

Owen Pikkert

CONTACT

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ACADEMIC 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
C. Leduc, “Sophie of Hanover on physical influence”
- University of Toronto, 2015
G. Rodriguez-Pereyra, “The identity of indiscernibles, atoms, and absolute space”

PAPERS

[Name omitted for blind review]

[Name omitted for blind review]

“Rethinking Leibniz’s cosmological argument”

“Why does Leibniz’s God create the best of all possible worlds?”

TEACHING

Teaching awards

Honourable mention for the Martha Lile Love Teaching Award, 2017

Primary instructor, 210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy, University of Toronto

Nominated for a Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, 2018

Tutorial instructor, 200: Ancient Philosophy, University of Toronto

Primary instructor at the University of Toronto

204: Philosophy in Everyday Life, 2019

235: Philosophy of Religion, 2018

210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy, 2016, 2018-9

Tutorial instructor at the University of Toronto and McMaster University

200: Ancient Philosophy, 2017-8

210: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy, 2014-5

1D03: Philosophy and the Sciences, 2012

1E03: Problems of Philosophy, 2011-2

2CT3: 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

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 at the Max Planck Institute in 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.

Marleen Rozemond
University of Toronto
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Karolina Hübner
University of Toronto
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Donald Ainslie
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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