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Academic Employment

Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, August 2023-August 2025

Education

PhD in Philosophy, Minor in History of Germanic Thought, Indiana University Bloomington, July 2023

Visiting Student, Freie Universität Berlin, 2020-2021

Visiting Student, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2016

MA in Philosophy, University of Pavia, 2016, graduated with Honors

Visiting Student, University of St. Andrews, Spring 2015

Visiting Student, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Fall 2014

BA in Philosophy, University of Pavia, 2013, graduated with Honors

Visiting Student, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, 2012-2013

Areas of Specialization

Ethics, History of Ethics (esp. Kant)

Areas of Competence

Social & Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Applied Ethics (esp. Biomedical Ethics and Ethics of AI)

Dissertation

Title: "Kant on Rational Agency and Affects"

Committee: Allen Wood (Co-Chair), Marcia Baron (Co-Chair), David Sussman, Jens Timmermann, Benjamin Robinson (Germanic Studies)

Summary: At the center of Kant's account of rational agency is the Incorporation Thesis, which holds that an incentive can determine the will to an action only insofar as it is incorporated into a maxim. Yet, it is not clear what it is to incorporate an incentive into a maxim, and I seek to provide such an account. I lay the foundation for such an account by appealing to Kant's notion of an interest. I argue that to incorporate an incentive into a maxim amounts to taking an interest on the basis of that incentive. Relatedly, my dissertation investigates how emotions – specifically, affects and passions – enter into Kant's understanding of incorporation and how they can be squared with Kant's conception of rational agency. I argue that they are incorporated into maxims in different ways. Affects (e.g., rage) are incorporated into maxims unreflectively, whereas passions (e.g., hatred) come with a form of reflection that affects our deepest maxims.

Research

Publications

Journal Articles

- (1) “Kant on the Obstacles of Reflection: Affects, Passions, and Maxims”, accepted with minor revisions, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.
- (2) “A Kantian Account of Aesthetically Sublime Rage”, forthcoming, *Ergo*.
- (3) “The Role of Sympathy in Critical Reasoning and the Limitations of Current Medical AI”, forthcoming, *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (co-authored with Kyle Stroh).
- (4) Challenging the Formal Function View: The Role of Conscience and Moral Judgment in Practical Deliberation in Fichte's *System of Ethics*” (accepted by the editor who invited it, but the editor's plan to publish the set of papers in *Fichte-Studien* is yet not final).
- (5) “What Is It to Incorporate an Incentive into a Maxim?”, *Studia Kantiana*, V. 21, N. 2 (2023): 45-60.

Chapters

- (6) “Affects, Choice, and Kant's Incorporation Thesis”, in *Rethinking Kant*, ed. Edgar Valdez, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2024, pp. 97-121.

Book Reviews

- (7) *The Nature of Desire*, edited by Federico Lauria and Julien A. Deonna, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 18 (2021): 95-98.

Under Review (all available on request)

“Kant on Race and Radical Evil” (co-authored with Caitlin Hamblin-Yule)

“Kantian Apathy, Revisited”

Work in Progress

“Sympathy and Allyship”

“Kant on Emotions and Moral Worth”

“Kant on Emotional Aptness”

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

14th International Kant Congress, Universität Bonn, September 2024

“What Is It to Incorporate an Incentive into a Maxim?”

Eastern American Philosophical Association Divisional Meeting, January 2024

“What Is It to Incorporate an Incentive into a Maxim?”

MAP–Ohio State University Graduate Philosophy Conference: Injustice and its Emotions, Ohio State University, May 2023

“A Kantian Account of Aesthetically Sublime Rage”

W. H. Werkmeister and North American Kant Society, Southern Division Meeting, Florida State University, April 2023

“Kantian Apathy, Revisited”

32nd Annual Association for Practical and Professional Ethics International Conference, March 2023 (co-presented with Kyle Stroh)

“The Role of Sympathy in Critical Reasoning and the Limitations of Current Medical AI”

Eastern American Philosophical Association Divisional Meeting, January 2023

“Affects and Choice in Kant’s Practical Philosophy”

North American Kant Society, Midwest Study Group Meeting, Loyola University, October 2022

“Kant on Affects and Passions”

