

Dr. phil. Silvia Jonas

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: 1983
Email: silvia.jonas@lmu.de
Website: www.silviajonas.com

Office address:
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Ludwigstr. 31
80539 Munich, Germany

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mathematics and Science, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language
AOC: Metaethics, Aesthetics. Philosophy of Religion

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU since 2017
Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow (2019-2022; one year maternity leave)
Minerva Fellow, Max Planck Society (2017-2019)

The Van Leer Institute & The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2012-2017
Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow

EDUCATION

Humboldt University Berlin 2010-2012
PhD in Philosophy
Advisors: Tobias Rosefeldt (Berlin), Michael Inwood (Oxford)
Topic: *A Separate Reality: Enquiry into the Nature of Ineffability*

University of Oxford 2008-2010
BPhil in Philosophy
Advisor: A.W. Moore

University of St. Andrews 2007-2008
MLitt in Philosophy
Advisors: Stewart Shapiro, Peter Clark

Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2004-2005
Exchange year (12 months)
Master program "Society and Politics in Israel"

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich 2002-2007
Magister Artium
Political Science (major), Philosophy, Religious Studies

High School Graduation (Munich) 2002

DISTINCTIONS

Robert Bosch Foundation 2017-2019
Alumna of the *Fast Track* Program for outstanding female scientists ([Link](#))

RESEARCH FUNDING (TOTAL: €325,900)

Third-party funds (total: €263,000)

European Union €174,800
Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship (2019-2021)

Max-Planck-Society €64,500
Minerva Fellowship (2017-2019)

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) €15,000
Conference grant, *Mathematics and Analogical Reasoning*; 2021)

LMU Mentoring Program €860
Funds for a research assistant (2018)

LMU Mentoring Program €240
Travel funds for the annual meeting of the Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) in Jena (2018)

John Templeton Foundation \$3,000
Research funds for collaborative work in the interdisciplinary research project *Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion* (2016-2019) ([Link](#))

Polonsky Academy €5,000
Funds for the organisation of the international workshop *New Work on Ineffability* (2016) ([Link](#))

Scholarships and Awards (total: €62,900)

Humboldt University Berlin €6,600
Dissertation scholarship (2011)

Konrad Adenauer Foundation €39,600
Graduate and Dissertation Scholarship (2008-2011)

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) €13,200
Graduate Scholarship (2007-2008)

Rothberg Family Prize \$4,000
Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2004)

EVENT ORGANISATION

Conference “Mathematics and Analogical Reasoning”	08/2021
Organisation of a two-day international conference in collaboration with Prof. Mark Colyvan (University of Sydney) Location: Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy	
Fast Track Alumnae Workshop	06/2019
Organisator of the annual meeting of the <i>Fast Track</i> Alumnae of the Robert Bosch Foundation Location: Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	
Annual meeting of the Chair of Philosophy of Science	05/2019
Itinerary and organisation (with Alexander Reutlinger, MCMP) Location: Basislager Schliersee	
Workshop: New Work on Ineffability	05/2016
Organisator of a one-day international workshop (Website) Location: Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute	

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Vice Dean	since 2019
Vice Dean of the non-tenured staff at the faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, and Religious Studies at LMU Munich	
Women’s Officer	since 2019
Deputy Women’s Officer at the faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, and Religious Studies at LMU Munich	
DFG Review Panel Member	09/2019
Member of the review and evaluation panel for a research group proposal in theoretical philosophy (€2.5M.)	
LMU Mentoring Program (Postdocs)	since 2018
Spokeswoman of the LMU Mentoring Program for female postdocs at the philosophy department at LMU Munich	
LMU Mentoring Program (Students)	since 2018
Mentor in the LMU Mentoring Program for female students	
Member of the Selection Committee for PhD and Postdoc Fellowships	2018, 2020
<i>Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy</i>	
Polonsky Philosophy Seminar	2014-2017
Co-organiser of the <i>Van Leer Philosophy Group</i> and Organiser of the weekly philosophy colloquium at the Polonsky Academy at the Van Leer Institute	
Undergraduate Admissions Interviews	2009-2010
<i>University of Oxford, Trinity College</i>	

COOPERATIONS

Interdisciplinary project “Science and Religion” (Link)

2017-19

Funded by the John Templeton Foundation; international and interdisciplinary research group

SUPERVISIONS

PhD theses:

