

Eliza Starbuck Little

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Employment

University of Chicago, Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Division of Social Sciences and Committee on Social Thought, 2020 to present

Education

University of Chicago, Committee on Social Thought, Ph.D. 2020

European College of Liberal Arts, Berlin, Germany – Project Year 2011-12

Thesis: “The Aristotelian Subject as Image-maker in the Philosophy of Al-Farabi & Aquinas”

St. John’s College, M.A. 2010; History of Western Thought

Oberlin College, B.A. (high honors) 2007; Major: Politics, Minors: English, Law & Society

Research

AOS Hegel & German Idealism (esp. Kant and Schelling), Aesthetics

AOC 19th & 20th century European Philosophy, Philosophy & Literature, History of Political & Social Philosophy

Dissertation

The Self Exhibition of Reason: Hegel on Intuition and Logical Content

Committee: Robert Pippin (chair; Philosophy, Social Thought), Matt Boyle (Philosophy), David Wellbery (Germanic Studies, Social Thought)

My dissertation offers a new reading of Hegel’s theory of perceptual content and the role it plays in his account of logical form. I argue that, while Hegel is strongly influenced by Kant’s transcendental idealism, he crucially rejects Kant’s “empirical realism”—that is, Kant’s view that the way in which empirical objects appear to our senses discloses their objective reality. I reject the prevalent idea that Hegel’s proposed alternative is a “conceptual realism,” according to which reality is the reality of one or more universals. I argue instead that Hegel proposes a third picture, a “rational realism.” The central tenet of the rational realist view is the claim that it is thinking, not perception, that furnishes our access to the reality of particular sensible objects. I argue that Hegel’s account of the forms of judgment and inference in his logical works aims at showing that conceptually articulated reasoning is a condition of possibility on empirical perception

Publications

Academic

Invited contribution on Hegel & contemporary literature in a volume on Hegel’s aesthetic theory, ed. Lydia Moland (forthcoming from Éditions de l’Université de Bruxelles in 2022)

“Greek Tragedy and Self-Authorship in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”, in *Hegel’s Political Aesthetics*, ed. Stefan Bird-Pollan, Bloomsbury (2020)

Translator, Christoph Menke, “On the Fate of Aesthetic Education: Rancière, Posa, and *The Police*”, in *Aesthetic Reason and Imaginative Freedom: Friedrich Schiller and Philosophy*, co-edited by M. Acosta & J. Powell, SUNY (2018)

Book Reviews

Review of *Schelling’s Philosophy: Freedom, Nature, and Systematicity*, ed. G. Anthony Bruno for *Hegel-Studien* (forthcoming)

Review of Karen Ng, *Hegel’s Concept of Life: Self-Consciousness, Freedom, Logic* for *SGIR Review* and *Hegel Bulletin* (forthcoming)

Review of *Creeolizing Hegel*, ed. M. Monahan, *Peace Review*, August 2017

Non-Academic

“The Pleasure of Disaster”, contribution to the Quarantine Journal Series in *The Point Magazine*, March 2020

“Animal Magnetism”, contribution to the “What is Earth for?” Symposium in *The Point Magazine*, January 2019

Book Review, *I Love Dick* by Chris Kraus, in *The Point Magazine*, February 2017

Presentations

External (refereed)

“Hegel and Schelling on Intuition”, Vanderbilt Modern Philosophy (VAMP), remote, Jan. 2021

“The Self-Exhibition of Freedom: Hegel’s Reinterpretation of Kantian Reflective Judgment”, Hegel Society of Great Britain and Society for German Idealism & Romanticism joint conference, Oxford, England, Sept. 2019

“Necessity as the Power of Substance in Hegel’s *Logic of Essence*”, Examining Hegel’s Idea of Self-Determination: From Actuality to Concept, Warwick, England, June 2019

“Against McDowellian Enchantment: Monism and the Plutonic Point of View in Schelling’s *Naturphilosophie*”, North American Schelling Society Annual Conference, Hawaii, Sep. 2018

“Reflective Method in Hegel’s *Philosophy of Nature*”, Internationale Hegel Gesellschaft - 32nd International Hegel Congress, Tampere, Finland, June 2018

“Author and Character in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”, Conference in Honor of Christoph Menke, Leipzig, June 2017

Presentation of Hegel’s “Introduction to the Philosophy of Nature”, *Philosophies of Nature: Schelling and his Contemporaries* Workshop, University of West England, Bristol, England, Sept. 2016

“Film & Community: The Maieutic Cinema of Michael Haneke”, Johns Hopkins Humanities Center Graduate Student Conference, Baltimore, Feb. 2015

“Hegel’s Tragic Anti-Platonism”, *Collegium Phaenomenologicum* Participants’ Conference, Città di Castello, July 2014

“Medieval Readings of Aristotelian Mimesis”, CEU Summer School, Political Realism and Religious Thought, Budapest, June 2013

Invited

Panelist, Hegel Society of Great Britain Open Panel for Hegel’s 250th Birthday, Aug. 2020

