

## MICHAEL NEIL FORSTER: CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name:** Michael Neil Forster  
**Date of birth:** December 9, 1957  
**Place of birth:** Belfast, Northern Ireland  
**Nationalities:** UK, USA, and Ireland/EU

### Employment:

March 2013–present: Alexander von Humboldt Professor and Chair for Theoretical Philosophy, as well as founding member of the Center for Science and Thought and (2013-23) Director of the International Centre for Philosophy, Bonn University. [Bonn University is since 2019 an official “Exzellenzuniversität.”]

Visiting Professor in the Law School and the Department of Philosophy, as well as member of the Center for Hellenic Studies, The University of Chicago

October 2008–2013: Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor in Philosophy and the College, The University of Chicago. [Distinguished service professorships are the highest honor that The University of Chicago awards to its own faculty.]

June 1994–October 2008: Full Professor, The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy

July 1994–July 2004: Chairman, The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy

[This was the most successful period in the recent history of the Department. The following were some of the Department’s main achievements during it: (1) Faculty recruitment – the Department added at the senior level James Conant, John Haugeland, David Finkelstein, Michael Kremer, and Charles Larmore, and at the junior level Rachel Barney, Michael Green, Jason Bridges, Jonathan Beere, and Gabriel Lear. (2) Successful integration into the Department of three eminent faculty members who were initially appointed to other units – Jonathan Lear, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Pippin. (3) Admission, recruitment, and funding of graduate students – the applicant pool improved greatly in both size and quality during this period, as did the acceptance rate, as did the level of funding we were able to offer students (reaching the present state of affairs in which all graduate students admitted receive full tuition plus a generous stipend for 5 years). (4) Graduate

student placement – during this period the Department was regularly ranked first among all philosophy departments in the USA by the *Lingua Franca* survey of graduate placement, many of our students securing tenure-track positions in top departments such as Yale and Princeton. (5) Office improvements – during this period the Department negotiated and then began a major relocation from scattered quarters in the Classics Building and other parts of the University to its present unified and in other respects improved quarters in the Stuart Building. (6) Cooperation with the Human Rights Program at The University of Chicago – this period saw the development of much closer cooperation between the Philosophy Department and the Human Rights Program, including joint hiring.]

October 1992–July 1994: Director of Graduate Studies, The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy

May 1990–June 1994: Associate Professor, The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy

October 1985–May 1990: Assistant Professor, The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy

Autumn 1991: Visiting Associate Professor, Princeton University, Department of Philosophy

Autumn 1990: Visiting Associate Professor, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Department of Philosophy

Also shorter visiting professorships at Jena University (2010), Renmin University (2017), and Huaqiao University (2019)

**Main areas of research:**

German philosophy, ancient philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of language

**Foreign languages:**

German, Ancient Greek, French, Latin, some Mandarin

**Educational institutions attended:**

1984–1985 Heidelberg University, Germany

1980–1984 Princeton University, USA

1977–1980           Magdalen College, Oxford University, England

1969–1977           The Lancaster Royal Grammar School, England

Additionally, shorter periods at the University of Vienna, Goethe Institutes in Schwäbisch-Hall and Berlin, the Heidelberger Pädagogium, and Yale University for the purpose of learning German and Ancient Greek.

**Academic qualifications:**

1987                    PhD (Princeton) in Philosophy (dissertation on Hegel’s interpretation of, and responses to, skepticism)

1983                    MA (Princeton) in Philosophy

1980                    BA (Oxford), First Class, in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

1975                    Four “A-levels” (History, English Literature, French, General Studies)

1973                    Nine “O-levels”

**Some recent honors:**

September 2025, Tang Chun-I Visiting Professorship at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

September 2024: Plenary speaker at Humboldt Kolleg “Global Perspectives on Kant,” Bonn University: “Some Reflections on Kant and Cosmopolitanism”

September 2023: Invited Ringvorlesung at Zürich University: “Die Geschichte von Sprachursprungstheorien”

March 2023: Keynote speaker at Humboldt Kolleg “Hegel and the Aesthetic,” University of Pisa

2021–present: Honorary professorship in hermeneutics, University of Warsaw

April 2015: Keynote speaker, BJHP conference at York University

June 2014: Keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Swiss Philosophical Society, St. Gallen University

June 2013: Michael Frede Memorial Lecture, University of Athens

April 2012: Alexander von Humboldt Professorship including international prize for research from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (combined with a “call” to the Chair in

Theoretical Philosophy and to the Co-Directorship of the International Center for Philosophy NRW at Bonn University)

December 2011: Keynote speaker at the conference “The Problem of Language within the Context of German Idealism,” The University of Brussels

July 2011: Keynote speaker at the International Summer School, Bonn University

April 2011: Keynote speaker for the 2011 graduate student conference, SUNY at Syracuse

September 2008–April 2009: Research fellowship at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, The University of Chicago

September 2008: Keynote speaker at the meetings of the Internationale Hegel-Gesellschaft in Leuven, Belgium

2008–2013: Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professorship in Philosophy and the College, The University of Chicago

2008: “Socrates’ Profession of Ignorance,” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 32 (2007) selected by *The Philosopher’s Annual 2008* as one of the “ten best articles published in philosophy in 2007”

2007 The University of Chicago’s Humanities Institute Lecturer, Osaka

2004 Keynote speaker, Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena

**Some prizes, fellowships, honors at school and university:**

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|-----------|---|
| 1988      | Finalist (one of three) for the Council of Graduate Schools Distinguished Dissertation Award (awarded for the best dissertation in the whole USA across all the Humanities and Fine Arts) |
| 1984–1985 | DAAD Research Fellowship (awarded but not used due to alternative fellowship support)   |
| 1984–1985 | King Edward VII British-German Foundation Fellowship  |
| 1984–1985 | Mrs. Giles Whiting Fellowship from Princeton University   |
| 1980–1984 | William Alexander Fleet Fellowship held at Princeton University   |
| 1980      | Henry Wilde Prize awarded by Oxford University (for the best final examinations papers in Philosophy in the University)   |
| 1980      | Degree awarded by Oxford University with formal congratulations from the examiners (“Congratulatory First”)   |

1980	The Wheldon-Burkhardt Prize for work in the humanities from Magdalen College, Oxford
1977–1980	“Demyskip” (i.e., open scholarship) held at Magdalen College, Oxford
1969–1977	Various academic prizes in school (including best “O-levels” and best “A-level” in English Literature)

**Authored volumes published:**

*Herder’s Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2018) [A Turkish translation is also available.]

*German Philosophy of Language: From Schlegel to Hegel and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

*After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition* (Oxford University Press, 2010)

*Kant and Skepticism* (Princeton University Press, 2008)

*Wittgenstein on the Arbitrariness of Grammar* (Princeton University Press, 2004)

*Herder: Philosophical Writings* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

*Hegel’s Idea of a “Phenomenology of Spirit”* (University of Chicago Press, 1998)

*Hegel and Skepticism* (Harvard University Press, 1989)

**Edited volumes published:**

*The Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, three special issues (two on practical philosophy, one on translation) to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Journal’s founding: 49 (4) (2022), 50 (1) (2023), and 50 (3) (all three volumes co-edited at the invitation of the Journal’s general editor Chung-ying Cheng with Guido Kreis and Tze-wan Kwan)

*The Palgrave Handbook of Russian Thought* (co-edited with Marina Bykova and Lina Steiner) (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2021) [A Chinese translation is also in preparation.]

*Romanticism, Philosophy, and Literature* (co-edited with Lina Steiner) (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2020)

*The Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics* (co-edited with Kristin Gjesdal) (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

*Idealismus und Romantik in Jena: Figuren und Konzepte zwischen 1794 und 1807* (co-edited with Johannes Korngiebel and Klaus Vieweg) (Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 2018)

*Studies in East European Thought*, two special issues: 70/4 (December 2018) & 71/1 (March 2019) (proceedings of the 2017 conference “Russian Thinkers: Between the Revolution and Tradition”) (co-edited with Marina Bykova and Lina Steiner)

*The Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, two special issues: *Modes of Reasoning – East and West (I) & Modes of Reasoning – East and West (II)*, 44/1–2 (March–June 2017) (co-edited under the general editorship of Chung-ying Cheng with Guido Kreis)

*The Oxford Handbook of German Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century* (co-edited with Kristin Gjesdal) (Oxford University Press, 2015)

*Die Bildung der Moderne* (co-edited with Michael Dreyer, Kai-Uwe Hoffmann, and Klaus Vieweg) (Francke Verlag, 2013)

*Die Aktualität der Romantik* (co-edited with Klaus Vieweg) (LIT Verlag, 2012)

### **Articles published:**

“Herder,” in *Interprétation: Dictionnaire des auteurs*, ed. C. Berner, J.-C. Gens, J. Michel, and D. Thouard (Vrin, 2025)

“Skepticism in Ancient China and Ancient Greece: Zhuangzi and the Pyrrhonists,” *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 51 (2024)

“Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise and the German Romantic Tradition,” in *Spinoza in Germany*, ed. J. Yonover and K. Gjesdal (Oxford University Press, 2024)

“Nietzsche’s Centaurs: Synthesizing Philosophy, Science, and Art,” in *Nietzsche and Literary Studies*, ed. J. Porter (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

“Goethe and Hegel: *Faust* and the *Phenomenology of Spirit*,” in *Art, Nature, and Self-Formation in the Age of Goethe*, ed. G. Gentry, M. Pirholt, C. Flodin (De Gruyter, 2024)

“Romantic Hermeneutics and Its Impact in the Long Nineteenth Century,” in *Kommunikation in Philosophie, Religion und Gesellschaft*, ed. C. Berner, S. Schmidt, B. Stockness, D. Thouard (De Gruyter, 2023)

“Herder on Humanity,” in *Humankind and Humanity in the Philosophy of the Enlightenment*, ed. S. Buchenau and A. Lyssy (Bloomsbury, 2023)

“Foreignizing Translation and Chinese,” in *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 50 (3) (2023)

“Proust and Romanticism,” in *The Proustian Mind*, ed. A. Elsner and T. Stern (Routledge, 2023)

“Practical Philosophy West and East,” *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 49 (4) (2022)

