

Rachel Aumiller

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024 (TT) | Assistant Professor of Metaphysics and Philosophical Anthropology
Faculty of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies
Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 2022–2024 | Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature
Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender
Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2017–2019 | Research Associate, Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies
Universität Hamburg, Germany

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020–2022 | ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry
- 2019 (6 months) | The New Institute, Hamburg, Germany
- 2014–2015 | U.S. Student Fulbright Grant, Philosophy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

EDUCATION

- 2016 | Ph.D. Philosophy, Villanova University
- 2012 | M.A. Philosophy, Villanova University
- 2009 | B.A. Philosophy with Honors, Magna Cum Laude, Goucher College
- 2007–2008 | Visiting Student, Christ Church, University of Oxford
- 2004–2006 | Lehigh Carbon Community College

Areas of Specialization: Continental Philosophy | Social and Political Philosophy | Ethics

Areas of Competence: Feminism | Psychoanalysis | Gender and Sexuality | Aesthetics

Doctoral Dissertation: *The Laughing Matter of Spirit: A Young Hegelian Comedy*
committee: Yannik Thiem (chair), Walter Brogan, James Wetzel

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 | Award for Best Submission by a Junior Scholar
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- 2016 | The John Tich Research Award, Villanova University
- 2016 | Summer Research Award, Villanova University
- 2015 | The Augustinian Chair Award for Professional Development, Villanova University
- 2014 | Summer Research Award, Villanova University
- 2009–2012 | Graduate Assistantship in Philosophy and Theology
- 2009 | Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- [1] Aumiller, Rachel. *The Laughing Matter of Spirit*. (Chicago: Northwestern University Press). under contract and review.

Edited Collections

- [2] Aumiller, Dolbear, Fleming, Vandeputte. (eds). *Walter Benjamin's 'Fate and Character'* Special Issue. *Diacritics*. under contract. Forthcoming 2024.
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel (ed). *A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism*. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020).

Articles/Chapters: Double-Anonymous Peer Review

- [9] Aumiller, Rachel. "Before the Caress: The Expansion of Intimacy in Suspension." *Thinking the Body, The Body as Unthinkable*. Religion in Philosophy and Theology Series. Eds. Rebekka A. Klein and Calvin D. Ullrich. (Stuttgart: Mohr Siebeck, 2024).
- [8] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Scoundrel." *Walter Benjamin's 'Fate and Character'* Special Issue. *Diacritics*. Forthcoming 2024.
- [7] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Virtue of Erotic Curiosity." *Philosophy and Literature*. Vol. 46.1, (2022 c). 208-222.
- [6] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Aborted Object of Comedy and the Birth of the Subject: Plato and Aristophanes' Alliance." *The Object of Comedy*. Ed. Gregor Moder and Jamila Mascot. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). 75-92.
- [5] Aumiller, Rachel. "Fantasies of Forgetting Our Mother Tongue." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. Vol. 33. No. 3 (2019). 368-380. "Best Submission by a Junior Scholar."
- [4] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Lick of the Mother Tongue: Derrida's Fantasies of 'the Touch of Language' with Augustine and Marx." *The Language of Touch: Philosophical Examinations in Linguistics and Haptic Studies*. Ed. Mirt Komel. (New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019). 107-120.
- [3] Aumiller, Rachel. "Epoché as the Erotic Conversion of One into Two." *The Yearbook for the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies in Scepticism*. Vol. 2. (2017 b). 3-13.
- [2] Aumiller, Rachel. "Antigone's Stance amongst Slovenia's Undead." *Studia ethnologica Croatica*. Vol. 29. (2017 a). 19-42.
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel. "Dasein's Shadow and the Moment of its Disappearance." *Human Studies: A Journal for Philosophy and the Social Sciences*. Vol. 40, Issue 1 (Spring 2016). 25-41.

