

CHRISTIA MERCER

Curriculum Vitae

Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy
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HIGHER EDUCATION

Princeton University, PhD, Philosophy, 1989
Princeton University, MA, Philosophy, 1984
Universität Münster (Münster, Germany), Fulbright Scholar, 1984-85
Gregorian University (Rome, Italy), Latin, 1980-81
Rutgers University, Art History and Philosophy, 1978
Brooklyn College, 1974

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Gustave M. Berne Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 2004-present.
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 1999-2004.
Chair, Literature Humanities, Columbia University, 2010-14.
Director, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, 2000-01.
(Visiting) Professor, Department of Philosophy, Oslo, Norway, Spring, 1998.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 1991-1997.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of California at Irvine, 1989 -1991.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 1987-89.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Visiting Professorship, Harvard University, Villa I Tatti, Fiesole, Italy, Fall, 2015.
American Council for Learned Societies, Fellowship, 2015-16.
Folger Library Fellowship, Folger Library, Washington D.C., Spring 2016.
2015 Public Voices Thought Leadership Fellowship Program
Visiting Professor, Research Project in the History of Philosophy and History of Ideas 600 BC-1800 AD,
University of Oslo, 2012-15; <http://www.hf.uio.no/ifikk/english/research/projects/history-of-philosophy/index.html>
Guggenheim Fellowship, 2012-13.
Mark van Doren Teaching Award, 2012.
Senior Fellowship, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 2012-13.
Resident Fellow, American Academy, Rome, Italy, Spring, 2013.
Fellowship, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, Fall, 2012.
Sovern/Columbia Affiliated Fellowship, American Academy, Rome, Italy, May, 2011.
Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, 2009-present.
Great Teacher Award, Society of Columbia Graduates, Columbia College, 2008.
Gustave M. Berne Professorship in the Core Curriculum at Columbia College, 2003-2009.
North American Editor, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2002-present.
Guest Professor, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2003,
November 05, December 07.
Ernst Cassirer Lectures, Ernst Cassirer Guest Professorship, Philosophy Faculty, University of Hamburg,
Spring 2006.
Guest Professor, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, University of Munich,
Munich, Germany, 2003.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship, Spring 2002.

Herzog August Bibliothek, Fellowship, Wolfenbüttel, Summer 2002.
 Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, Fellowship, Fall 2001.
 Lurcy Foundation Award, Columbia University, 1997-98.
 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship Extension, April - September, 1995.
 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Leibniz Archives, Münster, Germany, 1993-94.
 American Council of Learned Societies, Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D., 1990-91.
 Fellow, N.E.H. Institute on Modern Philosophy, Brown University, Summer 1988.
 Fulbright Scholarship, Leibniz Archives, Münster, West Germany, 1984-85; and Fulbright Scholarship Extension, Fall, 1985.

CURRENT AREAS OF RESEARCH

Early modern philosophy, Leibniz, the history of Platonism, the history of feminism.

Main Current Projects:

General editor, *Oxford Philosophical Concepts*. There are 30 volumes underway; the first 8 will be out in 2015. For more on the series and the volumes (<http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/oxford/>)

Co-editor with Eileen O'Neill and Andrew Janiak, *Oxford New Histories of Philosophy*. Book series with Oxford University Press that will publish collections of primary materials and collections of critical essays on topics and figures that have gone unstudied in the history of philosophy.

Exploring the Philosophy of Anne Conway, monograph on the philosophy of the English Seventeenth-century, Anne Conway. Will appear in *Oxford New Histories of Philosophy*.

Feeling the Way to Truth: Women, Reason, and the Development of Modern Philosophy, monograph arguing that core assumptions about seventeenth-century philosophy need to be reconsidered and that the writings of medieval and early modern women play a much more significant part in the history of philosophy than has been recognized.

Platonisms in Early Modern Thought, monograph the diversity of Platonisms that form the background to early modern thought and identify the range of Platonist assumptions underling early modern philosophy, theology, and art.

PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS

Early Modern Philosophy: Mind, Matter, and Mechanism, co-edited with Eileen O'Neill, Oxford University Press, 2005.

Leibniz's Metaphysics: Its Origin and Development, Cambridge University Press, 2001, 528 pp; paperback edition: 2006.

PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES /CHAPTERS

"The Lessons of Juneteenth still matter 150 years later," Washington Post, June 18, 2015.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2015/06/18/the-lessons-of-juneteenth-still-matter-130-years-later/>

"Radical Pop-Up Schools: A new way to reach educationally disadvantaged communities," Washington Post, June 16, 2015.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2015/06/16/radical-pop-up-schools-a-new-way-to-reach-educationally-disadvantaged-communities/>

“Philosophy’s Gender Bias,” Washington Post, April 18, 2015.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/04/28/philosophys-gender-bias-for-too-long-scholars-say-women-have-been-ignored/>

“I Teach Philosophy at Columbia but the best students I have are inmates,” Washington Post, March 24, 2015.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/03/24/i-teach-philosophy-at-columbia-but-the-best-students-i-have-are-inmates/>

“Sorry, Fox: Obama Was Right About Christianity’s ‘Terrible Deeds,’” Essay against Islamophobia, Talking-Points Memo, February 6, 2015.

<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/sorry-fox-obama-was-right-about-christianitys-terrible-deeds>

“Hard Truths about Prison Sexual Violence, Takepart, March 5, 2015.

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/03/05/op-ed-hard-truths-about-prison-sexual-violence>

“Seventeenth-Century Universal Sympathy: Stoicism, Platonism, Leibniz, and Conway,” *Sympathy: A History*, ed. Eric Schliesser (New York: Oxford University Press), 2015, 108-39.

“Anne Conway’s Metaphysics of Sympathy,” for *Feminist History of Philosophy: The Recovery and Evaluation of Women’s Philosophical Thought*, eds. Eileen O’Neill and Marcy Lascano (New York: Springer), 2015.

“The Methodology of the Meditations: Tradition and Innovation,” *Cambridge Companion to Descartes’ Meditations*, ed. David Cunning, CUP, 2014, 23-47.

“Prefacing the Theodicy,” *Essays on the Theodicy*, eds. Larry Jorgensen and Sam Newlands, OUP, 2014, 13-42.

“Knowledge and Suffering in Early Modern Philosophy: G.W. Leibniz and Anne Conway,” *Emotional Minds*, ed. Sabrina Ebbersmeyer, De Gruyter, 2012.

“Platonism in Early Modern Natural Philosophy: The Case of Leibniz and Conway,” *Neoplatonic Natural Philosophy*, eds. Christoph Horn and James Wilberding, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 103-26.

“The Platonism at the Core of Leibniz’s Metaphysics: God and Knowledge,” *Platonism and the Origins of Modernity: The Platonic Tradition and the Rise of Modern Philosophy*, ed. S. Hutton, Ashgate Press, 2008.

“Leibniz on Mathematics, Methodology, and the Good: A Reconsideration of the Place of Mathematics in Leibniz’s Philosophy,” *Journal of Early Science and Medicine*, issue on mathematics and rhetoric, ed. by G. Cifoletti, October, 2006.

“Leibniz’s Platonism and Theory of Expression,” *Forms of Platonism: From the Heritage of Ficino to the Cambridge Platonists*, *Journal of Istituto Nazionale de Studi sul Rinascimento*, Florence, 2007.

“Leibniz,” *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Donald Borchert, ed., 2nd edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2006.

“Material Difficulties: Matter and the Metaphysics of Resurrection in Early Modern Philosophy,” *Matter and Materialism in the Aristotelian Tradition, Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2005, pp. 123-135.

"Telling Tales about the History of Philosophy," *Robert Brandom and the Mighty Dead*, ed. E. Mendieta, Harvard University Press, 2006.

“Leibniz and the German Tradition of the Power of Language,” *Leibniz et les puissances du langage*, eds. D. Berlioz and F. Nef, Paris: Vrin, 2005, pp. 30-42.

