

KATHARINA NIESWANDT

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Concordia University, Montreal

<http://www.concordia.ca/arts/philosophy/faculty.html?fpid=katharina-nieswandt>

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✉ katharina.nieswandt@concordia.ca

Specialization

AOS Metaethics; political theory; normative ethics

AOC Philosophy of law; philosophy of the social sciences

Appointments

- since 2020 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
- 2019 SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE (SJC)
Director, Concordia University
- since 2018 CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN ÉTHIQUE (CRÉ)
Member of Advisory Board
- 2016–2020 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy
- 2015–2017 STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Postdoc, Center for Ethics in Society [declined second year]

Education

- 2015 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation: “Moral Norms and Social Conventions”
Main adviser: Michael Thompson
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Visiting doctoral student (2012–2013)
Sponsor: Axel Honneth
- 2009 UNIVERSITÄT TRIER
Magister Artium in philosophy
- OXFORD UNIVERSITY
Visiting MA student (2008-2009), full scholarship from Jesus College
Tutor: Roger Teichmann
- 2008 UNIVERSITÄT TRIER
Diplom (=M.Sc.) in psychology
Specialization: Clinical psychology

Languages

German (native)

English (TOEFL)

French (DALF-C1 and *Certificat de sélection du Québec*)

Latin (*Latinum*)

Publications

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

1. Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "Beyond Frontier Town: Do Early Modern Theories of Property Apply to Capitalist Economies?" *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 22(4): 909–923.
2. Katharina Nieswandt & Ulf Hlobil (2019): "Do the Virtues Make You Happy?" *Philosophical Inquiries* 7(2): 181–202.
3. Ulf Hlobil & Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "Foot without Achilles' Heel." *Philosophia* 47(5): 1501–1515.
4. Katharina Nieswandt & Ulf Hlobil (2018): "Virtues for the Imperfect." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 53(4): 605–625.
5. Katharina Nieswandt (2018): "What Is Conventionalism about Moral Rights and Duties?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 97(1): 15–28.
6. Katharina Nieswandt (2017): "Anscombe on the Sources of Normativity." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 51(1): 141–163.
7. Katharina Nieswandt (2016): "Do Rights Exist by Convention or by Nature?" *Topoi* 35(1): 313–325.
8. Ulf Hlobil & Katharina Nieswandt (2016): "Anscombe's Philosophical Method." *Klēsis: Revue Philosophique* 35: 180–198.
Reprint in: John Haldane (ed.) (2019): *The Life and Philosophy of Elizabeth Anscombe*. (St. Andrews Studies in Philosophy.) Imprint Academic, Exeter: 42–61.

ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES

1. Katharina Nieswandt (forthcoming): "Life and Other Basic Rights in Anscombe." Roger Teichmann (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Elizabeth Anscombe*. Oxford University Press, New York: [24 pages].
2. Katharina Nieswandt (forthcoming): "Automation, Basic Income and Merit." Keith Gerard Breen & Jean-Philippe Deranty (eds.). *Whither Work? The Politics and Ethics of Contemporary Work*. Routledge: [28 pages].
3. Katharina Nieswandt (2017): "Grammatik und Funktion: Peter Thomas Geach." Martin Hähnel (ed.): *Der Aristotelische Naturalismus: Ein Handbuch*. Metzler, Stuttgart: 163–174.
English translation: Katharina Nieswandt (2020): "Grammar and Function: Peter Geach's Ethics." Martin Hähnel (ed.) *Aristotelian Naturalism: A Research Companion*. Springer, Dordrecht: 183–193.

4. Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "Authority and Interest in the Theory of Right." David Plunkett, Scott Shapiro & Kevin Toh (eds.): *Dimensions of Normativity: New Essays on Metaethics and Jurisprudence*. Oxford University Press, New York: 315–334.

Writing sample for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship (USD 25,000).

EDITING AND TRANSLATION

1. G. E. M. Anscombe (2014): *Aufsätze*. Herausgegeben, übersetzt und mit einer Lektürehilfe von Katharina Nieswandt und Ulf Hlobil. Nachwort von Anselm W. Müller. [*Papers*. Edited, Translated and with a Study Guide by KN and UH. With an Afterword by AWM.] Suhrkamp, Berlin: 400 pages.
Reviews by: Dominik Perler (in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*) and by Christian Kietzmann (in *Philosophische Rundschau*).

