

Rachel Aumiller

The Department of English and Comparative Literature
Columbia University in the City of New York
602 Philosophy Hall, MC4927 1150 Amsterdam Ave
New York, NY 10027
raa2225@columbia.edu | rachelaumiller.com

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022 – present | Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature
Affiliated Faculty, Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender (ISSG)
Columbia University in the City of New York
- 2020 – 2022 | Fellow, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry
- 2019 | Fellow, Humanities & Social Change International Foundation, Hamburg
- 2017 – 2019 | Research Associate, Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, Universität Hamburg
- 2014 – 2015 | U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Philosophy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

EDUCATION

- 2016 | Ph.D. Philosophy, Villanova University
- 2012 | M.A. Philosophy, Villanova University
- 2009 | B.A. Philosophy with Honors, Magna Cum Laude, Goucher College
- 2007 – 2008 | Visiting Student, Christ Church, University of Oxford

Areas of Specialization: Continental Philosophy | Social and Political Philosophy | Ethics

Areas of Competence: Feminism | Gender and Sexuality | Psychoanalysis | Aesthetics

Topics: sensation, affect, and desire; subjectivity

Doctoral Dissertation: *The Laughing Matter of Spirit: A Young Hegelian Comedy*
committee: Yannik Thiem (chair), Walter Brogan, James Wetzel

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 | Award for Best Submission by a Junior Scholar.
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- 2016 | The John Tich Research Award, Villanova University
- 2016 | Summer Research Award, Villanova University
- 2015 | The Augustinian Chair Award for Professional Development, Villanova University
- 2014 | Summer Research Award, Villanova University
- 2009 – 2012 | Graduate Assistantship in Philosophy and Theology
- 2009 | Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- [2] Aumiller, Rachel. *The Laughing Matter of Spirit*. Diaeresis. (Chicago: Northwestern University Press). Forthcoming.
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel (Ed). *A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism*. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021).

Articles/Chapters: Double-Anonymous Peer Review

- [8] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Virtue of Erotic Curiosity." *Philosophy and Literature*. Vol. 46.1, (2022). 208-222.
- [7] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Aborted Object of Comedy and the Birth of the Subject: Plato and Aristophanes' Alliance." *The Object of Comedy*. Ed. Gregor Moder and Jamila Mascot. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). 75-92.
- [6] Aumiller, Rachel. "Fantasies of Forgetting Our Mother Tongue." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. Vol. 33. No. 3 (2019). 368-380. "Best Submission by a Junior Scholar."
- [5] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Lick of the Mother Tongue: Derrida, Augustine and Marx on the Touch of Language." *The Language of Touch: Philosophical Examinations in Linguistics and Haptic Studies*. Ed. Mirt Komel. (New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019). 107-120.
- [4] Aumiller, Rachel. "Epoché as the Erotic Conversion of One into Two." *The Yearbook for the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies in Scepticism*. Vol. 2. (2017). 3-13.
- [3] Aumiller, Rachel. "Antigone's Stance amongst Slovenia's Undead." *Studia ethnologica Croatica*. Vol. 29. (2017). 19-42.
- [2] Aumiller, Rachel. "Dasein's Shadow and the Moment of its Disappearance." *Human Studies: A Journal for Philosophy and the Social Sciences*. Vol. 40, Issue 1 (Spring 2016). 25-41.
- [1] Aumiller, Rachel. "Censoring Emotional Discourse." *The Crisis and Humanities: Transdisciplinary Solutions*. Ed. Žarko Cvjić, Andrija Filipović, Ana Petrov. (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016). 8-15.

Publications by Invitation: Peer Reviewed

- [6] Aumiller, Rachel. "Walking Away, Walking in Circles, Writing Lists." *A Case for Reduction*. ICI Berlin Press. Forthcoming 2022. [philosophical prose]
- [5] Aumiller, Rachel. "Haptic Reductions: a sceptic's guide for navigating uncertain touch." *A Case for Reduction*. ICI Berlin Press. Forthcoming 2022.
- [4] Dolbear, Aumiller et al. "Hands Tied: on Maria Lassnig and Ayesha Hameed." *Another Gaze: A Journal for Film and Feminism*. Issue 5. (April 2021). 34-42.
- [3] Aumiller, Rachel. "The Crisis of (Not) Touching." Women in Philosophy Blog Series. The American Philosophical Association. August 2020.

