

Jonathan Berk

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Education

The New School for Social Research, New York

Ph.D., 2023

M.A., 2013

Hunter College, City University of New York, New York

B.A. in Philosophy & Special Honors Curriculum, Cum Laude, 2009

Areas of Specialty and Competence

AOS: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

AOC: Modern Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Metaphor

Dissertation

Committee: Omri Boehm (chair), James Dodd, Zed Adams

The *Critique of Pure Reason* has been interpreted through the metaphor that Kant inaugurated a Copernican Revolution in Philosophy. Despite and due to its interpretive richness, this metaphor has overshadowed a distinct metaphor that Kant utilized in the B-Preface to describe his work by analogy to Copernicus. In this dissertation I argue, first, that the richness and depth of the Copernican Revolution metaphor is largely the result of historical changes this metaphor would undergo after Kant – specifically, changes in the meaning of ‘revolution’ and the conflation of the metaphors of a Copernican Revolution and the Scientific Revolution. Second, I argue that acknowledging this alongside a close reading of the B-Preface reveals a distinct metaphor invoked by Kant in reference to Copernicus. This new metaphor is that of Kant’s Copernican Experiment. It reveals an existential experiment, performed by the reader, upon the principles of human reason itself. In addition to shedding light on the meaning of the text of the B-Preface, this interpretation offers a new argument structure for the *Critique of Pure Reason* itself. Most notably, the argumentative roles of the Transcendental Deduction as well as the Transcendental Dialectic, specifically the Antinomies, are fundamentally rethought. The Transcendental Deduction is stripped of its supposed role to ground transcendental idealism tout court and is reinterpreted as a proof for the possibility of transcendental idealism, that is, the tenability of the hypothesis of the experiment. The antinomies of pure reason are reinterpreted as the touchstone for the shift from transcendental realism to transcendental idealism. This touchstone serves as evidence within Kant’s Copernican experiment, rather than as a consequence of the successful defense of transcendental idealism. This means that Kant’s critique of metaphysics ought not be interpreted as the result of the unique philosophical project opened up by transcendental philosophy but instead as the essential and irreducible foundation of transcendental philosophy itself.

Publications

Review of Jennifer Mensch, *Kant's Organicism: Epigenesis and the Development of Critical Philosophy* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013) in the Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal, Volume 34, Issue 2, pages 487-491 (December 2013)

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Presentations & Invited Talks

“Kantian Aesthetics and Design Studies.” Guest Lecture for “Intro to Design Studies,” February 22/23rd, 2018. Parson New School for Design, New York, NY.

“Kant and the Aesthetic Revolution.” Guest Lecture for “Intro to Design Studies,” September 28th, 2017. Parsons New School for Design, New York, NY.

Wittgenstein Workshop, Response to Jake Browning, *McDowell and the Content of Intuition*. March 14th, 2014.

NSSR Science and Objectivity Conference, Panelist on two conceptions of objectivity. April 12th, 2014.

Awards & Scholarships

Dissertation Fellowship, NSSR, 2019-2020

Teaching Fellowship, Lang, Spring 2019

Donnelley Fund Prize Fellowship, 2014-2015

Holocaust Memorial Prize Fellowship, 2013-2014

Richard J. Bernstein Prize Fellowship, 2012-2013

NSSR Tuition Scholarship, 2010-2012

Thomas Hunter Honors Program (THHP) Graduate School Scholarship, 2009

THHP Scholarship, 2008

President of Phi Sigma Tau (Hunter), 2008

Phi Sigma Tau (Hunter Chapter), 2007

Academic Work Experience

First-Year-Seminar & Transfer Seminar, John Jay College, CUNY, 2020-2022

Participant in OER Pedagogy Seminar, John Jay College, CUNY, Summer, 2022

Research Assistant for Prof. Omri Boehm, New School for Social Research, 2017-2018

Research Assistant for the Journal of Nietzsche Studies, 2008-2009

Philosophy Department Research Assistant, 2007-2008

Philosophy Department Tutor for Symbolic Logic and Introduction to Philosophy, 2007-2008

Teaching Experience

*All positions are instructor unless asterisked.

Pratt Institute, NY

Metaphysics

(Fall '19 – '23)

Philosophy through Film

(Spring '23)

Phenomenology

(Fall '22)

Existentialism

(Spring '22 – Fall '22)

Aesthetics

(Spring '19 – Fall '22)

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Modern Philosophy (Fall '15 & Fall/Spring '16-'21)

Independent Study: Time, Imagination, and Immediacy (Fall '20)

Aesthetics (Graduate) (Fall '18 & '19)

Logic (Spring '17 - Spring 18)

Fordham University, NY

Philosophical Ethics (Spring '23)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, NY

Ethical Theory (Spring '23)

Ethical Foundations of a Just Society (Fall '22 – Spring '23)

Philosophical Issues of Rights (Fall '20 - Spring '23)

Philosophy of Religion (Spring '21 & '22)

Modern Thought (Spring '20)

Philosophy of Art (Spring '20)

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '18, '19, '21)

Critical Thinking (Fall '19)

Logic (Fall '18)

The New School, NY

Introduction to Design Studies, *Teaching Assistant (Fall '14-Fall '18 & Fall '21-Spring '23)

History of Architecture: 1851 – Present, *Teaching Assistant (Fall '22)

Modern Philosophy (Fall '20)

Metaphor, Science, Revolution (Spring '19)

Proseminar for incoming MA students (Fall '17)

Hannah Arendt's *The Human Condition* (Spring '17)

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Graduate), *Teaching Assistant (Fall '15)

William Paterson University, NJ

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '16 & Spring 17)