- “‘Gentle Revolutionaries’: Les frères Humboldt et les idéaux de la Révolution française,” *Lumières* 39 (2022)
- “Nietzsche: Three Genealogies of Christianity,” *Genealogy* 6/38, special issue “Philosophical Genealogy from Nietzsche to Williams,” ed. A. Jensen (2022)
- “Gentle Revolutionaries: Die Gebrüder Humboldt und die Ideale der Französischen Revolution,” in *Wilhelm von Humboldts politische Philosophie*, ed. M.G. Festl (WBG Academic, 2022)
- “Goethe et Hegel: *Faust* et la *Phénoménologie de l’esprit*,” in *Goethe, le second auteur: Actualité d’un inactuel*, ed. C. König and D. Thouard (Hermann, 2022)
- “Does Every Genuine Philosophy Have a Skeptical Side?” *The Review of Metaphysics* 75/2 (Dec. 2021)
- “Afterword: Russian Thought and *Russian Thinkers*,” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Russian Thought*, ed. M.F. Bykova, M.N. Forster, and L. Steiner (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2021)
- “Les origines de la théorie de la traduction défamiliarisante chez d’Alembert, Abbt, Herder et Schleiermacher,” in *Traduire les sciences humaines*, ed. C. Berner and T. Millaressi (Garnier Classiques, 2021)
- “L’Herméneutique de Friedrich Schlegel,” in *Mensch und Natur in der deutschen Romantik. L’homme et la nature dans le romantisme allemand*, ed. G. Valpione (LIT, 2021)
- “Skepticism,” in *The Cambridge Kant Lexicon*, ed. J. Wuerth (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
- “Language,” in *The Cambridge Kant Lexicon*, ed. J. Wuerth (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
- “Romanticism and *The Birth of Tragedy*,” in *Romanticism, Philosophy, and Literature*, ed. M.N. Forster and L. Steiner (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2020)
- “Philosophy, History of Philosophy, and Historicism,” in *Doing Humanities in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, ed. E. Podoksik (Brill, 2020)
- “The Origin and Character of Hegel’s Concept of *Geist*,” in *Hegel’s Philosophy of Spirit*, ed. M.F. Bykova (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- “Imagination and Interpretation: Herder’s Concept of *Einfühlung*,” in *The Imagination in German Idealism and Romanticism*, ed. G. Gentry and K. Pollok (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- “Dilthey’s Importance for Hermeneutics,” in *Interpreting Dilthey*, ed. E.S. Nelson (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- “Nietzsche on Free Will,” in *The New Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche*, ed. T. Stern (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- “Hermeneutics: Francophone Approaches,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics*, ed. M.N. Forster and K. Gjesdal (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

“Critique,” in *The Bonn Handbook of Globality*, ed. L. Kühnhardt and T. Mayer (Springer Verlag, 2019)

“Friedrich Schlegel and Hegel,” in *Idealismus und Romantik in Jena: Figuren und Konzepte zwischen 1794 und 1807*, ed. M.N. Forster, J. Korngiebel, and K. Vieweg (Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 2018)

“August Wilhelm Schlegel and Hegel on Art,” in *Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie*, Band 137, Sonderheft (2018)

“Free Will in Antiquity and in Kant,” in *Metaphysics of Freedom? Kant’s Concept of Cosmological Freedom in Historical and Systematic Perspective*, ed. C.H. Krijnen (Brill, 2018)

“Homeric Contributions to Skepticism,” in *Skepticism: Historical and Contemporary Inquiries*, ed. G.A. Bruno and A.C. Rutherford (Routledge, 2018)

“Forms of Reasoning in Western and Chinese Philosophy,” in *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, 44/1–2, 2017

Review of Eugenio Coseriu, *Geschichte der Sprachphilosophie*, vols. 1 and 2, in *Historiographia Linguistica* 44/1 (2017)

“Anaximander’s thesis that *to apeiron* is the *archê*,” in *Welt und Unendlichkeit*, ed. M. Gabriel, C. Olay, and S. Ostritsch (Karl Alber, 2017)

“The Autonomy of Grammar,” in *A Companion to Wittgenstein*, ed. H.-J. Glock and J. Hyman (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017)

“Herder and Human Rights,” in *Herder: Philosophy and Anthropology*, ed. A. Waldow and N. DeSouza (Oxford University Press, 2017)

“Kritik,” in *Bonner Enzyklopädie der Globalität*, ed. L. Kühnhardt and T. Mayer (Springer Verlag, 2017).

“Kants transzendentaler Idealismus. Das Argument hinsichtlich des Raumes und der Geometrie,” in *Raum erfahren*, ed. D. Espinet, T. Keilung, and N. Mirkovic (Mohr Siebeck, 2017)

“Nietzsche on Morality as a ‘Sign Language of the Affects,’” *Inquiry* 60/1-2 (2017)

“Historicizing Genre: The German Romantic Rethinking of Ancient Tragedy,” in *Historisierung. Begriff – Geschichte – Praxisfelder*, ed. M. Baumstark and R. Forkel (J.B. Metzler, 2016)

Review of Charles Taylor, *The Language Animal*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2016)

“Romanticism,” in *Debates in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Philosophy*, ed. K. Gjesdal (Routledge, 2016)

“Ein Anfang der Metaphysik. Parmenides über den Widerspruch und das Paradoxon des Nichtseins,” in *Das neue Bedürfnis nach Metaphysik / The New Desire for Metaphysics*, ed. M. Gabriel, W. Hogrebe, and A. Speer (de Gruyter, 2015)

“Dogmatism, Skepticism, Criticism, and Toleration,” *Studia philosophica* 74 (2015)



“Does Western Philosophy Have Non-Western Roots?” in *From Hegel to Windelband: Historiography of Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. G. Hartung and V. Pluder (de Gruyter, 2015)

“Eine Revolution in der Philosophie der Sprache, der Linguistik, der Hermeneutik und der Übersetzungstheorie im späten 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert: deutsche und französische Beiträge,” in *Friedrich Schleiermacher and the Question of Translation, 1813–2013*, ed. L. Cercel and A. Serban (de Gruyter, 2015)

Review of *The Impact of Idealism*, vol. 1, ed. N. Boyle, L. Disley, K. Ameriks, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2015) (online)

“Ideology,” in *The Oxford Handbook of German Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. M.N. Forster and K. Gjesdal (Oxford University Press, 2015)

“Herder’s Doctrine of Meaning as Use,” in *Linguistic Meaning: New Essays in the History of Philosophy of Language*, ed. M. Cameron and R. Stainton (Oxford University Press, 2015)

“Protagoras’ Bildungstheorie im Rahmen seiner theoretischen Philosophie,” proceedings of the conference on Werner Jaeger held at Krickenbeck Castle in 2014 (2015, available online on a webpage created by the conference organizers: <https://vvv-lobberich.de>)

“Schelling and Skepticism,” in *Interpreting Schelling*, ed. L. Ostaric (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

“Romanticism and Language,” in *The Relevance of Romanticism*, ed. D. Nassar (Oxford University Press, 2014)

“Humboldts Bildungsideal und sein Modell der Universität,” in *Die Bildung der Moderne*, ed. M. Dreyer, M.N. Forster, K.-U. Hoffmann, and K. Vieweg (Francke Verlag, 2013)

Review of Frederick C. Beiser, *The German Historicist Tradition*, in *Mind* 122/485 (2013)

“Hypothesis in Natural Science and Interpretation,” in *Naturalistische Hermeneutik: Zum Stand der Debatte*, ed. L.C. Madonna (Königshausen und Neumann, 2013)

“Dilthey’s Significance for Hermeneutics,” *Mythos-Magazin*, May 2012 (online)

“History of Philosophy,” in *The Cambridge History of Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. A.W. Wood and S. Hahn (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

“Language,” in *The Cambridge History of Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. A.W. Wood and S. Hahn (Cambridge University Press, 2012) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *German Philosophy of Language: From Schlegel to Hegel and Beyond*.)

“Herder and Spinoza,” in *Spinoza and German Idealism*, ed. E. Förster and Y. Melamed (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

- “Kant’s Philosophy of Language?” in *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie* 74/3 (2012) (Also available in *The Linguistic Dimension of Kant’s Thought*, ed. F. Schalow und R. Velkley [Northwestern University Press, 2014].)
- “Herders Beitrag zur Entstehung der Idee *romantisch*,” in *Die Aktualität der Romantik*, ed. M.N. Forster and K. Vieweg (LIT Verlag, 2012)
- “Bildung bei Herder und seinen Nachfolgern,” in *Bildung und Freiheit: Ein vergessener Zusammenhang*, ed. K. Vieweg and M. Winkler (Schöningh Verlag, 2012)
- “Hat jede wahre Philosophie eine skeptische Seite?” in *Skeptizismus und Metaphysik = Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie*, Sonderband 28, ed. M. Gabriel (Akademie Verlag, 2012). (A version of this article in English, from which the German version was translated, is now available in *The Review of Metaphysics*, as cited above. It is somewhat better than the version in German.)
- “Hermeneutik und Tiere,” in *Natur und Geist. Über ihre evolutionäre Verhältnisbestimmung*, ed. C. Tewes and K. Vieweg (Akademie Verlag, 2011)
- “Genealogy and Morality,” *American Dialectic* 1/3 (2011) (online)
- “Concluding Overview,” in *Interdisciplinary Anthropology*, ed. W. Welsch et al. (Springer Verlag, 2011) (co-authored with Wolfgang Welsch)
- “Schlegel and Hegel on Skepticism and Philosophy,” in *Die Begründung der Philosophie im Deutschen Idealismus*, ed. E. Ficara (Königshausen und Neumann, 2011)
- “Gadamer’s Hermeneutics: A Critical Appraisal,” *Mythos-Magazin*, July 2011 (online) (Also available in the *Yearbook of Philosophical Hermeneutics* 5 (2012), “50 Jahre Wahrheit und Methode.”)
- “Herder on Interpretation and Imagination,” in *Inventions of the Imagination*, ed. R.T. Gray et al. (University of Washington Press, 2011)
- “Genealogy,” *American Dialectic* 1/2 (2011) (online)
- “Ursprung und Wesen des Hegelschen Geistbegriffs,” *Hegel-Jahrbuch* (2011)
- “Wittgenstein on Family Resemblance Concepts,” in *Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations: A Critical Guide*, ed. A. Ahmed (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
- “Die Bewegung des Begriffs,” *Der blaue Reiter* 29 (2010) (co-authored with Claudia Wirsing)
- “A Wittgensteinian Anti-Platonism,” *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* 15 (2009)
- “Hegel and Hermeneutics,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Hegel and Nineteenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. F.C. Beiser (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- “Das geistige Tierreich,” in *Hegels Phänomenologie des Geistes. Ein kooperativer Kommentar zu einem Schlüsselwerk der Moderne*, ed. K. Vieweg and W. Welsch (Suhrkamp Verlag, 2008)

“Hermeneutics,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Continental Philosophy*, ed. B. Leiter and M. Rosen (Oxford University Press, 2008) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *German Philosophy of Language: From Schlegel to Hegel and Beyond*.)

“Menschen und andere Tiere,” *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* Heft 5 (2007)

“Herder’s Importance as a Philosopher,” in *Von der Logik zur Sprache*, ed. R. Bubner and G. Hindrichs (Klett-Cotta, 2007) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*.)

“Socrates’ Profession of Ignorance,” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 32 (2007) (This article was selected by *The Philosopher’s Annual 2008* as one of the “ten best articles published in philosophy in 2007.”)

“Socrates’ Demand for Definitions,” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 31 (2006)

“Socratic Refutation,” *Rhizai* 3/1 (2006)

“Wittgenstein on Alternative Concepts and Grammars, and the Problem of Access,” *Internationale Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 14/2 (2005)

“Herder,” in *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd edition, ed. D.M. Borchert (Macmillan, 2005)

“Hegelian vs. Kantian Interpretations of Pyrrhonism: Revolution or Reaction?” *Kritisches Jahrbuch der Philosophie* 10 (2005)

“Kant and Skepticism,” *Kritisches Jahrbuch der Philosophie* 10 (2005)

“Schleiermacher’s Hermeneutics: Some Problems and Solutions,” *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* (July, 2005) (Also available in *The Space of Love and Garbage And Other Essays from ‘The Harvard Review of Philosophy,’* ed. S.P. Upham [Open Court Press, 2008], and in Michael N. Forster, *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*.)