UK Kant Society Annual Conference 2022, King’s College London, September 2022

“Affects, Choice, and Kant’s Incorporation Thesis”

University of St Andrews Kant Reading Party, August 2022

“Challenging The Formal Function View: Conscience and Moral Judgment in Fichte's System of Ethics”

Fifteenth Biennial Meeting of the North American Fichte Society, DePaul University, May 2022

“Challenging The Formal Function View: Conscience and Moral Judgment in Fichte's System of Ethics”

North American Kant Society, Southern Division Meeting, University of North Carolina Wilmington, May 2022

“No Choice when Acting from Affects? Affects and Kant’s Incorporation Thesis”

31st Annual Association for Practical and Professional Ethics International Conference, February 2022
“Imminence, Necessity and Reasonable Alternatives”

Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2021
“Affects, Choice, and Kant's Incorporation Thesis”

Pacific American Philosophical Association Divisional Meeting, April 2021
“Conscience, Practical Deliberation and Moral Judgment in Fichte’s Ethics”

Central American Philosophical Association Divisional Meeting, February 2021
“Kant’s Notion of Rational Desire”

Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Workshop, November 2020
“Imminence, Necessity and Reasonable Alternatives”

Invited Presentations

Kant in Canada, McMaster University, December 2024
“Kantian Apathy, Revisited”

Virtual Kant Congress, North American Kant Society session, May 2024
“A Kantian Account of Aesthetically Sublime Rage”

Panel Discussion, “On the Ethics of Political Lobbying: Are Lobbying Groups Unethical?”, University of Toronto, February 2023.

Comments to Pauline Kleingeld and Huaping Lu-Adler, “Kant on Race: Reevaluating Kant’s Moral Philosophy in light of Kant’s Racism”; Race, Ethics and Power Project, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, September 2023

North American Kant Society Women Scholars Network, October 2022,
“Kant on Affects and Passions”

Freie Universität Berlin Kolloquium Geschichte der Philosophie, June 2021
“Affects, Choice, and Kant’s Incorporation Thesis”

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Forschungskolloquium für Klassische Deutsche Philosophie, April 2021
“A New Look at Kant's Incorporation Thesis and The Problem of Weakness of the Will”

Freie Universität Berlin Kolloquium Geschichte der Philosophie, December 2020.
“What are Sense-Free Inclinations? Kant on Rational Desire”

Department Presentations

Philosophy Department, University of Toronto, April 2024
“Kant on Race and Radical Evil”

Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, October 2023
“A Kantian Account of Aesthetically Sublime Rage”

Indiana University Graduate Colloquium, Spring 2023 (co-presented with Kyle Stroh)
“The Role of Sympathy in Critical Reasoning and the Limitations of Current Medical AI”

Indiana University Graduate Colloquium, Fall 2022
“Kantian Apathy, Revisited”

Indiana University Graduate Colloquium, Fall 2020
“Imminence, Necessity and Reasonable Alternatives”

Indiana University Graduate Colloquium, Fall 2019
“Conscience, Practical Deliberation and Moral Judgment in Fichte’s Ethics”

Honors and Awards

Fellowships

- Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, for 2022-2023.
- Indiana University Irving and Shirley Brand Graduate Fellowship, for 2020-2021
- Indiana University Graduate Research Exchange Program at Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), for 2020-2021.
- Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, for 2017-2018.
- University of Pavia Erasmus Traineeship Scholarship at University of St. Andrews, for Spring 2015
- University of Pavia Erasmus Plus Scholarship at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, for Fall 2015
- University of Pavia Erasmus Scholarship at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, for Fall 2012

Prizes and Travel Awards

- North American Kant Society Markus Herz Student Essay Prize for “Kantian Apathy, Revisited”, awarded for 2023.
- W. H. Werkmeister and North American Kant Society, Southern Division Meeting Graduate Essay Prize for “Kantian Apathy, Revisited”, April 2023
- 2023 Indiana University Oscar R. Ewing Essay Prize for “Kant on Affects and Passions”
- Indiana University Center for 18th Century Studies Travel Award, awarded for the Southern Division Meeting of the North American Kant Society, Florida State University, April 2023