[2] Aumiller, Rachel. "Sensation & Hesitation: Haptic Scepticism as the Ethics of Touching." [introduction as editor]. *A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism*. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020). 2-29.

[1] Aumiller, Rachel. "Twice-Two: Hegel's Comic Redoubling of Being and Nothing." *Problemi International: Journal for Psychoanalytic Theory and Philosophy*. Vol 2. (Spring 2018). 253-278.

Works in Translation

[6] Dolbear, Aumiller et al. "Hands Tied: on Maria Lassnig and Ayesha Hameed" (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean). *Another Gaze: A Journal for Film and Feminism*. Issue 05. online edition. (April 2021)

[5] Aumiller, Rachel. "Abortirani objekt komedije in rojstvo subjekta." [The Aborted Object of Comedy and the Birth of the Subject]. (Slovene). Trans. Aleš Mendizevec. *Problemi*. Vol 7-8 (2018). 99-120.

[4] Aumiller, Rachel. "Polozaj Antigone Medu Slovenskim Besmrtnicima." [Antigone's Stance Amongst Slovenia's Undead] (Serbo-Croat). *Studia ethnologica Croatica*. Vol. 29. (2017). 19-42.

[3] Aumiller, Rachel. "Dva krat dva." [Two Times Two: Hegel's Tetradic Dialectics] (Slovene) Trans. Maja Lovrenov. *Problemi*. Vol 9-10. (2016) 91-104.

[2] Aumiller, Rachel. Do zadnjega smeha: Preston Sturges [To Die Laughing: Preston Sturges]. (Slovene) Ed. Ivana Novak. (Ljubljana: Slovenska Kinoteka, 2016).

[1] Aumiller, Rachel. Hegel in Marx o gledališkem in historičnem prizorišču komedije." [Hegel and Marx on the Theatrical and Historical Stage of Comedy]. (Slovene) Trans. Lev Kreft. *Borec: A Journal for Slovene Philosophy and Culture*. Vol. 706-708. (Fall/Winter 2014). 140-159.

PRESENTATIONS

[48 in total]

Refereed Conference Papers

[18] "Erotic Suspension: The Expansion of Intimacy in Isolation." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. College Station, TX. October 13-15, 2022.

[17] "Grasping Oneself by the Nothing: The Comedy of Negative Self-Reference and Resistance." *Historical Materialism*. London. November 7-10, 2019.

[16] "Counting to Four with Hegel and the Ljubljana School of Psychoanalysis." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Pittsburgh. October 31-November 2, 2019.

[15] "Dramatic Resistance: Benjamin on Satire and Partisan Frontline Theater." *Historical Materialism*. Panteion University. Athens. May 2-5, 2019.

[14] "Fantasies of Forgetting our Mother Tongue." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. State College. Oct 19, 2018. Best Submission by a Junior Scholar.

[13] "The Laughter of the Damned." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Memphis. Oct. 20, 2017.

- [12] "Benjamin's Comic Temporality of Hell." Historical Materialism. BICAR and the American University of Beirut. Beirut. March 11, 2017.
- [11] "Spinoza on the Passions Belonging to Time." The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Baltimore. January 8, 2017.
- [10] "The Repetition of Nothing in Tetradic Dialectics." Repetition/s Conference. Ljubljana. September 23, 2016.
- [9] "Censoring Emotional Discourse," Beyond the Crisis in the Humanities. Belgrade. April 25, 2015.
- [8] "The Censorship of Affect," Collegium Phaenomenologicum. Città di Castello. July 7, 2014
- [7] "Dasein's Shadow and the Moment of its Disappearance in Being and Time." The Heidegger Circle. Tampa. May 11, 2014.
- [6] "Marx on the Censorship of Laughter." The Philosophy and Literature Conference on Humor and Philosophical Practice. Purdue University. Purdue. March 28, 2014.
- [5] "Spinoza on the Temporal Passions." Duquesne Graduate Philosophy Conference. Pittsburgh. February 22, 2014.
- [4] "The (Narrative) Space of Conversion: Queer Spatial and Sexual Reorientation." The International Association of Philosophy and Literature Conference. Tallinn. May 30, 2012.
- [3] "Comic Anguish: Marx and Hegel on the Historical Stage of Comedy." Marx and the Aesthetic Conference. University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam. May 12, 2012.
- [2] "The Trace of the Animal in the Confessions of Man in Derrida's Circumfession." animal.machine.sovereign Conference. The State University of New York at Buffalo. Buffalo. April 15, 2011.
- [1] "The Comedy of Religion: Left Hegelian Comedy as Political Action." The Spirit of Capital Conference. The New School for Social Research. New York City. April 29, 2011.