“Leibniz and Sleigh on Substantial Unity,” *Leibniz: Nature and Freedom*, eds. by Donald Rutherford and J.A. Cover, Oxford University Press, 2005.

“Leibniz and His Master: The Correspondence with Thomasius,” *Leibniz and his Correspondents*, ed. P. Lodge, Cornell University Press, 2004, pp. 10-46.

“Leibniz, Aristotle, and Ethical Knowledge,” *The Impact of Aristotelianism in Modern Philosophy*, ed. Riccardo Pozzo, *Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy*, vol. 33, Catholic University Press, 2003.

Reply to Leijenhorst’s Review of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics*, *The Leibniz Review*, vol. 12, 2002, 81-7.

“Leibniz on Knowledge and God,” *Leibniz and Religion*, ed. Donald Rutherford, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 76, Fall 2002, 531-50.

“Platonism and Philosophical Humanism on the Continent”, *A Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*, ed. Steven Nadler, Blackwell, 2002, 25-44.

“The Aristotelianism at the Core of Leibniz’s Philosophy,” C.H. Leijenhorst, C.H. Lüthy and J.M.M.H. Thijssen (eds.), *The Dynamics of Aristotelian Natural Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publisher, 2002 (= *Medieval and Early Modern Science*, vol. 5), 413-40.

“Metaphysics Matters: the Origins and Development of Leibniz’s Metaphysics,” *Intellectual News, Review of the International Society for Intellectual History*, No. 8: Summer, 2000, 30-43.

“Leibniz and Spinoza on Substance and Mode,” *Rationalists*, ed. Derk Pereboom, Rowman and Littlefield, 1999, 273-30.

“Unity and Multiplicity in Leibniz’s Early Thought,” *Unity and Multiplicity in the Philosophical and Scientific Thought of Leibniz*, ed. A. Lamarra, Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, 1999, 1-25.

“Humanist Platonism in Seventeenth-Century Germany”, *London Studies in the History of Philosophy*, vol. I, eds. Jill Kraye and Martin Stone, Routledge, 1999, 238-58.

“Clauberg, Cartesian Corporeal Substance, and the German Response”, *The Philosophy of Johann Clauberg*, ed. T. Verbeek, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999, 147-160.

“Leibniz’s Teachers: Their Eclecticism and Platonism”, *The Philosophy of the Young Leibniz*, ed. S. Brown, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999, 19-40.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, ed. M. Ayers, et al., “Kenelm Digby”, 1998.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, ed. M. Ayers, *et al.*, "Bartholomew Keckermann", 1998.

Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy, ed. Daniel Garber and Michael Ayers, Cambridge University Press, 1998; Biobibliographies: Johann Heinrich Alsted, Herborn Philosopher, 1588-1638; Johann Clauberg, German Cartesian, 1622-1665; Johann De Raey, Dutch Cartesian, 1622-1702; Johann Christoff Sturm, German Cartesian, 1635-1703

Discussion of Philip Beeley's *Kontinuität und Mechanismus: zur Philosophie des jungen Leibniz in ihren ideengeschichtlichen Kontext*, co-authored with Justin Smith, *The Leibniz Review*, Vol. 8, 1997, pp. 62-73.

"Mechanizing Aristotle: Leibniz and Reformed Philosophy," *Oxford Studies in the History of Philosophy: Seventeenth-Century European Philosophy*, ed. M.A. Stewart, vol. ii, 117-52, 1997.

"The Platonism of Leibniz's 'New System of Nature'", *Leibniz's New System*, ed. Roger Woolhouse, Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, 1996, 97-111.

Die Logik des Handelns, Catalogue of Award Winning Art by Michael Müller with Essays by Christia Mercer and Anna Gottfried, publication supported by the German Council of the Arts, 1996.

"Metaphysics: The Early Period to the *Discourse on Metaphysics*," co-authored with Robert C. Sleigh, Jr., *Leibniz: Cambridge Companions to Philosophy*, ed. Nicholas Jolley, 1994, 67-123.