Articles/Chapters: Non-Anonymous Peer Review

- [7] Aumiller, Rachel. "Walking Away, Walking in Circles, Writing Lists." *A Case for Reduction*. Eds. Christoph F.E. Holzey and Jakob Schillinger. (Berlin: ICI Berlin Press, 2022 b).
- [6] Aumiller, Rachel. "Haptic Reductions: a sceptic's guide for navigating a touch of crisis." *A Case for Reduction*. Eds. Christoph F.E. Holzey and Jakob Schillinger. (Berlin: ICI Berlin Press, 2022 a). 39-61

- [5] Dolbear, Aumiller et al. "Hands Tied: on Maria Lassnig and Ayesha Hameed." *Another Gaze: A Journal for Film and Feminism*. Issue 5. (April 2021a). 34-42.
- [4] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Crisis of (Not) Touching." Women in Philosophy Blog Series. The American Philosophical Association. August 2020b.
- [3] Aumiller, Rachel. "Sensation & Hesitation: Haptic Scepticism as the Ethics of Touching." [introduction as editor]. *A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism*. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020a). 2-29.
- [2] Aumiller, Rachel. "Twice-Two: Hegel's Comic Redoubling of Being and Nothing." *Problemi International: Journal for Psychoanalytic Theory and Philosophy*. Vol 2. (Spring 2018). 253-278.
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel. "Censoring Emotional Discourse." *The Crisis and Humanities: Transdisciplinary Solutions*. Ed. Žarko Cvjić, Andrija Filipović, Ana Petrov. (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016). 8-15.

Works in Translation

- [6] Dolbear, Aumiller et al. "Hands Tied: on Maria Lassnig and Ayesha Hameed" (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean). *Another Gaze: A Journal for Film and Feminism*. Issue 05. online edition. (April 2021)
- [5] Aumiller, Rachel. "Abortirani objekt komedije in rojstvo subjekta." [The Aborted Object of Comedy and the Birth of the Subject]. (Slovene). Trans. Aleš Mendizevec. *Problemi*. Vol 7-8 (2018). 99-120.
- [4] Aumiller, Rachel. "Polozaj Antigone Medu Slovenskim Besmrtnicima." [Antigone's Stance Amongst Slovenia's Undead] (Serbo-Croat). *Studia ethnologica Croatica*. Vol. 29. (2017). 19-42.
- [3] Aumiller, Rachel. "Dva krat dva." [Two Times Two: Hegel's Tetradic Dialectics] (Slovene) Trans. Maja Lovrenov. *Problemi*. Vol 9-10. (2016) 91-104.
- [2] Aumiller, Rachel. Do zadnjega smeha: Preston Sturges [To Die Laughing: Preston Sturges]. (Slovene) Ed. Ivana Novak. (Ljubljana: Slovenska Kinoteka, 2016).
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel. Hegel in Marx o gledališkem in historičnem prizorišču komedije." [Hegel and Marx on the Theatrical and Historical Stage of Comedy]. (Slovene) Trans. Lev Kreft. *Borec: A Journal for Slovene Philosophy and Culture*. Vol. 706-708. (Fall/Winter 2014). 140-159.

PRESENTATIONS

[52 in total]

Refereed Conference Papers

- [19] "The Comic Birth of Self: Aristophanes and Socrates as Midwives," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Toronto. October 12-14, 2023
- [18] "Erotic Suspension: The Expansion of Intimacy in Isolation." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. College Station, TX. October 13-15, 2022.

- [17] "Grasping Oneself by the Nothing: The Comedy of Negative Self-Reference and Resistance." Historical Materialism. London. November 7-10, 2019.
- [16] "Counting to Four with Hegel and the Ljubljana School of Psychoanalysis." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Pittsburgh. October 31-November 2, 2019.
- [15] "Dramatic Resistance: Benjamin on Satire and Partisan Frontline Theater." Historical Materialism. Panteion University. Athens. May 2-5, 2019.
- [14] "Fantasies of Forgetting our Mother Tongue." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. State College. Oct 19, 2018. Best Submission by a Junior Scholar.
- [13] "The Laughter of the Damned." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Memphis. Oct. 20, 2017.
- [12] "Benjamin's Comic Temporality of Hell." Historical Materialism. BICAR and the American University of Beirut. Beirut. March 11, 2017.
- [11] "Spinoza on the Passions Belonging to Time." The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Baltimore. January 8, 2017.
- [10] "The Repetition of Nothing in Tetradic Dialectics." Repetition/s Conference. Ljubljana. September 23, 2016.
- [9] "Censoring Emotional Discourse," Beyond the Crisis in the Humanities. Belgrade. April 25, 2015.
- [8] "The Censorship of Affect," Collegium Phaenomenologicum. Città di Castello. July 7, 2014
- [7] "Dasein's Shadow and the Moment of its Disappearance in Being and Time." The Heidegger Circle. Tampa. May 11, 2014.
- [6] "Marx on the Censorship of Laughter." The Philosophy and Literature Conference on Humor and Philosophical Practice. Purdue University. Purdue. March 28, 2014.
- [5] "Spinoza on the Temporal Passions." Duquesne Graduate Philosophy Conference. Pittsburgh. February 22, 2014.
- [4] "The (Narrative) Space of Conversion: Queer Spatial and Sexual Reorientation." The International Association of Philosophy and Literature Conference. Tallinn. May 30, 2012.
- [3] "Comic Anguish: Marx and Hegel on the Historical Stage of Comedy." Marx and the Aesthetic Conference. University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam. May 12, 2012.
- [2] "The Trace of the Animal in the Confessions of Man in Derrida's Circumfession." animal.machine.sovereign Conference. The State University of New York at Buffalo. Buffalo. April 15, 2011.
- [1] "The Comedy of Religion: Left Hegelian Comedy as Political Action." The Spirit of Capital Conference. The New School for Social Research. New York City. April 29, 2011.

