

## Curriculum Vitae

Avraham Sommer

Doctoral candidate, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

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### Areas of Specialization

Early Modern Philosophy

### Areas of Competence

Logic, Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, Jewish Philosophy

### Education

B.A. 2021, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (magna cum laude, with high departmental honors)

Ph.D., Rutgers University, New Brunswick (in progress)

Certificate in Philosophy of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (in progress)

### Publications

"A Neglected Argument of Hutcheson's on Moral Motivation," *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 24/1 (2026), pp. 21-38

"Tradition, Rationality, Relativism, and Seeking Converts," *Philosophical Exchange* 1/1 (2026), pp. 61-70

"Degrees of Divine Revelation," *The Journal of Analytic Theology* 13/1 (2025), pp. 62-79

"Mitzvot," co-authored with Israel Cohen, forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of Skepticism and the Jewish Tradition* (Brill)

Contribution to a digital symposium on Jerome Gellman, *The People, the Torah, the God*, November 2024, <https://www.theapj.com/event/symposium-on-jerome-gellmans-the-people-the-torah-the-god-a-neo-traditional-jewish-theology/>

### Presentations

"A Neo-Maimonidean Theory of Prophecy," presented at the meeting Association for the Philosophy of Judaism at the 2023 APA Central Division meeting and at the 2023 meeting of the Long Island Philosophical Society

"Descartes' Case that We Have an Idea of God," presented at the Natural Theology graduate conference at St. Louis University, Fall of 2023

"Degrees of Divine Revelation," presented at the meeting of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism at the 2024 APA Eastern Division meeting and at the summer 2025 World Congress of Jewish Studies

"An Argument of Hutcheson on Moral Motivation," presented at the 2024 meeting of the Long Island Philosophical Society

"An Interpretation of Leibniz's Propositional Terms," presented at the 2025 meeting of the Long Island Philosophical Society

"Might Persons be Collective Substances for Locke? An Unexplored Possibility in the Debate over Locke's Conception of Persons," presented at the Rutgers-Tel Aviv conference on persons, summer 2025

"Some Difficulties with Leibniz's Definition of Substance," presented at the University of Haifa, January 2026

"Tradition, Rationality, Relativism, and Seeking Converts," presented at the 2026 meeting of the Long Island Philosophical Society

#### Teaching (all at Rutgers)

Grader for Introduction to Metaphysics, Fall 2022

TA for Introduction to Philosophy, Writing Intensive, Fall 2023

TA for Human Nature and Human Diversity, Spring 2024

Instructor on record for Logic, Reasoning, and Persuasion, Summer 2024 (online, asynchronous)

Instructor on record for Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making, Fall 2024

Instructor on record for Introduction to Modern Philosophy, Spring 2025

Instructor on record for Introduction to Formal Reasoning and Decision Making, Summer 2026 (online, asynchronous)

#### Service

Member of the climate committee, Rutgers Philosophy Department, 2021-2022

Member of the colloquium committee, Rutgers Philosophy Department, 2022-2023

Co-chair of the colloquium committee, Rutgers Philosophy Department, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026

Undergraduate advisor, Rutgers Philosophy Department, 2024-2025

Logistical assistant for a summer school on God and Spacetime in 2022 funded by the John Templeton Foundation

Logistical assistant for a summer school on God and Fine Tuning in 2023 funded by the John Templeton Foundation

Co-Chair of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism, summer 2024 to present

“Should We Continue to Read and Honor Immoral Historical Philosophers?” post at the Blog of the APA, April 29, 2024, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2024/04/29/should-we-continue-to-read-and-honor-immoral-historical-philosophers/>

"Francis Hutcheson's Moral Philosophy," talk presented to the Rutgers undergraduate philosophy club, Spring 2023

#### Honor Societies

Phi Beta Kappa, NJ Alpha Chapter

Phi Sigma Tau, NJ Theta Chapter

#### Languages

English, Hebrew, Latin, French (reading knowledge only), some Aramaic