OTHER

1. Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "Book Review of: James Doyle's 'No Morality, No Self: Anscombe's Radical Skepticism.'" *Ethics* 130(1): 102–106.
2. Katharina Nieswandt (2016): "Basic Income after Automation? That's Not How Capitalism Works!" *The Conversation*, October 6, 2016.

Presentations (REF = refereed, INV = invited)

1. "Human Function, Common Good, and the Design of Political Institutions"
REF 2020: *Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society*, 4th Annual Meeting (New Orleans).
INV 2020: *The Personal and the Common Good*, Concordia U. [event cancelled]
2. "Life and Other Basic Rights in Anscombe"
INV 2019: *Der Genuss der Wahrheit. G.E.M. Anscombe zum Hundertsten*. Lindenthal-Institut (Cologne).
INV 2019: *Political Things: Normativity and the Metaphysics of Political Communities*, U. di Udine.
3. "Automation, Basic Income and Merit"
INV 2019: *Filosofie*, U. du Québec à Montréal.
INV 2019: *Department Research Day*, Concordia U.
INV 2017: *Matt Townsend Show*, BYU Radio.
4. "Revolutionary Virtues?" (co-authored with Ulf Hlobil)
REF 2018: *Virtue Ethics and Psychology: Towards a New Science of Virtues?* European University of Rome.
INV 2018: *Virtue and Moral Reasoning under Oppressive Social Conditions*, Concordia U.

5. "Do the Virtues Make You Happy?" (co-authored with Ulf Hlobil)
- INV 2018: *The Virtues and Practical Reason*, U. di Udine. [presented by UH]
- INV 2018: *Teleological Structures in Human Life*, Research Cluster Analytic German Idealism, U. zu Leipzig.
6. "Beyond Frontier Town: Do Early Modern Theories of Property Apply to Capitalist Economies?"
- REF 2019: *Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society*, 3rd Annual Meeting (New Orleans).
- INV 2019: *Parr Center & CRÉ*, 1st Annual Joint Meeting (Chapel Hill).
- INV 2018: Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Filosófico (Buenos Aires).
- INV 2018: Auburn U, Philosophy Department.
- REF 2018: *Market, Justice and the Cooperative as a Political Institution*, U. du Québec à Montréal.
- INV 2018: *Annual Humanities and Public Life Conference* of Dawson College (Montreal).
- REF 2018: *Annual Congress* of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Montreal.
- REF 2018: *Justice and Markets*, Aarhus U.
- REF 2017: *Philosophy and Social Science*, Czech Academy of Sciences.
- REF 2017: *Why Private Property? The Politics of Property and Its Alternatives*. U. libre de Bruxelles. [declined]
- INV 2016: *Le 5 à 7 du CRÉ* (Montreal).
7. "What is Conventionalism about Moral Rights and Duties?"
- INV 2018: *Normative Powers*, CRÉ (Montreal).
- REF 2017: *Varieties of Contemporary Moral Realism*, Czech Academy of Sciences. [declined]
- INV 2017: Centre for Ethics as Study in Human Value, U. of Pardubice.
8. "Do I Apprehend My Life-Form in Acting Well?"
- INV 2017: *Department Speaker Series*, U. Guelph, Philosophy Department.
- REF 2017: *Situating the Human*, Centre for Ethics as Study in Human Value, U. of Pardubice.
- REF 2017: III. Conference on *Wittgensteinian Approaches to Moral Philosophy*, KU Leuven.
9. "Virtues for the Imperfect" (co-authored with Ulf Hlobil)
- REF 2018: XI. Annual Conference of the *Felician Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs*, Felician U. (Rutherford, NJ). [presented by UH]
- INV 2017: *DFG Network "Practical Thought and Good Action"*, Friedrich-Alexander-U. (Erlangen-Nürnberg). [presented by UH]
10. "Practice Views Revisited"
- REF 2016: *VII. Braga Meeting on Ethics and Political Philosophy*, U. do Minho.
- INV 2016: *Women in Philosophy Workshop*, Stanford U.

- INV 2016: Bilkent U. (Ankara), Philosophy Department.
11. “Authority and Interest in the Theory of Right”
- INV 2016: *Political Theory Workshop*, Stanford U.
- INV 2015: *Legal Philosophy Workshop*, U. of Edinburgh.
12. “Anscombe on Hume’s Circle” (with Ulf Hlobil)
- REF 2014: *The Nature of Rules and Normativity*, Czech Acad. of Sciences.
13. “In What Sense are Rights Conventional?”
- REF 2014: *Political Community*, Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law, U. of Aberdeen.
- REF 2014: *Social Contract Theory: Past, Present, Future*, U. Nova de Lisboa.
- REF 2013: *XVII. Interamerican Philosophy Congress*, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.
- INV 2013: *Ethics and International Affairs*, U. of Pittsburgh, Political Science Department.