Invited Lectures

- [18] "The Art of Erotic Suspension," Lecture Series. Sarah Lawrence College, February 7, 2023.

- [17] Book Presentation on *A Laughing Matter of Spirit* (Northwestern University Press). Humor as a Human Right: AHSN Humor Studies Conference. The University of Sydney. February 3, 2023.
- [16] "Intimacy Beyond the Reach of the Caress." Thinking of the Body – The Body as Unthinkable. Ruhr Universität. Bochum. July 27, 2022.
- [15] "Earthlings and Spacemen: The Masses of the New Elites." Radical Philosophy Talks. Spider Festival. Ljubljana. June 16, 2022.
- [14] "Radical Ecology and Ethics: Introducing Merchant's Eco-Feminism to Ecologists." Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde. April 6, 2022.
- [13] "An Ethics of Self-Care for Our Collective Existence." Environmental Responsibility. Beyond Borders. Hamburg. August 29, 2021.
- [12] "Teaching Hegel into the Future: pedagogy, technology, and sensation." *Aufhebung*: International Association for Hegelian Studies. Goethe-Institut. Ljubljana. August 27, 2021.
- [11] "Testifying to Contradiction: Reassessing Accounts of Trauma." Preventing Secondary Victimization of Children through Statement Analysis. University of Ljubljana. August 25, 2021
- [10] "Between Isolation and Immersion: the ethics of caressing in the dark." Touched: Transdisciplinary Perspectives. Meeting of Touch, Arts, Affects. Sorbonne University. Paris. June 30, 2021
- [9] "Erotic Suspension: The Transformation of Desire in Isolation." Virtual Enjoyment Lecture Series. The Dormant Office. Amsterdam. February 27, 2021
- [8] "Postwar Slovenian Memorialization as Performative *Epoché*." Political Seminar Series for Max Weber Fellows on Art of Indignation in the age of (D)anger. Ljubljana. August 23, 2018.
- [7] "The Comic Slapstick of Revelation and Resistance: Walter Benjamin & WWII Comedy" Public Lecture Series in Jewish Philosophy. The University of Hamburg. Hamburg. June 25, 2018.
- [6] "Aborted Concepts: the merging of ancient comedy and skepticism." Concept(s): Hegel's Aesthetics. Ljubljana. January 13, 2018.
- [5] "Walking in Circles: the repetition of historical suspension (Antigone in postwar Yugoslavia)." *Aufhebung*: International Hegelian Association. Ljubljana. September 7, 2017
- [4] "The Young Hegelians on Comic Critique and Religious Affect." The May Day School: Capitalism and Religion. Ljubljana. April 28, 2016.
- [3] "Repeating Comedy Comically (or) Why Four is Funnier than Two." History as Tragedy, Comedy and Farce: Workshop on Benjamin, Marx, Hegel, and Lacan. The American University of Beirut. Beirut. March 31, 2016
- [2] "Finding Antigone amongst Slovenia's Undead." Socialist Monuments and Modernism International Symposium. Funded by Creative Europe Program of the European Union Project: Heroes We Love. MaMa. Zagreb. November 6, 2015.

- [1] "Sturges Stuttered: The Stammering Truth of Comedy." *To Die Laughing: A Retrospective of Preston Sturges*. Hosted by Slovenian Cinematheque. Ljubljana. October 20, 2015.