"The Vitality and Importance of Early Modern Aristotelianism", *The Rise Of Modern Philosophy: The Tension Between the New and Traditional Philosophies from Machiavelli to Leibniz*, ed. Tom Sorell, Oxford University Press, 1993, 33-67. Paperback edition, 1995.

"The Seventeenth-Century Debate Between the Moderns and Aristotelians," *Studia Leibnitiana, Supplement 27*, 1991, 18-29.

Invited Papers, Professional and Public

"Methodology in the History of Philosophy," Keynote Speaker, History of Philosophy Society, De Paul University, Chicago, May, 2015.

"How Women Changed the Course of Philosophy, 1300-1700, Sprague & Taylor Annual Lecture, Brooklyn College, April 2015.

"Early Modern Women Philosophers," Symposium, APA, Pacific, April 2015

"Sympathy: Conway, Leibniz," Seminar, Society for Yearly Modern Philosophy at Yale, March, 2015.

"Rethinking Early Modern Rationalism: The Lessons of Anne Conway's Philosophy," *Symposium on Women in Modern Philosophy*, APA, Pacific Meeting, April, 2015.

"Conway and Cartesianism," Descartes Society, APA, Eastern Division Meeting, December, 2014.

"Conway on the Identity of Individuals," Symposium on Substantial Unity: Conway, Locke and Leibniz," APA, Eastern Division Meeting, December, 2014.

Workshop on the History of Philosophy, Keynote Speaker, University of Tromsø, Norway, December 2014.

"Feeling the Way to Truth: Women, Reason, and the Development of Early Modern Rationalism," Philosophers Speak Lecture Series, Seton Hall University, November, 2014.

"Feeling Our Way to Truth: Women, Reason, and the Real Story about Early Modern Rationalism," Sue Weinberg Lecture, SWIP, City University of New York, October, 2014.

"Reconsidering Early Modern Rationalism," Seminar, University of Oslo, Norway, May, 2014.

"Radical Rationalism in Seventeenth Century Philosophy: The Case of Anne Conway," Colloquium, Temple University, May, 2014.

- “Suffering, Sympathy, and Meditation: A Reconsideration of Seventeenth-Century Rationalism,” Colloquium, University of Notre Dame, April, 2014.
- “Suffering and Reason in Early Modern Philosophy,” Colloquium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March, 2014.
- “Suffering, Sympathy, and Ultimate Truths,” Colloquium, Texas A & M, February, 2014.
- “Wollstonecraft,” Lecture, Core Curriculum, Columbia University, February, 2014.
- Seminar on Anne Conway’s Radical Rationalism, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, January, 2014.
- “Creating Women *ex nihilo* or Why It’s So Hard to Do feminist History of Philosophy: The Case of Anne Conway,” Invited participant for Panel on Feminist History and Philosophy of Science, Society for Analytic Feminism, American Philosophical Association, December 2013.
- “Recruiting and Retaining Black Philosophers,” Invited Participant, Panel Discussion arranged by Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, American Philosophical Association, December 2013.
- “Meditating and Seventeenth-Century Philosophy,” University of Oslo, November, 2013.
- “Knowledge, Evil, and the Rationalists,” Lecture, University of Helsinki, November, 2013.
- “The Philosophy of Anne Conway,” Lecture and Seminar, University of Helsinki, November, 2013.
- “The Epistemological Problem of Evil,” Graduate Conference, University of Oslo, November, 2013.
- “Evelyn Fox Keller’s *Reflections on Gender and Science*,” Discussion with E.F. Keller, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, October, 2013.
- Panel Discussion on The Role of the Humanities in Higher Education, *Many Minds, Many Stripes*, University Wide Conference, Princeton University, October 17-19, 2013.
- “Suffering and Sympathy: Three Lectures,” All Souls Unitarian Church, All Souls, Unitarian Church, Series of 3 lectures, September, 2013.
- “The Ecstasy of Knowledge: Reason and Passion, Rome and Beyond,” American Academy of Rome, May 2013.
- “Knowledge and Evil,” The Hebrew University, March, 2013.
- “Ultimate Knowledge and How to Get It: Descartes and Leibniz,” Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, March, 2013.
- “The Epistemological Problem of Evil,” University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, January 2013.
- “Rationality, Rationalism, and the Place of Passions in Anne Conway,” Workshop on (Ir)Rationality and the Passions in Early Modern Thought, Princeton, December 2012
- “Evil and Knowledge,” Duke University, November 2012.
- “Anne Conway’s Metaphysics of Sympathy,” Discussion in Alan Nelson’s Seminar, University of North Carolina.
- “Sympathy in the History of Philosophy,” North Carolina State, October 2012.
- “Sympathy in Early Modern Philosophy,” Workshop for *Sympathy: A History*, Virginia, June 2012.
- Commentator, “Symposium: Early Modern Women Philosophers,” American Philosophical Association, December 2011.
- “Leibniz, Spinoza, and the Epistemological Problem of Evil,” Philosophy Department, University of Texas, Austin, October, 2011.
- “Activity and Nature: Ficino, Mechanism, and Early Modern Philosophy,” Princeton-Penn-Columbia Graduate Conference in the History of Philosophy, Keynote Speaker, April 2011.
- “Leibniz and Your Divine Perfection,” Public Lecture, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, April 2011.
- “Leibniz’s Activity,” Keynote Speaker, Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy, Fordham University, February, 2011.
- “Spiritual Spaces: Philosophy, Theology, and Architecture,” All Souls, Unitarian Church, Series of 3 Lectures, January, 2011
- “Women Philosophers in the Curriculum,” Conference in Honor of Sue Weinberg, CUNY Graduate Center, October, 2010.
- “Leibniz on Discovering God in Nature,” International Symposium, *300 Years Since Publication of Essais de*

