

Karin Nisenbaum

Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University
537 Hall of Languages
Syracuse, NY 13210
Email: kanisenb@syr.edu
Personal website: karinanisenbaum.com

Employment:

Renée Crown Professor in the Humanities and Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University, since 2022
Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, Department of Philosophy, 2021–2022
Assistant Professor, Boston College, Department of Philosophy, 2020–2021
Assistant Professor, Colgate University, Department of Philosophy, 2016–2020
Mandel Postdoctoral Fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Scholion Center, 2014–2016
Visiting Scholar, University of Denver, Center for Judaic Studies, 2013–2014
Visiting Instructor, Colorado College, Philosophy Department, Fall 2013 and Spring 2014

Areas of Specialization: Kant, German Idealism, and 19th & 20th Century Jewish Thought

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Metaphysics, 19th & 20th Century Continental Philosophy (including Existentialism, Phenomenology, and Critical Theory)

Education

University of Toronto,
Ph.D. Philosophy, 2014
Dissertation: *For the Love of Metaphysics*
Committee: Paul Franks (advisor), Sergio Tenenbaum, Ulrich Schlösser, Robert Gibbs

University College Dublin,
M.A. Continental Philosophy with 1st class honors, 2006

University of Chicago,
B.A. Philosophy with honors, 2003

Non-degree Programs

Leo Baeck Fellow at the Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, January–May 2013
Visiting Assistant in Research, Yale University, January–April 2012

Published Works

Book

For the Love of Metaphysics: Nihilism and the Conflict of Reason from Kant to Rosenzweig,
Oxford University Press, 2018.

Reviewed in:

[*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*](#)

Articles and Book Chapters

“Fichte’s Perfectionist Solution to the Problem of Kantian Autonomy” (forthcoming in *Journal of the History of Philosophy*)

“Schelling’s Systematization of Kant’s Moral Philosophy: Divine Craftsmanship as the Human Moral Telos,” in *Schellings Freiheitsschrift: Methode, System, Kritik*, edited by Thomas Buchheim, Thomas Frisch, and Nora C. Wachsmann, Mohr Siebeck, 2021. 467–492.

“The Fate of Practical Reason: Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God’s Existence,” in *Kantian Legacies in German Idealism*, edited by G. Gentry, Routledge, 2021. 186–207.

“Zuidervaart in Conversation with Rosenzweig: Artistic Truth, Life-Giving Disclosure, and Revelation,” in *Seeking Stillness or The Sound of Wings: Works on Art, Truth and Society in Honour of Lambert Zuidervaart*, edited by M. DeMoor, P. Ennerson, and M. Klaassen, Wipf and Stock, 2021. 260–284

“Practical Knowledge and the Subjectivity of Truth in Kant and Kierkegaard: The Cover of Skepticism,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 26:2(2018), 730–745.

“F.W.J. Schelling,” co-authored with Daniel Whistler, in *Religion and European Philosophy: Key Thinkers from Kant to Žižek*, edited by P. Goodchild and H. Phelps, Routledge, 2017. 44–59.

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom,” *Journal of Philosophical Research* 41(2016): 453–498.

“Modern Jewish Philosophy: Universal Human Questions Phrased in Concepts Derived from the Jewish Tradition,” critical notice of *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era*, edited by M. Kavka, Z. Braiterman, and D. Novak, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 23(2015): 111–125.

“Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig,” *Proceedings of the International Rosenzweig Gesellschaft* 1(2014): 96–107.

“From the Revolution in Thinking to the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption*,” in *After the Postsecular and the Postmodern: New Essays in Continental Philosophy of Religion*, edited by D. Whistler and A.P. Smith, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010. 105–127.

Book Reviews

Review of Dennis Vanden Auweele’s *Pessimism in Kant’s Ethics and Rational Religion*, in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 58(2): 409–410 (2020).

Review of Eric Santner's *On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald*, in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 16(2008): 115–120.

Work in Progress

“Getting to the Root of Evil: Kant and Fichte on the Murderer at the Door”

“Fichte on Moral Development and Transformation” (co-authored with Julia Peters)

“Jacobi über das Gute,” commissioned entry for the Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, edited by Birgit Sandkaulen

“Jacobi über Glück, Glückseligkeit” commissioned entry for the Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, edited by Birgit Sandkaulen

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Advanced Researchers 2019–2022

Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowship 2014–2017

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers 2014–2016 (declined)

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, October 2012–September 2013

University of Toronto

Shiff Family Graduate Student Award in Jewish Studies, September 2012

Tikvah Fund Graduate Fellowship, September 2011, September 2009

Tikvah Fund Scholarship, September 2010

Lieba Sharon Wilensky Lesk Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies, September 2009

Martha Lile Love Essay Award for the best essay written by a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy during the preceding academic year, July 2009

