
Matthew Congdon

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
Vanderbilt University
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Last updated: Nov. 29, 2025

AOS: Ethics, Social Philosophy, Aesthetics

AOC: Philosophy of Language, Feminist Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Critical Theory

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

- August 2019 – present
- Director of Undergraduate Studies in Philosophy (since Fall 2023)
- Robert Penn Warren Humanities Faculty Fellow (Fall 2025–present)
- Greg S. Allen Dean’s Faculty Fellow (Fall 2023–Spring 2025)

Senior Lecturer, Philosophy Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

- August 2014 – May 2019

DEGREES EARNED

Ph.D., Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, May 2014

- Dissertation: “Moral Articulation: On the Formation of New Moral Universals”
- Winner of the Hans Jonas Dissertation Prize in Philosophy
- Committee: Alice Crary (New School/Oxford, chair), J.M. Bernstein (New School), Linda Martín Alcoff (CUNY Graduate Center, Hunter College)

M.A., Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, Spring 2008

- MA Thesis: “On Meaning and Nonmeaning in Hegel, Bataille, and Derrida” (advised by Richard Bernstein)

B.A., Philosophy, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, May 2005

- Senior Thesis: “Feuding Friends: Nietzsche’s Ambivalent Relation to Plato” (advised by Francisco Gonzalez)
- Departmental Honors in Philosophy
- Periclean Honors Society

RESEARCH

Book

Moral Articulation: On the Development of New Moral Concepts (Oxford University Press, 2024)

- Reviewed in: *European Journal of Philosophy*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Iris Murdoch Review*, and *Mind* (forthcoming)
- Author Meets Critics at the APA Central 2025, with Kyla Ebels-Duggan and Sanford Diehl.
- Book symposium in *Syndicate*, with Mark Hopwood, Linh Mac, and Kristina Gehrman (forthcoming)
- Book symposium in *Analysis Reviews*, with Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Sanford Diehl, and Christopher Bennett (forthcoming)
- Featured on Podcasts: Good is in the Details (episode titled, “How We Talk about Morality”) and The Iris Murdoch Podcast (episode titled, “Moral Articulation”)
- Featured on the Blog of the APA’s *Recently Published Book Spotlight*, Jan. 24, 2025

Co-edited Volume

Matthew Congdon and Thomas Khurana (eds.), *Recognition: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge, forthcoming, scheduled for late 2025)

Journal Articles

“The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act,” *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, Special Issue on Social Movements, edited by Hilkje Hänel and Breno Santos (forthcoming).

“Changing Our Nature: Ethical Naturalism, Objectivity, and History” *Philosophy* 98:3 (2023): 297–326.

“Does Moral Philosophy ‘Leave Everything as It Is?’” *Analysis* 82:1 (2022), pp. 169–179.

“The Aesthetics of Moral Address,” *Philosophical Topics* 49:1 (2021), pp. 123–144.

“Social Visibility: Theory and Practice,” co-authored with Alice Crary, *Philosophical Topics* 49:1 (2021), pp. 1–12. (Research and writing divided equally between the two co-authors.)

“The Struggle for Recognition of What?” *European Journal of Philosophy* 28:3 (2020), pp. 586–601.

“Creative Resentments: The Role of Emotion in Moral Change,” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 68:273 (2018), pp. 739–757.

“‘Knower’ as an Ethical Concept: From Epistemic Agency to Mutual Recognition,” *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly* 4:4 (2018), pp. 1–26.

“Wronged Beyond Words: On the Publicity and Repression of Moral Injury,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 42:8 (October 2016), pp. 815-834.

“Epistemic Injustice in the Space of Reasons,” *Episteme* 12:1 (March 2015), pp. 75-93.

Book Chapters

“Murdoch and Moral Psychology,” co-authored with Katherine Martha. In: Miles Leeson, Hannah Altorf, Robert Hardy, and Frances White (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook to Iris Murdoch* (Oxford University Press, under contract and scheduled to appear in 2027).

“Philosophies of Recognition: An Introduction,” co-authored with Thomas Khurana, in Matthew Congdon and Thomas Khurana (eds.), *Recognition: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge, forthcoming, late 2025).

“What’s Wrong With Epistemic Injustice? Harm, Vice, Objectification, Misrecognition,” in Ian James Kidd, José Medina, and Gaile Pohlhaus, Jr. (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook to Epistemic Injustice* (Routledge 2017).

