

CURRICULUM VITAE  
ALEXANDER TILGHMAN ENGLERT

OCTOBER 15, 2024

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alexanderenglert.com

## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2023-present    Research Associate  
                      Institute for Advanced Study  
                      Princeton, New Jersey
- 2020-2023      Postdoctoral Research Associate & Lecturer in Philosophy  
                      Princeton University  
                      University Center for Human Values

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.    Department of Philosophy  
          Johns Hopkins University  
          2020  
          Thesis: *Evolving the Highest Good: A Study of a Kantian Ideal*  
          Advisor: Eckart Förster
- M.A.    Philosophisches Seminar (1,3 “sehr gut” Gesamtnote/1,0 Masterarbeit)  
          Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg (Germany)  
          2012
- B.A.    Gettysburg College (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) in Philosophy & German  
          2009

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Philosophy (esp. Kant, Fichte, and Hegel), Value Theory

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Philosophy of Religion (including Eastern Religions), History of Early Modern, Political Philosophy, Greek Philosophy, Epistemology

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

1. *The Reality of the Ideal: A Study of Kant's Highest Good* (in production, Oxford University Press)\*  
\* Pre-production now, planned release summer 2025

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2024 "Kant as a Carpenter of Reason: The Highest Good and Systematic Coherence." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. DOI: 10.1080/09608788.2023.2293882
- 2023 "Kant's Favorite Argument for Our Immortality: The Teleological Argument." *Res Philosophica*. Vol. 100, No. 3, 357-388. DOI: 10.5840/resphilosophica202373101
- 2023 "The Conceptual Origin of Worldview in Kant and Fichte." *Journal of Transcendental Philosophy*. Vol. 4, No. 1, 1-24. DOI: 10.1515/jtph-2022-0007
- 2022 "How a Kantian Ideal Can Be Practical." *Inquiry*.\*\*  
DOI: 10.1080/0020174X.2022.2075449  
\*\* Commentary published about it in *Inquiry* ([here](#))
- 2020 "Philosophical Think Tanks." *Teaching Philosophy*.  
DOI: 10.5840/teachphil20201125132
- 2017 "Dutifully Wishing: Kant's Re-Evaluation of a Strange Species of Desire." *Kantian Review*. DOI: 10.1017/s1369415417000139
- 2017 "Life, Logic, and the Pursuit of Purity: Logically Reconstructing the Transition to Cognition." *Hegel-Studien*. ISSN: 0073-1587
- 2014 "Pecca Fortiter for the Sake of Morality? Making Sense of Wrong in Hegel's System of Right." *Hegel Bulletin*. DOI: 10.1017/hgl.2014.26

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2024 "Kant on the Highest Good and Moral Arguments," with Andrew Chignell. In *The Oxford Handbook of Kant*. Edited by Anil Gomes and Andrew Stephenson, 503-524. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Book Reviews

- Forth. "Amber Carpenter & Pierre-Julien Harter (eds.), *Crossing the Stream, Leaving the Cave: Buddhist-Platonist Philosophical Inquiries*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024." *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (invited review, with Jonathan Gold).

- Forth. "Owen Ware, *Indian Philosophy and Yoga in Germany*. New York: Routledge, 2024." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.
- 2023 "Jens Timmermann, *Kant's Will at the Crossroads?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022." *European Journal of Philosophy*. DOI: 10.1111/ejop.12887
- 2018 "Thomas Höwing (ed.), *The Highest Good in Kant's Philosophy*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016." *Kantian Review*. DOI: 10.1017/S1369415417000498

### Popular Philosophy

- 2024 "Virupa, meet Fichte. Uncanny Resonances at a Comparative Philosophy Workshop," with Jonathan Gold. *The Immanent Frame*.  
<https://tif.ssrc.org/2024/07/31/virupa-meet-fichte-uncanny-resonances-in-comparative-philosophy/>
- 2024 "We'll Meet Again. The Intrepid Logician Kurt Gödel Believed in an Afterlife" *Aeon*.  
<https://aeon.co/essays/kurt-godel-his-mother-and-the-argument-for-life-after-death>

### Media Mentions

*The Academic Minute* (NPR)  
<https://academicminute.org/2024/02/alexander-englert-institute-for-advanced-study-why-godel-believed-in-an-afterlife/>

*The New York Times* (as a notable read by Ross Douthat)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/05/opinion/the-crown.html>

*The Atlantic* (as a notable read by Conor Friedersdorf)  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2024/01/the-debate-that-claudine-gay-is-evading/677032/>

*Leiter Reports*  
<https://leiterreports.typepad.com/blog/2024/01/g%C3%B6dels-arguments-for-belief-in-an-afterlife.html>

*Real Clear Science*  
[https://www.realclearscience.com/2024/01/03/why\\_logician\\_kurt\\_godel\\_believed\\_in\\_the\\_afterlife\\_1002418.html](https://www.realclearscience.com/2024/01/03/why_logician_kurt_godel_believed_in_the_afterlife_1002418.html)

### Translations (from German)

- 2014 Thomas Fuchs. "The Virtual Other: Empathy in the Age of Virtuality." *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 21, No. 5-6: 152-173.

