

Owen Pikkert

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto

Faculty Lecturer, 2018-20

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

Ph.D. in Philosophy, November 2018

Leibniz and the Principle of Sufficient Reason (Winner of the David Savan Dissertation Prize)

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

PUBLICATIONS

“The Modal Status of Leibniz’s Principle of Sufficient Reason”

Forthcoming in the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*.

“[Title omitted]”

Revise and resubmit.

“Clarke, Leibniz, and du Châtelet on the Existence of a Necessary Being”

Draft available.

PRESENTATIONS

- University of Toronto, Modern Philosophy Research Group, 2019
“Clarke, Leibniz, and du Châtelet on the existence of a necessary being”
- University of Bucharest, Natural and Revealed Theology in the German Enlightenment, 2019
“Leibniz on the cosmological argument”
- 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, 2019
C. Dyck, “Wolff and the dogmas of classical rationalism”
- 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”

TEACHING

Teaching awards at the University of Toronto

As primary instructor: honourable mention for the Martha Lile Love Teaching Award, 2017

As tutorial instructor: nominated for a Teaching Assistant Excellence award, 2018

Primary instructor at the University of Toronto

402: Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, 2020

311: The Empiricists, 2020

331: Metaphysics, 2019

310: The Rationalists, 2019

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

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Prizes for written work

David Savan Dissertation Prize, University of Toronto, 2019

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

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

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)

REFERENCES

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

Marleen Rozemond

University of Toronto

Donald Ainslie

University of Toronto

Sergio Tenenbaum (teaching reference)

University of Toronto

Karolina Hübner

Cornell University

Michael Della Rocca

Yale University

Jeffrey McDonough

Harvard University