Kimberly Brewer

9.1.2022 - 12.31.2022
Faculty Sponsor: Anja Jauernig

Kimberly Brewer specializes in the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, early modern philosophy, philosophy of religion, and food and environmental ethics. Her most recent research projects include the exploration of Plato and Platonic themes on Kant’s philosophy, Kant’s theory of hypotheses in the domains of science and of metaphysics, and the influence of the so-called ‘imago dei’ intellectual tradition on the critical philosophy. Kimberly’s past work has focused on the important function in Kant’s philosophy of what he terms an ‘intuitive intellect,’ a hypothetical non-human superintelligence presented as a crucial epistemological foil for human knowledge. A detailed study of Kant’s theory of the intuitive intellect is the focus of several recent and forthcoming publications; these include ‘Alternate Possibilities, Divine Omniscience and Critique of Judgement §76’ (Kantian Review, 2021) and ‘Kant’s Theory of the Intuitive Intellect’ (History of Philosophy Quarterly, forthcoming).

Jonathan Gingerich

9.30.2022 - 12.15.2022
Faculty Sponsor: Kit Fine

When contemporary moral and political philosophers write about freedom, they are usually thinking either of a sort of freedom that is required for a person to be morally responsible for their actions, or of a sort of freedom needed for autonomous choice, or else of a sort of freedom that is conceptually connected to a state’s ability to claim legitimate authority. But none of these approaches speaks to certain everyday experiences of freedom that are central to our ordinary concept: the freedom of setting off to explore an unknown city, opening your sketchbook to a blank page, or quitting your job to take up a new vocation. As so many rock & roll songs attest, this freedom of unplanned and unscripted activity is a sort of freedom that many people value and yearn for. Building on my recent article in Ethics ("Spontaneous Freedom"), I’m working on a book manuscript about this everyday sort of freedom. Tentatively entitled The Spontaneity of Freedom, the book will offer a theory of the nature of spontaneous freedom, make a case for its value, and explore the role it does and should play in our lives.
Alexander Görlach

8.15.2022 - 8.30.2023
Faculty Sponsor: Kwame Anthony Appiah

Alexander Görlach is a senior fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, a research associate at the Internet Institute at Oxford University, and a professor of ethics at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany. He teaches democratic theory, and concepts of secularism, pluralism and cosmopolitanism. His interests extend further to narratives of identity, and politics and religion. Alex has been a visiting scholar and fellow to both, Harvard University in the US, and to Cambridge University in the UK. For his PhD in comparative religion he studied and researched at the Pontifical University Gregoriana in Rome, Al-Azhar University in Cairo, and the University of Ankara. He further holds a PhD in linguistics, in the field of language and politics.

Alex’ work has been focused on the future of democracy and the liberal world order in the last eight years. Within that field he specifically looks into the rise of China and its implication for democracies in East Asia. He was a visiting scholar to National Taiwan University and City University Hongkong in the academic year 2017-18. His recent publications include “Homo Empathicus: On Scapegoats, Populists & Saving Democracy” (Brookings, 2021).

While at NYU by the invitation of Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah Alex pursues a project on “Digital Cosmopolitanism”, inquiring how new technologies are creating an unprecedented global awareness for shared values that connect all of humanity.

Alexander was the founder of the debate magazine The European, which he ran from 2009 until 2015 as its editor in chief. Today he is a columnist and op-ed contributor to various media, amongst others The New York Times and Neue Zürcher Zeitung. He appears regularly on TV-programs and radio shows, providing insights into geo-political events.

Twitter: agoerlach
Web: www.alexandergoerlach.com
Jacek Jarocki

8.1.2022 - 10.23.2022
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

I graduated in 2019 from The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), Poland. The topic of my Ph.D. dissertation was Consciousness, Free Will, the Self. The Metaphysics of Galen Strawson. Since then, I have been working as a research assistant at the Department of the History of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy at KUL. My latest research focuses on the forgotten period on American philosophy –the New and the Critical Realism (1900–1930): the time between last years of William James and the birth of fully-fledged American analytic philosophy. My main areas of interests are: philosophy of mind (especially non-reductive theories of consciousness, i.e. panpsychism and neutral monism), philosophy of perception, philosophy of literature and philosophy of religion (non-theistic religious experiences).