“Reconceiving the Household: Hegel contra Aristotle on the Elements of Ethical Life”, Hegel Roundtable, Northwestern University, Chicago, March 2019

At the University of Chicago

“Hegel for Kantians: Some Thoughts on the Actuality of A Priori Judgments”, German Philosophy Workshop, Feb. 2020

“It’s Just Your Imagination: Hegel on the Epistemic Status of Empirical Objects”, Philosophy Graduate Research Conference, Dec. 2019

“Boredom as a Propositional Attitude: Reading Alberto Moravia with Hegel”, Literature and Philosophy Workshop, May 2019

“The Impossibility of Immediate Knowing in Javier Marías’s *A Heart So White*”, Social Thought Colloquium, May 2017

As Commenter

Comments on Andreja Novakovic, “Self-Surprise in Hegel’s *Science of Logic*”, Conference: Hegel and the Unity of Science, Purdue University, Feb. 2020

Comments on Heidi Schlipphacke, “Kinship and Aesthetic Depth: The Tableau Vivant in Goethe’s Elective Affinities (*Die Wahlverwandtschaften*)”, Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy: Workshop on German Philosophical Aesthetics, Depaul University, March 2018

Comments on Mark Alznauer, “Hegel on the Conceptual Form of Philosophical History”, Workshop on Hegel’s *Realphilosophie*, UIC, Chicago, Jan. 2018

Fellowships & Awards

External

2019 Visiting Doctoral Researcher, Forschungskolleg for Analytic German Idealism
2017 Merit Award, 7th International Summer School in German Philosophy: “Freedom and Free Will in Classical German Philosophy”
2016 Fellow, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI) at the New School for Social Research

Internal

2019-20 Social Sciences Division Dissertation Year Write-up Fellowship
2019 Nominated, Harper Dissertation Fellowship
2018-19 John U. Nef Dissertation Fellowship
2017-18 John U. Nef Dissertation Fellowship
2018 Award for Summer Language Study (French)
2016 Award for Summer Language Study (German)
2014 Award for Summer Language Study (German)
2013 Award for Summer Language Study (German)
2012 Award for Summer Language Study (German)

Teaching

(At the University of Chicago unless otherwise noted.)

As Postdoctoral Instructor

Classics of Social & Political Thought III, Spring 2020 (2 sections)
Classics of Social & Political Thought I, Fall 2020 (2 sections)

As Graduate Instructor

Classics of Social & Political Thought III, Spring 2017
Classics of Social & Political Thought III, Spring 2016
Classics of Social & Political Thought I, Fall 2015

As Teaching Intern/Course Assistant

History of Philosophy II, Prof. Benjamin Callard, Winter 2018
History of Philosophy I, Prof. Gabriel Lear, Fall 2016
History of Philosophy II, Prof. Benjamin Callard, Winter 2016
History of Philosophy III, Instructor Daniel Smyth, Spring 2015
Classics of Social & Political Thought III, Prof. Jared Holley, Spring 2015
Classics of Social & Political Thought II, Prof. Patchen Markell, Winter 2015
Classics of Social & Political Thought I, Prof. Nina Valiquette Moreau, Fall 2014
Graduate Math Assistant, Fall 2010 (at St. John’s College)

Pedagogical Training

2018 Course Design Workshop, Chicago Center for Teaching
2014-15 Teaching Internship, Social Sciences Core, Classics of Social and Political

2014 Thought Sequence
Workshop on Teaching in the College, Chicago Center for Teaching

Service

2021 Session Chair, "Kant and the Mind", Eastern APA 2021
2020-21 Conference Organizer, "Hegel on Empirical Judgment" (June 2021)

2019-present Associate Book Symposium Editor, Society for German Idealism and Romanticism Review

2017-2019 Graduate Student Affairs Assistant, Committee on Social Thought:
Primary coordinator of prospective student visits and events, liaison between department chair and graduate students, point of contact for departmental recruitment.

2016-present Associate Reviewer, Society for German Idealism and Romanticism

2015-2017 Co-Coordinator, University of Chicago CAS Literature and Philosophy Workshop

2015 Conference Organizer, "Community, Reason, Tragedy" Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, University of Chicago

Selected Graduate Coursework

(* = audited)

German Philosophy

Beyond Good & Evil Slow Reading Group (R. Pippin, 2014 to 2018)
Hegel's *Lectures on the Philosophy of Right* (J. Badger)
Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (R. Pippin)
Hegel's *Science of Logic: Logic of Essence* (R. Pippin)
Hegel's *Science of Logic: Logic of the Concept** (R. Pippin)
Heidegger's *Being & Time* (J. Black)
Kant's *Doctrine of Right* (A. Ford & B. Lawrence)
Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason** (J. Conant)
Kant's Practical Reason* (S. Engstrom)
Kojève: *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel* (R. Williams, P. Kalkavage)
Marxism & Modern Culture (L. Kruger)
On Aesthetic Form* (R. Pippin, D. Wellbery)
Philosophical Revolutions in the Concept of Form* (J. Conant, R. Pippin)

