

# Dr Anastasia N. A. Berg

Department of Philosophy  
Faculty of Humanities 5605, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jerusalem, Israel 91905

+972 (0) 522 912974  
anastasia.berg@mail.huji.ac.il  
<http://anastasiaberg.com>

## Academic Employment

2020-	Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
2020-2021	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Wolf Humanities Center, the University of Pennsylvania (offered and accepted, participation withdrawn due to COVID-19)
2017-2020	Dorothy and Gaylord Donnelley Postdoctoral Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy, Corpus Christi College, The University of Cambridge

## Education

2017	Ph.D., The Committee on Social Thought and the Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
2013	M.A., Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago
2009	B.A., with Honors, in English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University

## Specialization

AOS	Ethics, Kant
AOC	19 <sup>th</sup> Century German Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Procreation Ethics, Population Ethics

## Publications

### Articles

“Kant and the Freedom to Do What We Want,” to appear in *Practical Reason: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, James Conant and Dawa Ometto, eds. (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2023)

“Evil or Only Immature? Reconciling Freedom and the Complexity of Moral Evil in Kant,” in *Rethinking Kant*, vol. 6, Edgar Valdez, ed. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2022)

“Kant on Moral Respect,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (2021)

“Kant on Moral Self-Opacity,” *European Journal of Philosophy* (2020)

## Book

*What Are Children For?: On Ambivalence and Choice* (forthcoming June, 2024)

*What Are Children For?* argues that when we make the individual decision whether or not to have children we confront a profound philosophical question, that of the goodness of our form life itself. How can we justify perpetuating human life given the catastrophic harm and suffering of which we are always at once both victims and perpetrators? If we wish to meet this challenge without succumbing to naivete about our predicament, we must, it argues, uncover a capacity to grasp the fundamental goodness of human life—not only theoretically but practically in the actual lives we lead today. The book is intended as a crossover book for professional philosophers as well as the general public. Co-authored with Rachel Wiseman. Under contract with St. Martin's Press.

## Reviews

Review of Melissa Merritt, *Kant on Reflection and Virtue*, in *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 2019

## Select Public Writing

“On the Aesthetic Turn,” *The Point* (July 19, 2023)

“On Mobs,” with Becca Rothfeld, *The Point* (February 19, 2023)

“Can't Get No Satisfaction,” *The Point* (September 15, 2022)

“The Paradox of Slow Love,” with Rachel Wiseman, *The Atlantic* (February 14, 2022)

“Motherhood and Taboo,” with Rachel Wiseman, *The Point* (January 14, 2022)

“We Deserve Better From Our Public Intellectuals: On Kate Manne's new book, incels, and the perils of public philosophy” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (December 2, 2020)

“How to Reopen the American Mind,” with Jon Baskin, *The New York Times* (October 22, 2020)

“Now Is As Good a Time as Any to Start a Family,” *The New York Times* (April 30, 2020)

“The Nature of Thought” (on Irad Kimhi's *Thinking and Being*), *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (April 14, 2020)

“Giorgio Agamben's Coronavirus Cluelessness,” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (March 23, 2020)

“Finite Variety: On Martin Hägglund's *This Life: Why mortality makes us free*,” *The Times Literary Supplement* (October 1, 2019)

“On Choosing Life,” with Rachel Wiseman, *The Point* (September 7, 2019)

“The Case for Admissions Lotteries,” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (September 13, 2019)

“Confession is Just a Special Form of Bragging: On Fleabag,” *Los Angeles Review of Books* (July 30, 2019)

“On Left Straussianism,” with Jon Baskin, *The Point* (May 22, 2019)

“Fanning the Flames while the Humanities Burn,” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (May 20, 2019)

“On Denialism,” with Jon Baskin, *The Point* (January 14, 2019)

“I Am Madame Bovary: ‘Cat Person’ and the Dark Pleasures of Empathy” *The Point* (April 23, 2018)

