

Mat Messerschmidt

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2022 PhD, University of Chicago, Committee on Social Thought, with focus in philosophy
- Dissertation:* “The Guiding Thread of Modernity: Nietzsche’s Death of God as a Physiological Event.”
- Committee:* Robert Pippin (co-chair), Ryan Coyne (co-chair), David Wellbery, Jean-Luc Marion
- 2010 B.A., Philosophy and English, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, with Highest Honors
- Study abroad: Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany (full year)

EMPLOYMENT

- 2026-2027 Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of the Sciences
- 2025-present Deputy editor-in-chief, *Anthropos* magazine
- 2025 Lecturer, the Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago
- 2024 Visiting Professor, Deep Springs College
- 2022-2024 Teaching Fellow, Committee on Social Thought and the Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

PUBLICATIONS

Academic

- 2026, accepted „Descompunerea” între Cioran și dreapta intelectuală din Germania”
(English translation: “‘Decay’ Between Cioran and the Intellectual Right in Germany”). In *Caiete Cioran*, 2026.
- 2026 “Nietzsche’s Elitism.” *The European Journal for Political Philosophy*, 2 (2026), [85-111](#).

- 2026 “Embodiment and Subversion: Objections to Judith Butler’s Nietzsche.” *Nietzsche-Studien*, [available ahead of print](#).
- 2025 “‘The Presence of the Unhomely in the Home’: Reading Wordsworth with Heidegger.” In *Gatherings: The Heidegger Circle Annual*, 15 (2025), [1-36](#).
- 2023 “Nietzsche’s Misogyny and a Feminine Philosophy of the Future.” In *Nietzsche on Women and the Eternal-Feminine: A Critique of Truth and Values*, ed. Michael McNeal, Bloomsbury Academic Press, [87-102](#).
- 2023 “Nietzsche’s Confrontation with Christianity via the Body and History,” *Journal of Religion*, Volume 103, No. 2, [187-208](#).
- 2022 “The Body and the Completion of Metaphysics: A Critical Analysis of Heidegger’s Nietzsche,” *Nietzsche-Studien*, vol. 51, no. 1, 2022, [251-270](#).
- 2019 “Mircea Eliade and the Death of God in America,” *Hermeneia* 22, [147-156](#).

Non-academic

- 2024 “Over Man: On Nietzsche and our crisis of masculinity.” *The Point*, online supplement to the Spring 2024 issue, “What Are Men For?”. [August 2024](#). Posted to *Arts & Letters Daily* September 2024.
- 2026 “The Algorithm is the Death of God.” *Sightings*, [April 2026](#).
- 2026 “Nietzsche, Musk, and Clinton on Empathy.” *Anthropos*, [May 2026](#).
- 2026 “Masculinity, Femininity, and the Styling of the Self.” *Anthropos*, [April 2026](#).
- 2026 “The Fragility of Wonder and the Place of Great Books.” *Anthropos*, [March 2026](#).
- 2026 “*Yellowstone*, The Power of the City, and ‘Political Coding’.” *Anthropos*, [February 2026](#).
- 2026 “Venezuela, Chess, and Self-Important Bores.” *Anthropos*, [January 2026](#).
- 2026 “AI, Individualized Learning, and the Future of Education.” *Anthropos*, [January 2026](#).
- 2025 “On Beauty.” *Anthropos*, [December 2025](#).

- 2025 “Mircea Eliade, the Sacred, and Postmodernism.” *Anthropos*, [November 2025](#).
- 2025 “Death, Desire, and the Human Body.” *Anthropos*, [October 2025](#).

HONORS AND GRANTS

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| 2021-2022 | Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship |
| 2021-2022 | Martin Marty Junior Fellowship |
| 2021 | Council on Advanced Studies Research Grant |
| 2021 | Grad Council Academic & Professional Fund for Conference Coordination |
| 2020 | Nicholson Graduate Initiative for Digital Gatherings |
| 2020-2021 | Social Sciences Peer Mentoring Stipend |
| 2020 | Social Sciences Peer Mentoring Research Grant |
| 2016-2019 | Nef Summer Travel Grants 2016-2019 |

TALKS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference co-organized:

- 2021 “Heidegger: Politics, History, Modernity,” University of Chicago. May 28-29.
<https://heideggermodernity.wordpress.com/>

Invited talks:

- 2026 „Descompunerea” între Cioran și dreapta intelectuală din Germania.” Simpozionul Internațional Emil Cioran, Rășinari, România, organized by Universitatea Politehnica and Institutul de Filosofie și Psihologie al Academiei, June 5-7.
- 2026 “The Possibility of Philosophy in the Age of AI.” Invited discussant at “Thinking Between Human and Machine: Artificial Intelligence and the Formation of the Self,” theme for Edufest 2026. Universitatea Politehnica, Bucharest, Romania, May 19.