Discussion Notes and Replies to Critics

“Replies to Hopwood, Gehrman, and Mac,” *Syndicate*, Book Symposium on *Moral Articulation* (forthcoming).

“Trusting Oneself Through Others: El Kassir on Intellectual Self-Trust,” *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 10:1 (2021), pp. 48–55.

Interview

“Drawing Attention: an Interview with Samson Young,” *The Iris Murdoch Review* (forthcoming 2025).

Book Reviews

Review of Robert Stern, *The Radical Demand in Løgstrup’s Ethics* (Oxford 2018), *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy* (2024), pp. 1–3.

Review of Robert Stern, *Understanding Moral Obligation: Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard* (Cambridge 2012), *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 34:1 (2013), pp. 230-4.

Review of Jacques Derrida, *The Animal That Therefore I Am*, trans. David Wills (Fordham Press, 2008), *Telos* 148 (Fall 2009).

Translations (German to English)

Eckart Förster, “The Significance of §§76 and 77 of the *Critique of Judgment* for the Development of

Post-Kantian Philosophy,” in two parts, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:2 (2009), pp. 323-47 and 31:2 (2010), pp. 197-217 (co-translated with Karen Ng).

Sigrid Weigel, “Poetics as a Presupposition of Philosophy: Hannah Arendt’s *Denktagebuch*,” *Telos* 146 (Spring 2009), pp. 97-110.

Co-edited Special Issues of Journals

Guest co-editor, with Mark Hopwood, *The Monist*, “Philosophy After Murdoch” (in progress, scheduled for the Fall 2027 issue).

Guest Co-Editor, with Alice Crary, *Philosophical Topics*, “Social Visibility” (Volume 48, Issue 2, Spring 2021).

Publications Outside Philosophy

“Endangered Scholars Worldwide,” *Social Research: An International Quarterly*

- This was a recurring 6- to 8-page feature reporting current cases of scholars threatened, imprisoned, executed, or otherwise endangered for their scholarly work.
- I authored seventeen installments between Spring 2011 and Spring 2014.

Working Papers

“Two Myths about Emotion” (under review, following an R&R)

“Iris Murdoch and the New Existentialists” (committed for a 2027 issue of *The Monist*).

“The Social Psyche: Reflections on Sally Haslanger’s Benjamin Lectures” (committed for a special issue of *Constellations* on Haslanger’s Benjamin Lectures)

“Art and the Disclosure of Social Reality: Murdoch, Adorno, and Kafka” co-authored with Karen Ng (committed for a volume on the theme, *Iris Murdoch and Classical Literature*)

“Précis of *Moral Articulation*” and “Reply to Diehl, Ebels-Duggan, and Bennett” (for a planned book symposium on *Moral Articulation* in *Analysis*, in progress)

“Emotions and Ideology” (in progress)

Invited Presentations

“Two Myths about Emotion,” Northwestern Philosophy Colloquium	Nov. 7, 2025
“Two Myths about Emotion,” Penn State Philosophy Colloquium	Oct. 17, 2025
“Two Myths about Emotion,” Boston University Philosophy Colloquium	Sept. 12, 2025

Author Meets Critics Session on <i>Moral Articulation</i> , American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), with Sanford Diehl (NYU) and Kyla Ebels-Duggan (Northwestern)	Jan. 10, 2025
Author Meets Critics, <i>Tennessee Philosophical Association</i> , with Mark Hopwood (Sewanee), Kristina Gehrman (UT Knoxville), and Linh Mac (UT Knoxville)	Nov. 2, 2025
“Changing Our Nature: Ethical Naturalism, Objectivity, and History,” <i>Neo-Aristotelian Research Group</i> , online	Aug. 8, 2024
Book Conference on <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Göttingen Universität, Germany	July 11, 2024
“The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act,” Philosophy Colloquium, Göttingen Universität, Germany	July 10, 2024
Discussion of <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Ethics of Socially Disruptive Technologies, UT Delft, Netherlands	June 26, 2024
“The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act,” Recognition and Epistemic Injustice Conference: University of Zurich, Switzerland	June 10–11, 2024
Discussion of <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Graduate Seminar, Oxford University, UK	June 3, 2024
“The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act,” Humanistic Ethics Workshop, Oxford University, UK	June 1–2, 2024
“Hermeneutics and Moral Articulation,” <i>New Directions in Social Hermeneutics</i> (via Zoom)	Dec. 18, 2023
Discussion of <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Vanderbilt University Philosophy Colloquium	Oct. 30, 2023
Discussion of <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Words Workshop (Zoom)	Oct. 20, 2023
“Moral Articulation,” Articulation Workshop, Maastricht University, Netherlands	June 23, 2023
“Emotions and Ideology,” Free University, Berlin, Germany	June 21, 2023
“Emotions and Ideology,” Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, Berlin, Germany	May 18, 2023
“The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act,” Conference on Epistemic Injustice and Recognition Theory, Berlin	May 5, 2023
Discussion of <i>Moral Articulation</i> , Colloquium for Social Philosophy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	May 4, 2023
“When Emotions Go Wrong: Ethical and Epistemic Distortions,” Rice Workshop in Humanistic Ethics, Rice University	April 23, 2022
“Criticizing Emotions,” Institute of Philosophy, School of Advanced	April 7, 2023