Invited Lectures

- [16] "Intimacy Beyond the Reach of the Caress." Thinking of the Body – The Body as Unthinkable. Ruhr Universität. Bochum. July 27, 2022.
- [15] "Earthings and Spacemen: The Masses of the New Elites." Radical Philosophy Talks. Spider Festival. Ljubljana. June 16, 2022.
- [14] "Radical Ecology and Ethics: Introducing Merchant's Eco-Feminism to Ecologists." Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde. April 6, 2022.
- [13] "An Ethics of Self-Care for Our Collective Existence." Environmental Responsibility. Beyond Borders. Hamburg. August 29, 2021.
- [12] "Teaching Hegel into the Future: pedagogy, technology, and sensation." *Aufhebung*: International Association for Hegelian Studies. Goethe-Institut. Ljubljana. August 27, 2021.

- [11] "Testifying to Contradiction: Reassessing Accounts of Trauma." Preventing Secondary Victimization of Children through Statement Analysis. University of Ljubljana. August 25, 2021
- [10] "Between Isolation and Immersion: the ethics of caressing in the dark." Touched: Transdisciplinary Perspectives. Meeting of Touch, Arts, Affects. Sorbonne University. Paris. June 30, 2021
- [9] "Erotic Suspension: The Transformation of Desire in Isolation." Virtual Enjoyment Lecture Series. The Dormant Office. Amsterdam. February 27, 2021
- [8] "Postwar Slovenian Memorialization as Performative *Epoché*." Political Seminar Series for Max Weber Fellows on Art of Indignation in the age of (D)anger. Ljubljana. August 23, 2018.
- [7] "The Comic Slapstick of Revelation and Resistance: Walter Benjamin & WWII Comedy" Public Lecture Series in Jewish Philosophy. The University of Hamburg. Hamburg. June 25, 2018.
- [6] "Aborted Concepts: the merging of ancient comedy and skepticism." Concept(s): Hegel's Aesthetics. Ljubljana. January 13, 2018.
- [5] "Walking in Circles: the repetition of historical suspension (Antigone in postwar Yugoslavia)." Aufhebung: International Hegelian Association. Ljubljana. September 7, 2017
- [4] "The Young Hegelians on Comic Critique and Religious Affect." The May Day School: Capitalism and Religion. Ljubljana. April 28, 2016.
- [3] "Repeating Comedy Comically (or) Why Four is Funnier than Two." History as Tragedy, Comedy and Farce: Workshop on Benjamin, Marx, Hegel, and Lacan. The American University of Beirut. Beirut. March 31, 2016
- [2] "Finding Antigone amongst Slovenia's Undead." Socialist Monuments and Modernism International Symposium. Funded by Creative Europe Program of the European Union Project: Heroes We Love. MaMa. Zagreb. November 6, 2015.
- [1] "Sturges Stuttered: The Stammering Truth of Comedy." To Die Laughing: A Retrospective of Preston Sturges. Hosted by Slovenian Cinematheque. Ljubljana. October 20, 2015.