- 2014 Thomas Fuchs. "Brain Mythologies: Jaspers' Critique of Reductionism from a Current Perspective." In *Karl Jaspers' Psychology and Psychopathology*, 75-84. Edited by Thomas Fuchs et al. DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4614-8878-1\_5
- 2013 Thomas Fuchs. "Existential Vulnerability: Toward a Psychopathology of Limit Situations." *Psychopathology*. DOI: 10.1159/000351838

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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### Book Projects

1. Project on Kurt Gödel's religious views (currently being drafted and researched)
2. New translation of Fichte's *Anweisung zum seligen Leben* (pitching to publishers)

### Original Articles and Essays

1. Paper on Hegel's idea of life (under review)
2. Paper on Kant's highest good and love (currently writing)
3. Paper on Gödel's religious views from his notebooks (drafting)
4. Popular essay on what we can learn from Kant's immortality postulate (invited, writing)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Lead Instructor</b>	<b>2020-2022 – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY</b>	
	Kant's Practical Philosophy (grad.) <sup>1</sup>	Fall 2022
	German Idealism	Spring 2022

<b>2017-2019 – JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY</b>	
Dystopian Dreams – Utopian Ideals	Spring 2019
The Good, the Bad, and the Guilty	Winter 2017

<b>2018 – TOWSON UNIVERSITY</b>	
Introduction to Ethics	Spring 2018

<b>Mentor</b>	<b>2020-2021 – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY</b>
	University Center for Human Values Senior Thesis Workshop

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<sup>1</sup> Co-taught as lead instructor with Andrew Chignell.

**Graduate Instructor 2015-2018 - JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

Introduction to Formal Logic	Spring 2018
Introduction to Greek Philosophy	Fall 2017, 2016
Foundations of Modern Political Philosophy	Spring 2017
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Spring 2016
Philosophy of Religion	Fall 2015

**OTHER TEACHING**

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**Shift Director & Writing Tutor**      **2015-2018 – THE WRITING CENTER  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

**Lead Instructor**      **2011-2013 - BASF: THE CHEMICAL COMPANY  
LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY**  
Business English      2011-2013

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

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**National and International Fellowships (Third-Party Funding)**

2018-2019	Woodrow Wilson/Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$25,000)
2019	Stanford Humanities Center Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship (Alternate)
2009-2011	DAAD Graduate Fellowship (€16,000)

**Institutional Fellowships**

2020	Arthur O. Lovejoy Fellowship – Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Department (\$14,500)
2019	Sachs Dissertation Fellowship – Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Department (\$14,500)
2019	Dean's Teaching Fellowship – Johns Hopkins University (\$11,500)
2013-2015	Owens Scholar Fellowship Award – Johns Hopkins University (\$18,000)

**Paper Prizes**

2018	William Miller Essay Prize – Johns Hopkins University, Department of Philosophy, under new rules (\$1,000)
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- 2018 APA Graduate Student Travel Stipend for Colloquium Paper (\$300)
- 2017 Singleton Center Paper Prize (\$500)
- 2016 Nominee for the Markus Herz Prize – Eastern Division  
North American Kant Society (\$200)
- 2014 William Miller Essay Prize - Johns Hopkins University, Department of  
Philosophy, under old rules (\$1,000)
- 2009 Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest - Third Place (\$1,500)

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2024 “Finding Space for Love in Kant’s Highest Good” (Keynote)  
*14<sup>th</sup> International Summer Conference on German Idealism*  
Bonn University  
August 19-23 (Bonn, Germany)

“Love and the Highest Good”  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Notre Dame  
May 3 (online)

“Love and the Highest Good”  
Department of Philosophy  
United States Air Force Academy  
May 1 (Colorado Springs, Colorado)

“In Love from Within Kant’s Highest Good”  
*Tercentennial Celebrations for Kant’s Birth*  
Boston University  
Mar. 1 (Boston, Massachusetts)

- 2022 “Logisches Leben in Raum und Zeit”  
Institut für Philosophie  
Oldenburg University, Germany  
Oct. 18 (Oldenburg, Germany)

“Work for the Highest Good in the Third *Critique*”  
*Symposium Honoring Eckart Förster*  
Johns Hopkins University  
May 6 (Baltimore, Maryland)  
“Perfection through Noumenal Creation”  
*North American Kant Society Central APA Session*  
American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting  
February 23-26 (Chicago, Illinois)

