

# Owen Pikkert

Department of Philosophy  
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## EMPLOYMENT

**University of Toronto**  
Faculty lecturer, 2018-9

## EDUCATION

**University of Toronto**  
Ph.D. in Philosophy, November 2018  
Dissertation: *Leibniz and the Principle of Sufficient Reason*  
Committee: Marleen Rozemond (supervisor), Donald Ainslie, Karolina Hübner, William Seager, Deborah Black (internal reader), Martin Lin (external reader)

**Yale University**  
Visiting Assistant in Research, 2016  
Advisor: Michael Della Rocca

**McMaster University**  
M.A. in Philosophy, 2012  
B.A. in History and Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, 2010

## AOS/AOC

AOS: Early modern philosophy  
AOC: Metaphysics, philosophy of religion, ancient philosophy

## PRESENTATIONS

American Philosophical Association (Eastern), 2018  
“The modal status of Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

University of Toronto, Modern Philosophy Research Group, 2017  
“Leibniz on God’s choice of the best”

University of Groningen, Berlin-Groningen-Harvard-Toronto Workshop, 2017  
“The modal status of Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, 2017  
“The modal status of Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

Leibniz Society of North America, 2016  
“Leibniz’s arguments from the PSR to the PII”

Leibniz Universität Hannover, Leibniz Doctoral Seminar, 2016  
“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

Yale University, The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale, 2016  
“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, 2016  
“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

University of Toronto, Modern Philosophy Research Group, 2015  
“Leibniz’s arguments from the PSR to the PII”

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin-Toronto-Groningen Workshop, 2015  
“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

University of Toronto, Modern Philosophy Research Group, 2015  
“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”

Canadian Philosophical Association, 2012  
“Two deflationary approaches to ontology”

Western Canadian Philosophical Association, 2011  
“Multiple universes and the explanation of the physical constants”

University of Colorado, Boulder, History and Philosophy of Science Conference, 2011  
“Multiple universes and the explanation of the physical constants”

## COMMENTS

Québec-Ontario Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, 2018  
Christian Leduc, “Sophie of Hanover on physical influence”

University of Toronto, 2015  
Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra, “The identity of indiscernibles, atoms, and absolute space”

## PAPERS

*Draft available*

“Grounding Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”  
“The modal status of Leibniz’s principle of sufficient reason”  
“Why does Leibniz’s God create the best possible world?”  
“Rethinking Leibniz’s cosmological argument”

*In progress*

“Fine-tuning, the multiverse, and brute facts”

## TEACHING

*Primary instructor at the University of Toronto*  
Philosophy in everyday life, 2019  
Early modern philosophy, 2016-7, 2018-9  
Philosophy of religion, 2018

*Teaching assistant at the University of Toronto*  
Ancient philosophy, 2017-8  
Early modern philosophy, 2014-5

*Teaching assistant at McMaster University*  
Philosophy and the sciences, 2012  
Problems of philosophy, 2011-2  
Critical thinking, 2010

*Guest lectures*

“The origins of the scientific revolution”, Redeemer University College, 2016-18  
“Descartes’ skeptical arguments”, University of Toronto, 2016  
“Descartes on mind and body”, University of Toronto, 2016

## AWARDS

### *Teaching award*

Martha Lile Love Teaching Award (honourable mention), 2017

### *Government awards*

SSHRC CGS doctoral grant, \$105,000 CAN, 2012-5

Ontario graduate scholarship, \$15,000 CAN, (declined in 2010 and 2012), 2011

SSHRC master's research grant, \$17,500 CAN, 2010

### *University awards*

Balzan-University travel award, 2016

Michael J. Herman graduate fellowship in philosophy, 2015-6

The Avie Bennett award, 2012

Ten separate undergraduate awards, 2006-10

### *Essay award*

Student paper prize (second place), Canadian Philosophical Association, 2012

“Two deflationary approaches to ontology”

## DEVELOPMENT

Leibniz Summer School

The Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig, 2016

## LANGUAGES

*Passed reading requirement for the University of Toronto*

French

Latin

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

*History of philosophy*

Spinoza (Della Rocca, audited)

Leibniz (Rozemond, audited)

Hume (Ainslie, audited)

Spinoza and Leibniz (Hübner and Rozemond)

Medieval Islamic philosophy (Black)

Early modern British philosophy (Sassen)

*Core analytic philosophy*

Propositions and numbers (Rattan and Yi)  
Modal logic (Ganea, reading course)  
Skepticism (Barney and Nagel, also covered ancient skepticism)  
Metaphysics (Garrett)  
Philosophy of language (Sullivan)

*Other*

Philosophy of religion (Howson)  
Value theory (Sciaraffa)  
The problem of evil (Gedge, reading course)

SERVICE

*Selection committees*

Graduate chair in philosophy, 2015  
Associate dean of graduate studies and research, 2012  
Humanities valedictorian, 2011

*Facilitator*

Reading group on Bayesian epistemology, 2011

REFERENCES

Note: To obtain confidential letters of reference from any of the following persons, please email Mrs. Mary Frances Ellison at [placement.philosophy@utoronto.ca](mailto:placement.philosophy@utoronto.ca).

Marleen Rozemond  
University of Toronto  
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Karolina Hübner  
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Donald Ainslie  
University of Toronto  
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Sergio Tenenbaum (teaching reference)  
University of Toronto  
sergio.tenenbaum@utoronto.ca

Michael Della Rocca  
Yale University  
michael.della@yale.edu

Jeffrey McDonough  
Harvard University  
jkmcdon@fas.harvard.edu