Symposium and Colloquium Talks

- [14] "A Hesitant Caress: An Ethics of Intimacy with Irigaray." Naming Touch. ICI Berlin. June 28, 2022.
- [13] "Dwelling in Reduction: a skeptic's guide for times of disruption." A Case for Reduction. Public Workshop. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. November 22-23, 2021.
- [12] "Reduction as Movement-in-Suspension." '*Reduction as...*' Colloquium. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. June 21-22, 2021.
- [11] "Practices of Self-Reduction and Expansion through Musser's Surface Play." Reductive Experience Colloquium. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. March 9, 2021.
- [10] "Reductions of Touch and Sensual Excess." Internal Colloquium. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. November 11, 2020

- [9] "Burning Down the Comic Stage" Response to Meryl Lumba. "Women and Comic Heroines: A Look at Hegel on Aristophanian Comedy" The American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Philadelphia. January 8-11, 2020.
- [8] "The Body of Belief: Augustine's *Confessions* and Derrida's *Circumfession*." The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Event. Hamburg. September 25, 2018.
- [7] "The Emergence of Religious Subjectivity in the Consummation of Ancient Comedy and Scepticism." The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Workshop. Hamburg. April 12, 2018.
- [6] "Translating Touch into Concepts and Concepts into Art." On the Making of Haptic Cinema: artists and philosophers reflect on a collaborative international film project. Villanova University, Villanova: May 9, 2018. New School for Social Research, NYC: May 10, 2018. May 11, 2018.
- [5] "Framing the Skeptic as the Compulsive Toucher." Workshop on Touch and Doubt. The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies. Hamburg. March 27, 2018.
- [4] "Epoché as the Erotic Conversion of One into Two." The Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies Internal Workshop. Hamburg. July 26, 2017
- [3] "Queering Conversion." Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia. April 2012.
- [2] "De-conversions." Faith and Philosophy Symposium. Villanova University. Villanova. April 2012
- [1] "Beauty, Necessity and the Material World: A Response to Iris Murdoch's The Sovereignty of Good." Villanova Philosophy and Theology Colloquium. Philadelphia. October 2009.

FUNDED COLLABORATIONS

Das Zukunftsbuch: Multidimensionale Dialektik

Goethe-Institut Ljubljana and Berlin, Exzellenzprojekt
2020-2021 | Project co-creator with Urban Srimpf et al.

VERBUM SAT - *Developing forensic statement analysis standards to fight CAE: A victim centered approach.* University of Ljubljana, The European Commission for Justice
2019-2021 | Contributing Researcher

Jewish Skepticism

The Maimonides Centre, Universität Hamburg
2017-2019 | Research Associate, Con. Grant Writer, Subproject Leader "Haptic Skepticism"

Haptic Cinematography: Touching Concepts – Conceptualizing Touch

The Slovenian Research Council | USA, Germany, Slovenia
2017–2018 | Project Director and Creator

The Language of Touch: Linguistic Perspectives in Haptic Studies

The University of Ljubljana, The Slovenian Research Council, Finalist for ERC starting grant
2016-2019 | Researcher and Contributing Grant Writer

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University in the City of New York

Feminist Theory | planned for Spring 2023

upper-level course for the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, 4 credits

Literature Humanities | Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Freshman course on comparative literature and ideas for core curriculum program, 4 credits

Goethe-Institut, Ljubljana and Hamburg

Hegel's Herr-Knecht-Dialektik | Spring 2021

A guided reading seminar that compares the German text with three translations
six-part intensive online meetings, 18 hours, 14 students

Universität Hamburg, Germany

Existential Ontology and Ethics | Spring 2020

Sartre's *Being and Nothingness* and de Beauvoir's *Ethics of Ambiguity*
online graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 24 students

Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy | modified for Spring 2020

Philosophy as a Response to Global Crisis and Trauma
graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits

Environmental Ethics | Fall 2019

A Marxist-Feminist Approach to Sustainability
graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 29 students

The Ego and the Skin | Spring 2019

Feminist and Psychoanalytic Philosophies of the Formation of Self through Touch
graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 33 students

Repetitions and Revolutions | Spring 2018

Hegelian and Post-Hegelian Philosophies of History
graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 10 students

The Comedy of Politics | Fall 2017

Political Philosophy and Aesthetics on Propaganda and Satire
graduate philosophy seminar, 4 credits, 15 students