Study, University of London, UK

“When Emotions Go Wrong: Ethical and Epistemic Distortions,”
University of Sheffield Philosophy Department Colloquium, UK

March 24, 2023

“When Emotions Go Wrong: Ethical and Epistemic Distortions,”
Critical Cognitive Science Lecture Series, University of Osnabrück
(online)

October 7, 2021

“Discursive Breakdown,” Virtual Philosophy Salon, Vanderbilt
University (online)

April 3, 2020

“Moral Address: A Wittgensteinian Approach,” Departmental
Colloquium Series, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

September 27, 2019

“Moral Articulation,” Social Visibility: An Interdisciplinary Workshop
on Ideology and Social Justice, Vanderbilt University

April 12, 2019

“Historicized Moral Realism,” Colloquium for Ethics and Aesthetics,
Universität Potsdam, Germany

July 13, 2018

“Creative Resentments: The Role of Emotions in Moral Change,”
Departmental Colloquium, Universität Potsdam, Germany

June 19, 2018

“What Is It to Address Someone? Wittgenstein and the Second-Person
Standpoint,” New York Wittgenstein Workshop, New York City, NY

October 6, 2017

“What’s Wrong with Epistemic Injustice?” New York Wittgenstein
Workshop, New York City, NY

October 2, 2015

“Moral Injury: Notes for a Non-Ideal Ethical Theory,” (with Jay
Bernstein) Collaborations Conference, SIU Carbondale

March 21, 2014

“Wronged Beyond Words: On the Publicity and Repression of Moral
Testimony,” Vanderbilt University

November 14, 2013

“Wronged Beyond Words: On the Publicity and Repression of Moral
Testimony,” The New School for Social Research

November 7, 2013

“Wronged Beyond Words: On the Publicity and Repression of Moral
Testimony,” Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany

July 2013

“Dead or Alive: Kant, Teleological Judgment, and Skepticism
Concerning the Living,” Colloquium for Contemporary Philosophy,
Universität Bonn, Germany

January 18, 2011

“Empiricism and the Supersensible in Schelling’s Late Philosophy,”
First Annual International Summer School in German Philosophy:
Transcendental Ontology and Issues in Epistemology in Post-Kantian
Philosophy, Universität Bonn, Germany

June 25, 2010

“Thinking Flesh and Blood with Cora Diamond and J.M. Coetzee,”
New York Wittgenstein Workshop, New York, NY

April 30, 2010

Conference Presentations (Refereed)

