

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

- 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 “Nietzsche’s Elitism.” Accepted for publication by *The European Journal for Political Philosophy*.
- 2026, accepted “Embodiment and Subversion: Objections to Judith Butler’s Nietzsche.” Accepted for publication by *Nietzsche-Studien*.
- 2025, forthcoming “‘The Presence of the Unhomely in the Home’: Reading Wordsworth with Heidegger.” In *Gatherings: The Heidegger Circle Annual*, Issue 15 (2025).

- 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 “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/>

Off-campus:

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:

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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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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