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 ORGANIZED

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 *Science of Logic*, University of Basel
2012	Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, University of Basel
2011	Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception*, 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!", *universitas* 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 *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Basler Zeitung*, and *TagesWoche*: about 30 articles, essays, and reviews, including a five-part series on Rousseau (*TagesWoche*, 2012) and an interview with Günter Figal (*BaZ*, 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
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Desmond Hogan
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Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor
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Gunnar Hindrichs
Professor of History of Philosophy
Universität Basel
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