

# KATHARINA NIESWANDT

*Associate Professor of Philosophy, Concordia University, Montreal*

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

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## Specialization

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AOS     Metaethics; political theory; philosophy of the social sciences

AOC     Normative ethics; philosophy of law

## Appointments

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2023–2025     GROUPE DE RECHERCHE SUR LA NORMATIVITÉ (GRIN)  
Director of Stream “Society”

since 2020     CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
**Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy**

2018–2019     SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE (SJC)  
Director, Concordia University

2018–2021     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**

## Education

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2015             UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
*Ph.D.* in Philosophy  
Dissertation: “Moral Norms and Social Conventions”  
Supervisor: 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

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German (native)

English (TOEFL)

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

Latin (*Latinum*)

## Publications

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### MONOGRAPH

Katharina Nieswandt (under contract): *The Good Life and the Good State*.

### ARTICLES IN DOUBLE-BLIND REVIEW JOURNALS

1. Katharina Nieswandt (2024): "Instrumental Rationality in the Social Sciences." *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 54(1): 46–68.
2. Heather Maranges; Maxine Iannuccilli; Katharina Nieswandt; Ulf Hlobil & Kristen Dunfield (2023): "Brilliance Beliefs, Not Mindsets, Explain Inverse Gender Gaps in Psychology and Philosophy." *Sex Roles* 89: 801–817.
3. Heather Maranges; Maxine Iannuccilli; Katharina Nieswandt; Ulf Hlobil & Kristen Dunfield (2023): "What Determines Feelings of Belonging and Majoring in an Academic Field? Isolating Factors by Comparing Psychology and Philosophy." *Current Research in Behavioral Sciences* 4: article 100097.
4. 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.
5. Katharina Nieswandt & Ulf Hlobil (2019): "Do the Virtues Make You Happy?" *Philosophical Inquiries* 7(2): 181–202.
6. Ulf Hlobil & Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "Foot without Achilles' Heel." *Philosophia* 47(5): 1501–1515.
7. Katharina Nieswandt & Ulf Hlobil (2018): "Virtues for the Imperfect." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 53(4): 605–625.
8. Katharina Nieswandt (2018): "What Is Conventionalism about Moral Rights and Duties?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 97(1): 15–28.
9. Katharina Nieswandt (2017): "Anscombe on the Sources of Normativity." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 51(1): 141–163.
10. Katharina Nieswandt (2016): "Do Rights Exist by Convention or by Nature?" *Topoi* 35(1): 313–325.
11. 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 EDITOR-REVIEWED COLLECTIONS

1. Katharina Nieswandt (2023): "Should Intro Ethics Make You a Better Person?" Christian Kietzmann (ed.): *Teleological Structures in Human Life: Essays for Anselm W. Müller*. Routledge, Milton and New York: 113–134.
2. Katharina Nieswandt (2022): "Life and Other Basic Rights in Anscombe." Roger Teichmann (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Elizabeth Anscombe*. Oxford University Press, New York: 308–323.
3. Katharina Nieswandt (2021): "Automation, Basic Income and Merit." Keith Gerard Breen & Jean-Philippe Deranty (eds.). *Whither Work? The Politics and Ethics of Contemporary Work*. Routledge, Milton and New York: 102–119.
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 (US\$ 25,000).

5. 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.

#### EDITING AND TRANSLATION

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*).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

1. Katharina Nieswandt (2022): "Clare Mac Cumhaill & Rachael Wiseman's 'Metaphysical Animals: How Four Women Brought Philosophy Back to Life.'" *Zeitschrift für Ethik und Moralphilosophie* 5(2): 231–235.
2. Katharina Nieswandt (2019): "James Doyle's 'No Morality, No Self: Anscombe's Radical Skepticism.'" *Ethics* 130(1): 102–106.

#### OUTREACH

1. Heather Maranges & al. (2022): "Gender Ratio in Philosophy." [A mention in: *Harper's Index*, February edition.]
2. Katharina Nieswandt & Adriel Trott (2021): "Gender Ratio in Philosophy: An Interview with Katharina Nieswandt." Blog of the *American Philosophical Association*, Dec. 1.
3. Katharina Nieswandt (2021): "Gender Ratio in Philosophy: An Inferential-Statistical Model of Possible Determinants." Blog of the *Canadian Philosophical Association*, Nov. 8.
4. Katharina Nieswandt (2016): "Basic Income after Automation? That's Not How Capitalism Works!" *The Conversation*, Oct. 6.

