

Curriculum vitae  
Eskil Juul Elling

Department of Philosophy  
Northwestern University  
Kresge 3512, 1880 Campus Drive  
Evanston, IL 60208  
[eskilelling2023@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:eskilelling2023@u.northwestern.edu)

6544 N Newgard Ave  
Apt. #2  
Chicago, IL 60626

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Hegel  
Aesthetics  
Social Philosophy  
Critical Theory

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Kant  
19th and 20th Century German Philosophy  
Ancient Philosophy

**EDUCATION**

2025 (expected)	Ph.D., Philosophy, Northwestern University, USA Dissertation: <i>Hegel on Aesthetic Freedom</i> Committee: Mark Alznauer (chair), Rachel Zuckert, Cristina Lafont, Frederick Neuhouser (Columbia), Christoph Menke (Frankfurt)
2021	Teaching Certificate, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching at Northwestern University
2017	Master, Contemporary Philosophy, École normale supérieure and École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France Jury: Jean-Claude Monod (chair) and Frédéric Worms
2016	M.A., Philosophy, Columbia University, USA
2015	B.A., Philosophy and Danish, Roskilde Universitet, Denmark

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

2024-25	School of the Art Institute of Chicago Lecturer (non-tenure track)
---------	---

**DISSERTATION ABSTRACT: *HEGEL ON AESTHETIC FREEDOM***

The dissertation examines Hegel's account of art's importance to the actualization of freedom. Hegel takes there to be limits to the freedom we achieve by following the ethical norms embodied in social institutions. Such norms tend to become habitual—we follow them, not out of a conscious commitment, but because we unreflectively take them to be immediately binding on us. When this problem is recognized in the literature, its solution is taken to be a subjective

withdrawal from social life which allows us to criticize it. I argue that this solution fails because it leads to alienation from the social context in which free action is possible, and hence to a loss of freedom. Instead, I take Hegel to be prescribing the exact opposite remedy: rather than pulling us back from ethical norms, art encourages us to contemplate them more deeply, to bring out their inner significance and potential contradictions. In this way, art helps us to relate freely to the norms of society. I call this attitude *normative lingering* and explore how it is exemplified in Hegel's account of classical sculpture.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024	Residency at the Danish Institute at Athens, Greece, June 2024
2023	American Society For Aesthetics Dissertation Fellowship 2023-24
2021	DAAD One-Year Research Grant, Department of Philosophy, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (hosted by Christoph Menke)
2021	Best Graduate Student Essay in Philosophy Prize, ASA Rocky Mountain Division Meeting 2021
2018	DAAD Intensive German Language Course Grant, Goethe-Institut Hamburg, July-August 2018
2017	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellowship, Critical Theory, Northwestern University, 2017-22
2015	Bikuben Scholarship (residency at the Academic Guest House of the Danish Bikuben Foundation in New York City), 2015-16
2015	Fulbright Joint Grant, Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2015-16

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

“Reconstructing the Distorted Experience of Oppression: Hermeneutical Injustice and Ideology.” *Constellations*, 29:3 (2022), 269-282: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12576>

### Book Chapters

“La renaissance du jugement esthétique : de Arendt à Lyotard, du beau au sublime.” Claudio Rozzoni, Anne Elisabeth Sejten (eds.), *Revisiter le sublime* (Milan: Mimesis, 2021).

### Book Reviews

Dorthe Jørgensen, *Den skønne tænkning* (Aarhus Universitetsforlag, 2014) reviewed in *Slagmark*, no. 77 (2018), 209-213.

### Public Writing

“Reflections of a Nonpolitical Man.” *The Point*, issue 26, December 2021.

“Biden opnår først den forsoning og enhed, han ønsker, når han tager de sociale stridspunkter i USA seriøst.” *Ræson*, January 26, 2021.

“Kan vi lære noget af amerikansk frihed?” *Eftertryk*, January 20, 2021.

“Opportunities without Guarantee.” *Tocqueville21*, May 31, 2019.

