Karin Nisenbaum

Philosophy Department, Syracuse University

537 Hall of Languages

Syracuse, NY 13210

Email: kanisenb@syr.edu

Personal website: karinanisenbaum.com

**Academic Appointments:**

Renée Crown Professor in the Humanities, Syracuse University, since 2022

Associate Professor, Syracuse University, Department of Philosophy, since 2024

Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, Department of Philosophy, 2021–2024

Assistant Professor, Boston College, Department of Philosophy, 2020–2021

Assistant Professor, Colgate University, Department of Philosophy, 2016–2020

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Scholion Center,

2014–2016

Visiting Scholar, University of Denver, Center for Judaic Studies, 2013–2014

**Education**

University of Toronto

Ph.D. Philosophy, 2014

Dissertation: *For the Love of Metaphysics*

Committee: Paul Franks (advisor), Sergio Tenenbaum, Ulrich Schlösser, Robert Gibbs

University College Dublin

M.A. Continental Philosophy with 1st class honors,2006

University of Chicago

B.A. Philosophy with honors, 2003

Non-degree Programs

Leo Baeck Fellow at the Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, January–May 2013

Visiting Assistant in Research, Yale University, January–April 2012

**Areas of Specialization:** Kant, German Idealism, and 19th & 20th Century Jewish Thought

**Areas of Competence:** Ethics, Metaphysics, 19th & 20th Century Continental Philosophy

(including Existentialism, Phenomenology, and Critical Theory)

**Publications**

**Book**

*For the Love of Metaphysics: Nihilism and the Conflict of Reason from Kant to Rosenzweig,*

Oxford University Press, 2018.

Review in [*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*](https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/for-the-love-of-metaphysics-nihilism-and-the-conflict-of-reason-from-kant-to-rosenzweig/)

**Articles and Book Chapters**

“Getting at the Root of Evil: Kant and Fichte on the Murderer at the Door” (accepted for publication in *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* conditional upon minor revisions)

“Fichte’s Perfectionist Solution to the Problem of Kantian Autonomy,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 61:4 (2023), 649–671.

“Glück, Glückseligkeit”, in: Birgit Sandkaulen, Stefan Schick a. Oliver Koch (Ed.), Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, Version v4, URL=https://jwo.saw-leipzig.de/articles/v4/379f499c.

“Schelling’s Systematization of Kant’s Moral Philosophy: Divine Craftsmanship as the Human Moral Telos,” in *Schellings Freiheitsschrift: Methode, System, Kritik* , edited by Thomas Buchheim, Thomas Frisch, and Nora C. Wachsmann, Mohr Siebeck, 2021, 467–492.

“The Fate of Practical Reason: Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God’s Existence,” in *Kantian Legacies in German Idealism*, edited by G. Gentry, Routledge, 2021, 186–207.

“Zuidervaart in Conversation with Rosenzweig: Artistic Truth, Life-Giving Disclosure, and Revelation,” in *Seeking Stillness or The Sound of Wings: Works on Art, Truth and Society in Honour of Lambert Zuidervaart,* edited by M. DeMoor, P. Ennerson, and M. Klaassen, Wipf and Stock, 2021, 260–284.

“Practical Knowledge and the Subjectivity of Truth in Kant and Kierkegaard: The

Cover of Skepticism,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 26:2 (2018), 730–745.

“F.W.J. Schelling,” co-authored with Daniel Whistler, in *Religion and European Philosophy: Key Thinkers from Kant to Žižek*, edited by P. Goodchild and H. Phelps, Routledge, 2017, 44–59.

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom,” *Journal of Philosophical Research* 41 (2016), 453–498.

“Modern Jewish Philosophy: Universal Human Questions Phrased in Concepts Derived from the Jewish Tradition,” critical notice of *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era,* edited by M. Kavka, Z. Braiterman, and D. Novak*, International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 23 (2015), 111–125.

“Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig,” *Proceedings of the International Rosenzweig Gesellschaft* 1 (2014), 96–107.

“From the Revolution in Thinking to the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption,*” in *After the Postsecular and the Postmodern: New Essays in Continental Philosophy of Religion,* edited by D. Whistler and A.P. Smith, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010, 105–127.

**Book Reviews**

Review of Katharina Kraus’s *Kant on Self-Knowledge and Self-Formation: The Nature of Inner Experience*, in the *Journal of the* *Society for German Idealism and Romanticism* 5 (1), 2022.