“The Liberal Temper in Classical German Philosophy: Freedom of Thought and Expression,” in *Internationales Jahrbuch des Deutschen Idealismus / International Yearbook of German Idealism* (2004) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*.)

“Gods, Animals, and Artists: Some Problem Cases in Herder’s Philosophy of Language,” *Inquiry* (March, 2003) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*.)

“Hegel and Some (Near-) Contemporaries: Narrow or Broad Expressivism?” in *Das Interesse des Denkens: Hegel aus heutiger Sicht*, ed. K. Vieweg and W. Welsch (Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 2003) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *German Philosophy of Language: From Schlegel to Hegel and Beyond*.)

“Herder’s Philosophy of Language, Interpretation, and Translation: Three Fundamental Principles,” *The Review of Metaphysics* 56/2 (Dec. 2002) (Also available in Michael N. Forster, *After Herder: Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition*.)

“Schleiermacher,” in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (online; originally 2002; first substantially expanded and revised edition 2017; second substantially expanded and revised edition 2022)

“Herder,” in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (online; originally 2001; first substantially expanded and revised edition 2007; second substantially expanded and revised edition 2017; third substantially expanded and revised edition 2022)

“On the Very Idea of Denying the Existence of Radically Different Conceptual Schemes,” *Inquiry* 41/2 (June 1998)

“Hegel on the Superiority of Ancient over Modern Skepticism,” in *Skeptizismus und spekulatives Denken in der Philosophie Hegels*, ed. H.-F. Fulda (Klett-Cotta, 1996)

“Hegel’s Dialectical Method,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, ed. F.C. Beiser (Cambridge University Press, 1993)

### **Forthcoming authored volumes:**

*Friedrich Schlegel’s Philosophy* (Oxford University Press)

*After Wittgenstein: Essays on Modern Philosophy of Language* (Oxford University Press)

In addition, the following essay collections are in preparation (titles provisional):

1. *Essays on Kant* (approx. 8 essays on aspects of Kant’s theoretical philosophy, including skepticism, metaphysics, language, and free will)
2. *Essays on Hegel* (approx. 8 essays on aspects of Hegel’s philosophy, including skepticism, language, mind, logic, and interpretation)
3. *Essays on Nietzsche* (approx. 8 essays on aspects of Nietzsche’s philosophy, including his views on metaphysics/epistemology, meta-ethics, genealogy, morality, religion, free will, and tragedy)
4. *Essays on Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt* (approx. 8 essays on the Humboldt brothers’ philosophy of science, linguistics, philosophy of education, and political philosophy)
5. *Romantic Hermeneutics* (approx. 30 essays on aspects of the theory of interpretation, written in the general spirit of the German Romantics’ approach and against the competitor approaches of Heidegger/Gadamer and Quine/Davidson)
6. *Ancient Skepticisms* (approx. 10 essays on various types of ancient skepticism, including not only Pyrrhonism and Academic skepticism, but also Xenophanes, Parmenides, Protagoras, and Socrates)

### **Forthcoming edited volumes:**

*Nietzsche’s ‘The Birth of Tragedy’: A Critical Guide* (w/James Porter) (Cambridge University Press)

**Some forthcoming articles:**

“Hegel on Tragedy,” in *“For Sense in this Wonderful World”: Hegel and the Aesthetic*, ed. A.L. Siani, N. Ramazzotto, E. Romagnoli (Brill)

“Schleiermacher on Foreignizing Translation, Literature, and Philosophy,” in *Verifiche*

“Skepticism about Logic in Germany at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century,” in *The Palgrave Handbook of German Idealism and Analytic Philosophy*, ed. James Conant and Jonas Held (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2023)

“Kant’s Transcendental Idealism and the Argument from Geometry,” in a volume in memory of Nelly Motroshilova (1934–2021), ed. Marina Bykova (Brill, 2023)

“Kant’s Inferentialism,” in *Kant on Language*, ed. Luigi Filieri and Konstantin Pollok (Cambridge University Press)

“German Philosophy of Language Before Kant,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Eighteenth-Century German Philosophy*, ed. Corey Dyck (Oxford University Press)

“Art and Individuality: The Case of China,” in *Chinese Aesthetics and the Art of Landscape Painting*, ed. Guido Kreis and Kai Marchal (probably Brill)

“The Humboldt Brothers and the Birth of Modern Linguistics,” in the proceedings of a Humboldt-Kolleg on Alexander von Humboldt held in Moscow in December, 2019

“Hermeneutics and the Variability of the Concept of Meaning, or Why Accurate Interpretation is Even More Difficult Than You Probably Realized,” in the proceedings of a Ringvorlesung organized in 2017 by Günter Figal at Freiburg University

**Papers/talks delivered:**

March 2025, conference “The Future of Symphilosophizing,” International Centre for Philosophy, Bonn University: “Hegel’s Debts to Friedrich Schlegel in Metaphysics and Epistemology”

January 2025, conference “Hegel et le genre de la traduction,” Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin: “Some Reflections on Hegel and Translation”

September 2024, Humboldt Kolleg “Global Perspectives on Kant,” Bonn University, plenary talk: “Some Reflections on Kant and Cosmopolitanism”

August 2024, Session in Memory of Chung-Ying Cheng, World Conference of Philosophy, Rome: “Skepticism in Ancient China and Ancient Greece: Zhuangzi and the Pyrrhonists”

August 2024, Session in Memory of Chung-Ying Cheng, World Conference of Philosophy, Rome: “Reflections on the Contributions of Chung-Ying Cheng”

July 2024, symposium on Hermeneutics and Law, Bonn University: “Hermeneutics in Antiquity”

May 2024, conference “Philosophy of Art and Aesthetic Normativity,” St. John’s College, Cambridge University: “18<sup>th</sup>-Century Contributions to the Understanding of Visual Art: Kant, Herder, and Schlegel”

November 2023, conference “Philosophy and Translation: Forms and Editions of Philosophical Translation,” Bologna University: “Schleiermacher on Foreignizing Translation, Literature, and Philosophy”

September 2023, Ringvorlesung at Zürich University: “Die Geschichte von Sprachursprungstheorien”

September 2023, invited talk at Philosophy Department, Zürich University: “Herder’s Revolution in the Philosophy of Language”

June 2023, invited talk at the “Journées d’étude: Philosophie de la culture et des cultures / Philosophies africaines”: “La Révolution herderienne dans la philosophie du langage”

May 2023, invited talk at the Department of Philosophy, University of Porto: “Herder’s Revolution in the Philosophy of Language”

March 2023, Humboldt Kolleg “Hegel and the Aesthetic,” University of Pisa: “Hegel on Ancient Tragedy”

June 2022, conference “Sprachkrise und Bildung,” Akademie für politische Bildung, Tutzing: “Die Rolle der Sprache in Humboldts Bildungstheorie”

June 2022, conference “Journées sur l’Historicisme, les Arts et la Musique,” Campus Condorcet, Paris: “Réflexions sur l’historicisme”

May 2022, conference “Re-inventing the History of Philosophy” held at the International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Practical Philosophy West and East”

March 2022, international Zoom-workshop on Chinese landscape painting at National Chengchi University, Taiwan: “Art and Individuality: The Case of China”

June 2021, Bad Nauheim Kulturreihe: “Herders sprachphilosophische Revolution und ihre Auswirkungen auf die Geisteswissenschaften”

May 2021, International Schleiermacher Kongress, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences / University of Paris Nanterre: “Romantic Hermeneutics and Its Impact on the Human Sciences in the Long Nineteenth Century”

October 2020, Zoom-workshop on Wilhelm von Humboldt’s political philosophy at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland: “Gentle Revolutions: die Gebrüder Humboldt und die Ideale der Französischen Revolution”

February 2020, conference “Spinoza’s Politics and Hermeneutics in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century German Thought” at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore: “Spinoza and Herder on Hermeneutics and Politics”

January 2020, lecture at the École normale supérieure, Paris, in the context of a conference on the topic “Der Fremde / L’Étranger” held at the University of Paris, Nanterre and the École normale supérieure: “L’Étranger et la naissance de l’anthropologie”

December 2019, lecture at the Research Center for Chinese Cultural Subjectivity in Taiwan of the National Chengchi University, Taiwan in the context of the conference “Chinese Aesthetics and the Art of Landscape Painting”: “Art and Individuality: The Case of China”

December 2019, lecture in the context of a conference sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Lomonosov University, Moscow with the title “Humboldt-Kolleg: Interactive cosmos ‘Russia – Europe.’ Alexander von Humboldt and Wilhelm von Humboldt for Modern Russia”: “The Humboldt Brothers and the Birth of Modern Linguistics”

November 2019, lecture at a conference at Bielefeld University to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, “The Theoretical University in the Digital Age”: “Wilhelm von Humboldts Modell der Universität im digitalen Zeitalter” (available online)

October 2019, conference “Alexander von Humboldt im Kontext” held at Bonn University: “Gentle Revolutionaries: die Gebrüder Humboldt und die Ideale der Französischen Revolution”

July 2019, several lectures on hermeneutics in the context of the International Summer School for German Philosophy at Bonn University, for which the topic this year was hermeneutics

June 2019, lecture at the Sorbonne, Paris in the context of a conference on Voltaire and German philosophy held at the Logis du roi, Amiens and the Sorbonne, Paris with the title “Journées Voltaire 2019”: “Voltaire et Herder”

May 2019, lecture at the École normale supérieure, Paris as part of the conference “Langues, textes, œuvres: culture et décentrement”: “La traduction défamiliarisante et le chinois”

May 2019, lecture at the Sorbonne, Paris for the “Séminaire Wittgenstein 2018–2019”: “Réflexions sur Wittgenstein et l’historicisme”

March 2019, lecture at Fudan University, Shanghai, Department of Philosophy: “The Origin and Character of Hegel’s Concept of *Geist*”

March 2019, nine lectures/public talks at Huaqiao University in Xiamen, Department of Philosophy, on Romanticism, hermeneutics, and meta-ethics East and West

February 2019, four seminar talks at the Law School of The University of Chicago on Nietzsche and the Greeks in the context of a course co-taught with Brian Leiter

February 2019, Forschungskonferenz der Philosophischen Fakultät at Bonn University: “Genealogien der Moral: die Rolle von Sklaverei und Unterdrückung”

November 2018, conference at Melbourne University on exclusivity and inclusivity in ancient Greece and early China: “Skepticism in Ancient China and Ancient Greece: Zhuangze and the Pyrrhonists”

October 2018, conference at the University of Paris, Nanterre on “Europe and Cosmopolitanism: Between the Enlightenment and Romanticism”: “Lumières et romantiques: deux variétés de cosmopolitisme moral”

September 2018, Ischia International Festival of Philosophy: “Interpretation and Imagination: Herder’s Concept of *Einfühlung*”

September 2018, DAAD-sponsored conference at Mainz and Cologne on conceptions of unity in German philosophy: “The Legacy of Spinoza’s Monism in German Romanticism and Idealism”

August 2018, conference at the Château de Cérisy, Normandy on “Goethe: l’actualité d’un inactuel”: “Goethe et Hegel: *Faust et la Phénoménologie de l’esprit*”

July 2018, lecture at the International Center for Philosophy NRW – CNRS workshop “Sense and Sensibility,” held at Bonn University: “Herder’s Concept of *Einfühlung*”

June 2018, lecture at the Kant Prize ceremony of the Philosophy Department at Bonn University: “Überlegungen zur Moralphilosophie”

June 2018, conference “Ludwig Wittgenstein: Ethics and Aesthetics” in the International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Wittgensteinian Approaches to Naturalizing Moral Objectivity”

March 2018, conference “Tragedy: Ancient and Modern” at the University of Oslo: “Plato and Aristotle on the Nature of Tragedy”

March 2018, mini-conference “Romanticism and Realism” at The University of Chicago (organized with Françoise Meltzer, Larry Norman, and Thomas Pavel): “The Realism of Romantic Hermeneutics”

February 2018, lecture for the Philosophy Department, Northwestern University: “The Origin and Character of Hegel’s Concept of *Geist*”

February 2018, conference on new directions in Marxist philosophy at the Law School of The University of Chicago: “Marx’s Critique of Religion”

December 2017, conference “Aesthetic Thinking: Philosophy and Art in Dialogue” organized by the International Center for Philosophy NRW in the Kunstmuseum, Bonn: “Does Art Think Beyond Language?”

