

Christopher Johns, Ph.D.

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American University of Beirut

Department of Philosophy

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CURRENT POSITION: Associate Professor (Philosophy) American University of Beirut, Lebanon, 2010-
Department Chair, Jan. 2018-Sept. 2023

FORMER: Visiting Assistant Professor (Philosophy) American University of Beirut, Lebanon, 2009-10
Visiting Assistant Professor (Philosophy) Saint Xavier University, Chicago IL, 2007-2009

AOS: Early Modern (Descartes to Kant, esp. Leibniz)

AOC: History of philosophy, esp. ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology; contemporary and applied ethics;
political philosophy; aesthetics; logic.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Philosophy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, 1999-2007.
- M.A. Philosophy, Stony Brook, 2005.
- M.A. English, Ohio State University, 1995-7. Specialization in literary theory
- B.A. Linguistics, Ohio State University, 1991-5. Minors in Philosophy and History of Art, *Magna Cum Laude*, with Honors in the Liberal Arts
- Languages: English fluency; French and German reading and speaking competency; some Latin.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Leibniz's Discourse on Metaphysics: A New Translation and Commentary* (Edinburgh University Press, April 2023)
- *The Science of Right in Leibniz's Moral and Political Philosophy* (Bloomsbury Academic, Oct. 2013)