“Work for the Highest Good”  
Department of Philosophy  
Colgate University  
February 3 (Hamilton, New York)

“Work for the Highest Good”  
Department of Philosophy  
Florida State University  
Jan. 28 (virtual)

2020 “Der Begriff der Weltanschauung bei Kant und Fichte”  
Institut für Philosophie  
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany  
October 30 (virtual)

“Kant on Perfection from a Metaphysical Point of View”  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting  
Invited Symposium: *New Approaches to Kant on Perfection*  
April 8-11  
San Francisco, California (cancelled due to COVID-19)

2018 “Husserl’s Theory of Basic Values: A Case Study from *Blood Meridian*”  
*Phenomenology and Literature: New Readings in Husserl*  
Conference of the German Departments of Brown University and Johns  
Hopkins  
May 5-6 (Brown University)

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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### Conferences and Workshops Organized

2025 *God and the Devil in the Philosophical Notebooks of Kurt Gödel*  
Co-organizer with Eva-Maria Engelen (University of Konstanz)  
Supported by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften  
TBD (currently planning)

2023 *Mind and Representation: Approaches from German Idealist and Buddhist Philosophies*  
Co-organizer with Jonathan Gold (Princeton Dept. of Religion)  
Princeton University  
February 17

2022 *God and Infinity: Perspectives from Hegel and Kierkegaard*  
Co-organizer with Elizabeth X. Li  
Princeton University  
April 1-2

### Papers Presented (Refereed)

- 2023 “Logical Life and the Puzzle of Ontological Generality”  
International Hegel Congress  
Stuttgart, Germany  
June 6 (could not attend)
- “Logical Life and the Puzzle of Ontological Generality”  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting  
San Francisco  
April 5
- 2021 “Kant and the Devil (Argument) You Don’t Know”  
*Philosophy of Religion Incubator Conference*  
Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion  
Princeton University (virtual)  
May 17-18
- 2018 “Morality and Nature’s Hidden Plan”  
*The Freedom of Nature and the Nature of Freedom*  
UK Kant Society Annual Conference 2018  
Cardiff University (Recipient of Travel Award Bursary)  
September 6-7
- 2018 “Kantian Archetypes and Action”  
American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting  
Chicago, Illinois (Received APA Graduate Student Travel Stipend Prize)  
February 21-24
- 2016 “Dutifully Wishing: Kant’s Reevaluation of a Strange Species of Desire”  
13<sup>th</sup> Eastern Study Group Meeting of the North American Kant Society  
April 10-11  
Yale University (Received the travel prize for best graduate student paper as nominee for the Markus Herz Prize)

### Departmental Talks

- 2023 “Kant’s Moral Perception Problem”  
University Center for Human Values  
Princeton University  
February 16
- 2022 “Hegel and the Idea of Religious Life”  
Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion  
Princeton University  
April 1-2



2021 “No Work for the Highest Good?”  
University Center for Human Values  
Princeton University  
October 14

“Kant, Teleology, and Immortality”  
University Center for Human Values  
Princeton University  
March 24

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Research Associate  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Program in Interdisciplinary Studies  
Project Director: Prof. Piet Hut  
March 2023 to Present

**Note:** Together with domestic and international collaborators, we are studying the nature of consciousness from a variety of angles. The primary question is how best to study consciousness in a way that is scientific, but also does justice to insights from idealist philosophical systems and contemplative traditions in Eastern and Western religions.

Research Assistant  
Phenomenology Section  
Clinic for General Psychiatry of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany  
Project Director: Prof. Thomas Fuchs  
July 2012 to July 2013

**Note:** The Phenomenology Section explores topics of classic phenomenology, e.g., time-consciousness, theories of self, etc., in the context of current psychiatric research, especially in relation to phenomenal disturbances caused by mental illnesses.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Certificate of Completion  
Johns Hopkins University Teaching Academy  
Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Teaching Philosophy Workshop  
American Association for Philosophy Teachers  
Carnegie Mellon Institute  
January 23, 2015

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Coordinator & Session Organizer

North American Kant Society Virtual Session Series, 2022-2023

### Committee Member

Values and Public Life Senior Thesis Prize Committee, 2022-2023

### BA Thesis Mentor (x7)

Princeton University Center for Human Values Senior Thesis Workshop, 2020-2021

### Manuscript Reviewer

*Mind, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophy Quarterly, Res Philosophica, Teaching Philosophy, Kantian Review, Religions, History of Philosophy Quarterly*

## LANGUAGES

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German	Reading: Fluent Speaking: Fluent Writing: Fluent
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Gabelsberger	Reading: Good Writing: Good
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Latin	Reading: Good
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French	Reading: Good
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