“Iris Murdoch and the New Existentialists,” <i>Iris Murdoch: Literature and Philosophy in Dialogue</i> , University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	April 12, 2024
“The Space and Place of Inner Life in Murdoch’s Ethics,” Tenth International Iris Murdoch Conference, Chichester, UK	June 25, 2022
“Are Moral Facts Loopy?” Social Ontology 2021, hosted by the International Social Ontology Society (online)	August 10, 2021
“Thinking Beyond Language with Murdoch,” Iris Murdoch Virtual Conference 2021: Connection and Communication, hosted by the Iris Murdoch Society (online)	July 15, 2021
“Are Moral Facts Loopy?”, Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium (CHiPS), University of the West Indies, Barbados (online)	June 16, 2021
“The Struggle for Recognition of What?” Critical Theory Roundtable, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada	October 4, 2019
“What is a Type? Individual and Species in Cavell’s <i>The World Viewed</i> ,” The Thought of Movies: A Tribute to Stanley Cavell, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France	June 13–14, 2019
“‘Knower’ as an Ethical Concept,” American Philosophical Association (Central Division), Denver, CO	February 20-23, 2019
“‘Knower’ as an Ethical Concept,” 11 th International Critical Theory Conference of Rome, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University Chicago, Rome, Italy	May 12, 2018
“From Pain to Moral Injury: A Normative Typology of Aversive Experience,” Dimensions of Vulnerability, University of Vienna, Austria	April 5, 2018
“Epistemic Injustice as a Failure of Recognition,” American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Seattle, WA	April 15, 2017
“From Pain to Moral Injury: A Normative Typology of Aversive Experience,” Re-engaging Elaine Scarry’s <i>The Body in Pain</i> : A Thirtieth Anniversary Retrospective Conference, University of Brighton, United Kingdom	December 10, 2015
“Moral Injury,” Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy, New Orleans, LA	October 25, 2014
“Performative Resentments: On the Role of Negative Emotions in Normative Transformation,” Pacific Society for Women in Philosophy, Arizona State University	November 9, 2013
“Wronged Beyond Words: Lyotard and Silenced Victimhood,” Society for Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy, Eugene, OR	October 25, 2013

- “Wronged Beyond Words: Trauma, Silence, and Victimhood,” May 27, 2012
Symposium on Philosophy, Trauma, and Victimhood, Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy meeting in conjunction with the Canadian Philosophical Association, Waterloo, Ontario
- “Hegel’s Spiritual Logic: The Case of Measure,” Society for October 29-31, 2009
Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Alexandria, VA

Response Papers

- Response to Sanford Diehl, “Recognition as Actualization,” Los March 7, 2025
Angeles Humanistic Ethics Workshop, UCLA
- Response to Wayne Martin, “Recognition of the Will of the Person,” June 1, 2023
Universität Potsdam
- Commentary on Philip Osborne, “Neo-Aristotelianism and Histories of Jan. 5, 2023
Vice,” APA Eastern, Montreal
- Commentary on Paul C. Taylor’s *Black is Beautiful: A Philosophy of Black Aesthetics*, Vanderbilt University March 18, 2019
- Commentary on Alice Crary, *Inside Ethics: On the Demands of Moral Thought*, Colloquium for Social Philosophy, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany June 14, 2018
- Response to Idit Dobbs-Weinstein, *Spinoza’s Critique of Religion and Its Heirs: Marx, Benjamin, Adorno*, Book Panel, Vanderbilt University Feb. 26, 2016
- Response to Gary Jaeger, “The Possibility of an Aristotelian Realism,” Oct. 31, 2015
Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville TN
- Response to Jay Bernstein, “Abolishing Torture and the Uprising of the Rule of Law,” Colloquium for Social Philosophy, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany April 25, 2013
- Response to Ida Momennejad, “Radical Autonomy,” Colloquium for February 14, 2013
Social Philosophy, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany
- Response to Sebastian Ostritsch, “Beyond Moral Realism and November 11, 2011
Antirealism: Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right* and Contemporary Metaethics,” New York German Idealism Workshop, New York, NY
- Response to Andreja Novakovic, “Second Nature and Ethical Life,” April 17, 2009
New York German Idealism Workshop, New York, NY

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship	2025–2026
Greg S. Allen Dean’s Faculty Fellow in Philosophy, Vanderbilt University	2023–2025
Hans Jonas Award in Philosophy, New School for Social Research (awarded to best dissertation in the philosophy department each year)	2014
Holocaust Memorial Fellowship, New School for Social Research	2013 - 2014
Dissertation Fellowship, New School for Social Research	2013 - 2014
DAAD Research Scholarship, Humboldt-Universität Berlin; host: Prof. Dr. Rahel Jaeggi	2012 - 2013
Teaching Fellow, Eugene Lang College, New School for Liberal Arts	2011 - 2012
Departmental Honors in Philosophy, Skidmore College	2005
Periclean Honors Society, Skidmore College	2005