Review of Dennis Vanden Auweele’s *Pessimism in Kant’s Ethics and Rational Religion,* in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 58:2 (2020), 409–410.

Review of Eric Santner’s *On Creaturely Life: Rilke, Benjamin, Sebald*, in *International Journal of*

*Philosophical Studies* 16 (2008), 115–120.

**Work in Progress**

“The Role of the Highest Good in Kant and Hegel” (complete draft available)

“The Identity and Role of the Highest Good in Kant and Maimon” (compete draft available)

“Fichte on Moral Development and Transformation” (co-authored with Julia Peters, complete draft available)

“Jacobi über das Gute,” commissioned entry for the Jacobi-Wörterbuch Online, edited by Birgit Sandkaulen

“Günderrode’s Philosophical Writings,” commissioned article for *Philosophy Compass*

**Awards, Grants, and Scholarships**

Renée Crown Professorship in the Humanities

Syracuse University, 2022–2025

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Advanced Researchers, 2019–2022

Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2014–2017

Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, 2014–2016 (declined)

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, October 2012–September 2013

University of Toronto

Shiff Family Graduate Student Award in Jewish Studies, 2012

Tikvah Fund Graduate Fellowship, 2009–2011

Tikvah Fund Scholarship, 2010

Lieba Sharon Wilensky Lesk Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies, 2009

Martha Lile Love Essay Award (for the best essay written by a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy during the preceding academic year), 2009

George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy, 2008

Cheesbrough Fellowship in Philosophy, 2008, 2007

Connaught Tuition Scholarship, 2007

University College Dublin

Professor Magennis Memorial Prize in Philosophy (awarded to the top M.A. student each year), 2005–2006

University of Chicago Phi Beta Kappa, 2003

**Presentations**

“Kant and Maimon on the Identity and Role of the Highest Good”

University of Toronto, December 2024 (invited)

University of Potsdam, October 2024 (invited)

University of Heidelberg, September 2024 (invited)

University of Bonn, August 2024 (invited keynote)

Author-Meets-Critics panel on Dalia Nassar’s *Romantic Empiricism*

Eastern APA, January 2024 (invited)

“Getting at the Root of Evil: Kant and Fichte on the Murderer at the Door”

University of Toronto, December 2024 (invited)

Syracuse University, CNY workshop, April 2024

Concordia University, February 2024 (invited)

Rice University, November 2023 (invited)

Yale University, February 2023 (invited)

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, January 2023 (invited)

Kant Reading Party, St. Andrews University, August 2022

“The Role of the Highest Good in Kant and Hegel”

SPAWN Conference, Syracuse University, July 2024

Conference on the dialectics of the ethical in Kant and Hegel, University of Zurich, June 2023

(invited)

Berlin Summer Colloquium for Women, June 2023

“Realizing our Capacity to Know the Good: Kant on the Dialectic of Pure Practical Reason”

Workshop on Kant’s Dialectic, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, October 2022 (invited)

“Fichte on Moral Development and Transformation” (co-authored with Julia Peters)

LMU, Munich, Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, July 2022 (invited)

Berlin Summer Colloquium for Women, June 2022

Leuven Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, June 2021 (invited)

University of Tübingen, Seminar in Classical German Philosophy, April 2021 (invited)

Author-Meets-Critics panel on Kris McDaniel’s *The Fragmentation of Being*

Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 2022 (invited)

Author-Meets-Critics on *For the Love of Metaphysics*.

Critics: Nicholas Stang (University of Toronto), Alexandra Newton (UC Riverside), Richard Eldridge (Swarthmore), Jaqueline Mariña (Purdue)

Pacific APA, Vancouver, April 2022

“Fichte’s Perfectionist Solution to the ‘Paradox’ of Kantian Autonomy and the ‘Dilemma’ of post-Kantian Autonomy”

University of Notre Dame, March 2022 (invited)

Harvard University, December 2021 (invited)

University of Bochum, Research Center for Classical German Philosophy, December 2020 (invited)

University College Dublin, November 2020 (invited)

“Post-Kantian Themes in Katharina Kraus’ *Kant on Self-Knowledge and Self-Formation*”

Author-Meets-Critics Panel at the Eastern APA Meeting, January 2021

Author-Meets-Critics on *For the Love of Metaphysics*.

Critics: Omri Boehm (The New School), Lara Ostaric (Temple), and Naomi Fisher (Loyola University)

Central APA, Chicago, February 2020

“The Unconditioned in Human Knowledge: A Theoretical Puzzle, or a Practical Demand?”