Bart Jansen

4.1.2023 - 4.1.2024
Faculty Sponsor: Miranda Fricker

Dr Bart Jansen LLM is assistant professor of philosophy of law and ethics at Nyenrode Business University in the Netherlands. He is also an adjunct professor of legal philosophy at Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia, lecturer in sociology of law at the University of Amsterdam and lecturer in jurisprudence at Leiden University (both Dutch). Jansen’s areas of interest include philosophy of law, ontology, political theology, aesthetics, and semiotics.
Jakub Mihálik

9.1.2022 - 6.30.2023
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

During my Visiting Scholar period at NYU (September 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), I shall work on a research project in the philosophy of mind, entitled Consciousness & The Meta-Problem of Acquaintance. This project, which is supported by the Fulbright Commission, aims to examine the nature of our acquaintance with the qualitative contents of consciousness in the light of what I describe as the ‘meta-problem of acquaintance’. Inspired by David Chalmers’s ‘meta-problem of consciousness’, this is the challenge of explaining our actual beliefs about conscious acquaintance and its apparent cognitive intimacy. I will first investigate Bertrand Russell’s view that these beliefs result from our ‘acquaintance with acquaintance’, which – in the realm of consciousness – suggests that acquaintance is phenomenally present for us. Should this view prove to be unviable, I will seek a solution to the meta-problem that doesn’t rely on the phenomenal presence of acquaintance.

Adriana Renero

9.1.2022 - 8.31.2023
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

I am currently an Affiliated Research Scholar in the Philosophy of Mind at the Saul Kripke Center, in the City University of New York, Graduate Center. This year I'm working on Kripke's argument against conceptual materialism and his philosophical exchange with David Lewis in the lectures on the philosophy of mind (1979). I also work on the knowledge argument, auditory consciousness, and introspection.
Claudia Yau

8.1.2022 - 6.30.2023
Faculty Sponsor: Jessica Moss

I specialize in Ancient Greek philosophy. My main research is on wisdom (sophia) in Plato and Aristotle. I also have paper projects on Aristotle's account of justice and on Sextus Empiricus's system of argumentative modes. Outside of ancient philosophy, I'm interested in social philosophy and Chinese philosophy.

Panagiota Theodoni

9.1.2022 - 8.31.2023
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

Panagiota Theodoni (Yota) is a Greek physicist with graduate studies in condensed matter physics and a Ph.D. in theoretical and computational neuroscience. Her research has been on photonic crystals, cortical connectivity of primates, and computational neural network models of perceptual decision making, social decision making, learning, episodic memory, and visual conscious perception. Currently, she is working on structure-to-function comparison across species, working memory, social decision making, and distributed neural correlations of conscious perception. During her visit to the NYU Department of Philosophy, she will be working on a large-scale multi-regional neural network model of the primate cortex, simulating the neural activity across cortical areas during switches of contents of consciousness. Yota will be collaborating with members of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness on issues related to their current projects, including neural correlates of consciousness and theories of consciousness.
Christopher Izgin  
Faculty Sponsor: Marko Malink

I'm a third-year PhD student from Berlin. My dissertation studies the principle of excluded middle in Aristotle. I have a pronounced interest in ancient Greek philosophy, especially in Aristotle's ontology and logic, but also in Sextus Empiricus. Other than that, I love to read my Kant or Wittgenstein, and I am currently developing a side-interest in medieval Arabic Aristotelianism.

