

# JProf. Dr. phil. Silvia Jonas

*Curriculum Vitae*

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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*Born:* 1983  
*Email:* silvia.jonas@uni-bamberg.de  
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**Office address:**  
University of Bamberg  
Institute for Classics and Philosophy  
An der Universität 2  
96047 Bamberg, Germany

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**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

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**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

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

## RESEARCH FUNDING (TOTAL: €329,200)

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### Third-party funds (total: €266,300)

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**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)

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**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

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- 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

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- 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

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### **Interdisciplinary project “Science and Religion” (Link)**

2017-19

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

## SUPERVISIONS

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### **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

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### **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

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**Journals:** Analysis, Erkenntnis, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, KRITERION Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Ratio

**Publishing houses:** Bloomsbury, Palgrave Macmillan

## MEMBERSHIPS

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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

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## Monographs

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**Mathematik** invited, in prep.  
*Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter*

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

**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)

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**Mathematical Pluralism and Indispensability** forthcoming  
*Erkenntnis*, Vol. tba

**Mathematical Indispensability and Arguments from Design** 2021  
*Philosophia*, Vol. 49, 2085–2102.

**Whereof one cannot speak** 2021  
In: D. Frank and A. Segal (Hrsg.), *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.

## Further articles

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- The Rationality of Theism** forthcoming  
In: Jack Symes (Hrsg.). *Philosophers About God*. London: Bloomsbury
- 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

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- 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

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

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited presentations

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

Location: Casablanca, Marokko und Amman, Jordanien Presentation title: "Order, Patterns, Correlations: Empirical regularities and meta-empirical explanations"	
<b>HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, UK</b> Institute for Arts and Ideas Presentation title: "The Mathematics of Thought"	05/2019
<b>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</b> Faculty of Philosophy Library Night Presentation title: "How mathematics influences our conception of reality"	05/2019
<b>Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy</b> Salzburg-Irvine-Munich Workshop Series Presentation title: "Realism and Disagreement"	03/2019
<b>Frankfurt School of Finance and Management</b> Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Metaethics and Metamathematics"	11/2018
<b>University of Erlangen-Nürnberg</b> Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Realism, and the Problem of Disagreement"	11/2018
<b>Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP)</b> Workshop: <i>Analogical Reasoning in Mathematics and Science</i> Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning and Non-empirical Domains"	10/2018
<b>Cologne University</b> Colloquium of the faculty of philosophy Presentation title: "Mathematical and Moral Disagreement"	10/2018
<b>Munich University</b> <i>MCMP Summer School for female students</i> Presentation title: "Mathematics: A model for Ethics, Aesthetics, and Religion?"	07/2018
<b>John Templeton Foundation</b> Workshop: <i>Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion</i> Location: Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia Presentation title: "Spurious Correlations and Emergence"	06/2018
<b>Munich Center for Ethics, Munich University</b> 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
<b>Max Planck Society</b> Meeting of Minerva Fellows Presentation title: "Mathematics Analogies"	04/2018
<b>Munich University</b> Workshop: <i>Foundations in Mathematics: Modern Views</i> Presentation title: "Why should philosophers care about the foundations of mathematics?"	04/2018
<b>Cornell University</b> Workshop on my monograph <i>Ineffability and its Metaphysics</i> Presentation title: "Ineffability"	05/2017
<b>Tel Aviv University</b>	01/2017



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

Congress of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP.9) Presentation title: "Abstract Belief and its Rational Acceptability"	
<b>University of Cambridge</b> Conference: <i>Music and Transcendence</i> Presentation title: "On the Metaphysical Structure of Ineffable Content in Music"	11/2011
<b>German Society for Philosophy (DGPhil)</b> 12. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy Location: Munich University Presentation title: "Can There Be Extended Simples?"	09/2011
<b>Humboldt University Berlin</b> Berlin–Princeton Graduate Conference Presentation title: "A Separate Reality: Enquiry into the Nature of Ineffability"	07/2011
<b>Israeli Philosophical Association</b> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Presentation title: "Ineffability and Haecceities"	02/2011
<b>Salzburg University</b> Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA) Presentation title: "Against Metaphysics Running Amok"	09/2011

## TEACHING

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<b>Student colloquium (mandatory course)</b> <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Student presentations of their BA- and MA-theses	WS 2019/20
<b>Knowledge and Reality</b> <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
<b>The Philosophical Divide: Differences and Similarities between Analytic and Continental Philosophy</b> <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
<b>God, Belief, Justification: Topics in Analytic Philosophy of Religion</b> <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
<b>Indispensability Arguments for Realism</b> <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich</i> Seminar in philosophy of mathematics for MA- and advanced BA-students Topics: indispensability and ontological commitment; confirmational holism;	SS 2017

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