Matthew Congdon

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
Vanderbilt University
PMB 406319
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, Tennessee 37240-6319
matthew.congdon@vanderbilt.edu
updated: Oct. 26, 2026

Research Interests: Ethics, Social Philosophy, Aesthetics

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- August 2026–present
- Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy (Fall 2026–present)

Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- August 2019 – 2026
- Director of Undergraduate Studies in Philosophy (Fall 2023 to Spring 2026)
- Robert Penn Warren Humanities Faculty Fellow (2025–2026)
- 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*
- 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
- 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

Edited Volume

Matthew Congdon and Thomas Khurana (eds.), *Recognition: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge 2026)

Articles and 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, forthcoming).

"Iris Murdoch and the New Existentialists," *The Monist*, Special Issue on "Philosophy After Murdoch" (forthcoming)

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

"Does Morality Require an Ahistorical Core?" *Analysis*, Part of a book symposium on *Moral Articulation*. Online preview available at https://academic.oup.com/analysis/advance-article/doi/10.1093/analys/anag059/8827756 (2026)

"Philosophies of Recognition: An Introduction," co-authored with Thomas Khurana, in Matthew Congdon and Thomas Khurana (eds.), *Recognition: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2026).

"Replies to Hopwood, Gehrman, and Mac," *Syndicate*, Book Symposium on *Moral Articulation* (2026)

"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.)

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

"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.

"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).

"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.

Artist 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)

"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*)

"Emotions and Ideology" (in progress)

"Murdoch and Beauvoir on the Pointlessness of Human Life"

Invited Presentations

"Two Myths about Emotion," UPenn Philosophy Colloquium	Oct. 30, 2026
"Iris Murdoch and the New Existentialists," Berkeley Philosophy Department History of Philosophy Workshop	April 10, 2026
"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 *Moral Articulation*, American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), with Sanford Diehl (NYU) and Kyla Ebels-Duggan (Northwestern)	Jan. 10, 2025
Author Meets Critics, *Tennessee Philosophical Association*, with Mark Hopwood (Sewanee), Kristina Gehrman (UT Knoxville), and Linh Mac (UT Knoxville)	Nov. 2, 2024
"Changing Our Nature: Ethical Naturalism, Objectivity, and History," *Neo-Aristotelian Research Group*, online	Aug. 8, 2024
Book Conference on *Moral Articulation*, Göttingen Universität, Germany	July 11, 2024
"The Demand for Recognition as an Aesthetic Act," Philosophy Colloquium, Göttingen Universität, Germany	July 10, 2024
Discussion of *Moral Articulation*, 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 *Moral Articulation*, 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," *New Directions in Social Hermeneutics* (via Zoom)	Dec. 18, 2023
Discussion of *Moral Articulation*, Vanderbilt University Philosophy Colloquium	Oct. 30, 2023
Discussion of *Moral Articulation*, 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 *Moral Articulation*, 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 Study, University of London, UK	April 7, 2023
"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)

"Art and the Disclosure of Social Reality: Murdoch, Adorno, and Kafka" (co-authored with Karen Ng), *12th Annual Iris Murdoch Conference*, Chichester, UK — August 14, 2026

"Iris Murdoch and the New Existentialists," *Iris Murdoch: Literature and Philosophy in Dialogue*, 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 *The World Viewed*," 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," 11th 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 *The Body in Pain*: 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," Symposium on Philosophy, Trauma, and Victimhood, Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy meeting in conjunction with the Canadian Philosophical Association, Waterloo, Ontario	May 27, 2012
"Hegel's Spiritual Logic: The Case of Measure," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Alexandria, VA	October 29-31, 2009

Response Papers

Response to Sanford Diehl, "Recognition as Actualization," Los Angelos Humanistic Ethics Workshop, UCLA	March 7, 2025
Response to Wayne Martin, "Recognition of the Will of the Person," Universität Potsdam	June 1, 2023
Commentary on Philip Osborne, "Neo-Aristotelianism and Histories of Vice," APA Eastern, Montreal	Jan. 5, 2023
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," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville TN	Oct. 31, 2015
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 Social Philosophy, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany	February 14, 2013
Response to Sebastian Ostritsch, "Beyond Moral Realism and Antirealism: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* and Contemporary Metaethics," New York German Idealism Workshop, New York, NY	November 11, 2011

Response to Andreja Novakovic, "Second Nature and Ethical Life," New York German Idealism Workshop, New York, NY	April 17, 2009

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 *Philosophy After Murdoch*, a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University, $2,000	Spring 2025
Vanderbilt Rapid Advancement MicroGrant Program (RAMP), funding for *Philosophy After Murdoch*, a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University, $5,000	Spring 2025
Vanderbilt Rapid Advancement MicroGrant Program (RAMP), funding for production of co-edited volume, *The Philosophy and History of Recognition* (Routledge, in production), $500	Spring 2024
Dean's Research Studio, Vanderbilt University (a grant to workshop the penultimate draft of my book, *Moral Articulation*, with Miranda Fricker (NYU), Robert Gooding-Williams (Columbia), and Robert Stern (Sheffield)	2022
Research Fellow, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinshaft (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.	2012 - 2013

Dr. Rahel Jaeggi

TEACHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

New Courses Introduced (Graduate)

Genealogies of Morals	Fall 2026
Iris Murdoch and Twentieth-Century Philosophy	Spring 2026
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)

Existentialist Philosophy and Literature	Spring 2027
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, "In the Name of Love: Love's Public and Private Reasons" (Chair of Dissertation Committee)	In Progress
Alyssa Tudor	
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 Graduate Studies, Philosophy	Fall 2026–present
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy	2023–2026
Senior Lecturer Job Search Committee	2024–2025
Graduate Admissions Committee	2024, 2026
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 *Scaffold: A Showcase of Vanderbilt First-Year Writing*	Spring 2025
Presenter & Discussion Leader, International Lens Film Series	Fall 2016

To Profession

Referee: *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Hypatia*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*	Various Dates
Co-organizer, with Mark Hopwood, *Philosophy After Murdoch*, a two-day workshop at Vanderbilt University	March 2025
Book Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press	2024
Advisory Board Member for *Transforming Political Philosophy*, a book series with De Gruyter Press	2025–present
Editorial Board Member for *Transforming Political Philosophy*, 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, *Social Visibility*, 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 *Understanding Moral*	Sept. 2012

Obligation: Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard

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