Enrico Galvagni  
Faculty Sponsor: Don Garrett

Enrico's main research interests include early modern philosophy, ethics, and its history. He is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and his dissertation focuses primarily on David Hume's theory of virtue and on present-day Hume-inspired moral theories. During his time at NYU (Sept-Dec. 2022), Enrico will be working on two chapters of his dissertation which explore the relevance of Hume's epistemology and account of causation for his moral philosophy.
Tom Kaspers  
Faculty Sponsor: Crispin Wright

I am a PhD student at the University of St Andrews/University of Stirling, where I work on the philosophy of truth under the supervision of Crispin Wright. My thesis defends alethic pluralism, but from the perspective of pragmatism. It develops a kind of “meta-alethic anti-realism”, by rejecting the existence of mind-independent facts about truth. Rather than to ask what truth really is, it would be much more productive to ask what it ought to be. I show in my thesis that there are practical reasons for taking truth to be normative for some, though not all, of our discursive practices.

Isaac Kean  
Faculty Sponsor: Michael Strevens

I work on conceptual issues in economics. Broadly, my motivating question is "in what way, if at all, does contemporary economics describe reality?". I'm trying to answer this by reference to a longstanding view on economics' subject matter, originating from Lionel Robbins, as well as contemporary literature in the philosophy of science on "Real Patterns". My research touches on many different topics and controversies, from methodological disputes in econometrics to philosophical accounts of causal explanation.
Rebecca Kerley
Faculty Sponsor: Ned Block

I am interested in philosophy of law and the philosophy of economics, specifically questions concerning vagueness and epistemological questions posed by game theory. In the past, my interests have focused on philosophy of mind/perception, which I remain interested in as well. In particular, I am interested in the mind-body problem and the naive realism/representationalism debate.

Franz Kohwagner
Faculty Sponsor: Global Exchange Student

M.A. candidate, Humboldt University Berlin. My primary focus currently lies within existential phenomenology, esp. that of Martin Heidegger, and its analysis of modern life. Two questions about which I am particularly curious are the influence of technology on our lived experience and the sources of normativity and meaning in a secular context. These themes make me also interested in branching out into the work of Nietzsche, Korsgaard, and ancient theories of the good life (both classical and non-Western).

Before embarking on my M.A., I received my B.A. in philosophy, politics, and economics from the University of Oxford, and read philosophy and ancient Greek at LMU Munich.
Leonie Mathis
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

Thesis: “An epistemic and moral-philosophical analysis of the various forms of presence in virtual appearance systems”

Through a categorization, the first major research focus is to explore how and what kind of knowledge is generated in which appearance systems. The second major research focus elaborates the moral philosophical insights into which possibilities of action are implied in virtual appearance systems. The elaborated categorization is supposed to identify the basic epistemological and ethical properties of the different occurring virtual appearance systems with the intention of being able to assign future new applications to a category and draw conclusions from them. So far I have been working for this project with the literature of Edmund Husserl, Nelson Goodman, Bernhard Waldenfels and Lambert Wiesing.

Calum McNamara
Faculty Sponsor: Cian Dorr

Calum is a fifth year graduate student in philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His research is mostly in decision theory, epistemology, and metaphysics. And he has some complementary interests in logic and philosophy of language.
Pierre Prodromides  
Faculty Sponsor: ENS

I am a graduate student from the ENS in Paris, visiting NYU for one semester. I have earned a MA in history of philosophy from the Sorbonne in Paris and passed the « agrégation de philosophie ». I am interested in metaphysics and epistemology; my research focuses on questions concerning individuation and identification. I also study the history of philosophy, especially Greek thought and the Aristotelian heritage.

Liam Ryan  
Faculty Sponsor: David Chalmers

My dissertation is an investigation of the explanatory power of views that take mentality to be fundamental and ubiquitous (specifically, panpsychism and cosmopsychism). I am interested in how theories about human cognition, perception, and mental content (and contemporary debate in these areas) motivate and inform metaphysical views such as panpsychism, physicalism, and cosmopsychism. My research is prompted by three guiding questions: Why do some philosophers try to solve the problem of explaining mentality, at the fundamental level? Are their reasons well-motivated? What does their commitment to fundamental and ubiquitous mentality entail? In answering these questions, I draw upon analysis and argumentation in metaphysics of mind and philosophy of religion.
Soham Shiva
Faculty Sponsor: Marko Malink

My primary interests are in the history and philosophy of logic, particularly in Aristotle’s logical writings. I have secondary interests in M&E, philosophical logic and the philosophy of language.