- Théodicée*, Reception and Transformation, Berlin/Potsdam, October 8-11, 2010.
- “Knowledge and Suffering in Early Modern Philosophy: G.W. Leibniz and Anne Conway,” International Conference on *Emotional Minds: Passions and the Limits of Pure Inquiry in the Seventeenth Century*, University of Munich, Munich, October 14-16, 2010.
- “Leibniz and the Epistemological Problem of Evil,” *Leibniz’s Theodicy: Context and Content*, University of Notre Dame, September 2010.
- “Galileo on Reality and Science,” Italian Academy, Public Lecture, February 11, 2010.
- “Platonism and the Spiritual Quest,” All Souls, Unitarian Church, Series of 3 lectures, January, 2010.
- “Seventeenth-Century Platonists and the De-Partitioning of the Soul,” Conference on Partition of the Soul in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, TOPOI, Humboldt University, Berlin, October, 2009.
- “Losers: Good Examples of Bad Scientist, Café Humanities, Public Lecture, June 15, 2009.
- “Mental Gymnastics: How Minds Rescued the ‘New’ Philosophy,” New England Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, Harvard University, May 29-30.
- “Core Moments: Intersection of Philosophy, Literature and Art,” Mini-Core Course, Three Seminars, February-March, 2009.
- “Leibniz and Spinoza on Epistemological Optimism,” Zeno Lecture, Zeno Lecture Series in Philosophy, Universities of Leiden and Utrecht, The Netherlands, April 2009.
- “Sympathy as a Core Ingredient in Early Modern Philosophy: Leibniz and Conway,” Funky Causation Workshop, Leiden Institute of Philosophy, April 2009.
- “Divinity, Power, and Nature: Marsilio Ficino and Early Modern Philosophy,” John-Hopkins University, March 23 2009.
- “You ARE God: The Beauty and Weirdness of Leibniz’s Philosophy,” St. John’s College, Annapolis, Maryland, February 2009.
- “Anne Conway’s Metaphysics of Method,” New York/New Jersey Research Group, December 2008.
- “Ultimate Knowledge and How to Get It,” Colloquium for First Year Class, Quest University, Vancouver, B.C., September 2008.
- “Ultimate Knowledge and How to Get It,” Master Class, Days on Campus, April 7 and 14, 2008.
- “The Core as a Response to the Problem of Evil?” Session on *Beauty in the Core*, Dean’s Day, April, 2008.
- “Philosophy as Response to War: Making Peace in Early Modern Germany,” and “Leibniz’s Discourse and Peace,” Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, April 2008.
- Series of lectures under the general title, *L’art de penser la nature et l’art de penser les relations humaine l’époque moderne: contrastes et unite*, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 11, 12, 13, 2007.
- Invited Participant, Workshop for contributors of revised Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy, ed. Lloyd Gerson, Toronto, October, 2007.
- “Columbia College and the Acquisition of *Your* Wisdom,” Orientation for First Year Students of Columbia College, August 2006, August, 2007.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Being God,” Spinoza/Leibniz Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, September, 2007.
- “Platonism to the Rescue: Seventeenth Century Philosophy of Nature,” Conference on Neoplatonism in Natural Philosophy, Bonn, Germany, June 2007.
- “Leibniz on Self and Consciousness: The Self as a Footprint of God,” Conference on Self and Consciousness from Plato to Kant, University of Toronto, May 2007.
- “Context, context, context,” (Invited) Symposium on Methodology in the History of Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Washington D.C., December, 2006.
- “Material Difficulties: What Went Wrong in Early Modern Philosophy,” Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, April 2007.
- “Mechanical Difficulties: Why Early Modern Metaphysics Failed,” Philosophy Colloquium, Syracuse