George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy, 2008

Cheesbrough Fellowship in Philosophy, March 2008, December 2007

Connaught Tuition Scholarship, June 2007

University College Dublin

Professor Magennis Memorial Prize in Philosophy (awarded to the top M.A. student each year), 2005–2006

University of Chicago

Phi Beta Kappa, June 2003

Talks

“Kant and Schelling on the Dialectic of Practical Reason”

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, October 2022

“Getting to the Root of Evil: Kant and Fichte on the Murderer at the Door”

Kant Reading Party, St. Andrews University, August 2022

“Fichte on Moral Development and Transformation” (co-authored with Julia Peters)

LMU, Munich, Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, July 2022 (invited talk)

Berlin Summer Colloquium for Women, June 2022

Leuven Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, June 2021 (invited talk)

University of Tübingen, Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, April 2021 (invited talk)

Comments on themes related to German Idealism in Kris McDaniel’s *The Fragmentation of Being*

Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 2022

Author-Meets-Critics on *For the Love of Metaphysics*. Critics: Nicholas Stang (University of Toronto),

Alexandra Newton (UC Riverside), Richard Eldridge (Swarthmore), Jaqueline Mariña (Purdue)

Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 2022

“Fichte’s Perfectionist Solution to the ‘Paradox’ of Kantian Autonomy and the ‘Dilemma’ of post-Kantian Autonomy”

University of Notre Dame, March 2022 (invited)

Harvard University, December 2021 (invited)

University of Bochum, Research Center for Classical German Philosophy, December 2020 (invited)

University College Dublin, November 2020 (invited)

“Post-Kantian Themes in Katharina Kraus’ *Kant on Self-Knowledge and Self-Formation*”

Author Meets Critics Panel at the Eastern APA Meeting, January 2021 (together with Julia Peters)

Author-Meets-Critics on *For the Love of Metaphysics*. Critics: Omri Boehm (The New School), Lara Ostaric

(Temple), Naomi Fisher (Loyola University)

Central APA, Chicago, February 2020

“The Unconditioned in Human Knowledge: A Theoretical Puzzle, or a Practical Demand?”

Invited talk on *For the Love of Metaphysics* at Leipzig University, January 2020

“Schelling’s Systematization of Kant’s Moral Philosophy”

Systematic Metaphysics: Prospects and Problems

Hebrew University, January 2020 (invited talk)

“Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God’s Existence”

Yale University, February 2019 (invited talk)

“Realizing our Capacity for Practical Knowledge of the Good: Kant on Virtue and Happiness in the Highest Good”

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2018 (invited talk)

- “Hegel’s Antigone”
 Humanities Colloquium
 Colgate University, October 2018
- “Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion and the Postulate of God’s Existence”
 Research Center for Analytic German Idealism
 University of Leipzig, June 2018 (invited talk)
- “Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”
 Le Moyne University, November 2017 (invited talk)
- “The Philosopher’s Toolbox”
 Humanities Colloquium
 Colgate University, October 2017
- “When Criticism Turns into Dogmatism: Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion & the Postulates of Practical Reason”
 University of Potsdam, July 2017 (invited)
 North American Schelling Society
 UNAM, Mexico City, February 2017
- “The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”
 University of Notre Dame, February 2016 (invited talk)
- “Rosenzweig and Wittgenstein on Reason, Revelation, and Moral Imagination”
 Symposium on Moral Imagination
 Tel-Aviv University, June 2015
- “Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”
 Haifa University, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited)
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited)
- “The Jointure of Being: Schelling’s Perfectionist Moral Outlook”
 The Society for German Idealism, Pacific APA meeting, April 2015
 North American Schelling Society meeting, Bard Graduate Center, August 2014
- “The Human Word as a Response to the Word of God and Human Words and Actions as the Means for the Unification of God”
 University of Copenhagen & Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture, April 2015
 Franz Rosenzweig Congress, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, October 2014
- “Schelling’s Perfectionism and Rosenzweig’s Judaism”
 Images of Perfection: An Interdisciplinary Conference in the Study of Religion
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 2015