Workshop Talks and Interviews

- [16] Interview for *Gadfly*, with Lily Kwak, Columbia University. Recorded on March 19, 2024.
- [15] Book Interview on *A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism*. with Ari Barbalat for New Books Network podcast. Recorded on October 9, 2022.
- [14] "A Hesitant Caress: An Ethics of Intimacy with Irigaray." *Naming Touch*. ICI Berlin. June 28, 2022.
- [13] "Dwelling in Reduction: a skeptic's guide for times of disruption." *A Case for Reduction*. Public Workshop. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. November 22-23, 2021.
- [12] "Reduction as Movement-n-Suspension." '*Reduction as...*' Colloquium. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. June 21-22, 2021.
- [11] "Practices of Self-Reduction and Expansion through Musser's Surface Play." *Reductive Experience Colloquium*. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. March 9, 2021.
- [10] "Reductions of Touch and Sensual Excess." *Internal Colloquium*. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. November 11, 2020
- [9] "Burning Down the Comic Stage" Response to Meryl Lumba. "Women and Comic Heroines: A Look at Hegel on Aristophanian Comedy" *The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division*. Philadelphia. January 8-11, 2020.
- [8] "The Body of Belief: Augustine's *Confessions* and Derrida's *Circumfession*." *The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Event*. Hamburg. September 25, 2018.
- [7] "The Emergence of Religious Subjectivity in the Consummation of Ancient Comedy and Scepticism." *The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Workshop*. Hamburg. April 12, 2018.
- [6] "Translating Touch into Concepts and Concepts into Art." *On the Making of Haptic Cinema: artists and philosophers reflect on a collaborative international film project*. Villanova University, Villanova: May 9, 2018. *New School for Social Research, NYC*: May 10, 2018. May 11, 2018.
- [5] "Framing the Skeptic as the Compulsive Toucher." *Workshop on Touch and Doubt*. *The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies*. Hamburg. March 27, 2018.
- [4] "Epoché as the Erotic Conversion of One into Two." *The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Workshop*. Hamburg. July 26, 2017
- [3] "Queering Conversion." *Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Colloquium*. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia. April 2012.
- [2] "De-conversions." *Faith and Philosophy Symposium*. Villanova University. Villanova. April 2012

[1] "Beauty, Necessity and the Material World: A Response to Iris Murdoch's The Sovereignty of Good." Villanova Philosophy and Theology Colloquium. Philadelphia. October 2009.

FUNDED COLLABORATIONS

Das Zukunftsbuch: Multidimensionale Dialektik

Goethe-Institut Ljubljana and Berlin, Exzellenzprojekt
2020-2021 | Project co-creator with Urban Srimpf et al.

VERBUM SAT - *Developing forensic statement analysis standards to fight CAE: A victim centered approach.* University of Ljubljana, The European Commission for Justice
2019-2021 | Contributing Researcher

Jewish Skepticism

The Maimonides Centre, Universität Hamburg
2017-2019 | Research Associate, Contributing Grant Writer

Haptic Cinematography: Touching Concepts – Conceptualizing Touch

The Slovenian Research Council | USA, Germany, Slovenia
2017–2018 | Project Director and Creator

The Language of Touch: Linguistic Perspectives in Haptic Studies

The University of Ljubljana, The Slovenian Research Council, Finalist for ERC starting grant
2016-2019 | Researcher and Contributing Grant Writer

COURSES TAUGHT

[11 courses, 22 sections in total]

2024 | Radboud University, The Netherlands

2022-2024 | Columbia University in the City of New York

Contemporary Civilization | Fall 2023, Spring 2024

a history of social and political philosophy, Core Curriculum Program, 4 credits

Feminist Theory | Spring 2023, Spring 2024

upper-level course for the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, 4 credits

Literature Humanities | Fall 2022, Spring 2023

a history of European literature and philosophy, Core Curriculum Program, 4 credits

2021 | Goethe-Institut, Ljubljana and Hamburg

Hegels Herr-Knecht-Dialektik: Die Visualisierung der Macht | Spring 2021

A guided reading seminar that compares the German text with three translations
six-part intensive meetings, 20 hours, 14 students