November 2017, conference “Practical Philosophy East and West” at Aarhus University, Denmark: “Meta-ethics East and West”

October 2017, conference on Romanticism at the University of Poitiers, France: “L’Herméneutique de Friedrich Schlegel”



October 2017, Podiumsdiskussion “Schutz durch Bildung? Humboldts Bildungsideal im digitalen Zeitalter,” Humboldt Forum, Berlin

October 2017, Humboldt-Kolleg “The Idea of an Idea,” Istanbul University, Turkey: “Hermeneutics and the Variability of the Concept of an Idea”

August 2017, summer school on philosophy and anthropology organized by King’s College, London at Renmin University in Beijing. 5 lectures given: “The Herderian Tradition’s Revolution in Philosophy of Language, Hermeneutics, Translation Theory, and Linguistics”; “Herder and the Birth of Anthropology”; “Völkerpsychologie”; “Franz Boas”; and “Bronislaw Malinowski”

June 2017, Ringvorlesung on hermeneutics organized by Günter Figal at Freiburg University: “Hermeneutics and the Variability of the Concept of Meaning, or Why Accurate Interpretation is Even More Difficult Than You Probably Realized”

June 2017, conference “Free Will in Historical and Cultural Perspective,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Towards a Genealogy of the Idea of Free Will”

June 2017, conference on autonomy at Bonn University: “Kant’s Theory of Free Will in Historical Perspective”

June 2017, conference “Humankind and Humanity in the Philosophy of the Enlightenment” at LMU in Munich: “Herder on Humanity”

May 2017, conference “August Wilhelm Schlegel und die Philologien” at Bonn University: “August Wilhelm Schlegel and Hegel on Art”

April 2017, international conference on translation at Nanterre University, Paris, section “Traductologie et traduction en sciences humaines”: “Les origines de la théorie de la traduction défamiliarisante chez d’Alembert, Abbt, Herder et Schleiermacher”

April 2017, conference on hermeneutics at Bonn University in preparation for the *Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics*: “Francophone Contributions to Hermeneutics”

March 2017, Humboldt-Kolleg on Kant and free will at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam: “The Ancient Origins and Modern Consequences of the Idea of Free Will”

March 2017, conference “German Idealism and German Romanticism in Jena” held at Jena University: “Friedrich Schlegel and Hegel”

March 2017, mini-conference on A.W. Schlegel held at the University of Chicago (with Françoise Meltzer and Thomas Pavel): “The German Romantic Rethinking of Ancient Tragedy”

February 2017, lecture at a Humboldt-Kolleg on the academic disciplines in Germany in the nineteenth century held at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem: “Philosophy, History of Philosophy, and Historicism”

December 2016, talk for the Philosophy Department at Istanbul University, Turkey: “Herder’s Philosophy of Language”

December 2016, talk for the Philosophy Department at Boşygy University, Istanbul: “Herder”

December 2016, conference “Nietzsche and the Greeks” at the Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum in Naumburg: “Nietzsche: Three Genealogies of Christianity”

October 2016, Greek-Turkish Humboldt-Kolleg at the University of Thessaloniki: “Does Western Philosophy Have Non-Western Roots?”

October 2016, conference “Philosophy and the History of Philosophy” held at the International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Some Reflections on Western and Non-Western Philosophy”

September 2016, conference of the Nietzsche Gesellschaft at the Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum, Naumburg, plenary lecture: “Nietzsche on Morality as a ‘Sign Language of the Affects’”

September 2016, conference on P.I. Novgorodtsev held at the Department of Philosophy of the Lomonosov University, Moscow: “Herder and Human Rights”

September 2016, lecture at the Department of Philosophy of the Lomonosov University, Moscow: “*Einführung* und Interpretation”

September 2016, lecture at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow: “Genealogy and Morality”

July 2016, conference on “Understanding, Knowledge, and Truth” at Renmin University, Beijing: “Skepticism in Western and Chinese Philosophy”

July 2016, interdisciplinary conference on “Theorien, Modelle und Simulationen” at Bonn University: “Naturalismus”

June 2016, inaugural conference of The International Society for Nietzsche Studies, held at the International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Nietzsche on Morality as a ‘Sign Language of the Affects’”

June 2016, DAAD-sponsored conference on “Unity” held at Cambridge University, Department of Philosophy: “The Unity of Language? The Emergence and Prospects of Semantic Holism”

June 2016, conference on empathy at the Paris Center of The University of Chicago in Paris: “*Einführung* und Interpretation”

May 2016 workshop on the history of post-Kantian Logic held at McMasters University, Canada: “Hegel on Skepticism about Logic and the Need for a New Logic”

May 2016, lecture for Oxford University, Department of Philosophy: “Historicizing Genre: The German Romantic Re-thinking of Ancient Tragedy”

April 2016, workshop on Nietzsche’s *The Birth of Tragedy* at Temple University, Philadelphia: “Romanticism and *The Birth of Tragedy*”

December 2015, Ringvorlesung at the Institut français, Bonn: “Aufklärung und Sprache. Eine Revolution in der Sprachtheorie im 18. Jahrhundert”

November 2015, conference “Welt und Unendlichkeit” at Bonn University: “Anaximander’s Thesis that *to apeiron* is the *arché*”

October 2015, lecture for the Nietzsche Forum, Birkbeck College, University of London: “Genealogy and Morality”

September 2015, lecture at Toulouse University’s Journée d’Études: “Eine Revolution in der Philosophie der Sprache, der Linguistik, der Hermeneutik und der Übersetzungstheorie im späten 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert: deutsche und französische Beiträge”

July 2015, conference “Wozu Literatur-(wissenschaft)?” at Bonn University: “Why Philosophers Can Learn By Taking Literature Seriously”

July 2015, conference “Modes of Reasoning – East and West,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Forms of Reasoning in Western and Chinese Philosophy”

June 2015, conference “Raum erfahren” at Freiburg University: “Kants transzendentaler Idealismus. Das Argument hinsichtlich des Raumes und der Geometrie”

May 2015, talk at the Wissenschaftszentrum, Bonn: “Unsere Globalisierungsstrategie im Internationalen Zentrum für Philosophie NRW”

April 2015, conference of the *British Journal of the History of Philosophy* held at York University, keynote lecture: “Dogmatism, Skepticism, Criticism, and Toleration”

March 2015, conference “Romanticism: Philosophy, Literature, and Music,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University: “Historicizing Genre: The German Romantic Re-thinking of Ancient Tragedy”

January 2015, workshop on “Logic after Kant” at McMasters University, Canada: “Skepticism about Logic after Kant”

December 2014, conference on “The Coherence of Relativism” at Bonn University: “Protagoras’s Relativism”

December 2014, podium discussion on the European languages held at the Institut français, Bonn: „Das Problem der Sprachen im Rahmen des Internationalen Zentrums für Philosophie NRW“

November 2014, conference “Skeptical Solutions” at Bonn University: “The Homeric Contribution to Skepticism”

October 2014, conference “Global Philosophy?” at the University of California, Berkeley: “Does Western Philosophy Have Non-Western Roots?”

September 2014, conference on Werner Jaeger at Krickenbeck Castle: “Protagoras’ Bildungstheorie im Rahmen seiner theoretischen Philosophie” (available online)

September 2014, conference on concepts of Reason at the Chinese University of Hong Kong: “Parmenides on Contradiction and the Paradox of Non-being”

June 2014, symposium of the Swiss Philosophical Society at St. Gallen University, Switzerland, keynote address: “Criticism, Skepticism, Toleration”

May 2014, lecture series on “Historisierung” at Halle University: Comment on Frederick C. Beiser, “Historicization and Historicism”

May 2014, lecture at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Department of Philosophy: “Historicizing Genre: Voltaire, Herder, the Schlegel Brothers, and Boeckh”

April 2014, lecture series on “Historisierung” at Halle University: “Historicizing Genre: Voltaire, Herder, the Schlegel Brothers, and Boeckh”

November 2013, lecture for the Bildakt-Kolleg of the Humboldt University in Berlin: “Herder und Hegel über Kunst und Sprache”

November 2013, interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, “The Philosopher’s Zone” (recorded for broadcast and podcast at a later date)

November 2013, lecture in the “Sydney Ideas” series at Sydney University: “Does Western Philosophy Have Non-Western Roots?”

November 2013, conference on the history of anthropology at Sydney University, Department of Philosophy: “Herder on Anthropology and Human Rights”

October 2013, conference on Schelling at Temple University, Department of Philosophy: “Schelling and Skepticism”

September 2013, conference “Die Facetten der Philosophiegeschichtsschreibung im 19. Jahrhundert” at Wuppertal University: “Does Western Philosophy Have Non-Western Roots?”

June 2013, Michael Frede Memorial Lecture, University of Athens, Department of History and Philosophy of Science: “The German Romantic Re-thinking of Ancient Tragedy”

June 2013, conference on Herder held at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin: “Herder and Human Rights”

June 2013, lecture for the Rotary Club, Bonn: “Humboldt und Chicago”

May 2013, lecture for the Institute of Philosophy, Warsaw University: “Eine Revolution in der Philosophie der Sprache, der Linguistik, der Hermeneutik und der Übersetzungstheorie im späten 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert: deutsche und französische Beiträge”

May 2013, lecture for the Institute of Philosophy, Warsaw University: “The German Romantic Re-thinking of Ancient Tragedy”

November 2012, lecture for the center Eikones in Basel: “Between Tradition and Subversion: Athenian Culture in General and Tragedy in Particular”

November 2012, lecture for the center Eikones in Basel: “Plato and Aristotle on the Nature of Tragedy”

November 2012, lecture for the center Eikones in Basel: “The German Romantic Re-thinking of Ancient Tragedy”

October 2012, lecture at the Humboldt-Stiftung Preisträgerforum, Bonn: “A Beginning of Metaphysics: Parmenides on Contradiction and the Paradox of Not-Being”

September 2012, presentation at a conference held by The Nida Institute of the American Bible Society, New York: “Remarks on Lawrence Venuti, ‘Genealogies of Translation Theory: Locke and Schleiermacher’”

September 2012, lecture at Toulouse University, Department of Philosophy: “Eine Revolution in der Philosophie der Sprache, der Linguistik, der Hermeneutik und der Übersetzungstheorie im späten 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert: deutsche und französische Beiträge”

June 2012, conference “Linguistic Meaning: History of the Philosophy of Language” at the University of Western Ontario, Canada: “Kant’s Philosophy of Language?”