- University, October 2006.
- “Resurrection and Identity: A Crisis for Mechanical Philosophy,” Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, October 2006.
- “Cassirer, the Seventeenth Century, and Reason in the Enlightenment,” Nassau County Community College, October 2006.
- “Cassirer and the *Geist* of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy,” University Lecture sponsored by Dean, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, June 2006.
- “A Reconsideration of German Philosophy from Luther to Leibniz,” Series of Six Lectures, Ernst Cassirer Lectures, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, spring, 2006.
- “Rhetoric and the Methodology of Peace: Finding Truth in Seventeenth-Century German Philosophy,” Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, May 2006.
- “Montaigne’s *Essays* and the Struggle to Live a Good Life,” Columbia College Day: Washington D.C., September, 2003; Miami, Fl., January, 2004; San Francisco, March, 2006; Los Angeles, March, 2006.
- “Women and Work in the Academy,” Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, November 2005.
- “The Creation of the History of Philosophy in Germany,” Conference on Concepts in the History of Philosophy, Conference in Honor of the *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, Università degli Studi di Verona, September 2005.
- “Suffering in Early Modern Philosophy: A Preliminary Investigation,” Conference on the Passions of the Soul, Washington University, St. Louis, April 2005.
- “Matter, Passivity, and the Failure of the Mechanical Philosophy,” Departments of Philosophy and Physics, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, February 23, 2005.
- “Plotinus and Descartes on Ultimate Knowledge,” Seminar on Studies in Religion, Columbia University Seminars, February 7, 2005.
- “Rhetoric and Mathematics in Early Modern Philosophy,” Two Lectures, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2004.
- “Activity, Passivity, and the Failure of the Mechanical Philosophy,” Seminar Series on the History and Philosophy of Science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, October 2004.
- “God and Causality,” Lecturer, Week 1 of NEH Summer Institute on The Intersection of Philosophy, Science, and Theology in the Seventeenth Century, Madison, Wisconsin, July, 2004.
- “Matter, Nature, and Explanation,” Conference on Nature and Necessity in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Toronto, May, 2004.
- “Author Meets Critics,” Panel Discussion of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics: Its Origins and Development*, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April, 2004.
- “Leibniz’s Methodology and the German Tradition, Two Lectures, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2003-January 04.
- “Telling Tales in the History of Philosophy,” Tales of the Mighty Dead, Conference on Methodology in the History of Philosophy, S.U.N.Y., Stony Brook, November, 2003.
- “Montaigne’s *Essays* and the Struggle to Live a Good Life,” Columbia College Day, Washington D.C., September, 2003; Miami, Fl., January, 2004.
- “Leibniz’s Spinozism,” University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany, June, 2003.
- “Ficino and the Origins of Early Modern Idealism,” Institut für Philosophie, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, Munich, Germany, May, 2003.
- “The Divinely Unifying Powers of Mind,” Conference on the Young Leibniz, plenary lecture, Rice University, April, 2003.
- “The Platonism at the Core of Leibniz’s Philosophy,” *Platonism and the Origins of Modernity: The Platonic Tradition and the Rise of Modern Philosophy*, Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, Clare College, Cambridge University, March, 2003.
- “Leibniz on Divine Knowledge,” Philosophy Department, Johns-Hopkins University, Dec. 2002.