Villanova University, USA

Introduction to Ethics: The Good Life | Fall 2016 (2 sections)

The (Unorthodox) History of Virtue Ethics from Antiquity to the Present
undergraduate core course, 3 credits, ~ 50 students total

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge, Reality, Self | Fall 2012 (1 section), Spring 2013 (2 sections), Fall 2013 (2 sections), Spring 2014 (3 sections)

The History of Western Philosophy: told through dialogues, soliloquies, and manifestos
undergraduate core course, 3 credits, ~ 200 students total

Mentorship

Master's Thesis Advisor | Franziska Brüggman. "Feeling Responsible: Crisis and Intersubjectivity," Universität Hamburg, defense planned for 2022.

Master's Thesis Advisor | Tjark Lüneberg. "The Lacanian Interpretation of the Freudian Death Drive and the Pathology of Perversions," Universität Hamburg, 2021.

Master's Thesis Advisor | Erika Rotärmel. „Diskussion der moralischen Vertretbarkeit von aktiver Sterbehilfe und assistiertem Suizid bei Kindern mit Einwilligungsfähigkeit anhand ausgewählter Kriterien.“ Universität Hamburg, 2021.

Other Teaching

Text Seminar Leader. Collegium Phaenomenologicum, *Cosmology and Cosmopolitanism*. Città di Castello, (planned for July 24-28, 2023).

Teaching Training

Certificate of Mentored Teaching | 2012-2013

For successful completion of seminars on university teaching with observation of class performance | The Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning

Teaching Assistantship | 2012-2013

Villanova University | Professor John Immerwahr | Introduction to Philosophy Courses

ORGANIZED CONFEERENCES

Naming Touch: perspectives on haptic experience and language from anthropology, philosophy, and psychoanalysis. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. June 28-29, 2022

Suspending Touch: Haptic Skepticism for Life During a Pandemic. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. May 20, 2021

The Making of Haptic Cinema: workshop series as part of the collaborative international film and philosophy project. Universität Hamburg: March 27, 2018. Villanova University: May 9, 2018. New School for Social Research: May 11, 2018

Haptic Cinema: An international project in cinematography and philosophy of touch and language. Project Director. USA. Slovenia. 2017-2018

A Touch of Doubt: On Haptic Scepticism. The University of Hamburg. March 27-28, 2018

Apocalyptic Politics. Villanova's 18th Annual Philosophy Conference. April 12-13, 2013

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Managing Editor | 2017-2019

Studies and Texts in Scepticism (Berlin: De Gruyter).

Assistant Editor | 2010-2011

Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy

Assistant Managing Editor | 2007

Poet Lore: America's oldest literary journal

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee. Book Selection Advisory Committee. Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. 2021-2023

Referee. for various scientific journals and publishers including: Epochē, Political Theology, Journal for Speculative Philosophy, De Gruyter, Social Theory and Practice

Book Exhibit Coordinator. The 50th Anniversary Meeting of The Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Philadelphia: October 2011

Graduate Assistant to Local Host. The 50th Anniversary Meeting of Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Philadelphia: October 2011

LANGUAGES

English: native speaker

Latin: advanced C1; graduate exams; translation courses; undergraduate concentration

German: intermediate B2.2; intensive courses in Hamburg and Berlin

French: adequate for research A2; graduate translation exams; undergraduate courses

Slovene: adequate for research A1; intensive course in Ljubljana

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Aufhebung International Hegelian Association

The American Philosophical Association

Historical Materialism

The International Association of Philosophy and Literature

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Touch, Arts, Affects Society

REFERENCES

Professor Yannik Thiem
Department of Religious Studies
Columbia University
relationship: doctoral dissertation advisor
yannik.thiem@columbia.edu

Professor Walter Brogan
Department of Philosophy
Villanova University
relationship: doctoral dissertation reader
walter.brogan@villanova.edu

Professor Alenka Zupančič
Institute of Philosophy
Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts
relationship: research supervisor of Fulbright Fellowship
alenka.zupancic@guest.arnes.si