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Department of Philosophy
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Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh; 2004

B.A., Philosophy, Yale University (with honors, and with distinction in the major); 1994

Employment

Assistant Professor, Georgia State University, 2004-present

Areas of Specialization

Kant, History of Modern Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Aesthetics, Ethics, History of Ancient Philosophy

Dissertation

"Drawing from the Sources of Reason: Reflective Self-Knowledge in Kant's *First Critique*"

Committee: Stephen Engstrom (director), John McDowell, Nicholas Rescher, and James Conant

Publications

"Kant's Argument for the Apperception Principle," *European Journal of Philosophy* (2010, forthcoming).

"The Moral Source of the Kantian Sublime," in *The Sublime: from Antiquity to Present*. Edited by Timothy Costelloe. Cambridge University Press (2010, forthcoming).

"Kant on the Transcendental Deduction of Space and Time: an essay on the philosophical resources of the Transcendental Aesthetic" *Kantian Review* 14 (2009, forthcoming).

"Reflection, Enlightenment, and the Significance of Spontaneity in Kant," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 17 (2009, forthcoming).

"Analysis in the *Critique of Pure Reason*," *Kantian Review* 12 (2007): 60-88.

"Science and the Synthetic Method of the *Critique of Pure Reason*," *Review of Metaphysics* 59 (2006): 517-539.

"Early Modern Epistemology," in *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005.

Work in progress

"Humility, Reflection, and Moral Illusion in Kant."

"Taste and the Assessment of Moral Norms in Hume and Smith."

Presentations

Commentator on Arthur Ripstein, "Acquired Rights" (Chapter 3 of *Kant's Legal and Political Philosophy*).
Center for Ethics manuscript workshop, Georgia State University, May, 2008.

"Kant's Establishment of the Apperception Principle." University of Oxford, Department of Philosophy, January 2008; New School for Social Research, Department of Philosophy, February 2008; University of Montana, Department of Philosophy, April, 2008.

"Spontaneity and Originality in Kant." Northwestern University, Department of Philosophy, February 2006; Claremont McKenna College, Department of Philosophy, January, 2007.

"Science and the Synthetic Method of the *Critique of Pure Reason*." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting (North American Kant Society Group Meeting), March, 2005.

"Analysis, Synthesis, and the Proof Structure of the Transcendental Deduction." Fourth Athens-Pittsburgh Symposium (Delphi, Greece), June, 2003.

"The Role of Beauty in Michael Fried's Art Criticism." Princeton University Department of Art and Archaeology, Graduate Student Symposium, March, 2002.

"Brandom's Account of Perception and the Problem of Spontaneity." The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy, Contemporary Philosophy Workshop, April, 2000.

Fellowships and Awards

NEH Summer Seminar participant, "Scottish Enlightenment Aesthetics and Its Reception in Germany," directed by Paul Guyer and Rachel Zuckert at the University of St. Andrews, 2007

Research Initiation Grant, Georgia State University, 2005-2006

Winner of the *Review of Metaphysics* Dissertation Essay Competition, 2005

Anna Margaret and Mary Sloan Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2003-2004

American Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women, 2001-2002

Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, (declined), 2001-2002

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2001

Summer Language Fellowship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), 1999

Tuition Fellowship, The School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University (seminar with Michael Fried on Diderot, Baudelaire, Fry, and Greenberg), 1998

University of Pittsburgh Teaching Fellowships (when not on other fellowship), 1996-2003

Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1995-1996

Ellen Battel Stoeckel Fellowship, Norfolk Session, Yale School of Art, 1993

Teaching Experience

Georgia State University, Assistant Professor, 2004-present

University of Chicago, Visiting Lecturer, 2000 (Winter and Spring Quarters)

University of Pittsburgh, Teaching Fellow 1997-2003 (when not on other fellowship)

Courses Taught

M.A. Seminars:

Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Georgia State University [in Spring 2009])

Kant's *Critique of Judgment* (Georgia State University)

Kant on Spontaneity and Freedom (Georgia State University)

Upper-level Undergraduate and M.A.-level:

Hume (Georgia State University)

Early Modern Aesthetics (Georgia State University)

Kant's Practical Philosophy (Georgia State University)

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Georgia State University)

Kant's *Critique of Judgment* (University of Chicago)

Plato and Aristotle on the Soul (University of Chicago)

