

Andre LeBrun

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Research Interests

AOS: Kant; Epistemology; Early Modern Philosophy

AOC: Mind; Ancient Philosophy; Ethics; History of Analytic Philosophy

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

Irvine, California

In Progress (Expected June 2024)

- Dissertation: *The Proper Employment of Skepticism: Pyrrhonian Themes in Kant's Critical Philosophy*
- Committee: Sven Bernecker (Chair), Casey Perin, Duncan Pritchard, Jeremy Heis, Karl Schafer (UT Austin)

M.A., Philosophy, University of California, Irvine

Irvine, California

October 2018 – March 2021

B.A., Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 2013 – December 2017

- Graduated *magna cum laude* with Honors in Philosophy
- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Spring 2018
- Minors in Chemistry and French

Conferences

Australasian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy

University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand) – November 2023

Paper Title: How Pyrrhonian Are Kant's Antinomies?

Nordic Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy

University of Jyväskylä (Jyväskylä, Finland) – August 2023

Paper Title: Kant on Pyrrhonism

The Cavendish Collective Virtual Workshop

Online Conference – June 2023

Paper Title: Cavendish on Skepticism

Long Island Philosophical Society Annual Conference

St. John's University (Queens, New York) – April 2023

Paper Title: Kant on Pyrrhonism in the Logic Lectures

Digitales Kant-Zentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen (NRW) Opening Workshop

University of Siegen (Siegen, Germany) – September 2022

Paper Title: Kant on Testimony in the Logic Lectures

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record – University of California, Irvine

Department of Philosophy

Summer 2023

- Course: Puzzles & Paradoxes

Teaching Assistant – University of California, Irvine

Department of Philosophy

Fall 2019 – Present

- Courses: (* indicates upper-division course)
 - Introduction to Philosophy (2)
 - Introduction to Ethics (2)
 - History of Ancient Philosophy (2)*
 - History of Contemporary Philosophy*
 - Philosophy of Language*
 - Puzzles & Paradoxes (2)
 - Technology & Society (2)

Department of Classics
Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

- Courses:
 - The Greek Gods (2)
 - Classical Mythology

Guest Instructor – Chapman University

February 2022

- Taught three-hour session of an Introduction to Ethics course, which focused on moral sentimentalism and Hume's ethics in the *Treatise of Human Nature*

Guest Teacher – TH!NK: Philosophy for Early Adolescents

Winter 2019

- Conducted weekly sessions, teaching basic philosophical concepts to fifth-grade students at a local elementary school (through program at UC Irvine)

Service & Pedagogy

Pedagogy & Inclusivity Training – June 2023

Center for Canon Expansion and Change (CCEC) Annual Workshop
University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Session Chair – May 2023

Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization (TEMPO) Conference
Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, Missouri)

Awards and Scholarships

Regents' Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, 2018–19
Brackenridge Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2017
Merit Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh, 2013–17

Graduate Coursework

(* indicates that a course was audited)

History of Philosophy: 20th Century

History of Analytic Philosophy I* (Jeremy Heis)
History of Analytic Philosophy II (Jeremy Heis)
Independent Study: J.L. Austin (Allison Koslow)

History of Philosophy: 17th & 18th Centuries

Kant's Philosophy of Science (Jeremy Heis)

Reason in Kant (Karl Schafer)

Independent Study: Hume & Kant (Karl Schafer)

Kant's *First Critique** (Jeremy Heis)

Early Modern Views on the Self (John Carriero & Edwin McCann; taught at UCLA)

Kantian Aesthetics (Georges Van Den Abbeele)

Locke & Reid* (Jeffrey Schatz)

Kant's Analytic (Stephen Engstrom; taught at the University of Pittsburgh)

Hume's Epistemology* (Sean Greenberg)

History of Philosophy: Ancient & Medieval

Plato's *Gorgias* (Casey Perin)

Plato's *Republic** (Casey Perin)

Augustine's *Confessions** (Peter King; taught at UCLA)

Epistemology & Metaphysics

Epistemic Relativism (Annalisa Coliva)

Contemporary Epistemology* (Annalisa Coliva)

Hinge Epistemology* (Annalisa Coliva)

Emergence, Supervenience, Fundamentality (Marcello Fiocco)

Logic & Philosophy of Science

Set Theory (Toby Meadows)

The Evolution of Cognition (Kyle Stanford)

Scientific Realism and Anti-Realism* (Kyle Stanford)

Ethics & Value Theory

Contemporary Metaethics* (Karl Schafer)

Topics in Ethics* (Jeffrey Helmreich)

Anti-Racism in Philosophy Workshop (J.B. Manchak & Karl Schafer)

Dissertation Abstract

My dissertation aims to make the case for a “mitigated Pyrrhonian” reading of Kant’s critical philosophy, according to which Pyrrhonian skepticism can be employed as a means to knowledge. Many common interpretations of Kant’s views on philosophical skepticism hold that he intended to refute all forms of skepticism, which I argue comes from a conflation of Cartesian skepticism with other forms of skepticism. I show that Kant, far from aiming to refute Pyrrhonian skepticism, firmly endorsed Pyrrho’s method in the *Lectures on Logic*. I argue that Kant made a sharp distinction between the “skeptical method” of Pyrrho and the austere, dogmatic form of skepticism which he aimed to refute; that he understood Pyrrho to have been a moderate skeptic, who aimed to use doubt as a means to reach knowledge; and that various elements of his account of Pyrrhonian skepticism in the *Lectures on Logic* find their way into the works of the critical period in a number of surprising ways. I then proceed by examining various points of contact between Kant and Pyrrho in the *Critique of Pure Reason*, and in the final chapter, conclude with a discussion of the shared “skeptical method” which he attributes to himself in the *Critique of Pure Reason* and to both Hume and Pyrrho in the *Lectures on Logic*.

Professional References

Sven Bernecker
Casey Perin
Karl Schafer
Duncan Pritchard
Jeremy Heis
Anna Boncompagni (teaching reference)