2017-2020 | Universität Hamburg, Germany

Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy | Spring 2020

Existential Ontology and Ethics

graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits

Environmental Ethics | Fall 2019

A Marxist-Feminist Approach to Sustainability

graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 29 students

The Ego and the Skin | Spring 2019

Feminist and Psychoanalytic Philosophies of the Formation of Self through Touch

graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 33 students

Repetitions and Revolutions | Spring 2018

Hegelian and Post-Hegelian Philosophies of History

graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 10 students

The Comedy of Politics | Fall 2017

Political Philosophy and Aesthetics on Propaganda and Satire

graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 15 students

2012-2016 | Villanova University, USA

Introduction to Ethics: The Good Life | Fall 2016 (2 sections)

The (Unorthodox) History of Virtue Ethics from Antiquity to the Present

undergraduate core course, 3 credits, ~ 50 students total

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge, Reality, Self | Fall 2012 (1 section), Spring 2013 (2 sections), Fall 2013 (2 sections), Spring 2014 (3 sections)

A History of Western Philosophy: told through dialogues, soliloquies, and manifestos

undergraduate core course, 3 credits, ~ 200 students total

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MA Thesis Advisor

Chloe Tsolakoglou. "The Thief's Sunken Beauty: Jean Genet on Amorality, Queer Criminality, and the Revolution," Columbia University, 2023.

Tjark Lüneberg. "The Lacanian Interpretation of the Freudian Death Drive and the Pathology of Perversions," Universität Hamburg, 2021.

Erika Rotärmel. „Diskussion der moralischen Vertretbarkeit von aktiver Sterbehilfe und assistiertem Suizid bei Kindern mit Einwilligungsfähigkeit anhand ausgewählter Kriterien.“ Universität Hamburg, 2021.

Summer Schools

Text Seminar Leader. Collegium Phaenomenologicum, *Philosophy and Poetry*. Città di Castello, July 8-12, 2024.

Text Seminar Leader. Collegium Phaenomenologicum, *Cosmology and Cosmopolitanism*. Città di Castello, July 24-28, 2023.

Teaching Training

Columbia University Core Curriculum Weekly Lecture Series on Pedagogy | 2022-24

Certificate of Mentored Teaching | 2012-2013

For successful completion of seminars on university teaching with observation of class performance | The Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning

Teaching Assistantship | 2012-2013

Villanova University | Professor John Immerwahr | Introduction to Philosophy Courses

ORGANIZED CONFEERENCES

Naming Touch: perspectives on haptic experience and language from anthropology, philosophy, and psychoanalysis. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. June 28-29, 2022

Suspending Touch: Haptic Skepticism for Life During a Pandemic. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. May 20, 2021

The Making of Haptic Cinema: workshop series as part of the collaborative international film and philosophy project. Universität Hamburg: March 27, 2018. Villanova University: May 9, 2018. New School for Social Research: May 11, 2018

Haptic Cinema: An international project in cinematography and philosophy of touch and language. Project Director. USA. Slovenia. 2017-2018

A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism. The University of Hamburg. March 27-28, 2018

Apocalyptic Politics. Villanova's 18th Annual Philosophy Conference. April 12-13, 2013

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Managing Editor | 2017-2019

Studies and Texts in Scepticism (Berlin: De Gruyter).

Assistant Editor | 2010-2011

Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy

Assistant Managing Editor | 2007

Poet Lore: North America's oldest literary journal

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee. Book Selection Advisory Committee. Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. 2021-2023

Referee. for scientific journals and publishers including: Epochē, Political Theology, Journal for Speculative Philosophy, De Gruyter, Social Theory and Practice, Psychoanalysis, Culture, & Society

Book Exhibit Coordinator. The 50th Anniversary Meeting of The Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Philadelphia: October 2011

Graduate Assistant to Local Host. The 50th Anniversary Meeting of Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Philadelphia: October 2011

LANGUAGES

English: native speaker

Latin: advanced C1; graduate exams; translation courses; undergraduate concentration

German: intermediate B2.2; intensive courses in Hamburg and Berlin; private lessons

French: adequate for research A2; graduate translation exams; undergraduate courses

Ancient Greek: adequate for research; postgrad translation group

Slovene: adequate for research A1; intensive course in Ljubljana

Dutch: 0-A1; intensive language courses in Nijmegen

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Aufhebung International Hegelian Association

The American Philosophical Association

Historical Materialism

The International Association of Philosophy and Literature

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Touch, Arts, Affects Society