June 2012, conference “Linguistic Meaning: History of the Philosophy of Language” at the University of Western Ontario, Canada: “Herder’s Doctrine of Meaning as Use”

May 2012, conference “Skepticism and Politics in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries” at UCLA: “Skepticism and Toleration”

December 2011, conference “The Problem of Language within the Context of German Idealism” at The University of Brussels, keynote address: “Herder’s Doctrine of Meaning as Use”

December 2011, lecture for the University of Leuven, Belgium, Department of Philosophy: “Kant’s Philosophy of Language?”

December 2011, conference “Bildung der Moderne” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Humboldts Bildungsideal und sein Modell der Universität”

November 2011, conference “Concepts of *Bildung* around 1800 and Wilhelm von Humboldt’s Idea of the University” at The University of Chicago: “Humboldt’s Ideal of *Bildung* and His Model of the Modern University”

July 2011, conference “Die Aktualität der Romantik” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena: “Herders Beitrag zur Entstehung des Begriffs *romantisch*”

July 2011, Bonn University, International Summer School for German Philosophy, keynote address: “Why Hegel’s Subjective Logic is Philosophically Interesting”

May 2011, annual meeting of the American Friends of the German Literary Archive Marbach held at The University of Chicago: “The German Tradition in the Philosophy of Language and Its Importance Today”

April 2011, lecture at Bonn University, Department of Philosophy: “Skeptische Zweifel an der Logik in der deutschen Philosophie um 1800”

April 2011, graduate student conference at the State University of New York at Syracuse, keynote address: “Skepticism about Logic in Germany around the Turn of the Nineteenth Century”

February 2011, interdisciplinary conference “The Actuality of Romanticism” at Monash University, Australia: “Schlegel and Hegel on the Law of Contradiction”

February 2011, lecture at University of Melbourne, Australia, Department of Philosophy: “Does Every Genuine Philosophy Have a Skeptical Side?”

January 2011, presentation at a symposium on Mark Johnston’s *Saving God and Surviving Death* held at Princeton University, Department of Philosophy: “Mark Johnston’s *Surviving Death*”

November 2010, “Modern Philosophy Conference” held at New York University, Department of Philosophy: “Comments on Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer, ‘Reality as a Modal Notion’”

October 2010, conference “50 Years *Truth and Method*” organized by the University of Rome Tor Vergata and the Italian Institute of German Studies: “Gadamer’s Hermeneutics: A Critical Appraisal”

September 2010, conference on “Bildung” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena: “*Bildung* bei Herder und seinen Nachfolgern: Drei Begriffe”

May 2010, conference on Herder across the disciplines held at Oslo University: “Herder and Spinoza”

May 2010, conference on Spinoza and German philosophy held at Johns Hopkins University, Department of Philosophy: “Herder and Spinoza”

February 2010, talk at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Hegels ‘Das geistige Tierreich’ und Goethes ‘Reineke Fuchs’”

February 2010, lectures at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy on German philosophy of language, hermeneutics, and translation-theory in the context of an intensive course taught by myself and Klaus Vieweg

December 2009, conference on “The Continuity of Evolution and the Special Character of the Human” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena: “Concluding Comments”

October 2009, lecture at Notre Dame University, Department of Philosophy: “Kant’s Philosophy of Language?”

October 2009, conference on naturalistic approaches to ethics held at The University of Chicago, Law School: “Genealogy and Morality”

April 2009, Visiting Scholar Lecture delivered at James Madison University, Department of Foreign Languages: “Herder, Schleiermacher, and the Birth of Foreignizing Translation”

October 2008, lecture at the Franke Institute for the Humanities, The University of Chicago: “Hermeneutics”

September 2008, meeting of the Internationale Hegel-Gesellschaft held in Leuven, Belgium, keynote address: “Ursprung und Wesen des Hegelschen Geistbegriffs”

April 2008, conference on hermeneutics held at Temple University, Department of Philosophy: “Herder, Schleiermacher, and the Birth of Foreignizing Translation”

March 2008, lecture at Marquette University, Department of Philosophy: “Does Every Genuine Philosophy Have a Skeptical Side?”

February 2008, lecture at the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy: “Does Every Genuine Philosophy Have a Skeptical Side?”

January 2008, conference “Metaphysics and Skepticism” at Heidelberg University, Department of Philosophy: “Does Every Genuine Philosophy Have a Skeptical Side?”

September 2007, three lectures delivered at the Humanities Institute in Osaka, Japan as the Humanities Institute Lecturer there for 2007 on the subject: “Philosophy of Language, Interpretation, and Translation”

May 2007, conference “Inventions of the Imagination” at The University of Washington, Seattle: “Herder’s Importance as a Philosopher”

April 2007, lecture for The University of Chicago, Philosophy of Religion Club: “Herder’s Importance as a Philosopher”

April 2007, presentation at the Central Division APA: “Response to Paul Franks, *All or Nothing*”

March 2007, international symposium “Gestalten des Bewusstseins. Genealogisches Denken im Kontext Hegels” at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of the Sciences, Berlin: “Phänomenologie als Genealogie”

January 2007, lecture for The University of Chicago, Social Sciences Workshop: “Herder and the Birth of Modern Anthropology”

October 2006, conference on Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit* held at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Das geistige Tierreich”

May 2006, conference on Herder and anthropology held at Oslo University, Norway: “Herder and the Birth of Modern Anthropology”

April 2006, seminar in the series “New York University Seminars on Mind and Language” at New York University, Department of Philosophy: “Kant, Hegel, and Skepticism”

May 2005, meeting of the Internationale Hegel-Vereinigung held in Stuttgart, Germany: “Hegel and Hermeneutics”

April 2005, lecture for The University of Chicago, Wittgenstein Workshop: “A Wittgensteinian Anti-Platonism”

February 2005, lecture at the National Technical University, Athens, Greece: “Socratic Refutation”

February 2005, lecture at Anatolia College, Salonica, Greece: “Socrates’ Demand for Definitions”

February 2005, lecture at the Aristotle University, Salonica, Greece: “Hegel and Hermeneutics”

June 2004, lecture for an international conference hosted by the University of Athens, Department of Philosophy and History of Science on the island of Aegina that focused on my recently published book *Wittgenstein on the Arbitrariness of Grammar* (Princeton University Press, 2004): “A Wittgensteinian Anti-Platonism”

May 2004, lecture at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Wittgenstein on the Arbitrariness of Grammar”

May 2004, conference “Skeptizismus um 1800” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Kantian vs. Hegelian Interpretations of Pyrrhonism: Reaction or Revolution?”

May 2004, conference “Skeptizismus um 1800” at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy, keynote address: “Kant and Skepticism”

March 2004, lecture at the University of Crete, Greece, Department of Philosophy: “Herder’s Importance as a Philosopher”

March 2004, lecture at the University of Athens, Department of Philosophy and History of Science: “Herder, Schleiermacher, and the Birth of Foreignizing Translation”

June 2003, lecture at Northwestern University, Department of Philosophy: “Later Wittgenstein: Alternative Grammars and the Problem of Access”

May 2003, lecture at the University of Patras, Greece, Department of Philosophy: “The Liberal Temper in Classical German Philosophy: Freedom of Thought and Expression”

May 2003, lecture at the University of Athens, Department of Philosophy and History of Science: “Later Wittgenstein: Alternative Grammars and the Problem of Access”

April 2003, conference “Von Kant bis Hegel” at Johns Hopkins University, Department of Philosophy: “Hegel and Some (Near-) Contemporaries: Narrow or Broad Expressivism?”

October 2002, “Beijing International Symposium on Wittgenstein and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Analytic Philosophy” at Peking University, Institute of European Philosophy: “Later Wittgenstein: Alternative Grammars and the Problem of Access”

April 2002, lecture at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Philosophy and German Departments: “Hegel and Some (Near-) Contemporaries: Narrow or Broad Expressivism?”

April 2002, lecture at the University of California at Berkeley, Institute for European Studies: “Herder’s Philosophy of Language, Interpretation, and Translation: Three Fundamental Principles”

January 2002, lecture at The University of Chicago, Franke Institute for the Humanities: “Herder as a Philosopher”



December 2001, lecture at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Hegel and Some (Near-) Contemporaries: Narrow or Broad Expressivism?”

December 2001, lecture at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Department of Philosophy: “Later Wittgenstein: Alternative Grammars and the Problem of Access”

November 2001, lecture at New York University, Department of Philosophy: “Later Wittgenstein: Alternative Grammars and the Problem of Access”

June 2001, lecture at The University of Chicago, Wittgenstein Workshop: “Wittgenstein’s Later Philosophy: The Question of the ‘Arbitrariness of Grammar’”

April 2001, lecture at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Department of Philosophy: “Herder’s Hermeneutical Theory: Foundations in the Philosophy of Language”

April 2000, international conference on Schleiermacher held at Drew University, New Jersey: “Schleiermacher’s Hermeneutics: Some Problems and Solutions”

December 1999, lecture delivered in a session on my recently published book *Hegel’s Idea of a “Phenomenology of Spirit”* (University of Chicago Press, 1998) at the Eastern Division APA meeting, held in Boston: “Hegel’s Intellectual Debts to Herder”

April 1999, lecture at Columbia University, Department of Philosophy: “Herder on Language and Interpretation”

April 1999, lecture at the University of Georgia, Department of Philosophy: “Herder on Language and Interpretation”

April 1998, conference on philosophy in the 18th century held at the University of Notre Dame: “Herder on Conceptual Change, Interpretation, and Translation”

March 1998, lecture at McGill University, Canada, Department of Philosophy: “Herder on Conceptual Change, Interpretation, and Translation”

March 1998, lecture at McGill University, Canada, Department of Philosophy: “On the Very Idea of Denying the Existence of Radically Different Conceptual Schemes”

March 1997, lecture at Princeton University, Department of Philosophy: “On the Very Idea of Denying the Existence of Radically Different Conceptual Schemes”

April 1996, lecture at the Central Division APA meeting held in Chicago: “The Historicism of Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”

September 1995, lecture at the meeting of the Internationale Hegel-Vereinigung, held in Pisa, Italy: “Hegel on the Superiority of Ancient over Modern Skepticism”

June 1995, lecture at The University of Chicago, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: “The Motivation of Kant’s Transcendental Idealism”

