

Alison Deborah Laywine
Department of Philosophy
McGill University
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Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D. with honours, June 1991
Université de Montréal, Maîtrise ès arts, January 1986
Université d'Ottawa, Baccalauréat ès sciences sociales, *magna cum laude*, May 1984

Positions

Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at McGill University, 01.09.1991-31.05.97
Associate Professor of Philosophy at McGill University, 01.06.97 to the present
Currently visiting the Institut für Philosophie der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Areas of Specialisation

Kant's Metaphysics and Natural Philosophy, History of Early Modern Philosophy, History of Philosophical Reflection on Music Theory (from antiquity to the early modern period, including Arabic medieval music theory)

Areas of Competence

Ancient Greek Philosophy, Medieval Islamic Thought, Kant's Moral Philosophy and Teleology, Philosophy of Religion, History and Philosophy of Science

Languages

Fluency in French and German; Near Fluency in Modern Standard Arabic; Reading Knowledge of Ancient Greek, Latin, Italian and Yiddish

References

Michael Friedman
Department of Philosophy
Stanford University
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450 Serra mall
Stanford California, CA 94305-2155
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Henry E. Allison, Emeritus
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive, 0119
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Robert Wisnovsky
Institute for Islamic Studies
McGill University
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Peter Schubert
Faculty of Music
McGill University
Montréal, Québec
Canada
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Grants and Academic Distinctions

2001 (01-05): Visiting Fellow in the Philosophy Department at Princeton University
2000-2004: Team Grant awarded by FCAR (Fonds des chercheurs à l'appui de la recherche au Québec)
1996-1999: Young Researcher's Team Grant awarded by FCAR
1996-1997: Humboldt Research Fellowship awarded by the Humboldt Foundation, Germany
1989-1990: Whiting Fellowship awarded by the Whiting Foundation
1989-1990: William Rainey Harper Fellowship awarded by the University of Chicago
1986-1989: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship
1985-1986: Century-Merit Prize awarded by the University of Chicago
1984-1985: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Special Master's Scholarship

Editorial Position

Member of the Board of Editors for the journal *Kantian Review*

Writings and Publications

Kant's Early Metaphysics and the Origins of the Critical Philosophy, published as volume three in the North American Kant Society Studies in Philosophy, (Atacadero: Ridgeview, 1995)

"Intellectual Appearances" in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, Vol.3, No. 2, September, 1995, 329-371

Review of *Causation and Early Modern Philosophy*, ed. Steven Nadler, in *Philosophical Books*, Vol. 37, No. 4, October 1996, 254-256

"Emanuel Swedenborg" in *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (Routledge: London, 1998)

"Martin Knutzen" in *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, (Routledge: London, 1998)

"Problems and Postulates: Kant on Reason and Understanding" in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, volume 36, number 2, April 1998, 279-311

"Malebranche, Jansen and the Sixth Meditation" in the *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, Band 81, 1999, 148-173

"Kant in Reply to Lambert on the Disputed Ancestry of General Metaphysical Concepts" in *Kantian Review*, vol.5, December 2001

Review of Jeffrey Edwards, *Substance, Force, and the Possibility of Knowledge: On Kant's Philosophy of Nature* in *Philosophical Review*, Vol. 111, No. 3, July 2002, 439-441

"Kant on Sensibility and the Understanding in the 1770s" in *Canadian Journal for Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 4, December 2003, 443-483

Review of Micha Brumlik, *Deutscher Geist und Judenhaß* in *Jahrbuch für deutschen Idealismus*, vol.2, 2004, 337-344

"Kant's Unanswered Questions about Aging" in *Pensare la natura*, ed. Cinzia Ferrini, (Napoli: Bibliopolis, January 2004) 247-275

"Kant on the Self as Model for Experience" in *Kantian Review*, Vol. 9, Special Anniversary Issue, 2005, 1-29

"Kant's Metaphysical Reflections in the Duisburg Nachlaß" in *Kant-Studien*, 97. Jahrgang, Heft 1, 2006, 79-113

"Kant's Laboratory of Ideas in the 1770s" in the *Blackwell's Companion to Kant*, ed. Graham Bird (Oxford: Blackwell's Publishing, 2006) 63-78

"Kant and Lambert on Geometrical Postulates in the Reform of Metaphysics" in *Discourse on a New Method* (Festschrift for Michael Friedman) (Chicago and La Salle, Illinois: Open Court, 2010) 113-134

"Music, Mechanics and Mixed Mathematics" in *Rationalism and Revolution*, ed. Carlos Fraenkel and Justin Smith (Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London, New York: Springer Verlag, 2011) 45-67

"Leibniz and the Transcendental Deduction" forthcoming in the *Philosophy of Kant and Leibniz*, Oxford University Press, ed. Brandon Look