- “Intellectual Peace and Philosophical Truth in Renaissance and Early Modern Germany: Leibniz and his Predecessors,” Institut für Philosophie, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, June 2002.
- “Leibniz, Rhetoric, and the Means to Truth,” Mathématiques et rhétorique: traditions et enjeux Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, June 2002.
- “Rhetorica e Logica in Leibniz,” University of Salerno, Salerno, Italy, April 2002.
- “A Discussion of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics: Its Origins and Development*,” Florence, Italy, April 2002.
- “Leibniz: Truth, Conciliation, and Rhetoric,” Mathématiques et rhétorique: traditions et enjeux, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, March 2002.
- “Leibniz and the German Tradition of the Power of Language,” International Conference on Leibniz and the Power of Language, sponsored by the European Science Foundation and the University of Rennes, Rennes, France, March 2002.
- “Platonism and Leibniz’s Notion of Expression,” International Conference on Forms of Neoplatonism: From the Heritage of Ficino to the Cambridge Platonist, Florence, Italy October, 2001.
- “Leibniz and the Physics of the Eucharist,” Conference on the Physics of the Eucharist, Bochum, Germany, July, 2001.
- “Will the Real Pantheist Please Stand Up: Spinoza and Leibniz on the Relation Between God and Creatures,” Philosophy Department, Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Mode,” Philosophy Department, SUNY, Stony Brook, March, 2000.
- “How Revolutionary was the Scientific Revolution?,” Dean’s Day Lecture, Columbia University, April, 2000.
- “Leibniz’s Aristotelianism and Concept of Wisdom,” Philosophy Department, Catholic University, September, 1999.
- “Aristotelian Platonism in Seventeenth-Century Germany,” International Conference on The Aristotelian Paradigm of Science: The Nature of Natural Philosophy, 1200-1700, Sponsored by European Science Foundation, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, August 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance,” Graduate Center, The City University of New York, April 28, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on the Way to Truth,” Series of lectures, University of Norway, Oslo, Norway, March 15 - 20, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on Mind and God,” University of Utrecht, March 10, 1999.
- “Descartes, Clauberg, and Leibniz on Substance,” Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, March 11, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on Method and Mind,” New School for Social Research, February 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Activity,” University of Illinois, Chicago, January 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Mode,” Invited Speaker at the First Annual Meeting of the Leibniz-Spinoza Society of North America, American Philosophical Association, December 1998.
- “Metaphysics and Method in Seventeenth-Century Philosophy: Rethinking Early Modern German Thought?,” November 12, Deutsches Haus Fall Lecture Series, 1998.
- “Augustine on the Mind as the Subject and Object of Knowledge and Some Early Modern Responses,” Conference on Early Modern Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind, Department of Philosophy, Helsinki, Finland, May 1998.
- “Descartes and Cartesian Corporeal Substance,” Department of Philosophy, Oslo, Norway, September 1997. Chair of Session and Invited Participant, International Conference on Women Philosophers in the Seventeenth Century, Institute for Modern Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 1997.
- “Humanist Eclecticism in Seventeenth-Century Germany,” International Conference on Humanism and Early Modern Philosophy, The Warburg Institute and Kings College London, June 1997.
- Comment on “When *Did* Leibniz Adopt the Preestablished Harmony: A Response to Mercer’s Proposal,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April 1997.

