

Dr. phil. Silvia Jonas

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT DETAILS

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Religion
AOC: Metaethics, Epistemology, Aesthetics

POSITIONS

Post-doc

Fellow of the Minerva Foundation, Max Planck-Society since 2017
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), Munich University
Research Project: Mathematics Analogies

Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow 2012-2017
Van Leer Institute; Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Research Project: Mathematical Realism and Theism

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy 2012
Humboldt University Berlin
Dissertation on the Metaphysics of Ineffability in Art, Religion, and Philosophy
Advisors: Tobias Rosefeldt (Berlin), Michael Inwood (Oxford)

BPhil in Philosophy 2010
University of Oxford
BPhil Thesis on the Metaphysics of Ineffability
Advisor: A.W. Moore

MLitt in Philosophy 2008
University of St. Andrews
MLitt Thesis on Minimalist Theories of Truth
Advisors: Stewart Shapiro, Peter Clark

Magister Artium 2007
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Political Science (Major), Philosophy, Religious Studies; final grade: 1,15

Exchange year 2004-2005
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Master program in Political Science

High School Graduation (Abitur) 2002
Gymnasium Oberhaching near Munich
Finals in English, French, Mathematics, and History (final grade: 1,2)

Languages

German (mother-tongue); English (fluent); Hebrew (fluent); French (very good)

Computer skills

L^AT_EX; Wordpress; MS Office

SHORTLIST PLACEMENTS

**Shortlisted for the Lise-Meitner-Excellence-Program
(research group leader, tenure-track)** 2018
Max-Planck-Society, Germany

2nd place on shortlist, Assistant Professorship (tenure track) 2017
Ben Gurion University, Israel

RESEARCH FUNDING (TOTAL €137,500)

Excellence programmes

Robert Bosch Foundation since 2017
Fellow in the *Fast Track* Program for Outstanding Women in Science ([Link](#))

Third-party research funding (total: €74,600)

Robert Bosch Foundation €2.400
Funding for individual academic coaching

Max Planck Society €64,500
Minerva Fellowship for the research project *Mathematics Analogies* (2017-2019)

John Templeton Foundation \$3000
Research Fellow in the interdisciplinary and interfaith research project (2016-2019)
Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion ([Link](#))

Polonsky Academy €5000
Grant for the organisation of the international research workshop *New Work on Ineffability* ([Link](#))

Awards, Scholarships, and Prizes (Gesamt: €62,900)

Humboldt University Berlin €6600
Humboldt University Doctoral Grant for outstanding academic achievements (2011)

Konrad Adenauer Foundation €39.600
Graduate Research and Doctoral Scholarship (2008-2011)

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) €13.200
Graduate Research Scholarship (2007-2008)

Rothberg Family Prize \$4.000
Scholarship for Graduate Studies at the Rothberg International School
of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2004)

TEACHING

Analogies in Philosophical Thought SS 2019
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Seminar in Epistemology for MA-Students
Topics: the role of analogical reasoning in philosophical thought; epistemological
justification of arguments by analogy; analogy vs. metaphor

God, Belief, Justification: Themes in Analytic Philosophy of Religion WS 2018
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Introduction to philosophy of religion for BA-students
Topics: arguments for the existence of God; rationality and justification of religious
belief; the problem of evil; explanations of religious experiences

Indispensability Arguments for Realism SS 2017
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Seminar in philosophy of mathematics for MA- and advanced BA-students
Topics: indispensability and ontological commitment; confirmational holism;
unwanted entailments

From Existence to Expression WS 2015/16
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Introduction to contemporary metaphysics for BA- and MA-students
Topics: necessary existents; identity; perspective; language and conceptualisation

Mathematics, its Foundations, and their Implications SS 2014
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Introduction to philosophy of mathematics for MA-Students
Topics: foundations of mathematics; ontological implications of set theory;
mathematical Platonism; fictionalism; and structuralism

Aesthetics and Critical Philosophy SS 2010
University of Oxford, Trinity College

Introduction to philosophical aesthetics and critical philosophy for BA-students
Topics: the aesthetic theories of Kant, Schopenhauer, Wittgenstein, Heidegger,
and Adorno; art and truth; artistic expression and the expressiveness of art

Political Theory and Philosophy I SS 2006
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

BA-tutorial and exam preparation
Topics: the political theories of Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, and Hobbes

Political Theory and Philosophy II SS 2006
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

BA-tutorial and exam preparation
Topics: the political theories of Locke, Rousseau, Weber, and Rawls