Analytic Philosophy

Elementary Logic (M. Malink)
The Life and Acts of a Being that Says "I"* (I. Kimhi)
Theory of Reference* (J. Stern)
Tractarian Themes in the History of Philosophy* (J. Conant, I. Kimhi)
Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations* (I. Kimhi)

Ancient Greek Philosophy

Aristotle on Virtue (G. Lear)
Greek Tragedy & Philosophy (M. Nussbaum)
Plato on Beauty and Truth (G. Lear)
Plato's *Theaetetus* (R. Goldberg)
Virtues of the Intellect: Aristotle's NE VI and Heidegger's Comment* (I. Kimhi, J. Lear)

References

Robert Pippin (Dissertation Committee chair)
Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service
Professor of Social Thought & Philosophy
University of Chicago
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Matthew Boyle (Dissertation Committee member)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Chicago
mbboyle@uchicago.edu

David Wellbery (Dissertation Committee member)
LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson
University Professor in Germanic Studies & Social Thought
University of Chicago
wellbery@uchicago.edu

Research Languages

German (Advanced)
Spanish (Intermediate)
Ancient Greek (Reading)
French (Beginner)

Long Dissertation Abstract

My dissertation offers an innovative reading of Hegel's mature philosophy that presents the first systematic study of the role of sense perception across all three volumes (logic, nature, and spirit) of Hegel's mature Encyclopedia project. I argue that Hegel's Encyclopedic texts offer a robust and nuanced account of the conceptuality of perceptual content that has been largely overlooked or misunderstood by previous interpreters. On my reading, Hegel rejects the empirical realism of Immanuel Kant, according to which view our phenomenal experience of objects yields knowledge of their reality. He also rejects a "conceptual realist" picture according to which our knowledge of reality inheres merely in knowledge of the reality of a universal or some set of universals. Instead, I propose that Hegel endorses a "rational realism" according to which sensory knowledge of concrete singulars is achieved by means of conceptual thought.

On a first look the potential coherence of such a view appears dubious: it seems to either fundamentally conflate the cognitive acts of thinking and perceiving, or else to reduce perceiving to thinking in a way that yields an infelicitous solipsism. In this context, the goal of the first two chapters of my project is to motivate the idea that Hegel's rational realism avoids these pitfalls by giving an exegesis of the philosophical considerations that lead him to his view. Towards this end, I offer readings of Hegel's respective engagements with two of his primary historical interlocutors, Kant and Schelling, on the topic of the proper role of perception in a philosophical account of cognition.

In Chapter 1, I examine Hegel's critique of Kant's theoretical philosophy. One of the central innovations of the *Critique of Pure Reason* is Kant's proposal that space and time serve as a priori "forms of intuition" that condition all of the deliverances of sense perception. Although Hegel is strongly influenced by Kant's transcendental idealism, his own philosophy lacks an analogue to these Kantian forms of intuition. I argue that Hegel's rejection of Kant's forms of intuition forms the backbone of his self-professed post-Kantianism. I demonstrate that Hegel finds resources in Kant's own system, specifically in the *Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*, that allow him to offer an alternative account of the formal character of perception.

In Chapter 2, I expand on this account by breaking down Hegel's critique of Friedrich Schelling's theory of intellectual intuition. This chapter fills a pressing gap in the literature. I argue that Hegel and Schelling share a commitment to offering an account of perception that is centered on the way in which the concrete individual objects of sense perception can demonstrate the physical existence of universals. Both thinkers propose that works of fine art are paradigmatic sense objects of this kind. Contra Schelling, however, Hegel believes that logic itself should also perform this function.

In Chapters 3 and 4, I turn to Hegel's positive account of the way in which the forms belonging to logic demonstrate the way in which universals appear to the senses in particular objects. Against recent interpretations that have sought to understand Hegel's logic as offering only a "theory of explanation" (Kreines, Pippin) I show that Hegel's logic also offers a "theory of exhibition": that is, a theory of the way in which sensible particulars exhibit the existence of universals. I claim that Hegel achieves this by emphasizing the logical primacy of the

function of the copula in the activity of inference. On Hegel's view as I articulate it, perception is conceptual, and this conceptuality consists in the way in which our inferential reasoning about sense objects exhibits the necessary existence of universal terms.

Chapter 5 takes this reading from the abstract context of the *Logic* into the concrete realms of nature and spirit, the topics of the other two volumes of Hegel's tripartite Encyclopedia project. I discuss the fate of Kant's forms of intuition, space and time, as the opening moments of Hegel's *Philosophy of Nature*. I then offer a reading of the account of empirical cognition in the *Philosophy of Spirit* that focuses on reconciling Hegel's apparent coherentism about knowledge with his claim that sensory representations still have a role to play in his inferentialist epistemology. I argue that Hegel ultimately defends a highly original "developmental epistemology" according to which incorrect models of justification are required in order to arrive at true belief and knowledge.