- “Leibniz and Spinoza: The True Story”, Part of a Series of Lectures by Former Graduate Students at Princeton in Celebration of 250 Years of Philosophy at Princeton, February 1997.
- “Leibniz’s Metaphysics of Divinity”, Institute for Modern Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 1996.
- “Leibniz’s Early Platonism”, International Conference on The Young Leibniz, Sponsored by the British Society of the History of Philosophy, London, England, October 1996.
- “Unity and Multiplicity in Early Leibniz”, International Conference on Unity and Multiplicity in Leibniz, Sponsored by the Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, Rome, Italy, October 1996.
- “Leibniz and Spinoza: *The Ethics*”, panelist with Edwin Curley on the relation between Spinoza and Leibniz, American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, April 1996.
- “Clauberg, Corporeal Substance, and the German Response”, International Conference on Johann Clauberg, Groningen, The Netherlands, December 1995.
- “German Platonism in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century,” University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands, December 1995.
- "Platonism and Leibniz's *Nouveau système*", International Conference Celebrating the Tercentenary of the *Nouveau système*, York University, England, July 1995.

(Recent) ACADEMIC SERVICE (2010-14)

- National Humanities Center, Selection Committee, February 2014.
- Chair, Literature Humanities, Core Curriculum, Columbia University, 2010-12; 2013-14.
- Developed with Columbia College Students new Core Curriculum Website.
- Executive Committee, American Philosophical Association, 2012-15
- North American Editor, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2003-present.
- Chair, Literature Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy, 2010-12, 2013-14. This is an interdisciplinary course that all first-year Columbia College students take. There are roughly 1200 students and 60 instructors. The chair oversees interdisciplinary lectures and discussions, selects preceptors, and sets intellectual standards.
- Curator, Student Projects, *Homer in Harlem*. This is a year-long series of events celebrating the work of the Harlem artist, Romare Bearden, especially his collages, *Black Odyssey*.
- “Recruiting and Retaining Black Philosophers,” Invited Participant, Panel Discussion arranged by Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers, American Philosophical Association, December 2013.
- Workshops for books in Oxford Philosophical Concepts: *Space: A History*, *Faculties: A History*, *Health: A History*, *Evil: A History*.
- Developed an interdisciplinary website for Literature Humanities and the Core Curriculum of Columbia College including artworks, music, comics, literature, and dance. See <http://www.college.columbia.edu/core/lithum>.
- Member of Search Committee for the College Dean, Spring, 2012.
- Conference on *Evil, Evil to the Core Curriculum of Columbia College* and related Workshop for contributors to the *Evil* volume, eds. Andrew Chignell and Scott MacDonald, *Oxford Philosophical Concepts*, OUP, April 2012.
- Organized conference, *The Reinvention of Space, 1400-1800*, Mellon Interdisciplinary Conference, December, 2010.
- Organized Workshop for editors of *Oxford Philosophical Concepts* volumes on Space, Time, Occasionalism, Propositions, Memory, Consciousness, Perception, and Eternity, December 2010.
- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Advisory Committee to the Program Committee, 2010-13.
- Vice-President, Leibniz Society of North America, 2010-12.
- Founding member of Women in Philosophy Task Force (Essex Group), which is an umbrella group that works to coordinate initiatives and intensify efforts to advance women in philosophy (August 2009 –

present).

Organized *Oxford Philosophical Concepts* Workshop: International Workshop on the philosophical and interdisciplinary goals of the book series, *Oxford Philosophical Concepts*.

Organized Conference *Women: Philosophy and History, A Conference in Celebration of Eileen O'Neill and her Work*, Barnard Center for Research on Women, October 2-3, 2009.

Evaluator, American Council of Learned Societies, Ryskamp and Burkhardt Fellowship, 2008-11.

Program Committee, The Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, January 31-February 1st, 2009.

Program Committee, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, 2006-08.

External Review Committee for Excellence Initiative, Humboldt University, June 2007, Research Committee of the German Government.

Referee for Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships to North America, 1996-present.