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

- Frankfurt School of Finance and Management** 11/2018
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy
Presentation title: "Metaethics and Metamathematics"
- University of Erlangen-Nürnberg** 11/2018
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy
Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Realism, and the Problem of Disagreement"
- Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP)** 10/2018
Workshop: *Analogical Reasoning in Mathematics and Science*
Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning and Non-empirical Domains"
- Cologne University** 10/2018
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy
Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Disagreement"
- Munich University** 07/2018
MCMP Summer School for female students
Presentation title: "Mathematics: A model for Ethics, Aesthetics, and Religion?"
- John Templeton Foundation** 06/2018
Workshop: *Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion*
Location: Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia
Presentation title: "Spurious Correlations and Emergence"
- Munich Center for Ethics, Munich University** 05/2018
Workshop 'Werkstattgespräch': *Women in Philosophy*
Presentation title: "Pluralist mathematics: How foundational debates in mathematics might change the way philosophers understand realism"
- Max Planck Society** 04/2018
Meeting of Minerva Fellows
Presentation title: "Mathematics Analogies"
- Munich University** 04/2018
Workshop: *Foundations in Mathematics: Modern Views*
Presentation title: "Why should philosophers care about the foundations of mathematics?"
- Cornell University** 05/2017
Workshop on my monograph *Ineffability and its Metaphysics*
Presentation title: "Ineffability"
- Tel Aviv University** 01/2017
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy
Presentation title: "Philosophy and the Mathematical Paradigm"
- Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science, Tel Aviv** 11/2016
Institute Colloquium
Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning about Non-empirical Domains of Truth"
- University of Kent** 11/2016
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy
Presentation title: "Realism, Evolution, and the A priori"

Haifa University	11/2016
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Debunking vs. Safety: Realism and Arguments from Evolution"	
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	06/2016
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Access Problems and Explanatory Overkill"	
University of London, Heythrop College	03/2016
Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Self-acquaintance"	
University of Oxford	03/2015
Workshop: <i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology</i> Presentation title: "A Case for Religion in Light of Mathematics"	
The Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute	07/2014
Academy Colloquium Presentation title: "Symmetries Between Mathematical and Religious Belief"	
Association for the Philosophy of Judaism	01/2013
Online-Symposium on J. Golding's 'The rationality of being a traditional religious Jew' Presentation title: "Is Religious Rationality Insular Rationality?"	
American Philosophical Association	12/2012
Eastern Division Meeting, Atlanta Presentation title: "Ineffability Assertions"	
University of Oxford	05/2010
Ockham Society for Philosophy Presentation title: "Ineffability Assertions"	
Other presentations	
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European Society for Analytic Philosophy (ESAP)	08/2017
9. International Congress of the European Society for Analytic Philosophy Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning and A Priori Truth"	
The Aristotelian Society	07/2017
Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society Location: University of Edinburgh Presentation title: "Reasoning by Analogy"	
Institute for Advanced Studies, University of London	06/2016
Conference: <i>Investigating Conscious Acquaintance</i> Presentation title: "Conscious Acquaintance and Ineffable Knowledge"	
German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP)	09/2015
Congress of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP.9) Presentation title: "Abstract Belief and its Rational Acceptability"	
University of Cambridge	11/2011
Conference: <i>Music and Transcendence</i> Presentation title: "On the Metaphysical Structure of Ineffable Content in Music"	

German Society for Philosophy (DGPhil) 12. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy Location: Munich University Presentation title: "Can There Be Extended Simples?"	09/2011
Humboldt University Berlin Berlin–Princeton Graduate Conference Presentation title: "A Separate Reality: Enquiry into the Nature of Ineffability"	07/2011
Israeli Philosophical Association The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Presentation title: "Ineffability and Haecceities"	02/2011
Salzburg University Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA) Presentation title: "Against Metaphysics Running Amok"	09/2011

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

LMU Mentoring Program (Postdocs) Spokeswoman of the LMU Mentoring Program for female postdocs	since 2018
Robert Bosch Foundation Organiser of the Alumnae-Workshop of the <i>Fast Track</i> Program (200 participants)	2018/19
Polonsky Philosophy Seminar Leader of the Van Leer Philosophy Group and organizer of the weekly Philosophy Colloquium at the Polonsky Academy of the Van Leer Institute	2014-2017
Workshop: New Work on Ineffability Organiser of the international workshop <i>New Work on Ineffability</i> at the Polonsky Academy of the Van Leer Institute (Link)	2016