Grants and Donations

TOTAL: CAD \$ 500,957.

- 2020-2022 *Concordia University*: Horizon Postdoc. Project: “Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology? (As PI; co-applicant: Kristen Dunfield, psychology)”: \$76,000.
- 2019-2021 *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)*: Insight Development Grant. Project: “Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology?” (As PI; co-applicants: Kristen Dunfield and Ulf Hlobil, philosophy.): \$62,176.
- 2020-2021 Anonymous donations to the *Social Justice Centre*: \$130,000.
- 2019-2020 Anonymous donation to the *Social Justice Centre*: \$200,000.
- 2019–2020 *Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ)*: Matching fund for workshop: \$1,500.
- 2019–2020 *Groupe de recherche interuniversitaire sur la normativité (GRIN)*: Matching fund for workshop: \$3,000.
- 2017-2019 *Concordia University*: “Working Group” at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC) (As Co-PI with Pablo Gilabert, philosophy): \$5,300.
- 2017–2018 *Concordia University*: Aid to Research Related Events, Publication, Exhibition and Dissemination Activities (ARRE): \$4,981.
- 2017–2018 *CRÉ*: Matching fund for workshop: \$1,500.
- 2017–2018 *GRIN*: Matching fund for workshop: \$1,500.
- 2016–2019 *Concordia University*: Starting grant: \$15,000.

Full Scholarships

2015-2017 Postdoctoral fellowship, *McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society*.

2014–2015 Dissertation finishing fellowship, *Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation*.

2012–2014 Research fellowship, *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*.

2009–2010 First-year doctoral fellowship, *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation*.

2008–2009 Graduate research fellowship, *Jesus College, Oxford University*.

Other Research Activities

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

1. *II. Virtue Ethics and Politics Workshop* (together with Tristan Rogers), “The Personal and the Common Good,” Concordia Social Justice Centre 2020. Invited speakers: Lisa Tessman, Mark LeBar, Colin Farelly, John Hacker-Wright and Karen Stohr. [event cancelled]
2. *I. Virtue Ethics and Politics Workshop* (together with Ulf Hlobil), “Virtue and Moral Reasoning under Oppressive Social Conditions,” Concordia University 2018. Keynote speakers: Charlotte Witt, Elijah Millgram, Eric Wiland and Macalester Bell.
3. At Concordia’s *Social Justice Centre*: (1) Philipp van Parijs, “Should Surfers Still Be Fed?,” public lecture, 2018. (2) Erik Olin Wright, “Envisioning Real Utopias,” public lecture, preceded by a reading group, 2017. (3) Series of lunch talks by Concordia faculty, 2017.
4. *Colloquium Series*, Concordia Philosophy Department, 2016–17. Talks by: Robert Brandom, Helga Varden, John Hacker-Wright, Kristin Andrews, Marc Ereshefsky and Christine Tappolet.

CONFERENCE COMMENTARY

1. 2020: Amandine Catala, “[TBD].” *III. Social Justice Theory Workshop*, Concordia University (Social Justice Centre (SJC) & Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ)).
2. 2019: Andrea Sangiovanni, “Humanity without Dignity.” *Research Group on Global Justice*, McGill U. (Yan P. Lin Centre).
3. 2019: Christine Sypnovich, “What’s Wrong with Equality of Opportunity?” *II. Social Justice Theory Workshop: Democracy, Justice, Equality*. Concordia U. (SJC & CRÉ).
4. 2018: Peter Dietsch, “On the Very Idea of an Efficient Wage.” *I. Social Justice Theory Workshop: From Each According to Their Abilities; to Each According to Their Needs*. U. de Montréal (CRÉ).
5. 2018: Frank Hindrik, “The Problem of Insignificant Hands.” *2018 Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association*, Montreal.
6. 2017: Stefan Gosepath, “Understanding Human Dignity as a Plurally Justified Normative Surplus.” *Global Justice Conference 2017*, McGill U. (Yan P. Lin Centre).

7. 2014: Nicolas Cornell, "Wrongs, Rights, and Remedial Ambiguity." *Bechtel Workshop in Political and Legal Philosophy*, U. of Pittsburgh.
8. 2008: Jonathan Dancy, "Practical Reasoning and Inference." *XVII. Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Oxford U.