## Grants and Donations

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TOTAL: C\$ 510,827.

AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI): C\$ 172,527.

- 2020–2022 *Concordia University*: Horizon Postdoc. Project: “Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology?”: \$76,000.
- 2020–2021 *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)*: Covid-19 supplement: \$9,870.
- 2019–2021 *SSHRC*: Insight Development Grant. Project: “Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology?”: \$62,176.
- 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.
- 2017–2018 *Concordia University*: Aid to Research Related Events, Publication, Exhibition and Dissemination Activities (ARRE): \$ 4,981.
- 2016–2019 *Concordia University*: Starting grant: \$15,000.

AS CO-PI: C\$ 338,300.

- 2020–2021 Anonymous donations to the *Social Justice Centre*: \$130,000. (with Pablo Gilabert)
- 2019–2020 Anonymous donation to the *Social Justice Centre*: \$200,000. (with Pablo Gilabert)
- 2017–2019 *Concordia University*: “Working Group” at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC): \$ 5,300. (with Pablo Gilabert)
- 2017–2018 *CRÉ*: Matching fund for workshop: \$1,500. (with Ulf Hlobil)
- 2017–2018 *GRIN*: Matching fund for workshop: \$1,500.(with Ulf Hlobil)

## Full Scholarships

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- 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*.

## **Presentations** (REF = refereed, INV = invited)

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TOTAL: 17 PRESENTATIONS, AT 49 EVENTS.

1. "What Is a Common Good?"

INV 2024: *Third Annual Anscombe Archive Conference*. Collegium Institute, U. Pennsylvania (Philadelphia).

INV 2024: *Department Research Day*, Concordia U.

2. "The Gender Gap in Philosophy: An Inferential-Statistical Model of Possible Determinants." (co-authored with Heather Maranges, Maxine Iannuccilli, Ulf Hlobil and Kristen Dunfield)

INV 2022: *Department Speaker Series*, Concordia U.

INV 2022: *Department Speaker Series*, Ryerson U. (Toronto).

INV 2021: *Department Speaker Series*, McGill U. (Montreal).

3. "But I'm not Brilliant: Brilliance Beliefs Help Explain the Inverse Gender Gaps in Psychology and Philosophy." (co-authored with Heather Maranges, Maxine Iannuccilli, Ulf Hlobil and Kristen Dunfield)

REF 2021: *Conference of the European Society of Philosophy and Psychology*, 28th Annual Meeting, U. zu Leipzig. [presented by MI]

4. "Neo-Humeanism in the Social Sciences"

INV 2022: *Centre for Political Theory and Political Philosophy*, Keele U.

INV 2021: *Department Speaker Series*, York U. (Toronto).

INV 2021: *Humboldt Colloquium*, U. zu Leipzig.

5. "Human Function, Common Good, and the Design of Political Institutions"

REF 2020: *Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society*, 4th Annual Meeting (New Orleans).

6. "Life and Other Basic Rights in Anscombe"

INV 2020: *Ringvorlesung Geschichte der Philosophie der Gegenwart*. U. Erlangen-Nürnberg.

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.

7. "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.

8. "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.
9. "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.
10. "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).
11. "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.
12. "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.
13. "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]
14. "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.

15. "Authority and Interest in the Theory of Right"
  - INV 2016: *Political Theory Workshop*, Stanford U.
  - INV 2015: *Legal Philosophy Workshop*, U. of Edinburgh.
16. "Anscombe on Hume's Circle" (with Ulf Hlobil)
  - REF 2014: *The Nature of Rules and Normativity*, Czech Acad. of Sciences.
17. "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.

## Other Research Activities

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### 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. 2019: Andrea Sangiovanni, "Humanity without Dignity." *Research Group on Global Justice*, McGill U. (Yan P. Lin Centre).
2. 2019: Christine Sydnovich, "What's Wrong with Equality of Opportunity?" II. *Social Justice Theory Workshop: Democracy, Justice, Equality*. Concordia U. (SJC & CRÉ).
3. 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).
4. 2018: Frank Hindrik, "The Problem of Insignificant Hands." *2018 Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association*, Montreal.

5. 2017: Stefan Gosepath, "Understanding Human Dignity as a Plurally Justified Normative Surplus." *Global Justice Conference 2017*, McGill U. (Yan P. Lin Centre).
6. 2014: Nicolas Cornell, "Wrongs, Rights, and Remedial Ambiguity." *Bechtel Workshop in Political and Legal Philosophy*, U. of Pittsburgh.
7. 2008: Jonathan Dancy, "Practical Reasoning and Inference." *XVII. Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Oxford U.