Introductory and Mid-level Undergraduate:

The Relevance of Beauty: an interdisciplinary introduction to aesthetics (Georgia State University)

History of Modern Philosophy (University of Pittsburgh, Georgia State University)

History of Ancient Philosophy (University of Pittsburgh)

Introduction to Philosophical Problems, Writing Intensive (University of Pittsburgh)

Introduction to Symbolic Logic (University of Pittsburgh)

Languages: German, French, Ancient Greek, Modern Greek

Referee for *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*

Academic Service

Undergraduate Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2009-present

Program Coordinator, Georgia State University - Universität Bielefeld exchange, 2005-2008

Honors adviser for philosophy majors, Georgia State University, 2006-present

Chair of Visiting Instructor Search Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, Spring 2008

Graduate Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2007-2008; 2005-2006

Assessment Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2006-2007

Senior Faculty Search Committee, GSU Philosophy Department, 2006-2007

Chair of Junior Faculty Search Committee (19th-century continental), GSU Philosophy Department, 2005-2006

Faculty Search Committees, GSU Philosophy Department, 2004-2005

Junior Faculty Search Committee, University of Pittsburgh Philosophy Department, 2000-2001

President, Philosophers in Graduate School, University of Pittsburgh, 2000-2001

Librarian, Grünbaum Reading Room, University of Pittsburgh, 1999

References

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Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago

Stephen Engstrom (engstrom@pitt.edu)

Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

Paul Guyer (pguyer@phil.upenn.edu)

Murray Professor in the Humanities, Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania

John McDowell (jmcowell@pitt.edu)

University Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

Nicholas Rescher (rescher@pitt.edu)
University Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

George Rainbolt (grainbolt@gsu.edu)
Professor and Department Chair, Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University

Dissertation Abstract:

“Drawing from the Sources of Reason: Reflective Self-Knowledge in Kant’s First *Critique*”

My dissertation addresses two intertwining themes of Kant’s first *Critique*: its method, and its status as a project of rational self-knowledge. Kant advertises the *Critique* as fulfilling reason’s “most difficult” task: *self-knowledge*. This investigation, moreover, is meant to be “scientific and fully illuminating”. Commentators writing in English have tended to dismiss Kant’s conception of the *Critique* as a scientific investigation in which reason achieves self-knowledge — either taking the claim to be sheer rhetoric, or worrying that it pollutes the *Critique* with an unfortunate residue of rationalism. As a result, there is little sustained treatment of the method of the *Critique* in the secondary literature. Since Kant holds that the substantive insights of critical philosophy are not separable from the methodological context in which they come to light, this is a serious mistake. My dissertation corrects for this, by approaching the *Critique* through an examination of its method. In doing so, it yields a reading of the Transcendental Deduction that not only promises to resolve current debates about its “proof structure”, but also fully accounts for the Deduction’s pivotal role in the work as a whole.

Current Research

I am currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Enlightenment, Reflection, and the Unity of Kant’s Critical Philosophy*. The aim of the project is to provide an interpretation of “reflection” (*Überlegung, Reflexion*) that demonstrates the consistency of its meaning throughout Kant’s critical philosophy, and reveals its roots in Kant’s conception of enlightenment. As I argue, Kant understands enlightenment in terms of the judging subject’s capacity to acknowledge fundamental normative requirements of our cognitive practices. This acknowledgement is most fruitfully understood in light of the notion of reflection — an issue central to all three *Critiques*, and which is also discussed at length in Kant’s lectures on logic. Existing secondary literature on reflection considers reflection in isolated contexts, and largely ignores its roots in Kant’s conception of enlightenment. As a result, current secondary literature fails to appreciate the unity and coherence of Kant’s conception of reflection; my project aims to correct for this, and in this way to come to terms with the normative force of Kant’s critical project.

Other work in progress addresses the appeal to “moral taste” in Hume and Smith. Specifically, I am concerned to explore the explanatory resources that the notion of taste may offer, particularly as concerns the assessment of moral norms. My work in this area focuses on the importance of “moral taste” in the developing conception of a “critical” philosophy — a philosophy of enlightenment — in Hume and Smith. While this is not directly part of my larger project on Kant, it nevertheless belongs to my general interest in the varieties of “reflection” and “enlightenment” afoot in the 18th century, and the pre-history of the Kantian project.