### Invited Talks

Nov 2023	TBD, Haifa University
Oct 2023	“Kant on Happiness and the Highest Good,” Speaker at Woolf’s Post-Kantian Philosophy Seminar, Woolf University (online)
July 2023	“Kant on Happiness,” Conference: Kant and the Norms of Action, Mainz University
June 2023	“Coming to an End: On the Survival of Humanity,” Conference: Value of Human Life, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
June 2023	“Kant on Happiness,” Berlin Summer Colloquium for Women Working on Kant & Post-Kantian German Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin
Jan 2023	“Coming to an End: Why Care about the Survival of Humanity,” Northwestern University
Jan 2023	“Coming to an End: Why Care about the Survival of Humanity,” Bar Ilan University
July 2023	“The Dialectic of Motherhood” Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Summer Retreat
June 2022	“Kant and the Paradoxes of Evil” The Wickedness of Freedom: Immorality and Reason after Kant Conference, Center for Post-Kantian Philosophy, University of Potsdam
June 2022	“Making Ends Meet: Kant and the Highest Good” Berlin Summer Colloquium for Women Working on Kant & Post-Kantian German Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin
June 2021	“The Good of Children and the Good of Human Life” Colloquium, Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
April 2021	“Philosophers as Public Intellectuals”, a panel discussion with Agnes Callard and Justin Weinberg 4 <sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
April 2021	“Making Ends Meet: Kant and the Highest Good” German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
Jun 2020	CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 TBD, keynote The Loxbridge Kant Series, Oxford University

- Apr 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19  
 “Desire: Between Passion and Action”  
 Moral Sciences Club, Cambridge University
- Apr 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19  
 “Kant and Moral Luck”  
 German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
- Feb 2020 “Meritocracy and Higher Education,” Panel Discussion with Ross Douthat  
 The UNC Program for Public Discourse, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Jan 2020 “Kant and the Freedom to Do What We Want”  
 Colloquium Lecture Series, Central European University, Budapest
- Jun 2019 “Self-Knowledge, Self-Deception and Self-Opacity”  
 Stephen Hales Lecture Series, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University
- Mar 2019 “Kant on the Freedom to do Evil”  
 German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
- Mar 2019 “‘Language is Critical’: On Irad Kimhi’s Radicalization of the Kantian Project”  
 Workshop on Irad Kimhi’s *Thinking and Being*, University of Chicago
- Dec 2018 “The Origin of Practical Reason in the Transcendental Power of Imagination: Heidegger on Kant”  
 Conference on Neo Kantianism and Jewish Thought, Tel Aviv University
- Dec 2018 “Overcoming the Opposition of Freedom and Nature in Kant’s Practical Philosophy: A Critique of the Incorporation Thesis”  
 King’s History of Philosophy Seminar, King’s College London
- Nov 2018 “Kant’s Feeling of Moral Respect as Practical Self-Consciousness”  
 Kant’s Scots Seminar, Edinburgh University
- Jun 2018 “Kant on The Human Capacity for Feeling,”  
 Conference on Additive vs. Transformative Conceptions of Rationality, University of Patras
- Jun 2018 “Evil or Only Immature?<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Reconciling Freedom and the Complexity Of Moral Evil”  
 Conference on Kant’s Religionschrift, Leipzig University
- Jun 2018 “The Emotions as Modes of Practical Self-Consciousness”  
 Philosophy of Mind Seminar, University of Cambridge
- Jun 2018 “Kant’s Feeling of Moral Respect as Practical Self-Consciousness”  
 Conceptions of Kantian Unity Workshop, University of Cambridge
- Feb 2018 “Kant on The Human Capacity for Feeling”  
 Society of German Idealism and Romanticism, APA Session on Conceptions of Matter and Form, 2018 meeting of the Central Division of the APA
- Feb 2018 “Practical Reason in Kant: Self-Conscious or Self-Opaque?”

	German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
Feb 2018	“‘For All I know...’ On the Infallibility of Our capacity for Judgment” A Workshop on Andrea Kern’s <i>Sources of Knowledge</i> , University of Chicago
Nov 2017	“Feeling and Absolute Value in Wittgenstein’s Lecture on Ethics” Robinson College, Cambridge University
Jun 2017	“Feeling” Summer Conference on Irad Kimhi’s <i>Thinking and Being</i> , Leipzig University
Jun 2017	“An Argument Against the Incorporation Thesis” Hylomorphism in Kant and German Idealism Workshop, Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL), Berlin

