

JProf. Dr. phil. Silvia Jonas

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: 1983	Office address:
Email: silvia.jonas@uni-bamberg.de	University of Bamberg
Website: www.silviajonas.com	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 <i>Professor of Philosophy (“Juniorprofessorin”)</i>	since 2022
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU <i>Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow (2019-2022; one year maternity leave)</i> <i>Minerva Fellow, Max Planck Society (2017-2019)</i>	2017-2022
The Van Leer Institute & The Hebrew University of Jerusalem <i>Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow</i>	2012-2017

EDUCATION

Humboldt University Berlin <i>PhD in Philosophy</i> Advisors: Tobias Rosefeldt (Berlin), Michael Inwood (Oxford) Topic: <i>A Separate Reality: Enquiry into the Nature of Ineffability</i>	2010-2012
University of Oxford <i>BPhil in Philosophy</i> Advisor: A.W. Moore	2008-2010
University of St. Andrews <i>MLitt in Philosophy</i> Advisors: Stewart Shapiro, Peter Clark	2007-2008
Hebrew University of Jerusalem <i>Exchange year (12 months)</i> Master program “Society and Politics in Israel”	2004-2005
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich <i>Magister Artium</i> Political Science (major), Philosophy, Religious Studies	2002-2007
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: €333,500)

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](#))

University funding (Gesamt: €4.300)

University of Bamberg €4300
Guest professorship for Prof. Fiona Ellis (University of Roehampton)

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” 06/2022
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:

- Dissertation in the framework of the *Smart City Research Lab* at the University of Bamberg, title tba (co-supervisor, starting 2023)
- *Mathematical Explanation and Ontology: An Analysis of Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Proofs* (external examiner, University of Santiago de Compostela, 2020)

MA theses:

- *Agnosticism in the Context of the Set-Theoretic Multiverse* (LMU Munich, 2023)
- *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

Monographs

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)

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

- 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

- 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?” 2019
HowtheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye (broadcast by iai.tv) ([Link](#))

“Are You An Illusion?” 2019
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](#))

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

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](#))

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

LMU Munich 09/2023
ThPhil Student Workshop
Masterclass Theoretical Philosophy, Presentation title: tba

University of Bochum 07/2023
Conference: “The Varieties of Understanding”
Presentation title: tba

LMU Munich 06/2023
Symposium in honour of Wolfgang Stegmüller’s 100th birthday
Presentation title: tba

ETH Zurich 03/2023
Philosophy Colloquium
Presentation title: “Mathematics and the Limits of Language”

LMU Munich 02/2023
Workshop "What is Thought?"
Vortragstitel: “Thought, Understanding, and Factivity”

University of Bamberg 09/2022
Podiumsdiskussion
“Gender-equal University? Philosophy, Sexism, and the Question of Equality”

LMU Munich 08/2022
Summer School for Female Students, Roundtable Discussion
“Women in Philosophy”

University of Konstanz 07/2022

- Philosophy Colloquium
Presentation title: "Mathematical Pluralism and Indispensability"
- City of Bamberg** 06/2022
Bamberger Hegelwoche
Presentation title: "Thinking the Unthinkable. Philosophical Descents into the Unthinkable"
- Catholic University of Linz** 06/2022
Kepler Salon
Presentation title: "Knowledge Beyond Language"
- University of Bayreuth** 05/2022
Philosophy Research Forum
Presentation title: "Empiricist Justifications for Mathematical Realism"
- University of Birmingham** 03/2022
Centre for Philosophy of Religion
Presentation title: "Knowing versus Understanding in Judaism"
- University of Tübingen** 11/2021
Interdisciplinary College of Studies
Presentation title: "Mathematical and Religious Pluralism"
- Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU** 01/2021
Colloquium Philosophy of Science
Presentation title: "Realism, Pluralism, and Indispensability"
- World Science Festival New York** 09/2020
Panel Debate with Brian Greene, Max Tegmark, Sheldon Goldstein, David Albert
"Does Math Reveal Reality?"
- 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: *Abrahamic Reflections on Science and Religion*
Location: Casablanca, Marokko und Amman, Jordanien
Presentation title: "Order, Patterns, Correlations: Empirical regularities and meta-empirical explanations"

HowTheLightGetsIn Festival, Hay-on-Wye, UK Institute for Arts and Ideas Presentation title: "The Mathematics of Thought"	05/2019
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 (MCMP) 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>MCMP 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	11/2016

Institute Colloquium Presentation title: "Analogical Reasoning about Non-empirical Domains of Truth"	
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	11/2011

Conference: *Music and Transcendence*

Presentation title: "On the Metaphysical Structure of Ineffable Content in Music"

German Society for Philosophy (DGPhil)

09/2011

12. Congress of the German Society for Philosophy

Location: Munich University

Presentation title: "Can There Be Extended Simples?"

Humboldt University Berlin

07/2011

Berlin–Princeton Graduate Conference

Presentation title: "A Separate Reality: Enquiry into the Nature of Ineffability"

Israeli Philosophical Association

02/2011

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Presentation title: "Ineffability and Haecceities"

Salzburg University

09/2011

Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA)

Presentation title: "Against Metaphysics Running Amok"

TEACHING

Lectures:

Origins and History of Analytic Philosophy

WS 2022/23

University of Bamberg

Lecture for BA- and MA-students

Topics: the development of analytic philosophy; Kant; Frege; Russell; Moore;

Wittgenstein; logical positivism; Carnap; Gödel; Tarski; Quine; Kripke; Putnam

Seminars:

What is Identity?

WS 2022/23

Universität Bamberg

Seminar in analytic metaphysics for MA and advanced BA students

Topics: Defining the concept of identity; personal identity; persistence and

trans-temporal identity; essence; vagueness; trans-modal identity; constitution;

social properties; gender identity

Knowledge and Reality

WS 2019/20

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Introductory seminar in epistemology and metaphysics for BA students

Topics: defining knowledge; theories of belief justification; material

constitution; theories of persistence and change

**The Philosophical Divide: Differences and Similarities
between Analytic and Continental Philosophy**

SS 2019

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Seminar in theoretical philosophy for BA students

Topics: origins of the divide; methodological particularities; contrasting perspectives

on questions concerning logic, epistemology, and metaphysics

God, Belief, Justification: Topics 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

Student colloquia and propaedeutics

Introduction to Scientific Working (mandatory course)

WS 2021/22

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Introduction to scientific working on the basis of classical texts from the philosophy of language

Student Colloquium (mandatory course)

WS 2019/20

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Student presentations of their BA- and MA-theses

Tutorials

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