- UK Kant Society Post Graduate Bursary for the UK Kant Society Annual Conference 2022
- Indiana University Graduate Travel Award, awarded Spring 2022 for the Southern Division Meeting of the North American Kant Society, University of North Carolina Wilmington, May 2022.
- 2021 Indiana University Graduate Academic Excellence Prize
- Bo and Lynn Clark Memorial Essay Prize for 1st and 2nd Year Graduate Student, awarded Spring 2019 for “Imminence, Necessity and Reasonable Alternatives”

Teaching

Teaching experience

Full responsibility:

- P344: Philosophy of Emotions, University of Toronto, Fall 2024
- ETH401: Seminar in Ethics, University of Toronto, Fall 2024
- ETH350: Topics in Value Theory, University of Toronto, Spring 2024
- P344: Philosophy of Emotions, University of Toronto, Fall 2023
- P103: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Philosophical Perspective, Indiana University, Spring 2022
- P240: Business and Morality, Indiana University, Fall 2021

Teaching assistant:

- P140: Introduction to Ethics (John Robison), Indiana University, Spring 2020
- P135: Introduction to Existentialism (Allen Wood), Indiana University, Fall 2019
- P140: Bioethics (Sandra Shapshay), Indiana University, Spring 2019
- P140: Introduction to Ethics (Tim O'Connor), Indiana University, Fall 2018

Courses I am Prepared to Teach

- Introduction to Ethics
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
- Business Ethics
- Race, Gender and Sexuality
- Philosophy of Emotions
- Kant's Ethics
- History of Modern Philosophy
- Kant's First Critique
- Applied Ethics

- Topics in Value Theory
- Bioethics
- Classics in Ethics
- The Ethics of Immigration
- Environmental Ethics

Courses I am Interested in Developing

- Classics in Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophical Issues in Feminism
- Introduction to Existentialism
- Ethics and Technology
- Ancient Philosophy
- Philosophy through Literature
- Philosophical Conceptions of Human Nature
- Kant and Responses to Kant in the 18th and 19th Century
- 19th Century Philosophy
- Fichte's Ethics
- Emotions and the Law
- Philosophy of Criminal Law

Graduate Coursework

My IU courses and some MA level courses taken in Europe

Value Theory:

- Social and Political Philosophy: Rawls, Spring 2023 (Matthew Adams, IU) – audited
- Contemporary Ethical Theories, Fall 2021 (Marcia Baron, IU) – audited
- Contemporary Ethical Theories, Spring 2019 (Kate Abramson, IU)
- Legal Philosophy, Fall 2018 (Marcia Baron, IU)
- Seminar Ethical Theory: Metaethics, Spring 2018 (Stephanie Leary, IU)
- Contemporary Ethical Theories, Fall 2017 (Kate Abramson, IU)
- Classics in Social and Political Philosophy, Fall 2016 (Allen Wood, IU) – audited
- Bioethics, Fall 2015 (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

History of Philosophy:

- Kant's Ethics, Fall 2018 (Allen Wood, IU)
- Medieval Philosophy, Fall 2018 (Rega Wood, IU)
- Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Spring 2018 (Allen Wood, IU)
- Fichte's Ethics, Fall 2019 (Allen Wood, IU)
- History of Contemporary Philosophy: Heidegger's Philosophy before "the Turn", Spring 2014 (University of Pavia)
- Topics in History of Philosophy: Husserl's Phenomenology, Spring 2014 (University of Pavia)

- Topics in History of Philosophy: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, Spring 2014 (University of Pavia)

M&E:

- Philosophy of Language, Spring 2019 (Kirk Ludwig, IU)
- Epistemology, Spring 2018 (Mark Kaplan, IU)
- Logic, Fall 2017 (Joan Weiner, IU)
- Classics in Analytic Philosophy, Fall 2017 (Gary Ebbs, IU)
- Philosophy of Mind, Fall 2015 (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

Classes for my Minor:

- Utopia from a Realist Point of View, Fall 2019 (Ben Robinson, Department of Germanic Studies, IU)
- The New: Creativity, Imitation and Originality through Literature and Philosophy, Fall 2018 (Michel Chaouli, Department of Germanic Studies, IU)

Languages

Italian (native language), English (fluent), German (proficient), French (reading knowledge), Latin and Ancient Greek (I am able to translate passages with the help of a dictionary)