Review of Stefan Hagel's *Ancient Greek Music: a Technical History* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) forthcoming as item 8 in volume 9 of *Aestimatio*

Book in progress on Kant's philosophical development in the 1770s and its role in the argument of the 'Transcendental Deduction' of the *Critique of Pure Reason*

Translation in progress of Farabi's *Great Book of Music* from Arabic to English

Unpublished Translation

Nicolas Malebranche's *Treatise on Nature and Grace*

Presentations

"Lambert and §17 of the B-Deduction" presented at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science to the Research Group on modern geometry and the concept of space on 18 July 2011

"Leibniz and the Transcendental Deduction" read on 25 September 2009 at a conference on the philosophy of Kant and Leibniz at the University of Kentucky, Lexington

"Geometrical Postulates and Objects in the Transcendental Deduction" read at the Vancouver Hopos meeting on 18 June 2008

Reply to Corey Dyck's "Kant's Theory of Intuition in the 1770s" read at the Central Division meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, 20 April 2007

“Music, Mechanics and Mixed Mathematics” read at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, 16 October 2006

“Kant and Lambert on Geometrical Postulates in the Reform of Metaphysics” read at a workshop organised in honour of Michael Friedman, held at the Department of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, October 2005

“Music and Mixed Mathematics” read at a conference on early modern philosophy, “Nature and Necessity”, at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Toronto, 7 May 2005

“Kant and Lambert on Geometrical Postulates in the Reform of Metaphysics” read at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Western Ontario, 15 November 2003

“Kant on the Self as Model of Experience”, Göttingen, 27 October 2000

“Hobbes on Darkness, Even Darkness Which Might Be Felt” read at the Midwest Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy, University of Chicago, 13 March 1999

“Why Did Kant Have Second Thoughts about Metaphysics as a Science of Immaterial Things” read at the Runden Tisch of the Philosophy Department at the Georg-August Universität in Göttingen, Germany, 4 February 1997.

“Translating Kant’s Works” read at the Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Atlanta, Georgia, 28 December, 1996

“Problems and Postulates: Kant on the Motivations of Scientific Enquiry” read at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, 20 June, 1995.

“Susan Neiman on Kant’s Notion of Reason and Systematic Unity” read at a symposium held by the North American Kant Society on Neiman’s book, *The Unity of Reason* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994) at the Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, 27 April, 1995

“Nature, Law and Happiness: Mendelssohn in Reply to Rousseau” read at York University, 16 February, 1995

“Mendelssohn’s Reply to Rousseau” read at the Summer Workshop for the Teaching of Jewish Philosophy, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, 13 July 1994

“Who Are God’s Counsellors?” in reply to Steven Nadler’s address to the Leibniz Society at the Central-Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Kansas City, Missouri, 6 May 1994

“Malebranche and Grace” read at the Midwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1 November 1993

“La troisième analogie de l’expérience chez Kant ” read at a meeting of the Société de Philosophie de Montréal, 3 March 1993

“Kant and the Problem of Simultaneous Co-existence” read at the University of Pittsburgh, 5 February 1993

Reply to Dale Jacquette’s “Kant’s Second Antinomy and Hume’s Theory of Extensionless Indivisibles” read at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 25 April 1992

Reply to Carol van Kirk’s “The ‘Intellectualisation of Appearances’” read at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 26 April 1991

“*Dreams of a Spirit-Seer and the Origins of the Critical Philosophy*” read at:

McGill University, 10 December 1990;
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 15 January 1991;
University of Notre Dame, 16 January 1991;
University of Texas, Austin, 21 January 1991;
Columbia University, 24 January 1991

Regular Teaching Duties

Four courses every academic year, one at the graduate level (a seminar), the other three at the undergraduate level (lecture -- discussion). (Please note that the McGill Philosophy Department does not have an MA program.) The topic of the graduate seminar usually alternates: the one year it is on some topic in Kant’s philosophy; the following year it is usually a topic in early modern philosophy (Leibniz -- 1992, Hobbes -- 1994, Spinoza --1999) or sometimes later episodes in the history of philosophy (Helmholz and the analysis of secondary qualities – 2004). When I have offered seminars on Kant, I have usually run German reading groups on the side for interested students: we carefully read through the relevant text in the original German. The courses at the undergraduate level have more usually been on different topics in early modern philosophy (17th and 18th century philosophy). I have also regularly offered undergraduate courses on ancient philosophy (Plato; History and philosophy of ancient science); and also on medieval philosophy (the focus has usually been on Islamic philosophy).

Doctoral Supervision

Kathryn Morris (Associate Professor, King’s College, Halifax, Canada): *Geometrical Physics: Mathematics in the Natural Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes*

Lydia Patton (Associate Professor, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg): *Hermann Cohen’s Philosophy of Science*