June 1993, conference on Hegel held at Northwestern University, Department of Philosophy: “Curing Modern Culture: Hegel on the Ills of Modern Society”

April 1990, lecture at The University of Chicago, German Department: “The Historicism of Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”

March 1990, lecture at The University of Chicago, Ancient Philosophy Workshop: “Socrates’ Demand for Definitions”

February 1990, lecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of Philosophy: “Socrates’ Demand for Definitions”

January 1990, lecture at Lincoln College, Oxford: “The Philosophical Tasks of Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”

January 1990, lecture at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Department of Philosophy: “Hegel’s Dialectical Method”

October 1988, lecture at Princeton University, Department of Philosophy: “Kant and Skepticism concerning Metaphysics”

May 1988, conference on Kant held at The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy to mark the retirement of Manley Thompson: “Kant and Skepticism concerning Metaphysics”

February 1988, lecture at Harvard University, Department of Philosophy: “The Philosophical Tasks of Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”

February 1988, lecture at Harvard University, Department of Philosophy: “Hegel and Skepticism”

May 1984, lecture at The University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy: “Hegel and the History of Skepticism”

**Some upcoming events organized / talks:**

September 2025, Tang Chun-I Visiting Professorship at Chinese University of Hong Kong (several seminars and public lectures)

October 16-20, 2025 talk at conference “China and World Philosophies,” Xidian University, China: “Views on Contradiction West and East”

November 14-16, 2025 conference “Kant, Hegel, and their Successors” at Harvard University (co-organized with Susan Hahn)

November 14-16 talk at the conference “Kant, Hegel, and After” at Harvard University: “Hegel on Tragedy”

## Conferences organized:

Since 2013 I have (co-)organized and funded a large number of conferences and similar academic events in connection with my Alexander von Humboldt Professorship and my professorial chair at Bonn University. Among these were:

- 19–21/3/25 conference “Symphilosophizing in German Romanticism,” International Centre for Philosophy, Bonn University (with Laure Cahen-Maurel)
- 27–28/9/24: conference “Leo Tolstoy: Poet, Thinker, Reformer,” International Centre for Philosophy, Bonn University (with Lina Steiner)
- 12–14/5/22: conference “Re-inventing the History of Philosophy,” International Centre for Philosophy, Bonn University
- 23–24/2/20: conference “Spinoza’s Politics and Hermeneutics in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century German Thought” at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (with Jason Yonover)
- 24–25/1/20: conference on “Der Fremde/L’Étranger” at the University of Paris, Nanterre und the École normale supérieure
- 12–15/12/19: conference “Chinese Aesthetics and the Art of Landscape Painting” at the Research Center for Chinese Cultural Subjectivity in Taiwan, National Chengchi University, Taiwan
- 30–31/10/19: conference “Alexander von Humboldt im Kontext” at Bonn University
- 15/11/18: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research workshop “Geschichte, Philosophie, Rechts- und Sozialwissenschaft” held in the International Center for Philosophy NRW at Bonn University
- 20/10/18: conference “Europe and Cosmopolitanism: Between the Enlightenment and Romanticism” at the University of Paris, Nanterre
- 27–30/9/18 Ischia International Festival of Philosophy
- 11–12/6/18: conference “Ludwig Wittgenstein: Ethics and Aesthetics,” International Center for Philosophy NRW at Bonn University
- 23–24/3/18: conference “Tragedy: Ancient and Modern” at Oslo University, Norway
- 2/3/18: conference “Romanticism and Realism” at The University of Chicago
- 15–17/12/17 conference “Aesthetic Thinking: Philosophy and Art in Dialogue,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held at the Bonner Kunstmuseum
- 2–4/11/17 conference “Practical Philosophy East and West,” Aarhus University, Denmark
- 26–28/10/17 conference “Russian Thinkers: Between the Revolution and Tradition,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University (proceedings: *Studies in Eastern European Thought*, 70/4, December 2018 & 71/1, March 2019))
- 4–6/10/17 Humboldt-Kolleg “The Idea of an Idea,” Istanbul University, Turkey
- 22–25/6/17 conference “Free Will in Historical and Cultural Perspective,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University
- 17–18/6/17 conference “The Unity of the Object,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University (part of a DAAD-sponsored series of conferences on the concept of “Unity” organized between the Universities of Bonn, Cambridge, and San Diego)
- 5–7/4/17 conference “Hermeneutics” (held in preparation for the *Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics*), International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University
- 28/3/17 Memorial conference (“Gedenkfeier”) for Josef Simon (1930–2016) at Bonn University
- 16–18/3/17 conference “German Idealism and German Romanticism in Jena,” Jena University
- 3–4/3/17 second conference of the International Society of Nietzsche Studies, held at The University of Chicago
- 1/3/17 conference “A.W. Schlegel” at The University of Chicago

12–13/12/16 symposium with Ned Block (NYU) and Tyler Burge (UCLA), International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University

4–8/12/16 conference “Nietzsche and the Greeks,” Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum, Naumburg

5–7/10/16 conference “Philosophy and History of Philosophy,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University

16–17/7/16 conference “Understanding, Knowledge, and Truth,” Renmin University, Beijing

24–25/6/16 inaugural conference of the International Society of Nietzsche Studies, International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University

3/6/16 conference “Empathy,” Paris Center of The University of Chicago, Paris

6–9/5/16 workshop “Logic in Kant’s Wake,” McMasters University, Canada

29–30/4/16 conference “Nietzsche and Tragedy,” Temple University, Philadelphia

26–27/11/15: conference “Welt und Unendlichkeit,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University

18/9/15: conference “Journée d’Études Bonn-Toulouse,” Toulouse University

10–12/7/15: conference “Modes of Reasoning – East at West,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held in the University’s Faculty Club

26–29/3/15: conference “Romanticism: Philosophy, Literature, and Music,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held in the Poppelsdorfer Schloss

Dec. 2014 – Jan. 2015 Ringvorlesung on Romanticism (speakers: Helmut Hühn and Jean-François Kervégan), Institut français in Bonn

13–14/12/14: conference “The Coherence of Relativism,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held in the Poppelsdorfer Schloss

26–28/11/14: conference “Skeptical Solutions: Provocations of Philosophy,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held in the University’s Hauptgebäude

2–3/10/14: conference “Global Philosophy,” University of California, Berkeley

17–19/9/14: conference “Concepts of Rationality,” Chinese University of Hong Kong

30/5/14: UN Global Citizenship Commission: collective “public facing session” plus public lecture by Anthony Appiah, International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University, held in the Große Aula and in the International Center

20–21/5/14: conference “Ontologie des Sozialen,” International Center for Philosophy NRW, Bonn University

13–14/12/14: philosophical advisors to the UN Global Citizenship Commission from NYU hosted by the International Center for Philosophy NRW at Bonn University, including a public lecture by Jeremy Waldron, events held in the International Center and the Hauptgebäude

2–4/10/13: conference “The Contemporary Relevance of Schelling’s Philosophy,” Temple University

In addition, I earlier organized several conferences at the University of Chicago as departmental chairman and in other capacities, including conferences to mark the retirements and achievements of William Tait and Alan Gewirth, a 2011 conference supported by the Franke Institute for the Humanities and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft titled “Concepts of *Bildung* around 1800 and Wilhelm von Humboldt’s Idea of the University,” and more recently several smaller conferences on aspects of German Romanticism (co-organized with Françoise Meltzer, Larry Norman, and Thomas Pavel).

**Some former PhD advisees who have gone on to academic positions:**

David Brendel (Freud) – Harvard Medical School  
Marc Djaballah (Foucault/Kant) – University of Memphis  
Jamie Edwards (Marx) – St. Norbert College, The University of Chicago, Oberlin College  
Stephen Engstrom (Kant) – Pittsburgh University  
Mihaela Fistioc (Plato/Kant) – Washington College; Yale University  
Elise Frketich (Reinhold) – Purdue University  
Susan Hahn (Hegel) – Johns Hopkins University; Concordia University; Tufts University  
Jim Kreines (Hegel) – Yale University; Pomona College  
Alison Laywine (Kant) – McGill University  
Jadran Lee (Bentham/animal rights) – University of Melbourne  
Alyssa Luboff (Relativism) – Grand Valley State University  
Wing Sze Leung (Rousseau/Kant/Wordsworth) – Fordham University, National University of Singapore  
Barbara Montero (philosophy of mind) – Georgia State University; CUNY  
Kurt Mosser (Kant) – University of Dayton  
Ulf Nilsson (Marx) – Kenyon College  
Jim Oates (Kant) – California State University  
Gregg Osborne (Kant) – American University in Beirut; Washington and Jefferson College  
John Person (German Philosophy in pre-war Japan) – UCLA  
Erich Reck (Wittgenstein) – University of California, Riverside  
James Reid (Heidegger) – College of William and Mary  
Miles Rind – Virginia Technical University; Cincinnati University; Boston University  
Tim Rosenkoetter (Kant) – Dartmouth College; NYU  
Irina Ruvinsky (Proust) – School of the Art Institute, Chicago  
Motohide Saji (Kant) – International University of Japan  
Justin Shaddock (Kant) – Williams College  
Philip Shields (Wittgenstein) – Beloit College  
Daniel Smith (Deleuze) – Purdue University  
David Sussman (Kant) – Princeton University; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana  
Ben Vilhauer (Kant) – Claremont McKenna College; William Paterson University  
Rachel Zuckert (Kant) – Bucknell University; Rice University; Northwestern University

**Philosophical society memberships:**

American Philosophical Association  
International Herder Society  
Internationale Hegel-Gesellschaft  
Internationale Hegel-Vereinigung  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Philosophie

## Miscellaneous:

I have reviewed many books, book proposals, and articles for presses and journals, including Blackwell, Cambridge University Press, The University of Chicago Press, Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, and *Synthese*

I have written many external reviews for appointment and promotion cases at universities, including Princeton University, NYU, and the University of Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne

I have reviewed fellowship applicants and prize nominees for several funding agencies, including the American Philosophical Society, the ACLS, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Member of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften “Kommission Zentrum Preußen” (2021–present)

Editorial board member *Symphilosophie* (international journal for Romanticism) (2019–present)

Since 2015 I have co-organized, -funded, and attended the German-French Reading Group (Deutsch-Französische Lesegruppe) approx. 4 times per year, which alternates between Bonn and Paris (co-organized with Christian Berner and François Thomas, University of Paris, Nanterre)

Founding member of the International Society of Nietzsche Studies (2015–present)

Member of the governing board of the Institut français, Bonn (2015–present)

Since 2014 I have co-organized, -funded, and -taught the International Summer School for German Philosophy that is held at Bonn University for two weeks in June/July each year (except for Corona years) (together with Markus Gabriel)

Member of the ACLS national selection committee (2011/12, 2012/13, and 2013/14)

Co-editor of LIT Verlag series “Romantik heute” (2011–present)

Member of the research group “Erklärende Hermeneutik” (University of Düsseldorf) (2010–present)

Editorial board member and 19th Century editor for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2005–15)

External assessor, University of Athens, Department of History and Philosophy of Science (2004)

Editorial board member for the *Internationales Jahrbuch des Deutschen Idealismus / International Yearbook of German Idealism* (2003–present)

I served two terms as a board member for the Franke Institute for the Humanities, The University of Chicago in the 1990s and 2000s

I served as a board member of *The Philosophical Gourmet*, ed. Brian Leiter et al., for several years (beginning in 2000)

**Appendix: Concluding self-report on my activities during the Alexander von Humboldt prize period (2013–20), as submitted in 2021 (including a few more recent updates), together with a reply to it from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (both here translated from German into English)**

**Summary Report (2013–20) (submitted to the Humboldt Foundation on 25/4/21)**

The following points summarize some of the most significant results of my Humboldt-Professorship during the prize-period 2013–20.