### Refereed Conference Presentations

Sept 2024	“Making Ends Meet: Kant on Happiness” 14 <sup>th</sup> International Kant Congress in Memory of Immanuel Kant’s 300 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Bonn
Jul 2023	“Coming to an End: Why Worry About the Survival of Humanity?” The New Israeli Philosophy Association 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Mar 2023	“Making Ends Meet,” North American Kant Society Biennial, Mexico City
June 2022	“The Good of Human Life” The New Israeli Philosophy Association 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Feb 2020	“Kant on Moral Self-Opacity” Symposium Presentation, 2020 APA Central Division Meeting
Apr 2019	“Evil and the Problem of Moral Self Knowledge” British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, King’s College London
Sep 2018	“Overcoming the Opposition of Freedom and Nature in Kant’s Practical Philosophy: A Critique of the Incorporation Thesis” UK Kant Society Annual Conference on “The Nature of Freedom and the Freedom of Nature”, Cardiff University
Nov 2017	“Evil or Only Immature? Reconciling Freedom and the Complexity Of Moral Evil,” 2017 Southern North American Kant Society Study Group, Tulane University
Jun 2017	“You Can’t Move without Being Moved: On the Moral Significance of The Human Capacity for Feeling,” Leuven Kant Conference, KU Leuven
Apr 2017	“You Can’t Move without Being Moved: On the Moral Significance of The Human Capacity for Feeling,” Eastern Study Group Meeting of the North American Kant Society, George Washington University

Apr 2017	“Evil or Only Immature? On Acquiring Moral Character in Kant,” The Conference on the Problem Evil in European Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, Bishop’s University
Mar 2017	“You Can’t Move without Being <i>Moved</i> : On the Moral Significance of The Human Capacity for Feeling,” The Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP), Eleventh Annual Conference, Northwestern University
Jun 2016	“Moral Character, Kant’s <i>Gesinnung</i> and Aristotle’s <i>Hexis</i> ,” Summer Conference on the work of Aryeh Kosman, Leipzig University
Apr 2016	“How Can There Be Rational Feeling? Monistic Critique of the Incorporation Thesis,” The 2016 Graduate Philosophy Conference at UIUC
Mar 2016	“Making Sense of Kant’s Moral Respect: A Case for Non-Pathological Feeling,” Colloquium Presentation, 2016 APA Central Division Meeting
Sep 2015	“Kant’s <i>Gesinnung</i> as Aristotelian <i>Energeia</i> : the Deed Outside Time,” UK Kant Society Annual Conference jointly organized by North American Kant Society, on “Kant on Politics and Religion”
Jul 2015	“On The Unity of Sensibility and Reason in Practical Life in Engstrom’s Kant,” Summer Conference on the work of Stephen Engstrom, Leipzig University

### Commentaries

Feb 2024	Comments on Jens Timmermann's <i>Kant's Will at the Crossroads: An Essay on the Failings of Practical Rationality</i> (OUP 2022) Leuven Seminar in Classical German Philosophy (online)
May 2016	Comments on Garrett Bredeson’s “Reinach, Natorp, and Early Phenomenology’s Engagement with the Kantian Tradition” North American Kant Society Third Biennial Meeting, Emory University (Invited)

### Honours

Nov 2017	Travel Prize for best graduate student paper, Southern Reading Group, North American Kant Society (Candidate for the 2017 national Marcus Herz prize)
May 2017	Travel Prize for best graduate student paper, Eastern Reading Group, North American Kant Society (Candidate for the 2017 national Marcus Herz prize)
2016-2017	William Rainey Harper Dissertation Year Fellowship Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago
2016-2017	John U. Nef Fellowship, University of Chicago Dissertation Writing Fellowship (Declined)
2016	Graduate Student Travel Stipend to Central APA
2015-2016	John U. Nef Fellowship, University of Chicago Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2015	Division of the Social Sciences Summer Research Grant
2014-2015	Marshall and Deborah Wais Fellowship, University of Chicago Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2014	John U. Nef Summer Language Study Fellowship
2009-2014	University of Chicago Fellowship, University of Chicago

2011 | Tuition and stipend for five years of graduate study  
John U. Nef Summer Language Study Fellowship

## **Teaching**

### **The University of Chicago (2023- )**

Summer Workshop, Program for Public Thinking (“The Future”)

