

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

- Fall 2024 Visiting Professor, Deep Springs College
- 2022-2024 Teaching Fellow, Committee on Social Thought and the Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

RESEARCH

- AOS 19th- and 20th-century Continental Philosophy
AOC Literature & Philosophy, Existentialism, Phenomenology, Philosophy of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

- 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](#).

(In submission)

“Reading Wordsworth with Heidegger: Nature and Ontological Difference.”

HONORS AND GRANTS

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 talks:

2024 “Nietzsche Critiques Heidegger on Desire and Nature.” Friedrich Nietzsche Society Annual Meeting, “Nietzsche in the Anthropocene.” 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:

- 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, University of Chicago:

- “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 and 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

American Academy of Religion
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

2017- present Board of Trustees, Laude-Reut Educational Complex (K-12 Jewish school, Bucharest, Romania)

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.
Swift Hall 303A / 1025-35 E. 58th Street / Chicago, IL 60637 / USA
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David Wellbery, LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor of Germanic Studies and Social Thought, University of Chicago.
Wieboldt 410 / 1050 E. 59th Street / Chicago, IL 60637, USA
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Anne Beal (teaching reference), Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, University of Chicago, and co-chair of the Self, Culture, and Society sequence

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