Off-campus:

- 2026 "Nietzsche's Return to the Greeks." Panteion University, Athens, Greece. Friedrich Nietzsche Society (pending acceptance), October 8-11.
- 2025 "The Necessity of Coherence: Objections to Judith Butler's Nietzsche." Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference. Queen's University Belfast, September 4-6.
- 2024 "Nietzsche Critiques Heidegger on Nature and Desire." Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference. University of Verona, July 25-27.
- 2024 "Asceticism in Christianity, Nietzsche, and Heidegger." Heidegger Circle Annual Meeting. Trinity College, May 2-5.
- 2023 "Sensuousness, Asceticism, Style." Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference, "Nietzsche and the Lyric." University of Lausanne, September 14-16.
- 2023 "Nietzsche's Ambivalent Twilight of the Subject." Warwick Continental Philosophy Conference 2022/2023: The Subject and Identity. University of Warwick, June 8-9.
- 2022 "*Wissenschaft*, Life, Becoming," Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference, "Science, Art, Life." University of Dundee, September 16-17.
- 2021 "Metaphysics as Racial Contamination by Nietzsche and Heidegger," on the panel "Sensuality, Rationality, Race," Clemson Embodiment & Race Conference II. Clemson University November 4-6.
- 2021 "Ariadne and Gender in Nietzsche's Thought," Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference, "What if Truth Were a Woman: on Nietzsche, Women, and Philosophy." Zoom, September 14-16.
- 2019 "Genealogy and Revaluation in Nietzsche," Historical Sociology Conference, Charles University, Prague. June 14-15.
- 2018 "Nietzsche: The Death of God and the Future of Historical Interpretation," The Making of the Humanities Conference. Panel title: "Nietzsche and History." University of Amsterdam. November 15-17.
- 2018 "Mircea Eliade and the Death of God in America," Gânditori Români în Cultura Universală (Romanian Thinkers in Universal Culture) Conference, University of Bucharest. November 2.

Panels chaired, respondent roles:

- 2026 Respondent to "Affectivity, Emergence, Possibilization – A Synthetic-Genetic and Generative Account of the Imagination" by Smaranda Aldea. Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy Workshop. DePaul University, March 13.
- 2024 Book panel: *The Culmination: Heidegger, German Idealism, and the Fate of Philosophy* by Robert Pippin. Heidegger Circle Annual Meeting. Trinity College, May 2-5.

- 2023 “Metaphors and Images.” Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Conference, “Nietzsche and the Lyric.” University of Lausanne, September 14-16.

Campus talks:

- 2024 “Asceticism in Christianity, Nietzsche, and Heidegger.” Literature & Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago. February 15.
- 2023 “‘The Presence of the Unhomely in the Home’: Reading Wordsworth With Heidegger,” Literature & Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago. February 23.
- 2022 “The Guiding Thread of Modernity: Nietzsche’s Death of God.” Social Thought Doctoral Lecture, University of Chicago. November 1.
- 2022 “The Idol and Modernity in Nietzsche and Marion,” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago, February 8.
- 2021 “Nietzsche’s Ariadne: Myth, Gender, Physiology,” Social Thought Colloquium, University of Chicago, November 30.
- 2020 “Heidegger, the Nietzschean Body, and ‘Incorporation,’” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago. October 13.
- 2020 “Nietzsche and Christianity: The Body and History,” Literature & Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago. February 13.
- 2018 “Wordsworth and Suspicion Hermeneutics,” Literature & Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago. February 15.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Deep Springs College:

“Heidegger’s History of Philosophy.” Fall 2024.

Instructor of Record, University of Chicago:

“Self, Culture, and Society III.” Spring 2025.

“What is Nature? – 20th Century Continental Philosophy.” Winter 2024.

“Self, Culture, and Society I, II, and III.” Fall, Winter, and Spring 2023-2024.

“Self, Culture, and Society I, II.” Fall, Winter 2023 (2 sections).

“Narratives of the End of Faith.” Fall 2021.

“Philosophie: Heidegger’s History of Being” (taught in German). Spring 2020.

“Philosophie: Nietzsche’s Death of God” (taught in German). Spring 2019.

Teaching assistant, University of Chicago:

“Self, Culture, and Society,” Fall, Winter, and Spring 2017-2018.

K-12 educational experience:

ACT test prep classroom instructor, Academic Approach/Urban Prep Schools, Chicago, 2014-2015.

English instructor, Laude-Reut Educational Complex, Bucharest, Romania, 2010-2014.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English – native

German – fluent (C2 certificates for Reading, Speaking, Listening)

Romanian – fluent, spoken at home

French – intermediate (strong for academic reading)

Greek (reading) – intermediate

Spanish - intermediate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression)

Heterodox Academy

Nietzsche-Gesellschaft

American Philosophical Association

Friedrich Nietzsche Society

North American Nietzsche Society

Heidegger Circle

Alumni Association, University of Michigan

DEPARTMENTAL / UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Graduate Assistant to the faculty, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago (paid position), 2020-2021.

Peer Mentor, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2020-2021.

Graduate Council Representative, University of Chicago student government, 2019-2021.

Social chair, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, 2017-2018.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

2025-present Assistant Editor-in-Chief, [*Anthropos*](#)

2017- present Board of Trustees, [Laude-Reut Interdisciplinary Academy](#) (K-12 Jewish school, Bucharest, Romania)

2017-present Founder and director, [Michigan Friendship Program](#)

REFERENCES

Robert Pippin, Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor, Social Thought and Philosophy, University of Chicago.

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Ryan Coyne, Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Religions and Theology, Divinity School, University of Chicago.

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David Wellbery, LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor of Germanic Studies and Social Thought, University of Chicago.

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Anne Beal (teaching reference), Senior Fellow

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