#### MEMBERSHIPS

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

## Teaching

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#### GRADUATE CLASSES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PHIL 626 *Advanced Political Philosophy*  
 "Political Perfectionism": 2023.

PHIL 621: *Advanced Topics in Value Theory*:  
 "Anscombe's Moral Philosophy": 2018, 2020.  
 "Property Rights": 2017, 2021.

PHIL 633: *Values & Biotechnology*: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024.

#### UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PHIL 330: *Contemporary Ethical Theory* (seminar): 2017, 2018.

PHIL 241: *Philosophy of Human Rights* (lecture): 2017, 2019, 2021.

PHIL 232: *Introduction to Ethics* (lecture): 2018, 2019, 2020 (2x), 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

#### OTHER CLASSES

*Stanford University*: "Economic Justice" (undergraduate seminar): 2016.

*University of Pittsburgh*: Teaching assistant: 2010–2012.

## Supervision

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#### POSTDOCTORAL PROJECTS

2020–2022 Dr. Federica Berdini, "The Nature and Ethics of Coping." (At the Centre de recherche en éthique, with Christine Tappolet.)  
**Subsequent position:** Postdoc at the Centre for Ethics of the *University of Toronto*.



2020–2021 Dr. Heather Maranges, “Brilliant Thinkers, Empathetic Therapists—What Explains the Gender Gap in Philosophy versus Psychology?” (At the Social Justice Centre.)

**Subsequent position:** Senior Research Scholar at the Program for Leadership and Character of *Wakefield Forest University* (Winston-Salem, N.C.).

2019–2020 Dr. Isabella Trifan, “Babies or Open Borders? The Ethics of Population Aging Policy.” (At the Social Justice Centre.)

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

#### MASTERS THESES

2018–2020 Jordan Walters, “A Defense of Minimalist Responses to Debunking Arguments.”

**Subsequent position:** PhD student in philosophy at *McGill University* (Montreal).

2017–2018 Sophie Arase, “Sentimental Phenomena in Kant’s Theory of Right Action.”

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

#### HONORS THESES

2015–2016 Kate Mosle, “Equality and Excellence: Distributing Educational Opportunity under Resource Constraints.” (At the Center for Ethics in Society.)

## Service

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#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

- Graduate Studies Committee (2016–2018, 2019–2020, 2021–2022, FT 2023).
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (2020–2021, 2023–2024).
- Personnel Committee (2020–2022).
- Colloquium Series (2016–2017, FT 2023).
- Member of hiring committee (WT 2018): “Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities” (philosophy assistant professorship, TT).
- Library liaison (2017–2019, 2023–2024).
- Presentations at Concordia’s open house, “What Is Philosophy and Why Study It?” (Feb. and Sep. 2017, with Ulf Hlobil) and “Basic Income after Automation?” (Oct. 2023).
- 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).
- Department website text “Philosophy and Society” (with Ulf Hlobil) (Jan. 2017).

- Examiner MA defenses: Eric Séguin, “How Nozick Can Rescue Republicanism from the Problem of Political Trust,” supervised by Pablo Gilabert (Mar. 2022); Mehdi Nahjafi, “Sharon Street and Moral Debunking,” supervised by Matthew Barker (Mar. 2018).

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

- Member of hiring committee (WT 2020): “Research Postdoc in Social Justice.” (Interdisciplinary postdoc.)
- 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.
- 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.

#### OTHER SERVICE AT CONCORDIA

- Examiner: Ph.D. defense of Anup Basnet, “Three essays on Venture Capital Post-IPO Involvement.” Finance department, supervised by Thomas Walker (Sep. 2021).
- Chair of hiring committee: “Horizon Postdoc.” Interdisciplinary postdoc, for a joint study with Kristen Dunfield and Ulf Hlobil (FT 2019)
- External member of chair search committee. History department (WT 2019).

#### PEER REVIEW

(in English, French and German)

- Articles: *Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosopher’s Imprint*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Theoria*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Jurisprudence*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Human Rights Review* and *Revue philosophiques*.
- Monographs: Oxford University Press, Anthem Press.
- Grant proposals: Austrian Science Fund.
- Tenure dossiers: [Information available upon request.]

### Further Academic Work Experience

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- 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).