MEMBERSHIPS

Centre de recherche en éthique (CRÉ), Montreal
Groupe de la recherche sur la normativité (GRIN), Montreal
Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Philosophie (DGPhil)
Gesellschaft für analytische Philosophie (GAP)
Action Network, Leipzig.

Teaching

GRADUATE CLASSES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PHIL 621: *Advanced Topics in Value Theory*:
"Anscombe's Moral Philosophy": 2018, 2020.
"Property Rights": 2017.

PHIL 633: *Selected Topics in Value Theory: Values & Biotechnology*: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021.

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PHIL 330: *Contemporary Ethical Theory* (seminar): 2017, 2018.
PHIL 241: *Philosophy of Human Rights* (lecture): 2018, 2019, 2021.
PHIL 232: *Introduction to Ethics* (lecture): 2019, 2020 (2x).

OTHER CLASSES

Stanford University: "Economic Justice" (undergraduate seminar): 2016.
University of Pittsburgh: Teaching assistant: 2010-2012.

Supervision

CONCORDIA PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

2018-2020 MA thesis Jordan Walters, "A Defense of Minimalist Responses to Debunking Arguments."
Now: PhD student in philosophy at *McGill University* (Montreal).

2017-2018 MA thesis Sophie Arase, "Sentimental Phenomena in Kant's Theory of Right Action."

Now: PhD student in philosophy at *Florida State University* (Tallahassee).

OTHER

2020-2022 Postdoctoral project Dr. Heather Maranges, "Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology?" (At the Social Justice Centre.)

2020-2021 Postdoctoral project Dr. Federica Berdini, "The Nature and Ethics of Coping." (At the Centre de recherche en éthique, with Christine Tappolet.)

2019-2020 Postdoctoral project Dr. Isabella Trifan, "Babies or Open Boarders? The Ethics of Population Aging Policy." (At the Social Justice Centre.)

Now: Postdoc at the political science department of the *University of Southern Denmark* (Odense).

2015-2016 Honors thesis Kate Mosle, "Equality and Excellence: Distributing Educational Opportunity under Resource Constraints." (At the Center for Ethics in Society.)

Service

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

- Director (Jan.–Dec. 2019): Hosting of 23 events: 3 two-day academic workshops, 1 public panel, 8 academic talks by international speakers, 4 talks by members, 5 talks by fellows, 2 career workshops.
- Member of hiring committee (WT 2020): "Research Postdoc in Social Justice." (Interdisciplinary postdoc.)
- Chair of hiring committee (WT 2019): "Research Postdoc in Social Justice."
- Chair of fellowship committee (WT 2019): "Social Justice Fellows." (Four interdisciplinary graduate fellowships.)
- Presentation at fellows career workshop (Nov. 2019): "Academic Job Market and Tenure Track."
- Chair of events committee (WT 2019).
- Chair of hiring committee (FT 2018): Full-time administrator.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

- Graduate Studies Committee (2016–2018, 2019–2020).
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (2020–2021).
- Personnel Committee (2020-2021).
- Member of hiring committee (WT 2018): "Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities" (philosophy assistant professorship, TT).
- Library liaison (2017–2019).

- Presentations at faculty workshop on diversity, “Survey on Gender Distribution in Philosophy versus Psychology” and “Anonymous Grading with Moodle” (Oct. 2018).
- Presentation at student career panel, “Graduate School Application in Philosophy” (Apr. 2017 and Oct. 2017).
- Presentation at Concordia’s open house (with Ulf Hlobil), “What Is Philosophy and Why Study It?” (Feb. and Sep. 2017).
- Department website text “Philosophy and Society” (with Ulf Hlobil) (Jan. 2017).
- Examiner: MA thesis Mehdi Nahjafi, “Sharon Street and Moral Debunking,” supervised by Matthew Barker (Mar. 2018).

OTHER

- Chair of hiring committee (FT 2019): “Horizon Postdoc” (interdisciplinary postdoc, for a joint study with Kristen Dunfield and Ulf Hlobil).
- External member of history department’s chair search committee (WT 2019).

PEER REVIEW

- *Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Theoria, Political Research Quarterly* and *Human Rights Review*.
- Oxford University Press.

Further Work Experience

- Student research assistant *Kant-Forschungsstelle Trier*; director: Bernd Dörflinger (2005–2008).
- Clinical internship *Charité Berlin*, ward for affective disorders and ward for attention disorders; director: Michael Colla (Feb.–May 2006).