- “The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”
 University of Tübingen, April 2013
 New York German Idealism Workshop, The New School, October 2012
- “Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig”
 Roundtable on Methodology in Philosophical and Religious Thinking, University of Denver,
 May 2014
 Workshop of the Leo-Baeck Fellowship Programme, Rastatt, Germany, July 2013
 International Society for Religion, Literature, and Culture, University of Copenhagen, October 2012
- “Transcendental Arguments for Theism in Schelling and Rosenzweig”
 Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 2012
 Franz Rosenzweig Congress, University of Toronto, September 2012
- “Rosenzweig and Schelling on the Ethical Significance of Theological Categories”
 Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, October 2011
 Centre for Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto, April 2011
- “Why is there a Realm of Experience? Love and Defiance as the Two Forms of Human Individuation”
 Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Colorado College, June 2014
 Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, February 2013
- “Freedom, Moral Agency, and Religious Belief in Kant, Schelling, and Rosenzweig”
 Workshop of the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, Brighton, UK, November 2012
- “Teleological Explanation in Hegel’s Subjective Logic”
 International Summer School in German Philosophy, Bonn University, July 2011
- “From the Revolution in Thinking towards the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption*”
 International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, University of Oxford, September 2010
- “Songs of Love and Sorrow: Re-Engaging the Social Ethics of Music”
 Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, April 2010
- “Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology: Expressive Gestures and the Contribution of Perception to our Idea of Truth”
 100 Years of Merleau-Ponty: A Centenary Conference, Sofia University, Bulgaria, March 2008
- “Understanding the Body’s Critique”
 Transcendence Incarnate: The Corporeality of the Spiritual and the Spirituality of the Corporeal,
 University of Oxford, September 2007
- “Repeating to Repair: Freud, Ricoeur and Benjamin”
 Perspectives on the Body and Embodiment, University College Dublin, Ireland, June 2007
- “In Response to M.Bréhier: Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology”
 First Annual Postgraduate Conference in Philosophy, University College Cork, Ireland, May 2006

Teaching Experience as Primary Instructor

Syracuse University

The Highest Good (graduate)
Philosophy of Literature (honors undergraduate course)
Kantian and Post-Kantian Ethics (graduate)
Introduction to Ethics
Kant and German Idealism

Boston College

Concepts of God in Twentieth Century Jewish Philosophy (graduate)
Perspectives on Western Culture

University of Potsdam

The Highest Good in Kant, Fichte, and Schelling (graduate seminar co-taught with Johannes Haag)

Colgate University

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*
Philosophy of Literature
Moral Perfectionism
Kant & 19th Century Philosophy
Legacies of the Ancient World
Ethics

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Formation of the Self & the Pursuit of the Good in Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and Kierkegaard
Freedom and Reason: Kant through Hegel & beyond (graduate)

University of Denver

Perfectionism and Idealism in German and Jewish Philosophy

Colorado College

Philosophy and Literature: The Brothers Karamazov
Modern Jewish Philosophy

University of Toronto

Philosophy of Judaism

Service to the Department and University

Women and Gender Minorities faculty mentor, 2022–2023
Search Committee, Syracuse University, Fall 2021
Placement Director, Boston College Philosophy Department, 2020–2021
Search Committee, Philosophy Department, Colgate University, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018
Member of the Institutional Review Board, Colgate University, 2017–2019

Service to the Profession

Member of the Advisory Board of *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, since 2021
Evaluator for the Philosophical Gourmet Report, 2021
Philosophy Director for the Society for German Idealism and Romanticism, since 2020
Co-organizer (with Samantha Matherne, Katharina Kaiser, and Kristin Primus) for “Berlin Summer Colloquium in Post-Kantian Philosophy,” workshop at Humboldt University of Berlin, since 2018
Collaboration partner for “Schellings Philosophie der menschlichen Freiheit,” directed by Prof. Thomas Buchheim and funded by the Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, 2015–2018.
Co-organizer (with Brady Bowman and Dalia Nassar) for “Schelling and Empiricism,” workshop at Humboldt University of Berlin, 2016.
Organizer for “Reconsidering the Significance of Kant’s Critical Revolution: Transcendental Arguments, Practical Postulates, and Philosophical Fictions,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2015.
Member of the Steering Committee, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, 2009.
Co-organizer for “Centre for Jewish Studies: First Annual Graduate Student Conference,” University of Toronto, April 2009.
Co-organizer for “Experience and Truth: Eighth Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy,” University of Toronto, May 2008.
Referee for: Oxford University Press, Routledge, Bloomsbury Press, Austrian Science Fund, Epoché

Professional Memberships

North American Kant Society, since 2016
American Philosophical Association, since 2010
Association for Jewish Studies, since 2011
North American Schelling Society, since 2011
International Rosenzweig Society, since 2012
Member of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, 2011–2013

Languages

Spanish (native speaker)
French (full research command)
German (full research command)
Modern Hebrew (basic knowledge)

References

Frederick Beiser
Syracuse University
Philosophy Department
Tel: 1-315-443-5815
Email: fbeiser@syr.edu

Michael Della Rocca

Yale University
Philosophy Department
Tel: 1-203-432-2764
Email: michael.della@yale.edu

Paul W. Franks

Yale University
Philosophy Department
Tel: 1-203-432-1683
Email: paul.franks@yale.edu

Dean Moyar

Johns Hopkins University
Philosophy Department
Tel: 1-410-516-7523
Email: dmoyar@jhu.edu

Ulrich Schlösser

University of Tübingen
Philosophy Department
Tel: + 49-7071-29-72115
Email: ulrich.schloesser@uni-tuebingen.de

*Updated on September 25, 2022