Invited talk on *For the Love of Metaphysics* at Leipzig University, January 2020

“Schelling’s Systematization of Kant’s Moral Philosophy”

Conference on “Systematic Metaphysics: Prospects and Problems”

Hebrew University, January 2020 (invited)

“Kant and Schelling on Virtue, Happiness, and the Postulate of God’s Existence”

Yale University, February 2019 (invited)

“Realizing our Capacity for Practical Knowledge of the Good: Kant on Virtue and Happiness in the Highest Good”

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2018 (invited)

“Hegel’s Antigone”

Humanities Colloquium, Colgate University, October 2018

“Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion and the Postulate of God’s Existence”

Research Center for Analytic German Idealism

University of Leipzig, June 2018 (invited)

“Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”

Le Moyne College, November 2017 (invited)

“The Philosopher’s Toolbox”

Humanities Colloquium, Colgate University, October 2017

“When Criticism Turns into Dogmatism: Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion and the Postulates of Practical Reason”

University of Potsdam, July 2017 (invited)

North American Schelling Society, UNAM, Mexico City, February 2017

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”

University of Notre Dame, February 2016 (invited)

“Rosenzweig and Wittgenstein on Reason, Revelation, and Moral Imagination”

Symposium on Moral Imagination, Tel Aviv University, June 2015

“Kant’s Deduction of Freedom: The Performative and First-Personal Aspect of Transcendental Arguments”

Haifa University, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited)

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, May 2015 (invited)

“The Jointure of Being: Schelling’s Perfectionist Moral Outlook”

The Society for German Idealism, Pacific APA meeting, April 2015

North American Schelling Society meeting, Bard Graduate Center, August 2014

“The Human Word as a Response to the Word of God and Human Words and Actions as the Means for the Unification of God”

University of Copenhagen & Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture, April 2015

Franz Rosenzweig Congress, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, October 2014

“Schelling’s Perfectionism and Rosenzweig’s Judaism”

Images of Perfection: An Interdisciplinary Conference in the Study of Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 2015

“The Legacy of Salomon Maimon: Philosophy as a System Actualized in Freedom”

University of Tübingen, April 2013

New York German Idealism Workshop, The New School, October 2012

“Transcendental Arguments for the Actualization of God in Schelling and Rosenzweig”

Roundtable on Methodology in Philosophical and Religious Thinking, University of Denver,

May 2014

Workshop of the Leo-Baeck Fellowship Programme, Rastatt, Germany, July 2013

International Society for Religion, Literature, and Culture, University of Copenhagen, October 2012

“Transcendental Arguments for Theism in Schelling and Rosenzweig”

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 2012

Franz Rosenzweig Congress, University of Toronto, September 2012

“Rosenzweig and Schelling on the Ethical Significance of Theological Categories”

Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, October 2011

Centre for Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto, April 2011

“Why is there a Realm of Experience? Love and Defiance as the Two Forms of Human Individuation”

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Colorado College, June 2014

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, February 2013

“Freedom, Moral Agency, and Religious Belief in Kant, Schelling, and Rosenzweig”

Workshop of the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, Brighton, UK, November 2012

“Teleological Explanation in Hegel’s Subjective Logic”

International Summer School in German Philosophy, University of Bonn, July 2011

“From the Revolution in Thinking towards the Renewal of Thinking: The Systematic Task of *The Star of Redemption*”

International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, University of Oxford, September 2010

“Songs of Love and Sorrow: Re-Engaging the Social Ethics of Music”

Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, April 2010

“Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology: Expressive Gestures and the Contribution of Perceptionto our Idea of Truth”

100 Years of Merleau-Ponty: A Centenary Conference, Sofia University, Bulgaria, March 2008

“Understanding the Body’s Critique”

Conference on “Transcendence Incarnate: The Corporeality of the Spiritual and the Spirituality of the Corporeal,” University of Oxford, September 2007

“Repeating to Repair: Freud, Ricoeur and Benjamin”

Conference on “Perspectives on the Body and Embodiment,” University College Dublin, Ireland, June 2007

“In Response to M.Bréhier: Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetic Epistemology”

First Annual Postgraduate Conference in Philosophy, University College Cork, Ireland, May 2006

**Courses Taught**

Syracuse University

Human Dignity (graduate)

Latin American Philosophy (undergraduate)

Existentialism (undergraduate)

The Highest Good (graduate)