*The Philosophy Department*

My original nomination by Bonn University for a Humboldt Professorship envisaged not only my integration into the Philosophy Department but also the Department's further expansion and internationalization. In these respects my Humboldt Professorship has gone very well.

I have worked especially closely on international projects with the following colleagues from the Department: Markus Gabriel (e.g., in the International Summer School for German Philosophy that we have organized and taught together almost every year since 2014), Christoph Horn (e.g., in an international conference on "Nietzsche and the Greeks" that he and I co-organized in 2016 at the Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum in Naumburg and in a German-French Reading Group that I have organized since 2015 in which he sometimes participates), Dieter Sturma (e.g., in an international conference on "Alexander von Humboldt in Context" that we co-organized in 2019 at Bonn University), and Rainer Schaefer (e.g., in a Humboldt-Kolleg on "The Idea of an Idea" that I co-organized with a Turkish colleague at Istanbul University and in which he actively participated, as well as in regular seminars on Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* that he and I have given together at Bonn University).

In addition, during my Humboldt-Professorship the Philosophy Department has succeeded in attracting several new professors both from Germany and from overseas, so that the hope originally invested in my nomination that it would lead to further development of the Department, especially through an increase in researchers with an international profile, has not been disappointed: Aimee van Wynsberghe (Alexander von Humboldt Professor for artificial intelligence, who came from Holland), Wouter Goris (Chair for Medieval Philosophy, who likewise came from Holland), Dennis Lehmkuhl (Lichtenberg Professor for History and Philosophy of Physics, who came from the USA), Rainer Schaefer (W-2 Professor for Classical German Philosophy), Burt Heinrichs, and Annette Dufner (both W-2 professors for practical philosophy).

My Humboldt-Professorship in particular made it possible for me to negotiate and fund the appointment to a W-2 professorship of Rainer Schaefer, who is an outstanding expert on classical German philosophy, has since been tenured, and now serves as departmental chairman.

A similar point applies to Lina Steiner, who is now a tenured Senior Lecturer (akademische Rätin) on my professorial chair and Director of the Research Center for Philosophy and Literature. Thanks to my Humboldt-Professorship, I was able to win her from The University of Chicago, where she was already Associate Professor, for Bonn University in 2013. She is a specialist for both Comparative Literature and Slavic Studies, and is in particular one of the world's leading experts on Russian literature.

### *Additional Contributions to the Improvement of Bonn University*

Since 2013 I have directed the International Center for Philosophy North Rhine Westphalia together with Markus Gabriel and am also a founding member of the Center for Science and Thought, which he directs. Both Centers have been quite successful.

The two appointees just mentioned above, Schaefer and Steiner, both play a vital role in the International Center. During my Humboldt-Professorship I was also able to appoint the following junior faculty members (*wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter*) in the Center using a combination of resources from the Humboldt-Professorship and from the University: Dr. Guido Kreis, Dr. Enrico Mueller, Dr. Stephan Zimmermann, Dr. Mattia Riccardi, Dr. François Thomas, Dr. Dorothee Schmitt, and Dr. Laure Cahan-Maurel. Several of these junior faculty members have since gone on to very good positions at other universities: Kreis to a professorial chair of his own at Aarhus University in Denmark, Riccardi to an Associate Professorship at the University of Porto in Portugal (which is where his wife comes from), Thomas to a position as Senior Lecturer (Maître de Conférences) at the University of Paris, Nanterre (where he also now serves as Chair of the Philosophy Department). These people not only made an outstanding contribution to teaching and the organization of conferences at the University, but have also distinguished themselves with many excellent publications, e.g., Schaefer with his monograph on Hölderlin *Aus der Erstarrung* (Meiner Verlag, 2020); Steiner with her (co-)edited volumes *Romanticism, Philosophy, and Literature* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2018) and *The Palgrave Handbook of Russian Thought* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2021) as well as scholarly articles in those volumes and elsewhere; Kreis with his books *Negative Dialektik des Unendlichen* (Suhrkamp, 2015) and *Gottes-Widerlegungen* (Suhrkamp, 2022); Mueller with his *Nietzsche-Lexikon* (UTB, 2020); and Riccardi with his book *Nietzsche's Philosophical Psychology* (Oxford University Press, 2021). In addition, Schmitt is in negotiations with Oxford University Press about writing a book on relativism in English.

Concerning doctoral students, I have been able to do several things since 2013: 1. I have acted as supervisor for about a dozen doctoral dissertations, of which 6 have now been successfully defended (Melanie Riedel [on Simmel], Simon Waskow [on Hegel], Sophia Fazio [on Kant], Céline Krestel [on Shaftesbury], Jan Paffrath [on Marx], and Florian Maiwald [on J.S. Mill]), another 1 has already been submitted (Mariana Dimopulos [on philosophy of translation]), and several more have dissertation projects well underway (including Herr Kang [on Nietzsche], Kimsoo Park [on Kant], Bo Tang [on German Romanticism / Heidegger], Diego Rodriguez [on Herder], and Sam Müller [on *Bildung*]). 2. I have also served as a co-advisor and/or examiner for many of my colleagues' doctoral candidates, especially Markus Gabriel's. 3. I have also been able to employ a number of doctoral candidates as assistants (*wissenschaftliche Hilfskräfte*), charged mainly with helping to organize conferences and edit publications (Jaroslaw Bledowski, Eva Jeske, Jan Paffrath, Melanie Riedel, Simon Waskow, Levin Zende, and Florian Maiwald). 4. I was also able to organize an exchange program for doctoral students between The University of Chicago and Bonn University that I funded with resources from my Humboldt-Professorship. This exchange program lasted for 5 years and allowed an average of 2 students per year to spend a year at the other university (in total, 9 students benefited from this opportunity, drawn in roughly equal measures from the two universities, of whom several have now completed their doctorates and gone on to academic positions). 5. Almost every year since arriving in Bonn (with exceptions due to Corona) I have organized, funded, and taught, together with my colleague Markus Gabriel, an International Summer School for German Philosophy which brings about 35 carefully selected doctoral students from all over the world to Bonn for a two-week course each year. My Humboldt funding allowed me to provide stipends for about 12 of the most talented and financially underprivileged of these participants each year, to invite several internationally renowned speakers to give talks in the Summer School each year, and to hold at least one collective dinner for all participants/speakers each year.



*The International Center for Philosophy NRW and the Internationalization of Philosophy at Bonn University*

Since arriving at Bonn University in 2013 I directed the International Center for Philosophy NRW together with Markus Gabriel. The International Center was already founded before my arrival by Wolfram Högbe and then developed by Markus Gabriel. Since 2013 we were able to develop it even further, largely thanks to the funding provided by my Humboldt-Professorship.

My own approach – which would not have been possible without the Humboldt Foundation’s generous funding – has been to make philosophizing in the International Center genuinely international in the sense that not only the participants but also the philosophical ideas considered are drawn from a variety of different countries and traditions around the world. (This approach is connected with two of my own philosophical positions: a general anti-universalism and a form of moral cosmopolitanism that I call “pluralist cosmopolitanism.”) Such an approach is extremely ambitious and could easily become impossibly so. I have therefore made it a bit more manageable by concentrating on the five main living traditions in philosophy: the German, Anglophone, French, Chinese, and Russian traditions.

Concerning German philosophy (which is my own academic specialty), the funding associated with my Humboldt-Professorship has enabled me to (co-)organize many international events in the International Center largely focused on German philosophy: international conferences, individual lectures and seminars by eminent guests, the International Summer School for German Philosophy, the German-French Reading Group, etc. I have also been able to (co-)organize many international events at other universities/centers in Germany, e.g., at Jena University (in particular, an international conference on German Idealism and German Romanticism that I organized there with Klaus Vieweg), LMU in Munich (in particular, an international conference on “humanity” in the eighteenth century that I organized there with Stefanie Buchenau and Ansgar Lyssy), and the Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum in Naumburg (a conference on “Nietzsche and the Greeks” that I organized there with Christoph Horn). In addition, many of the events that I have been able to organize with Anglophone colleagues and shall describe in the next paragraph have focus on German philosophy. Several volumes based on papers from these various events have already appeared, e.g., in connection with conferences held in Bonn *The Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics* (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and *Romanticism, Philosophy, and Literature* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2020), and in connection with the conference in Jena *Idealismus und Romantik in Jena* (Fink, 2018). Further volumes are currently in preparation as well, e.g., volumes for the conferences at LMU and at the Nietzsche-Dokumentationszentrum. In addition, again with the help of the financial support provided by my Humboldt-Professorship, I was able to co-edit with Kristin Gjesdal an ambitious volume on nineteenth-century German philosophy that includes contributions from both German and Anglophone scholars: *The Oxford Handbook of German Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Concerning the Anglophone world, thanks to the resources of my Humboldt-Professorship, I was able in 2014, in close co-operation with colleagues from the Philosophy Department at NYU (Paul Boghossian, Anthony Appiah, and Jeremy Waldron), to invite the Global Citizenship Commission of the United Nations under the leadership of the former British prime minister Gordon Brown to Bonn University, where the Commission not only worked on improvements of the International Declaration of Human Rights for the United Nations (the Commission’s proposals have since been published in book form) but also gave several public presentations on the subject of human rights (one of them a collective “public facing” session, two others individual lectures). In 2015 I was able, thanks to funding from my Humboldt-Professorship, to found a new International Society of Nietzsche Studies together with Brian Leiter (The University of Chicago), Ken Gemes (Birkbeck College, University of London), and other eminent

Anglophone Nietzsche scholars, as well as to organize its inaugural conference in the International Center. The contributions to this conference were then published in a special edition of the respected journal *Inquiry* in 2017. In addition, since 2014 I have co-taught a seminar with Brian Leiter in the Law School at The University of Chicago each February/early March for students from both law and philosophy (mostly on topics in German philosophy). On these occasions in Chicago I have also with the help of my Humboldt funding been able to organize conferences on aspects of German philosophy in cooperation with Brian Leiter and other colleagues from The University of Chicago, especially Françoise Meltzer and Thomas Pavel. The topics of these conferences have included Nietzsche, Marx, German Romanticism, and A.W. Schlegel. I have also been able with the help of my Humboldt funding to (co-)organize conferences at several other American and Canadian universities, including a series of workshops on the history of logic at McMasters University in Canada (in cooperation with Sandra Lapointe; other participants in these workshops included Frederick Beiser, Nicholas Griffin, Jeremy Heis, Nick Stang, Graham Priest, and Clinton Tolley) and a conference on Spinoza's hermeneutics and political philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University in 2020 (co-organized with Jason Jonover and Yitzhak Melamed; other participants were Frederick Beiser, Martin Bollacher, Eckart Förster, Sebastian Gardner, Kristin Gjesdal, Micah Gottlieb, Zev Harvey, Johathan Israel, Tracey Matysik, Dean Moyar, and Michael Rosenthal). In addition, thanks to my Humboldt funding, I have been able, together with Markus Gabriel, to invite several eminent analytic philosophers from the Anglophone world to Bonn to give talks/seminars (including Ned Block, Robert Brandom, and Tyler Burge). Now that the period of the Humboldt funding has ended, I have continued organizing such events in the Anglophone world. For example, I am currently co-organizing with Susan Hahn a conference "Kant, Hegel, and their Successors," which will take place at Harvard University in November, 2025.