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

LMU Mentoring Program (Students) Mentor in the LMU Mentoring Program for female students	since 2018
Selection Committee for PhD and Postdoc Fellowships <i>Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy</i>	2018
Undergraduate Admissions Interviews <i>University of Oxford, Trinity College</i>	2009-2010
Refereeing Referee for Palgrave Macmillan; Erkenntnis; Analysis; Bloomsbury; Ratio; KRITERION–Journal of Philosophy; European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP); First Irvine-Munich-PoliMi-Salzburg Conference in Philosophy and Foundations of Physics (IMPS 2018)	

Membership in professional societies

Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP), Germany; German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP); German Society of Philosophy (DGPhil); The Aristotelian Society; American Philosophical Association (APA); Oxford Union

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Stephan Hartmann

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Prof. A.W. Moore

University of Oxford

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Prof. Michael Inwood

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Tutorial Fellow of Trinity College Oxford

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Website: <https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/people/michael-inwood>

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University of Kent

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Website: <https://kanterian.weebly.com>

Prof. Dr. Gabriel Motzkin

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Van Leer Institute

Professor of Philosophy

Former Director of the Van Leer Institute

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem 9190501, Israel

Email: gabrielm@vanleer.org.il

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Prof. Fiona Ellis

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Professor of Philosophy

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Website: <http://www.heythrop.ac.uk/staff/prof-fiona-ellis>

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Ineffability and its Metaphysics: The Unspeakable in Art, Religion, and Philosophy 2016

Palgrave Macmillan, New York

Reviews by Keith Ward for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* ([Link](#)); by Guy Bennett-Hunter for *The Expository Times* ([Link](#)); by Sebastian Gäb for *Zeitschrift für philosophische Literatur* ([Link](#)); by Carrie Figdor for *New Books in Philosophy* ([Link](#)); by William Franke and Chance Woods for *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* ([Link](#)); by Sameer Yadav for the *Journal of Analytic Theology* ([Link](#))

Book symposium (invited) at Cornell University (8. May 2017)

Articles (peer-reviewed)

Spurious Correlations and Emergence in progress
(with Karl Svozil)

Mathematical and moral disagreement R&R

Word and object: divine language forthcoming
In: D. Frank and A. Segal (eds.), *Cambridge Critical Guide to Maimonides's Guide of the Perplexed*, Cambridge University Press.

Modal Structuralism and Theism 2018
In: Fiona Ellis (ed.), *New Models of Religious Understanding*, Oxford University Press.

Aesthetic Ineffability 2017
Philosophy Compass, Vol. 12 No. 2.

Access Problems and Explanatory Overkill 2017
Philosophical Studies, Vol. 174 No. 11.

Mathematical and Religious Belief 2016
In: Rico Gutschmidt, Thomas Rentsch (ed.), *New Positions on a Timeless Question*. Münster: Mentis.

On Mathematical and Religious Belief, and On Epistemic Snobbery 2015
Philosophy, Vol. 91 No. 1.

Against Metaphysics Running Amok: Hegel, Adorno, and the Ineffable 2013
In: Lisa Herzog (ed.), *Hegel's Thought in Europe*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Reviews

Fiona Ellis' God, Value, and Nature, OUP 2014 2015
Philosophy, Vol. 91 No. 2.

Howard Wettstein's The Significance of Religious Experience, OUP 2012 2014
Religious Studies, Vol. 50 No. 1.

David Chalmers' Constructing the World, OUP 2012 2014
The Philosophical Quarterly, Vol. 64 No. 257.

Science communication

**Was wir von der Mathematik für unsere Debatten lernen können
[What mathematics can teach about debating]** 2019
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Feuilleton, 7. Januar 2019 ([Link](#))

**Radio interview on "Learning from mathematics means learning
discussion and pluralism"** 2019
Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), 7. Januar 2019 ([Link](#))

What's hot in Mathematical Philosophy? 2018
The Reasoner, Vol. 12, No. 8 ([Link](#))

**Unspeakable things: Life's most meaningful experiences can leave us tongue-tied.
What can be said, let alone understood, about what's unsayable?** 2017
Aeon. A digital magazine of ideas and culture ([Link](#))

Whereof one cannot speak 2017
Alaxon. A digital magazine for thoughts, articles of notes and new ideas ([Link](#))

Interview on "God, Science, and Ineffable Knowledge" 2017
Templeton Foundation. ([Link](#))

Interview on "Ineffability and its Metaphysics" Monograph 2016
New Books in Philosophy. ([Link](#))

Book launch and panel discussion of "Ineffability and its Metaphysics" Monograph 2016
Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Institute. ([Link](#))