

Christopher Benzenberg

University of Fribourg, University of Cambridge

✉ christopher.benzenberg[at]gmail.com

🌐 christopherbenzenberg.com

AOS: Kant, Early Modern

AOC: Epistemology, Metaphysics, Metaethics

Employment

2024 – present **University of Fribourg**, Switzerland
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Funded by the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship

Education

2019 – 2024 **University of Cambridge**, St Edmund's College, UK
PhD in Philosophy (incl. 9 months of non-academic work)
Thesis: *The Power of Reason: Kant's Empirical Study of the Mind*
Supervisor: Angela Breitenbach
Examiners: Jessica Leech & Julia Borchering

2017 – 2019 **University of Oxford**, St Cross College, UK
BPhil in Philosophy (distinction)
Supervisors: Ralf Bader & Alison Hills

2014 – 2017 **Humboldt-University of Berlin**, Germany
BA in Philosophy (4.0/4.0 GPA, highest mark in the year)
Supervisor: Tobias Rosefeldt

Visits

2024 **University of Notre Dame**, History of Philosophy Forum, USA
Academic Visitor, hosted by Alix Cohen (1 month)

2023 – 2024 **University of Cologne**, Center for Contemporary Epistemology
and the Kantian Tradition, Germany
Visiting Researcher, hosted by Sven Bernecker (12 months)

2023 **Princeton University**, University Center for Human Values, USA
VSRC, hosted by Andrew Chignell (6 months)

Scholarships

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 2026 – 2027 | Junior Research Fellowship at the ‘Centre for Human Abilities’ |
| 2025 – 2029 | Research Fellowship at the DFG Project ‘Reasonable Ideas’ |
| 2024 – 2025 | Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship |
| 2023 – 2024 | Cambridge Philosophy Faculty Studentship |
| 2020 – 2023 | Studienstiftung Doctoral Scholarship |
| 2019 – 2020 | Cambridge Philosophy Faculty Studentship |
| 2019 | UT Austin Provost’s Graduate Excellence Fellowship (<i>declined</i>) |
| 2019 | Brown University Graduate Scholarship (<i>declined</i>) |
| 2019 | Johns Hopkins University Graduate Scholarship (<i>declined</i>) |
| 2017 – 2019 | DAAD Graduate Scholarship |
| 2017 – 2019 | Studienstiftung Graduate Scholarship |
| 2016 – 2017 | Germany Scholarship (<i>Deutschlandstipendium</i>) |

Publications

Peer-Reviewed

- [7] “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell: Kant on the Privacy of Faith”, in: Sven Bernecker & Sofie Møller (eds.), *Epistemic Autonomy and Authority*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, under contract.
- [6] “Towards Knowledge: Three Types of Hypothesis Confirmation in Kant”, in: *Proceedings of the 14th International Kant Congress*, Berlin: de Gruyter, forthcoming.
- [5] “Room for Responsibility: Kant on Direct Doxastic Voluntarism”, in *Inquiry*, 1-24, 2024.
- [4] “Was Kant a Kantian About Doxastic States?”, in: Paul Silva Jr., *On Believing and Being Convinced*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 51-61, 2024.
- [3] “Defending Kant’s Antinomy of Practical Reason”, in: Camilla Serck-Hanssen et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 13th International Kant Congress*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 423-432, 2021.

Book Reviews

- [2] “Review of Gabriele Gava, *Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason and the Method of Metaphysics*”, in *European Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- [1] “Review of Ian Proops, *The Fiery Test of Critique, A Reading of Kant’s Dialectic*”, in *Philosophical Review*, 133(2), 197-202, 2024 (with Andrew Chignell).

Work in Progress (Selection)

- [8] An edited volume on Kant's metaphysics (with Andrew Chignell)
- [7] A paper on Kant's account of knowledge and epistemic justification
- [6] A paper on Kant's empirical argument for immortality
- [5] A paper on Kant's faith in the Principle of Sufficient Reason
- [4] A paper on Kant's account of the highest good
- [3] A paper on Kant's arguments for extraterrestrial life
- [2] A paper on Kant's theory of moral motivation (with Lawrence Pasternack)
- [1] A paper on Spinoza's monism (with Johannes Wagner)

Presentations

(† = refereed, * = invited)