Concerning France, since 2015 I have been able, thanks to my Humboldt funding, to organize, together with François Thomas and Christian Berner (both now at the University of Paris Nanterre), a German-French Reading Group that meets about four times each year, alternating between Bonn and Paris. This reading group selects German and French philosophical texts of common interest to the group and discusses them for several hours each session under the guidance of a presenter (authors have included the German Romantics in general, Schleiermacher in particular, Marx, Nietzsche, Montaigne, Rousseau, and Bergson). Over the years the activities of the reading group have expanded to also include conferences and workshops, whose topics have included cosmopolitanism in the Enlightenment, the concept of a "stranger," and the translation of poetry. Besides Christian Berner, François Thomas and myself, other regular participants in the reading group and its related events include Lina Steiner, Simon Waskow, Andrea Wilke, Levin Zende, Jan Paffrath, Laure Cahan-Maurel, and Jens Rometsch (all from Bonn University), Matthieu Amat (University of Lausanne), Stefanie Buchenau (University of Paris 8), Marc de Launay (ENS/CNRS), Charlotte Morel (ENS/CNRS), and Françoise Rétif (University of Rouen). I was also able to co-organize a conference on empathy with Thomas Pavel at the Paris Center of The University of Chicago during a year in which he was serving as Director there. In addition, I have regularly participated in, and presented papers at, other conferences in France (e.g., at the École normale supérieure, Poitiers University, and the Sorbonne). I have also written evaluations, and served on commissions, for several younger colleagues in France, including Lucas Pétauud-Létang (doctoral dissertation, Bordeaux), Stefanie Buchenau (Habilitation, Sorbonne), and François Thomas (doctoral dissertation, Lille). Finally, since 2013 I have also served as a member of the governing board of the Institut français in Bonn, with which I have organized several joint events, including public lectures for "Ringvorlesungen" by eminent philosophers and literary scholars (Helmut Hühn, Jean-François Kervégan, and Thomas Pavel).

Concerning China, since 2014 I have been able, with the help of my Humboldt funding, to organize a series of conferences at Bonn University and several other universities in Europe and

China on the relation between Western and Chinese philosophy in co-operation with both German and Chinese colleagues – in particular, Guido Kreis (Aarhus University), Kai Marchal (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Tze-wan Kwan (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Chung-ying Cheng (University of Hawaii). I have also since 2014 taught as a guest professor for short periods at two Chinese universities (at Renmin University in Beijing in the context of a summer school on philosophy and anthropology organized by King’s College, London in 2017; and at Huaqiao University in Xiamen on the subject of the German Romantics’ philosophy of language in 2019). In addition, I co-edited with Guido Kreis two volumes of *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* in 2017 containing papers from the aforementioned conferences (including one of my own). More recently, the editor of *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, Chung-ying Cheng, invited Guido Kreis, Tze-wan Kwan, and myself to edit three further volumes of the Journal to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding: two volumes on practical philosophy, one volume on the philosophy of translation (volumes for which I again contributed articles). These volumes appeared in 2022/3. In addition, a book based on another of the aforementioned conferences (held at National Chengchi University in 2019 on the aesthetics of Chinese landscape painting) is currently being edited by Guido Kreis and Kai Marchal (to which I have again contributed an article). These links with China are continuing now that the period of my Humboldt funding has ended. For example, in 2025 I shall hold the Tang Chun-I Visiting Professorship at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in September, giving several seminars and public lectures, as well as attending the conference “China and World Philosophies” at Xidian University in October, where I will give a talk on views about contradiction in the West and the East.

Concerning Russia, in 2017, thanks to my Humboldt funding, together with invaluable support from Dr. Steffen Mehlich of the Humboldt Foundation and his wife Professor Julia Mehlich (Lomonosov University), I was able, in cooperation with Lina Steiner (who is Russian by birth and an expert in Slavic Studies) and Marina Bykova (who is likewise Russian by birth and an expert on Russian philosophy), to organize the conference “Russian Thinkers: Between the Revolution and Tradition” at Bonn University. This conference led to Bykova, Steiner, and myself editing not only two volumes of the journal *Studies in East European Thought* (2018/9) but also *The Palgrave Handbook of Russian Thought* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2021), an ambitious volume that contains 36 chapters covering virtually the whole Russian philosophical and literary tradition. In addition (again thanks to the Mehlichs), I have had the opportunity to visit Moscow on two occasions to participate in a conference and a Humboldt-Kolleg there, in the course of which visits I gave several talks at the Lomonosov University and the Russian Academy of the Sciences. (It is to be hoped that after the terrible war in Ukraine that is currently going on it will be possible to resume this cultural exchange.)

These projects connected with Germany, the Anglophone world, France, China, and Russia constitute a new model for international philosophizing. They have already generated important new research and continue to do so; they have made a modest but significant contribution to strengthening the cultural ties between countries; and they have also added to the international profile of both the Humboldt Foundation and Bonn University.

In addition, since 2013 I have had the honor and the intellectual benefit of participating in, and presenting papers at, several international Humboldt-Kollegs (conferences) held in various countries on a wide range of subjects. These took place in Amsterdam, Bonn (twice), Istanbul, Jerusalem, and Moscow. Like many of the conferences mentioned above, these Kollegs were not only international but also interdisciplinary (for example, the topic of the one in Jerusalem was the human sciences in the nineteenth century).

### *Interdisciplinarity at Bonn University*

My original nomination by Bonn University for a Humboldt Professorship was also connected with a hope that I would make a contribution to interdisciplinarity at the University. I have attempted to fulfill this expectation as well.

I have now taught for 40 years at The University of Chicago (until 2013 as Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor, since 2013 as guest professor), which is justly considered one of the foremost universities for interdisciplinary research in the world; I am a specialist on one of the most important interdisciplinary thinkers in the history of philosophy, Johann Gottfried Herder; and I myself research in an interdisciplinary spirit (e.g., my recent book *Herder's Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2018) contains chapters not only on more standard philosophical topics, but also on hermeneutics, translation theory, linguistics, and cultural anthropology).

Accordingly, I have conceived the aforementioned international projects in an interdisciplinary spirit as well. A few examples of this: Among the colleagues with whom I have worked most closely on them, Lina Steiner comes from Comparative Literature and Slavic Studies, while Kai Marchal is primarily a sinologist. The volume *Romanticism, Philosophy, and Literature* and the conference in Bonn on which it was based included not only philosophers but also literary scholars and musicologists. The volume *The Cambridge Companion to Hermeneutics* and the conference in Bonn from which it emerged included contributions not only from philosophy, but also from sinology, legal scholarship, political science, history, literary studies, and theology. *The Palgrave Handbook of Russian Thought* and the conference in Bonn out of which it grew included specialists not only from philosophy, but also from history, political science, literary studies, philology, Slavic studies, musicology, and other disciplines.

Since arriving in Bonn in 2013 I have also been able to support several other interdisciplinary projects at the University. For example, I am a founding member of Markus Gabriel's Center for Science and Thought, which brings together philosophy and the natural sciences; I played a part in the official visitation of Bonn University that led to its selection as an Exzellenzuniversität in 2019 with a special eye to its inter- or trans-disciplinary research; I contributed an article (on "Critique") to the ambitious *Bonner Enzyklopädie der Globalität / Bonn Handbook of Globality*, edited by two colleagues from Bonn University, Ludger Kühnhardt and Tilman Mayer; and I gave a talk at an "Interdisciplinary Research Conference" that was organized by the whole philosophical faculty in 2019.

### *My own research and publications*

My own research and publications have naturally been a central part of my Humboldt Professorship as well.

My main book publication since 2013 was *Herder's Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2018). This volume is the culmination of many years of research devoted to Herder's philosophy, its influence, and its importance (my earlier contributions include many scholarly articles on Herder in journals and collected volumes, the book *Herder: Philosophical Writings* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), which has become the main source for Herder's philosophical writings in the Anglophone world, and the two connected monographs *After Herder* (Oxford University Press, 2010) and *German Philosophy of Language* (Oxford University Press, 2011)). *Herder's Philosophy* presents an overview of Herder's philosophical achievements (including his virtual establishment of modern philosophy of language, hermeneutics, translation theory, linguistics, and cultural anthropology), his great influence on subsequent thinkers (right down to our own times), and his enduring philosophical importance, e.g., the way in which his ideas are often in important respects actually better than their descendants in his later followers.

My main current book project in 2025 is *Friedrich Schlegel's Philosophy* (again for Oxford University Press), which includes sections on his metaphysics/epistemology, his philosophy of language (including hermeneutics, linguistics, translation theory, and philosophy of philology), his philosophy of literature and art, his political philosophy, and his contributions to the historiography of philosophy. I have now completed a full draft of this book and expect to submit it at the end of 2025.

Since 2013 I have also co-edited several collected volumes and published many articles in collected volumes and journals on a wide range of topics (please see the above CV). In addition, since 2013 I have given many public lectures/talks at universities and other venues around the world (please again see the above CV).

**Official reply to the above summary report from the Humboldt Foundation (10/6/21)**

10.06.2021

*Alexander von Humboldt Professorship / Concluding Report and Financial Statement*

Dear Professor Forster,

Many thanks for sending your concluding report and financial statement as well as for your interim statement and report on activities for the year 2020 concerning your Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. We are delighted that your prize-period has been so successful and that in addition it was possible to develop and intensify international co-operations.

We also very much welcome the fact that you continue to work at Bonn University in the context of your Humboldt Professorship and that you were able to use the prize financing to support younger colleagues in such an outstanding way. We are in particular pleased to hear that it was possible to realize the goal of an internationalization of the Philosophy Department at Bonn University.

Given the large number of publications that were achieved in connection with your research project, we warmly invite you to upload the publication list in the portal "My Humboldt" on the webpage of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: . . .

That way, your publications will be available online for all users of the network.

Once a Humboldtian, always a Humboldtian: Please use our program for alumni after the conclusion of your prize period. You will find all the support opportunities for alumni on our webpage: . . .

Warm thanks also for your acknowledgement of the Humboldt Foundation's work. We are delighted that we were able to contribute to making your prize period both pleasant and successful.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you the very best for your scientific work, and I hope that you will also stay in contact with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Simone Heil

[Director of the Section Alexander von Humboldt Professorship, Research Prizes with Research Funding]