“Der er ikke fri leg med identiteter.” *Information*, May 24, 2018.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers Presented

- 2025 “Hegel on Aesthetic Freedom as Normative Lingerings,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 16-19.
- 2023 “On the Reflexivity of Sculpture and Hegel’s Uneasy Classicism,” American Society for Aesthetics 81st Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 15-17.
- 2022 “Two Concepts of Aesthetic Negativity: Hegel and Adorno”
- American Society for Aesthetics 80th Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, November 16-19.
  - 14th International Critical Theory Conference, John Felice Rome Center Loyola University Chicago, Rome, May 16-18.
- 2021 “Absolute Freedom and Aesthetic Negativity: Reframing the Left-Hegelian Critique of Hegel’s Aesthetics”
- American Society of Aesthetics Rocky Mountain Division Annual Meeting Santa Fe, NM, July 16-18.
  - 33rd International Hegel Congress: Hegel and Freedom, University of Warsaw (virtual), June 21-25.
- 2021 “Irony, Seriousness, and Solitude: Conservative and Reflexive Aestheticism in Thomas Mann,” panel discussion of Thomas Mann, *Reflections of a Nonpolitical Man*, 2021 reissue, with Mark Lilla, David Kretz, and Miloš Bročić, Northwestern University (virtual), June 3.
- 2019 “Mood, Morality, and Modality: The Constitutive Dilemma of Aesthetics in Kant and Kierkegaard,” *Living in Uncertainty: Kierkegaard and Possibility*, School Advanced Study, University of London, September 12-14.
- 2019 “Montaigne and the Problem of Skeptical Subjectivity”
- *The Liberal Subject: Decay, Demise, & Deliverance*, University of New Mexico, 17-18.
  - *Reconstructing Reason: Developing the Concept of Reason Through History*, University of Toronto, November 15-16.
- 2018 “Walter Benjamin’s Conception of the Proletarian Strike: Between Sovereignty and Coloniality,” 3rd Annual Conference of the Danish Society for Marxist Studies, University of Southern Denmark, September 7-8.

- 2018 “Aesthetic Judgment as Rebirth. The Sublime and the Limits of Community Arendt and Lyotard,” *Revisiting the sublime / Revisiter le sublime*, Università degli Studi di Milano, May 17-18.

### **Discussant**

- 2024 Kenneth Wilder, “Reframing Herbert Read’s ‘Touch-Space’ through ‘Blindness Gain,’” American Society for Aesthetics 82nd Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, October 23-26.
- 2024 David Johnson, “Adorno and Lyotard Travestied,” *20th Century German Philosophical Aesthetics Workshop*, Northwestern University, February 9.
- 2021 Leonie Hunter, “Drama in the Political. On the tragic order of political liberalism and the democratic perspective of its overcoming in comedy” and Franziska Wildt, “Aesthetics of Resistance. On the Politics of Aesthetic Thought,” Frankfurt/Northwestern Dissertation Workshop, April 29.
- 2018 María del Rosario Acosta López, “From Critique of the Postcolony to a Postcolonial Form of Critique,” *Decolonizing Critical Theory. Decolonial Aesthetics and Epistemic Violence*, Northwestern University, November 30 - December 3.
- 2018 Mike Zhao, “Solidarity and Community,” 12th Annual Northwestern University Society for the Theory and Ethics of Politics Conference, May 10.
- 2017 Christoph Menke, “Law and Violence,” Faculty-Graduate Workshop, November 8.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **As Instructor**

- Philosophical Ideas of Freedom (Northwestern, Summer 2025)  
 Philosophy of Religion (SAIC, Spring 2025)  
 Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAIC, Fall 2024)

#### **As Teaching Assistant (Northwestern University)**

- Bioethics (Prof. Chad Horne, Winter 2025)  
 Ancient Philosophy (Prof. Claudia Yau, Fall 2024)  
 Ethical Problems and Public Issues (Prof. Chad Horne, Spring 2021)  
 Introduction to Critical Theory (Prof. Mark Alznauer, Winter 2021)  
 Ancient Greek History and Culture (Prof. Jonah Radding, Winter 2020)  
 Philosophy of Art (Prof. Rachel Zuckert, Fall 2019; guest lecture on Walter Benjamin)  
 History of Philosophy: Early Modern (Prof. Baron Reed, Spring 2019)  
 Philosophy of Religion (Prof. Kenneth Seeskin, Fall 2019)