- [13] "Out of this World: Kant's Arguments for Extraterrestrial Life"
 - * Berlin Kant-Marathon, Humboldt-University of Berlin, 06/24.
- [12] "Belief Without Bounds: Kant on the Supreme Principle of Reason"
 - † UKKS Annual Conference, University College Dublin, 05/24.
 - * Work in Progress Workshop, University of Fribourg, 02/24.
- [11] "From Opinion to Knowledge: Why Kant Could Not Have Been a Fallibilist"
 - † 14th International Kant Congress, University of Bonn, 09/2024.
 - * Brown Bag Seminar, University of Cologne, 11/2023.
- [10] "Probably Immortal: Kant's Empirical Argument for the Afterlife"
 - * PPPR Colloquium, Princeton University, 05/2023.
- [9] "Reasoning About Reason: Kant on Mental Hypotheses"
 - * Workshop on Kant's Metaphilosophy, Princeton University, 04/2023.
- [8] "Belief in Myself: Kant on the Empirical Self in Inner Sense"
 - * Workshop on Kant's Selves, University of Fribourg, 02/2025
 - * Work in Progress Workshop, Humboldt-University of Berlin, 07/2023,
 - * PPPR Colloquium, Princeton University, 03/2023.
- [7] "Why Did the Volcano Erupt? Kant's Bayesian Theory of Hypotheses",
 - * Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge, 02/2022,
 - * Cambridge Graduate Seminar, University of Cambridge, 11/2021.
- [6] "What is the Principle of Theoretical Reason for Kant?"
 - † UKKS Annual Conference, King's College London, 09/2022,
 - * Cambridge Kant Colloquium, University of Cambridge, 05/2020.

- [5] "The Moral Fiction: Solving a Metaethical Dilemma"
* Ockham Society, University of Oxford, 02/2019.
- [4] "Understanding Moral Worth: A Counterfactual Analysis"
* Cambridge Graduate Seminar, University of Cambridge, 11/2019,
* Ockham Society, University of Oxford, 11/2018.
- [3] "Attaining the Highest Good: Kant on Happiness, Virtue, and God"
* Fribourg EPP Colloquium, University of Fribourg, 11/2024.
† UKKS Annual Conference, Cardiff University, 09/2018,
† GAP 10th International Congress, University of Cologne, 09/2018.
- [2] "Kant's Antinomy of Practical Reason: A Defence"
† 13th International Kant Congress, University of Oslo, 08/2019,
* Oxford Kant Colloquium, University of Oxford, 5/2018.
* Kant Colloquium, Humboldt University of Berlin, 06/2016.
- [1] "Kant and Hume on Causality and Objectivity"
* Kant Graduate Workshop, Humboldt University of Berlin, 03/2016.

Comments

- [4] Sven Bernecker: "Fiddling with Epistemic Maxims", South American-German Kant-Conference 2024, University of Siegen, 01/2024.
- [3] Gabriele Gava: "Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and the Method of Metaphysics", Author Meets Critics Workshop, University of Cologne, 01/2024.
- [2] Joseph Shieber: "Kantian Social Epistemology and Non-Ideal Theory", Kant on Epistemic Authority and Autonomy Conference, University of Cologne, 09/2023.
- [1] Ferhat Taskin: "Divine Freedom and the Best of All Possible Worlds", Workshop on Islamic Thought, Princeton University, 05/2023.

Teaching

University of Cambridge

Kantian Philosophy

- [11] II Kant's Ethics (3rd year undergraduates), LT22
topics: Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
formats: lecture series (designed from scratch), dissertation supervision

- [10] II European Philosophy from Kant (3rd year undergraduates), LT21, LT24
topics: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*
formats: tutorial, extended essays supervision

Theoretical Philosophy

- [9] IB Knowledge, Language and the World (2nd year undergraduates), LT21, MT21
topics: nature of knowledge, scepticism, logical form, truth, modality
format: tutorial
- [8] IA Formal Methods (1st year undergraduates), MT19
topics: truth-functional logic, first-order predicate logic, set theory
format: seminar
- [7] IA Discussion Group (1st year undergraduates), MT19, MT20, LT21
topics: Descartes's *Meditations* and Hume's *Enquiry*
format: seminar

Practical Philosophy

- [6] II Ethics (3rd year undergraduates), LT21, MT21, LT22
topics: population ethics, moral epistemology, acting from duty, trust
formats: tutorial, extended essays supervision
- [5] IB Ethics (2nd year undergraduates), MT20, LT21, MT21, LT22
topics: aggregation, consent, promise, early modern, practical reasoning
formats: seminar, tutorial, extended essays supervision
- [4] IA Ethics and Political Philosophy (1st year undergraduates), MT21, LT22
topics: consequentialism, deontology, emotivism, equality of opportunity
formats: tutorial, extended essays supervision