Philosophy of Literature (honors undergraduate)

Kantian and Post-Kantian Ethics (graduate)

Introduction to Ethics (honors undergraduate)

Kant and German Idealism (graduate and undergraduate)

Boston College

Concepts of God in Twentieth-Century Jewish Philosophy (graduate)

Perspectives on Western Culture

University of Potsdam

The Highest Good in Kant, Fichte, and Schelling (graduate seminar co-taught with Johannes

Haag)

Colgate University

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*

Philosophy of Literature

Moral Perfectionism

Kant and Nineteenth-Century Philosophy

Legacies of the Ancient World

Ethics

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Formation of the Self and the Pursuit of the Good in Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and

Kierkegaard

Freedom and Reason: Kant through Hegel and beyond (graduate)

University of Denver

Perfectionism and Idealism in German and Jewish Philosophy

Colorado College

Philosophy and Literature: The Brothers Karamazov

Modern Jewish Philosophy

University of TorontoPhilosophy of Judaism

**Graduate and Undergraduate Supervision and Mentoring**

Dissertation Committee, Dante Dauksz, “Kant’s Inaugural Dissertation,” Syracuse University

Dissertation Committee, Stacy Kohls, “Hobbesian Constructivism,” Syracuse University

Dissertation Committee, Joshua Tignor, Syracuse University

Special Paper Committee, Weiting Huang, Syracuse University

Teaching Mentor for: Bertie Probyn (Spring 2023), Victor Sholl De Freitas (Spring 2023),

Thiago De Melo (Spring 2022), Shiyu Chen (Spring 2022)

Honors Thesis on Natural Normativity, Nicole Szczech, Colgate University

Honors Thesis on Ethics and the Nature of Love, Gavin Gao, Colgate University

**Service to the Department and University**

Coronat Scholar Committee, Syracuse University, for the spring 2024 application cycle

Fulbright Fellowship Campus Advisor for the fall 2023 application cycle

Women and Gender Minorities faculty mentor, Syracuse University, Philosophy Department,

2022–2024

Department Colloquium Co-organizer, Syracuse University, Philosophy Department,

2021– 2022

Search Committee, Syracuse University, Philosophy Department, Fall 2021

Placement Director, Boston College, Philosophy Department, 2020–2021

Search Committee, Colgate University, Philosophy Department, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018

Member of the Institutional Review Board, Colgate University, 2017–2019

**Service to the Profession**

Referee for: Oxford University Press, Routledge, Bloomsbury Press, Austrian Science Fund,

*Epoché*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Inquiry, Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*

Organizer for SPAWN 2024 The Highest Good, July 2024

Organizer for “The Value of Life,” Renée Crown Symposium, April 2024

Organizer for “The Value of Beauty and Beauty in Science,” Renée Crown Honors Inaugural

Symposium, Syracuse University, April 2023

Collaboration partner for DFG-network on Classical German Anthropology 2022–2026

Co-organizer (with Samantha Matherne, Katharina Kaiser, and Kristin Primus) of “Annual

Berlin Summer Colloquium for in Post-Kantian Philosophy for Women,” workshop at the Humboldt and Freie Universität Berlin, since 2018

Member of the Advisory Board of *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, since 2021

Evaluator for the Philosophical Gourmet Report, 2021

Philosophy Director for the Society for German Idealism and Romanticism, 2020–2022

Collaboration partner for the research group “Schellings Philosophie der menschlichen

Freiheit,”directed by Prof. Thomas Buchheim and funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, 2015–2018.

Co-organizer (with Brady Bowman and Dalia Nassar) for “Schelling and Empiricism,”

workshop at Humboldt University of Berlin, 2016

Organizer for the conference “Reconsidering the Significance of Kant’s Critical Revolution:

Transcendental Arguments, Practical Postulates, and Philosophical Fictions,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2015

Member of the Steering Committee, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, 2009.

Co-organizer for “Centre for Jewish Studies: First Annual Graduate Student Conference,”

University of Toronto, April 2009

Co-organizer for “Experience and Truth: Eighth Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy,” University of Toronto, May 2008

**Professional Memberships**

North American Kant Society, since 2016

American Philosophical Association, since 2010

International Rosenzweig Society, 2012–2014

Association for Jewish Studies, 2011–2014

North American Schelling Society, 2011–2014

Member of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, 2011–2013

**Languages**

Spanish (native speaker)

French (full research command)

German (full research command)

Modern Hebrew (basic knowledge)