### **SERVICE**

Main organizer, Critical Theory in Critical Times Summer Workshop on Christoph Menke, *Critique of Rights*, Northwestern University (virtual), September 20, 2021  
 Main organizer, Frankfurt/Northwestern Dissertation Workshop, April 29-May 1, 2021.  
 Student Faculty Liaison, Northwestern University Department of Philosophy (AY 2020/21)  
 Co-organizer, Afterlife of Phenomenology Workshop Series at Northwestern University (AY 2020/21)  
 Co-organizer, Northwestern University Graduate Conference in Critical Theory, February 16, 2019  
 Co-organizer, Northwestern Philosophy Graduate Works in Progress workshop series (AY 2019/20)  
 Co-founder, Northwestern University chapter of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), 2017.  
 Co-organizer, 16th Annual Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in Philosophy, February 27, 2016.

## LANGUAGES

Danish: Native  
 English: Fluent in speaking, reading, and writing  
 French: Near-fluent in speaking, reading, and writing  
 German: Near-fluent in speaking and reading, good in writing  
 Attic Greek: Basic reading comprehension  
 Swedish and Norwegian: Excellent in reading

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

(\* = pass/fail grade)

### German Philosophy

Reading Group: Heidegger, *Being and Time* (Prof. Taylor Carman)\*  
 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (Prof. Desmond Hogan)\*  
 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Prof. Robert Gooding-Williams)  
 Critiques of Morality: Nietzsche and Bernard Williams (Prof. Mark Alznauer)  
 Habermas' Theory of Communicative Rationality (Prof. Cristina Lafont)  
 Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Prof. Rachel Zuckert)  
 Studies in 19th and 20th Century Philosophy: The Idea of Politics (Prof. Mark Alznauer)  
 Heidegger and Gadamer on Interpretation (Prof. Cristina Lafont)  
 An Introduction to Hegel's *Logic* (Prof. Mark Alznauer)

### Aesthetics

Aesthetics: Historical Survey (Prof. Lydia Goehr)  
 Aesthetics Under Siege: The Frankfurt School (Prof. Andreas Huyssen)\*  
 Construction of the Aesthetic: Kant, Kierkegaard, Benjamin (Prof. Peter Fenves)  
 Studies in 16th Century Literature: Violence and Form (Prof. Cynthia Nazarian)\*

### Social Philosophy

Intersubjectivity (Profs. Axel Honneth and Christopher Peacocke)\*  
Problems of Social Philosophy: Social Pathology (Profs. Frederick Neuhouser and Rahel Jaeggi)  
Critiques of Capitalism (Profs. Rahel Jaeggi and Nancy Fraser)  
Problems of Social Philosophy: Theories of Domination and Oppression (Prof. Robert Gooding-Williams)  
Domination et reconnaissance (Prof. Jean-Claude Monod)  
Raison et émancipation (Prof. Roberto Frega and Justo Serrano Zamora)  
Critical Race Theory (Prof. José Medina)  
Toward a Decolonial Critical Theory (Prof. Rocío Zambrana)  
Epistemic Injustice (Prof. José Medina)

### **History of Philosophy (other)**

Philosophie française contemporaine (Prof. Frédéric Worms)  
History of Skepticism (Prof. Baron Reed)  
A Priori Knowledge (Prof. Sean Ebbels-Duggan)  
Foucault's Last Lectures (Prof. Alessia Ricciardi)  
Ancient Theories of Desire (Prof. Patricia Marechal)

### **General Philosophy**

Symbolic Logic (Prof. Achille Varzi)  
Méthodologie philosophique (Prof. Paul Clavier)  
Intermediate Logic (Prof. Fabrizio Cariani)

*Last updated: March 2025*