Humboldt-University of Berlin

- [3] Kant's Theoretical Philosophy (undergraduate), SS17
topics: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (esp. the Aesthetic and Analytic)
format: tutorial
- [2] Introduction to Philosophy (undergraduate), WS16/17
topics: metaphysics, epistemology, (meta-)ethics, philosophy of mind
format: tutorial
- [1] Plato's Philosophy of Language (undergraduate), SS16
topics: Plato's *Kratylos*, *Theaitetos*, and *Sophistes*, plus Frege and Russell
format: tutorial

Professional Service

Organised Workshops

| | |
|---------|---|
| 02/2025 | "Kant's Selves", University of Fribourg |
| 01/2025 | "Belief in Kant", Goethe University Frankfurt |
| 01/2024 | "Kant's Dialectic: Author Meets Critics", University of Cologne |
| 11/2018 | "Kant's Theory of Modality", University of Oxford |
| 11/2018 | "Oxford Graduate Philosophy Conference", University of Oxford |
| 02/2016 | "Student Kant Workshop", Humboldt-University of Berlin |

Organised Event Series

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 2024 – present | International Reading Group on Kant's Dialectic |
| 2020 – 2023 | Cambridge Kant Reading Group, University of Cambridge |
| 2020 – 2021 | Moral Sciences Club, University of Cambridge |
| 2019 – 2020 | Loxbridge Kant Series, UCL/Oxford/Cambridge |
| 2018 – 2019 | Ockham Society Lecture Series, University of Oxford |
| 2018 – 2019 | Jowett Society Lecture Series, University of Oxford |
| 2018 – 2019 | Oxford Kant Colloquium, University of Oxford |

Academic Reviews

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 2020 – present | Reviewer for Philosophical Review, European Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, HOPOS, History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis, Journal of Transcendental Philosophy, and Philosophia |
|----------------|--|

Academic Posts

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 2021 – 2024 | Member of the Philosophy Equality Group, Cambridge performed statistical analysis for the Athena Swan application |
| 2020 – 2022 | PhilPapers Assistant Editor for Angela Breitenbach categorised new publications on Kant's philosophy of science |
| 2020 – 2022 | Philosophy Translator for Lex Academic, London translated papers and monographs from German to English |
| 2017 – 2018 | Research Assistant for Ralf Bader, Oxford conducted research on Kant's theory of modality |
| 2016 – 2017 | Student Assistant for Jonathan Beere, Berlin organised several workshops and taught tutorials |

Grants

Major Grants

| | |
|---------|--|
| 08/2025 | DFG research grant for EUR 743.041 (with Tobias Rosefeldt) |
| 02/2025 | Fakultäre Aktionsfonds, conference grant for CHF 2.400 |
| 02/2025 | Fonds du centenaire, conference grant for CHF 2.564 |
| 11/2018 | Mind Association Major Conference Grant for GBP 2.000 |

Further Grants

| | |
|---------|---|
| 01/2025 | Conference Grant of the German Kant Society |
| 05/2024 | German Embassy Conference Grant |
| 10/2022 | UK Kant Society Postgraduate Bursary |
| 03/2020 | Cambridge Philosophy Faculty Conference Grant |
| 03/2020 | BSHP Regular Conference Grant |
| 12/2019 | UK Kant Society Workshop Grant |
| 12/2019 | All Souls College Travel Bursary |

Memberships

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 2023 – present | German Kant Society |
| 2023 – present | British Society for the History of Philosophy |
| 2022 – present | North American Kant Society |
| 2022 – present | UK Kant Society |
| 2019 – present | German Society for Analytic Philosophy |

Languages

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| German | native | |
| English | fluent | (TOEFL 115/120, GRE verbal: 161/170) |
| French | advanced | (B1 certified) |
| Latin | basic | (Latinum) |

References

Angela Breitenbach

University of Cambridge

Faculty of Philosophy

✉ [ab335\[at\]cam.ac.uk](mailto:ab335[at]cam.ac.uk)

🌐 angelabreitenbach.com

Andrew Chignell

Princeton University

Departments of Philosophy and Religion

✉ [chignell\[at\]princeton.edu](mailto:chignell[at]princeton.edu)

🌐 chignell.net

Ralf Bader

University of Fribourg

Department of Philosophy

✉ [ralf.bader\[at\]unifr.ch](mailto:ralf.bader[at]unifr.ch)

🌐 ralf-bader.com

last updated: December 2024