- *Mathematical Explanation and Ontology: An Analysis of Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Proofs* (external examiner, University of Santiago de Compostela, 2020)

MA theses:

- *Explicating Concepts of Cognition in Perceptual Problem-Solving* (LMU Munich, 2020)

BA theses:

- *Aesthetic and Logical Meaning in the Philosophy of Suzanne Langer* (LMU Munich, 2021)
- *Religious experience as a possible justification of theism with given the classical characteristics of God and the indescribability of God* (LMU Munich, 2020)

Student assistant research projects:

- *The Interplay of Mathematics and Philosophy in the History of Philosophy* (LMU Munich, 2019)

DIDACTIC TRAINING

Seminar “Gender and Diversity in Teaching:

Differences that Make a Difference”

11/2019

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Workshop “Inclusivity in the philosophy classroom” (Panel-Member)

06/2019

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Seminar “Argumentative techniques for the academic context”

2018

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

REFEREEING

Journals:

Analysis
Erkenntnis
KRITERION–
Journal of Philosophy
Ratio

Publishing Houses:

Bloomsbury
Palgrave Macmillan

Conferences:

ECAP.9: European Congress of Analytic Philosophy
IMPS2018: Irvine- Munich- PoliMi-Salzburg Conference in Philosophy and Foundations of Physics

MEMBERSHIPS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Ineffability and its Metaphysics: The Unspeakable in Art, Religion, and Philosophy 2016
Palgrave Macmillan, New York

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

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

Papers (peer-reviewed)

Realism, Pluralism, and Indispensability under review

Mathematical Indispensability and Arguments from Design under review

Whereof one cannot speak forthcoming

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

Mathematical and moral disagreement 2019
The Philosophical Quarterly, Vol. 70, No. 279, 302-327.

Modal Structuralism and Theism 2018
In: Fiona Ellis (ed.), *New Models of Religious Understanding*, Oxford University Press, 151-171.

Aesthetic Ineffability 2017
Philosophy Compass, Vol. 12 No. 2, 1-12.

Access Problems and Explanatory Overkill 2017
Philosophical Studies, Vol. 174 No. 11, 2731–2742.

Mathematical and Religious Belief 2016
In: Rico Gutschmidt, Thomas Rentsch (ed.), *God without Theism. New Positions on a Timeless Question*. Münster: Mentis, 195-216.

On Mathematical and Religious Belief, and On Epistemic Snobbery 2015
Philosophy, Vol. 91 No. 1, 69-92.

Against Metaphysics Running Amok: Hegel, Adorno, and the Ineffable 2013
In: Lisa Herzog (ed.), *Hegel's Thought in Europe*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 133-147.

Essays

- On Mathematics and Disagreement (in German)** 2020
Philosophie.ch: Swiss Portal for Philosophy ([Link](#))
- What mathematics can teach us about debating (in German)** 2019
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Feuilleton, 7. Januar 2019 ([Link](#))
- Are questions about God rookie questions? (in German)** 2019
Praefaktisch. A Philosophy Blog ([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](#))
- What language cannot grasp (in Hebrew)** 2017
Alaxon. A digital magazine for thoughts, articles of notes and new ideas ([Link](#))

Reviews

- Fiona Ellis' God, Value, and Nature, OUP 2015** 2016
Philosophy, Vol. 91 No. 2, 281-284.
- David Chalmers' Constructing the World, OUP 2012** 2014
The Philosophical Quarterly, Vol. 64 No. 257, 651-655.
- Howard Wettstein's The Significance of Religious Experience, OUP 2012** 2014
Religious Studies, Vol. 50 No. 1, 119-123.

Outreach — Television, Radio, Podcasts

- "Does Math Reveal Reality?"** 2020
World Science Festival, New York - Panel discussion with Brian Greene, Max Tegmark, Sheldon Goldstein and David Albert (broadcast in December 2020)
- "How Maths Changed Philosophy"** 2020
Spotify – Philosophy for Our Times Podcast Series ([Link](#))
- "Auf ein Wort" – Interview with Michel Friedman (Topic: Mathematics)** 2019
Deutsche Welle ([Link](#))
- "Lost in Language"** 2019
HowtheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye - Panel discussion with Saul Kripke, Hilary Lawson and Paul Boghossian. Broadcasted on *iai.tv* and in the podcast series "Philosophy of our times" ([Link](#))
- "The Mathematics of Thought: How has mathematics changed philosophy?"** 2019
HowtheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye (broadcast by *iai.tv*) ([Link](#))