Articles

- "The Impact of Leibniz's Geometric Method for the Law," in *Leibniz's Legacy and Impact, Routledge Studies in Seventeenth Century* eds. Julia Weckend and Lloyd Strickland (2019).
- "The New Method of Learning and Teaching Jurisprudence, According to the Principles of the Didactic Art Premised in the General Part and in the Light of Experience," book review in *The Leibniz Review*, 28:109-117 (2018)
- "Kant's Criticism of Leibniz on the Two Sources of Cognition." (under review)
- "Locke and Leibniz on Moral Doctrine as a Demonstrative Science." (under review)
- "Leibniz and the Square: A Deontic Logic for the *Vir Bonus*," *History and Philosophy of Logic*, (May 2014).
- "Leibniz, Pufendorf, and the Possibility of Moral Self-Governance," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (July 2012)
- "The Grounds of Right and Obligation in Leibniz and Hobbes," *Review of Metaphysics* (March 2009)
- "Deontic Foundations in Leibniz's Practical Philosophy," *Studia Leibnitiana* (Band 38/39 Heft 2, 2009)
- "The Rule of Reason: The Golden Rule and the Definition of Justice in Leibniz's 'Meditation on the Common Concept of Justice.'" *Einheit in der Vielheit: Vorträge des VIII. Internationaler Leibniz-Kongress* (Hannover: Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz-Gesellschaft, July 24-29, 2006), pp. 413-421.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- “Egoism, Pleasure, and Obligation,” Aug. 3, 2023, 11th International Leibniz Conference, Leibniz Universitaet, Hannover, Germany, July 31 – Aug. 4.
- “What is Love? A Neo-Socratic Dialogue.” March 14, 2022, AUB, West Hall 310, sponsored by the Philosophy Student Society.
- “Perfections as Completable Qualities in Leibniz’s *Discourse*.” Inaugural AUB-NYUAD Workshop, May 5, 2018, American University of Beirut.
- “Moral Therapy in Princess Elisabeth’s Correspondence with Descartes.” Lehigh University 5th Annual Philosophy Conference, “Women in Early Modern Philosophy,” October 19 – 20, 2017.
- “Leibniz’s Possible Worlds Theodicy: Is this the Best Possible World?” Presentation for the Philosophy Student Society, American University of Beirut, December 2, 2016.
- “Kant’s Criticism of Leibniz on the Two Sources of Cognition,” Presented paper at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Jan. 6-9, 2016.
- “Leibniz and the Square: A Deontic Logic for the *Vir Bonus*.” Paper presented at 3rd World-Congress on the Square of Opposition, American University of Beirut, June 26 – 30, 2012.
- “The Role of Striving and Discord in Kant’s Ideal of Moral Perfection.” Presented at Conference on Ideals and the Ideal in Kant. Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 23-26, 2012.
- “Aristotle and Leibniz on Pleasure, Love, and Justice.” American University of Beirut, November 25, 2010.
- “Two Conceptions of Power: Leibniz and Hobbes on Right and Obligation.” APA Central Division Conference, Colloquium session, Chicago, IL, Feb. 18-21, 2009.
- “Deontic Foundations in Leibniz’s Practical Philosophy.” APA Eastern Division Conference, Colloquium session, Philadelphia, PA, Dec. 27-30, 2008.
- “Leibniz on the Efficient Cause of Natural Law.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, Feb., 22-23, 2008.
- “The Rule of Reason: The Golden Rule and the Definition of Justice in Leibniz’s ‘Meditation on the Common Concept of Justice.’” VII Internationaler Leibniz-Kongress; Leibniz Universität, Hannover, Germany, July 24-29, 2006.
- “Leibniz on Necessity, Obligation, and Justice.” Presentation for the Collegium Philosophiae Transatlanticum, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal Germany, Dec 10, 2005.
- “Moral Implications of Leibniz’s Doctrine of *Petites Perceptions*.” Presentation for the Collegium Philosophiae Transatlanticum, Stony Brook, March 10, 2003.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Served as referee for: *Journal for the History of Philosophy*; *Review of Politics*; *Ethics and International Affairs*; *Intellectual History Review*; *History of European Ideas*; *Ethical Perspectives*
- Chair for “Locke and Spinoza” Colloquium, Eastern APA, January 3-6, 2018.
- Organizer for “Powers, Dispositions, and the New Essentialism,” AUB, April 29- May 1st, 2016. Keynote speaker: John Heil.
- Selection committee for: “Alexander Baumgarten's Metaphysics: Sources, Interpretation and Influence,” La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA, March 27-29, 2014.
- Organizer for “Modern Influence in Contemporary Philosophy: Present Problems in a Past Light,” May 16th, 17, 18, 2013. Primary conference organizer. Keynote speaker: Galen Strawson.
- Commentator on Andrew Johnson’s, “The Trouble with Kant’s Humanity Formula.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, April 17-18, 2009
- Commentator on Peter Kirwan’s, “A Mixing Argument for the Initial Acquisition of Physical and Intellectual Property.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, Feb. 22-23, 2008.
- Reviewed articles for *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*; *The Review of Politics*; *History of European Ideas*; *Intellectual History Review*.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Department Chair, Jan 2018-Sept. 2023.
- Student Disciplinary Affairs Committee, Fall 2021-
- Freshman Advisor, 2014-17
- General Education Program, board member, 2013-Spring 22.
- University Curriculum Committee, Spring 2014
- Undergraduate Philosophy Major advisor, 2011-17
- MA Theses (Director for one, co-director for two, reader for nine)
- Program Learning Outcomes board member, 2010-
- URB Grant proposal reviewer, 2010 & 11
- AUB Student Essay Contest Committee, 2010
- Invited Speaker at Interfaith Dialogue, hosted by the Insight Club, AUB, May 17, 2010
- Keane Scholarship Committee, St. Xavier U., 2008-9
- History Exam Committee member, Stony Brook, 2002-3

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Saint Xavier University Scholar Recognition Award, 2008-9
- Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) scholarship, 2003-5 (1-1/2 yrs.)
- Collegium Philosophiae Transatlanticum: Max Kade Foundation fellowship, 2002-3