Service

- Organizer of Ethics@Noon talks, University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics, Fall 2024-Spring 2025.
- Graduate Colloquium Coordinator, Indiana University Bloomington, Philosophy Department, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
- Climate Committee Liaison, Indiana University Bloomington, Philosophy Department, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.
- APA Member Interview (invited), APA blog, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/05/20/apa-member-interview-martina-favaretto/>
- APA Graduate Student Reflection, Spring 2022 (invited), “Beyond the Classroom: Teaching Oppression During a Graduate Students’ Strike”, APA blog, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/07/06/graduate-student-reflection-series-teaching-oppression-during-a-graduate-students-strike%ef%bf%bc/>

Professional Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association
- North American Kant Society
- North American Kant Society Women Scholars Network
- UK Kant Society

- North American Fichte Society

References

Sergio Tenenbaum
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Allen Wood
Ruth Norman Halls Professor of Philosophy, Indiana University Bloomington
Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professor Emeritus, Stanford University
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Marcia Baron
James H. Rudy Professor of Philosophy, Indiana University Bloomington
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Katy Meadows (teaching)
Assistant Professor, Indiana University Bloomington
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Dissertation Abstract

My dissertation investigates Kant's account of rational agency and how certain emotions Kant discusses influence our capacity to act rationally. At the center of Kant's account of rational agency is the Incorporation Thesis, which holds that an incentive can determine the will to an action only insofar as it is incorporated into a maxim. The Incorporation Thesis contrasts with a model of agency in which the agent is caused to act by this or that incentive: for Kant, we act not because we are caused by this or that emotion to act, but because we let it move us to act by incorporating it into our maxim. Yet, it is not clear what it is to incorporate an incentive into a maxim, and a first aim of my dissertation is to lay the foundation for such an account.

To do so, I appeal to Kant's notion of interest. In one chapter, I argue that the notion of interest is able to bridge the gap between incentives and maxims in the way incorporation is supposed to do such that to incorporate an incentive into a maxim amounts to taking an interest on the basis of that incentive. Further, I argue that Kant's notion of interest allows for the idea that acting on an inclination does not necessarily involve taking that inclination as the object of one's reflection. I thus challenge the reading of the Incorporation Thesis put forth by Henry Allison and Christine Korsgaard, according to which one needs to reflect on one's incentive in order to incorporate it into a maxim. In general, I argue, a lack of reflection doesn't prevent someone from incorporating an incentive into a maxim. The rest of my dissertation develops the implications of this view on incorporation.

A second, related aim of my dissertation is to show how certain categories of emotions Kant discusses can be squared with Kant's Incorporation Thesis. One chapter addresses a question that arises from Kant's distinction between affects (e.g., rage) and passions (e.g., hatred). On the one hand, Kant writes that both impede reflection. On the other hand, he tells us that passions can be paired with reflection, while affects cannot. Importantly, this would imply a contradiction regarding passions: they both impede and can be paired with reflection.

To address this puzzle, I suggest that Kant is drawing on different notions of reflection, and I then seek to figure out what kinds. I argue that the kind of reflection that both affects and passions impede is the ability to properly assess whether one should act from one's affect or one's passion. The kind of reflection that affects impede and that passions do not impede is the ability to explicitly endorse at least some of the more general maxims that underlie one's maxim. Thus, I claim that affects are incorporated into maxims in a different way than passions: acting from an affect entails acting on a maxim one adopts without being further committed to any of the more general maxims that underlie that maxim, while acting from a passion entails acting on a maxim one adopts when explicitly committed to at least some of the more general maxims that underlie that maxim.

In the appendix to one of the chapters, I investigate Kant's duty of apathy as it relates to affects. Contrary to a prominent view in Kant scholarship, I argue that the duty of apathy as it relates to affects entails not only the negative requirement that we not let our feelings become affects, but also the positive requirement that, when we are in a state of affect and we act from an affect, we strive to pay heed to the voice of conscience. According to Kant, conscience is a natural predisposition of the mind that is able to signal to the agent whenever she has deliberated about a certain choice of action without abiding with strict diligence to moral standards. I argue that, if adequately heard, conscience would warn the agent that to unreflectively go with her affect, without properly examining whether she should do so or not, is not an adequate choice of action.