“Are You An Illusion?”	2019
<i>HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye - Panel discussion with Julian Baggini, Joanna Kavenna and Jan Westerhoff. Broadcasted on iai.tv and in the podcast series “Philosophy of our times” (Link)</i>	
Radio interview on "Learning from mathematics means learning discussion and pluralism"	2019
<i>Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), 7. Januar 2019</i>	
Interview on “God, Science, and Ineffable Knowledge”	2017
<i>Templeton Foundation. (Link)</i>	
Interview on “Ineffability and its Metaphysics” Monograph	2016
<i>New Books in Philosophy. (Link)</i>	
Book launch and panel discussion of “Ineffability and its Metaphysics” Monograph	2016
<i>Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Institute. (Link)</i>	

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

University of Vienna	12/2019
Logik Café Presentation title: “How realistic is realism for mathematical pluralists?”	
University of Bremen	11/2019
Philosophical colloquium Presentation title: “Philosophy and the mathematical narrative”	
University of Regensburg	10/2019
Philosophical colloquium Presentation title: “Realism and Pluralism”	
HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, London, UK	09/2019
Institute for Arts and Ideas Panel discussion: “The One True Story”	
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy	07/2019
“Topics in Logic” Seminar Presentation title: “Mathematical Pluralism”	
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	06/2019
Art history conference “Dispositive-Explorations, now” Presentation title: “Objectivity and Pluralism: Incompatible?”	
John Templeton Foundation	06/2019
Workshop Series: <i>Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion</i> Location: Casablanca, Marokko und Amman, Jordanien Presentation title: “Order, Patterns, Correlations: Empirical regularities and meta-empirical explanations”	
HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, UK	05/2019
Institute for Arts and Ideas Presentation title: “The Mathematics of Thought”	

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich Faculty of Philosophy Library Night Presentation title: "How mathematics influences our conception of reality"	05/2019
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy Salzburg-Irvine-Munich Workshop Series Presentation title: "Realism and Disagreement"	03/2019
Frankfurt School of Finance and Management Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Metaethics and Metamathematics"	11/2018
University of Erlangen-Nürnberg Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Realism, and the Problem of Disagreement"	11/2018
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCOMP) Workshop: <i>Analogical Reasoning in Mathematics and Science</i> Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning and Non-empirical Domains"	10/2018
Cologne University Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Disagreement"	10/2018
Munich University <i>MCOMP Summer School for female students</i> Presentation title: "Mathematics: A model for Ethics, Aesthetics, and Religion?"	07/2018
John Templeton Foundation Workshop: <i>Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion</i> Location: Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia Presentation title: "Spurious Correlations and Emergence"	06/2018
Munich Center for Ethics, Munich University Workshop 'Werkstattgespräch': <i>Women in Philosophy</i> Presentation title: "Pluralist mathematics: How foundational debates in mathematics might change the way philosophers understand realism"	05/2018
Max Planck Society Meeting of Minerva Fellows Presentation title: "Mathematics Analogies"	04/2018
Munich University Workshop: <i>Foundations in Mathematics: Modern Views</i> Presentation title: "Why should philosophers care about the foundations of mathematics?"	04/2018
Cornell University Workshop on my monograph <i>Ineffability and its Metaphysics</i> Presentation title: "Ineffability"	05/2017
Tel Aviv University Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Philosophy and the Mathematical Paradigm"	01/2017
Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science, Tel Aviv Institute Colloquium Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning about Non-empirical Domains of Truth"	11/2016

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"	
Further 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

TEACHING

Student colloquium (mandatory course) <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Student presentations of their BA- and MA-theses	WS 2019/20
Knowledge and Reality <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Introductory seminar in epistemology and metaphysics for BA students Topics: defining knowledge; theories of belief justification; material constitution; theories of persistence and change	WS 2019/20
The Philosophical Divide: Differences and Similarities between Analytic and Continental Philosophy <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Seminar in theoretical philosophy for BA students Topics: origins of the divide; methodological particularities; contrasting perspectives on questions concerning logic, epistemology, and metaphysics	SS 2019
God, Belief, Justification: Topics in Analytic Philosophy of Religion <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> 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	WS 2018
Indispensability Arguments for Realism <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Seminar in philosophy of mathematics for MA- and advanced BA-students Topics: indispensability and ontological commitment; confirmational holism; unwanted entailments	SS 2017

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