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University of Beirut

- PHIL 321 Tutorial on Plato & Aristotle (graduate)
- PHIL 310 The Concept of Substance in Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz (graduate)
- PHIL 310 Leibniz and Locke on human understanding (graduate)
- PHIL 310 Leibniz's *Discourse on Metaphysics* (graduate)
- PHIL 310 Descartes & Spinoza (graduate)
- PHIL 304 Metaphysics of Good & Evil (graduate)
- PHIL 303 Aesthetics, historical & contemporary (graduate)
- PHIL 260 Leibniz's Metaphysics (*Discourse* and *Monadology*)
- PHIL 260 Kant's Practical Philosophy (*Groundwork*; *Critique*; *Metaphysics of Morals*)
- PHIL 254 Special Topics in Metaphysics: Substances, Powers, Minds (John Heil)
- PHIL 254 Special Topics in Metaphysics: Free Will
- PHIL 249 Philosophy of Feminism
- PHIL 230 Philosophy of Plato (*Sympos*, *Republic* (selections), *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*, *Phaedo*)
- PHIL 226 Ethical Theory (metaethics)
- PHIL 225 History of Moral Philosophy (Aristotle, Hume, Kant, MacIntyre)
- PHIL 224 Philosophy of Religion (Rowe and supplements)
- PHIL 223 Philosophy of Language (survey of contemporary issues)
- PHIL 222 Philosophy of Science (history, induction, falsification, realism vs. anti-realism, underdetermination, explanation and inference, reductionism, feminist)
- PHIL 221 Philosophy of Mind (survey: dualism, functionalism, etc.)
- PHIL 215 19th Century Philosophy (survey: Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard)
- PHIL 218 Metaphysics and Epistemology (historical & contemporary)
- PHIL 217 Aesthetics, historical & contemporary (undergrad)
- PHIL 216 Political Philosophy (Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Rawls, Nussbaum)
- PHIL 215 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (in progress Spring '23.)
- PHIL 214 History of Modern (Descartes, Leibniz, Hume, Kant, science, ethics, religion)
- PHIL 213 Ancient & Medieval Philosophy (Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Augustine)

- PHIL 211 Introduction to Logic (sentential and predicate logic)
- PHIL 210 Ethics (contemporary normative ethics)
- PHIL 209 Environmental Ethics (selected articles)
- PHIL 206 Business Ethics (Boatright and Audi)
- PHIL 205 Bioethics (selected readings)
- PHIL 102 Freshman Intro to Philosophy (selected readings)
- CVSP Common Lectures on Bacon and Locke
- PSYC 228 One week module on music cognition

Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL (VAP, 2007 – 09)

- PHIL 352 Historical Studies in Ethics: Kant, *Groundwork*; *The Metaphysics of Morals*.
- PHIL 285 Human Nature: Plato, *Symposium*; Augustine, *Free Choice of the Will*; Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*; Darwin, *Origin of Species*; Frankel, *Man's Search for Meaning*
- PHIL 200 Introduction to Ethics: Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*; Selections from: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*; Kant, *Groundwork*; Mill, *Utilitarianism*; Sophocles, *Antigone*
- PHIL 150 The Examined Life. Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Phaedo*; Aristotle on Friendship

RECOMMENDATION WRITERS

Academic:

- Jeffrey Edwards, Dept. of Philosophy, Stony Brook University. Phone: 631-632-7570
E-mail: bedwards@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
- Lee Miller. Dept. of Philosophy, Stony Brook University. Phone: 631-632-6733
E-mail: cmiller@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
- Manfred Baum. Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany: 011-49 202-439-2858
E-mail: Baum@uni-wuppertal.de

Teaching and Professional

- Hans Muller, Chair, Department of Philosophy, American University of Beirut.
Email: hm38@aub.edu.lb
- Thomas Thorp, former Chair, Dept. of Philosophy, St. Xavier U. Phone: 773-298-3442
E-mail: thorp@sxu.edu
- Nan-Nan Lee, Chair, Dept. of Philosophy, St. Xavier University. Phone: 773-298-3457
E-mail: lee@sxu.edu

Teaching:

- Christian Perring. Dept of Philosophy, Dowling College. Phone: 631-244-3349
E-mail: perringc@dowling.edu
- Peter Manchester, Dept. of Philosophy, Stony Brook University. Phone: 631-632-7570
E-mail: pmanchester@ms.cc.sunysb.edu (deceased)
- Ann C. Hall. Dept. of Literature and Language, Ohio Dominican University
E-mail: halla@ohiodominican.edu