Research Grants Received

Vanderbilt Vice Provost Office Global Research Seed Grant for <i>Philosophy After Murdoch</i> , a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University, \$2,000	Spring 2025
Vanderbilt Rapid Advancement MicroGrant Program (RAMP), funding for <i>Philosophy After Murdoch</i> , a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University, \$5,000	Spring 2025
Vanderbilt Rapid Advancement MicroGrant Program (RAMP), funding for production of co-edited volume, <i>The Philosophy and History of Recognition</i> (Routledge, in production), \$500	Spring 2024
Dean’s Research Studio, Vanderbilt University (a grant to workshop the penultimate draft of my book, <i>Moral Articulation</i> , with Miranda Fricker (NYU), Robert Gooding-Williams (Columbia), and Robert Stern (Sheffield))	2022
Research Fellow, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Research Grant (a €45,000 grant to establish and organize workshops, conferences, and publications in collaboration with an International Research Network focusing on the topic of “Epistemic Injustice and Recognition Theory” for a 30-month period)	2021–2024
DAAD Research Scholarship, Humboldt-Universität Berlin; host: Prof. Dr. Rahel Jaeggi	2012 - 2013

TEACHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

New Courses Introduced (Graduate)

Philosophy of Emotion	Spring 2025
Wittgenstein, Skepticism, and Language	Spring 2022
History of Normative Ethics (co-taught with Diana Heney)	Spring 2021
Moral Psychology	Spring 2020, Fall 2023

New Courses Introduced (Undergraduate)

On Lying and Deception (Exploratory Core, co-taught with Scott Juengel)	Fall 2025
Struggles for Recognition and Social Change (College Scholars Seminar)	Fall 2021

Graduate Advising

I have served on the following graduate students' PhD Dissertation Committees.

Katherine Martha (Chair of Dissertation Committee)	In Progress
Eli Minor	In Progress
Drew Chambers, "The Shape of Moral Understanding: Practical Reasoning Informed by Perception and Language (External Committee Member, Columbia University)	Defended April 2, 2025
Kelly Ann Cunningham, "Matters of Trust"	Defended May 20, 2024
Sarah DiMaggio, "Rediscovering Kin: The Ethical Significance of Kinship with Nature"	Defended June 20, 2022

SERVICE**To Department**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy	Fall 2023–present
Senior Lecturer Job Search Committee	2024–2025
Graduate Admissions Committee	2023–2025
Chair, Programming Committee, Philosophy	2020–2022
Member, Programming Committee, Philosophy	2019–2020

SACS Ethics Review Committee, Philosophy	2020, 2021, 2022
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision	Spring 2017, Spring 2019

To University

Reviewer for First-Year Writing Submissions for the Undergraduate Writing Symposium and Volume 7 of <i>Scaffold: A Showcase of Vanderbilt First-Year Writing</i>	Spring 2025
Presenter & Discussion Leader, International Lens Film Series	Fall 2016

To Profession

Referee: <i>Journal of the American Philosophical Association</i> , <i>Hypatia</i> , <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of Social Philosophy</i> , <i>Feminist Philosophy Quarterly</i>	Various Dates
Co-organizer, with Mark Hopwood, <i>Philosophy After Murdoch</i> , a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University	March 2025
Book Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press	2024
Advisory Board Member for <i>Transforming Political Philosophy</i> , a book series with De Gruyter Press	2025–present
Editorial Board Member for <i>Transforming Political Philosophy</i> , a book series with De Gruyter Press.	2021–2024
Co-founder and Steering Committee Member, The Prize for Distinguished Achievement in Social Philosophy	2020 - 2023
Co-organizer, with Alice Crary, <i>Social Visibility</i> , a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University	April 2019
Organizer, New York German Idealism Workshop	2009 - 2014
Organizer, Philosophies of Right from German Idealism to Critical Theory Conference	Dec. 2011
Organizer, Book Symposium: Robert Stern's <i>Understanding Moral Obligation: Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard</i>	Sept. 2012
Organizer, Second Annual Summer School in German Philosophy, Bonn Universität, Germany	July 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The American Philosophical Association (APA)
 The Iris Murdoch Society
 The International Social Ontology Society

LANGUAGES

English (native)

German (intermediate spoken and reading, currently taking B2-level Goethe Institute instruction)

French (reading knowledge)

REFERENCES

Kyla Ebels-Duggan

Professor of Philosophy

Director, Brady Scholars Program

Northwestern University

Email: kebelsduggan@northwestern.edu

Sally Haslanger

Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Email: shaslang@mit.edu

Miranda Fricker

Julius Silver Professor of Philosophy

Co-director, New York Institute of Philosophy

New York University

Email: miranda.fricker@nyu.edu