### **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2020- )**

*Undergraduate, Introductory:* Introduction to Ethics

*Undergraduate, Advanced:* Kant’s Practical Philosophy, Kant and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Feminism and Philosophy, On the Ancient Quarren Between the Poets and the Philosophers, The Emotions: Philosophical and Psychoanalytic Perspectives, The Meaning of Life and Death

*Graduate Seminars:* The Being of the Human Being: Aristotle, Kant and Heidegger, The Value of Human Life, Population Ethics

### **The University of Cambridge (2019-2020)**

*Advanced Undergraduates Lecture Series:* Moral Motivation, Moral Responsibility

*Supervision Topics:* European Philosophy from Kant, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics

### **The University of Chicago (2015-2016)**

*Undergraduate, Advanced:* The Emotions: Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

*Humanities Core Courses:* Philosophical Perspectives on The Humanities I (Early Modern Philosophy and Literature), Philosophical Perspectives on The Humanities II (Ancient Philosophy and Literature)

## **Other Courses Prepared to Teach**

*Introductory Undergraduate Courses:* Introduction to Kant, Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy

*Advanced Undergraduate Courses:* Kant’s Theoretical Philosophy, The Emotions: Historical and Contemporary perspectives, Evil and Moral Failure, The Highest Good

*Graduate Courses:* Conceptualism vs Non-Conceptualism in Kant, Kant on Practical Reason and Practical Sensibility, Unity of Reason: Parallel Issues in Kant’s Theoretical and Practical Philosophy, Neo-Kantian, Accounts of Moral Motivation and Practical Agency, Contemporary Theories of Desire, Irad Kimhi’s *Thinking and Being*

## **Service**

Article Referee for *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Kantian Review*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Culture, Theory and Critique*, *Public Sphere: A Journal for Politics and Society*

2022-2023	Project Head for the Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy, <i>Value of Human Life</i>
2021-2022	Committee on Academic Gender Equality
2018-2020	MA Thesis Examiner, Cambridge University
2018-2020	Undergraduate Philosophy Admissions, Cambridge University
2016-2017	Coordinator, German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago
2015-2017	Student Affairs Coordinator, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago Chair-student liaison, fielded prospective students' inquiries, coordinated visits, maintained department website
2014-2016	Coordinator, Committee on Social Thought Colloquium, University of Chicago Invited visiting speakers, students and faculty to present, made travel arrangements, organized dinners and receptions, advertised events

## Graduate Advising

MA Thesis Advisor: Eli Benjamin Israeli, Yonatan Adler

## Research Languages

Native	English, Russian, Hebrew
Professional	German
Basic	Ancient Greek, Latin, French

## Non-Academic Editorial Work

Senior Editor for the *Point* magazine

## References

**Robert Pippin** (Dissertation Committee Chair)  
Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service  
Professor of Social Thought, Philosophy, and in the  
College  
University of Chicago  
[r-pippin@uchicago.edu](mailto:r-pippin@uchicago.edu)

**Matthew Boyle** (Dissertation Committee member)  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
[mboyle@uchicago.edu](mailto:mboyle@uchicago.edu)

**James Conant** (Dissertation Committee member)  
Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities,  
Professor of Philosophy, and Professor in the  
College  
University of Chicago  
[jconant@uchicago.edu](mailto:jconant@uchicago.edu)

**Lucy Allais**  
Miller Professor of Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University,  
and Professor of Philosophy  
University of the Witwatersrand  
[lallais1@jhu.edu](mailto:lallais1@jhu.edu)

**Stephen Engstrom** (Dissertation Committee  
member)  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Pittsburgh  
[engstrom@pitt.edu](mailto:engstrom@pitt.edu)

**David Wellbery**  
LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson  
University Professor in the Department of  
Germanic Studies, Comparative Literature,  
Committee on Social Thought, and the College  
University of Chicago  
[wellbery@uchicago.edu](mailto:wellbery@uchicago.edu)



**Jason Bridges** (teaching reference)  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
[bridges@uchicago.edu](mailto:bridges@uchicago.edu)

**Moshe Halbertal** (teaching reference)  
Gruss Professor of Law, New York University, and  
Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
[moshe.halbertal@nyu.edu](mailto:moshe.halbertal@nyu.edu)