

JProf. Dr. phil. Silvia Jonas

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: 1983
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Office address:
University of Bamberg
Institute for Classics and Philosophy
An der Universität 2
96047 Bamberg, Germany

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Bamberg since 2022
Professor of Philosophy (“Juniorprofessorin”)

Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU 2017-2022
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: €329,200)

Third-party funds (total: €266,300)

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

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

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) €18,500
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 *Fast Track* 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

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 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 Representative** since 2019
Deputy Women’s Representative at the faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, and Religious Studies at LMU Munich
- Committee of Religious Studies** since 2021
Women’s Representative of the Committee Religious Studies at faculty 10
- LMU Mentoring Program** since 2018
Spokeswoman of the LMU Mentoring Program for female postdocs; mentor in the mentoring program for female students
- Member of the Selection Committee for PhD and Postdoc Fellowships** 2018, 2020
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy
- DFG Review Panel Member** 09/2019
Member of the review and evaluation panel for a research group proposal in theoretical philosophy (€2.5M.)
- Polonsky Philosophy Seminar** 2014-2017
Co-organiser of the *Van Leer Philosophy Group* and Organiser of the weekly philosophy colloquium at the Polonsky Academy at the Van Leer Institute
- Undergraduate Admissions Interviews** 2009-2010
University of Oxford, Trinity College

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)
- *The analogy between mathematics and theism under structuralist conditions* (LMU Munich, 2021)
- *The epistemic value of ambiguity* (LMU Munich, 2021)

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, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, KRITERION Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Ratio

Publishing houses: Bloomsbury, Palgrave Macmillan

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)

Articles (peer-reviewed)

Pluralist Mathematical Realism and Indispensability under review

Mathematical Indispensability and Arguments from Design forthcoming
Philosophia, Vol. tba

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.

Other articles

- 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

- Interview on Philosophy of Mathematics** 2021
The Huffington Post, Spain ([Link](#))
- "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?” <i>HowtheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye (broadcast by iai.tv) (Link)</i>	2019
“Are You An Illusion?” <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>	2019
Radio interview on "Learning from mathematics means learning discussion and pluralism" <i>Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), 7. Januar 2019</i>	2019
Interview on “God, Science, and Ineffable Knowledge” <i>Templeton Foundation. (Link)</i>	2017
Interview on “Ineffability and its Metaphysics” Monograph <i>New Books in Philosophy. (Link)</i>	2016
Book launch and panel discussion of “Ineffability and its Metaphysics” Monograph <i>Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Institute. (Link)</i>	2016

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

University of Vienna Logik Café Presentation title: “How realistic is realism for mathematical pluralists?”	12/2019
University of Bremen Philosophical colloquium Presentation title: “Philosophy and the mathematical narrative”	11/2019
University of Regensburg Philosophical colloquium Presentation title: “Realism and Pluralism”	10/2019
HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, London, UK Institute for Arts and Ideas Panel discussion: “The One True Story”	09/2019
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy “Topics in Logic” Seminar Presentation title: “Mathematical Pluralism”	07/2019
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich Art history conference “Dispositive-Explorations, now” Presentation title: “Objectivity and Pluralism: Incompatible?”	06/2019
John Templeton Foundation 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”	06/2019

HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, UK	05/2019
Institute for Arts and Ideas Presentation title: "The Mathematics of Thought"	
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	05/2019
Faculty of Philosophy Library Night Presentation title: "How mathematics influences our conception of reality"	
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy	03/2019
Salzburg-Irvine-Munich Workshop Series Presentation title: "Realism and Disagreement"	
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: <i>Analogical Reasoning in Mathematics and Science</i> 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
<i>MCMP Summer School for female students</i> Presentation title: "Mathematics: A model for Ethics, Aesthetics, and Religion?"	
John Templeton Foundation	06/2018
Workshop: <i>Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion</i> Location: Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia Presentation title: "Spurious Correlations and Emergence"	
Munich Center for Ethics, Munich University	05/2018
Workshop 'Werkstattgespräch': <i>Women in Philosophy</i> 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: <i>Foundations in Mathematics: Modern Views</i> Presentation title: "Why should philosophers care about the foundations of mathematics?"	
Cornell University	05/2017
Workshop on my monograph <i>Ineffability and its Metaphysics</i> 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 Institute Colloquium Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning about Non-empirical Domains of Truth"	11/2016
University of Kent Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Realism, Evolution, and the A priori"	11/2016
Haifa University Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Debunking vs. Safety: Realism and Arguments from Evolution"	11/2016
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Access Problems and Explanatory Overkill"	06/2016
University of London, Heythrop College Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Self-acquaintance"	03/2016
University of Oxford Workshop: <i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology</i> Presentation title: "A Case for Religion in Light of Mathematics"	03/2015
The Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute Academy Colloquium Presentation title: "Symmetries Between Mathematical and Religious Belief"	07/2014
Association for the Philosophy of Judaism Online-Symposium on J. Golding's 'The rationality of being a traditional religious Jew' Presentation title: "Is Religious Rationality Insular Rationality?"	01/2013
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Atlanta Presentation title: "Ineffability Assertions"	12/2012
University of Oxford Ockham Society for Philosophy Presentation title: "Ineffability Assertions"	05/2010
Further presentations	
European Society for Analytic Philosophy (ESAP) 9. International Congress of the European Society for Analytic Philosophy Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning and A Priori Truth"	08/2017
The Aristotelian Society Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society Location: University of Edinburgh Presentation title: "Reasoning by Analogy"	07/2017
Institute for Advanced Studies, University of London Conference: <i>Investigating Conscious Acquaintance</i> Presentation title: "Conscious Acquaintance and Ineffable Knowledge"	06/2016
German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP) Congress of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP.9) Presentation title: "Abstract Belief and its Rational Acceptability"	09/2015

University of Cambridge Conference: <i>Music and Transcendence</i> Presentation title: "On the Metaphysical Structure of Ineffable Content in Music"	11/2011
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