

CHRISTOPHER P. NOBLE

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy | University of Missouri-St Louis
1 University Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63121
noble.christopher@gmail.com | (857) 234-2309

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025– Adjunct Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri-St Louis (UMSL)

2024–2025 Part-Time Faculty, Department of Philosophy, Boston College

2024–2025 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University

2019–2025 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Division of Humanities, New College of Florida

2018–2019 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Division of Humanities, New College of Florida

2017–2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, The Ethics Program, Villanova University

2016 Adjunct Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, Rowan University

2009–2017 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Phil and The Ethics Program, Villanova University

EDUCATION

Villanova University. Ph.D. Philosophy (2016)

Dissertation: *The Soul as Spiritual Automaton in Leibniz's Synthetic Natural Philosophy*

Villanova University. M.A. Philosophy (2009)

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Fulbright Research Fellow (2005–2006)

Boston College. B.A., Philosophy, German Studies (2005)

ACADEMIC INTERESTS & LANGUAGES

AOS: Early Modern Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Science, Continental Philosophy

AOC: Classical Chinese Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy.

Languages: English (native), German (fluent), Latin (intermediate reading), French (advanced reading).

AWARDS & GRANTS

[2] **Graduate Summer Research Fellow** *Villanova University* (Summer 2015, \$3,000)

- Conducted archival research at the Leibniz Archiv in Hannover, Germany.

[1] **Fulbright Research Grant.** *U.S. Department of State, Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg, Germany* (2005-2006). Research topic: “Gadamer’s Hermeneutical Model of Understanding.”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

[8] Christopher P. Noble. “The Heart Is Not an Animated Body: Machines of Nature, Functional Organs and Monadic Domination in Leibniz.” *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 6 (2024) <https://doi.org/10.25894/jmp.1889>

[7] Christopher P. Noble. “Automata, Reason, and Free Will: Leibniz’s Critique of Descartes on Animal and Human Nature.” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 100 (August 2023): 56–63. DOI: [10.1016/j.shpsa.2023.06.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsa.2023.06.001)

[6] John V. Garner and Christopher P. Noble. “Possibility or necessity? on Robert Watt’s ‘Bergson on Number.’” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (2023). DOI: [10.1080/09608788.2023.2216735](https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2023.2216735)

[5] Christopher P. Noble. “Gadamer as a Leibnizian Philosopher: Hermeneutics, Synthesis, and the Fusion of Horizons,” in *Trajectories of a Multifaceted Mind. Leibniz and His Post-Idealist Legacy*, eds. Lucia Oliveri and Osvaldo Ottaviani, special issue, *Lo Sguardo Revista di Filosofia*, 32, no. 1 (2021): 237–251. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.5838309](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5838309)

[4] Christopher P. Noble. “Leibniz on the Divine Preformation of Souls and Bodies.” *HOPOS*: 9, no. 2 (Fall 2019): 327–42. DOI: [10.1086/704381](https://doi.org/10.1086/704381)

[3] Christopher P. Noble. “Immaterial Mechanism in the Mature Leibniz.” *Idealistic Studies* 49, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 1–21. DOI: [10.5840/idstudies201971897](https://doi.org/10.5840/idstudies201971897)

[2] Christopher P. Noble. “Self-Moving Machines and the Soul: Leibniz contra Spinoza on the Spiritual Automaton.” *The Leibniz Review* 27 (2017): 65–89. DOI: [10.5840/leibniz2017274](https://doi.org/10.5840/leibniz2017274)

[1] Christopher P. Noble. “On Analogies in Leibniz’s Philosophy: Scientific Discovery and the Case of the Spiritual Automaton,” in *The Continuing Relevance of Leibniz*, ed. Charles Joshua Horn, special issue, *Quaestiones Disputatae*, 7, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 8–30. DOI: [10.5840/qd2017722](https://doi.org/10.5840/qd2017722)

Other Publications and Public Philosophy:

[3] “[Incompossible with Florida](#)” *The Hinternet*. Essay on the Philosophical Dimensions of the Political Take-over of New College of Florida

[2] “[On the Life and Philosophy of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz](#)” Interview for *The Young Idealist* online video series on Classical German Philosophy.

[1] Syllabus Showcase: *What is Philosophy?: Global Perspectives on Philosophical History*. Blog of the APA, March 2023. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2023/03/15/syllabus-showcase-what-is-philosophy-global-perspectives-on-philosophical-history-christopher-p-noble/>

Works in Progress:

- [3] “Less than General Education: Florida’s Illiberal Quest to Restrict Student Choice and Politicize the Great Books in the Name of Western Civilization” [book chapter, under review]
- [2] Leibniz section for revised “Continental Rationalism” entry in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* [under review].
- [1] *Spiritual Automata: Rationalism, Mechanism, and the Mind in Modern European Philosophy* [book manuscript; proposal under review].

Book Reviews:

- [8] Christopher P. Noble. Review of Marcy P. Lascano: *The Metaphysics of Margaret Cavendish and Anne Conway* by Marcy P. Lascano, Oxford University Press (2023). *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. 63, no. 3 (2025): 486–488. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/hph.2025.a964615>.
- [7] Christopher P. Noble. “Following Leibniz Through the Labyrinth: Richard T. W. Arthur on Leibnizian Time, Space, and Relativity of Motion,” review of *Leibniz on Time, Space, and Relativity* by Richard T. W. Arthur. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. *Metascience* (2022). DOI: [10.1007/s11016-022-00787-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-022-00787-9)
- [6] Christopher P. Noble. “The perfecting, or near perfecting, or philosophy,” review of *G. W. Leibniz: Dissertation on Combinatorial Art*, translated with introduction and commentary by Massimo Mugnai, Han van Ruler, and Martin Wilson, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2020). *Metascience* (2021). DOI: [10.1007/s11016-020-00596-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-020-00596-y)
- [5] Christopher P. Noble. “Continuity, containment, and coincidence: Leibniz in the history of the exact sciences,” review of *Leibniz and the Structure of Sciences: Modern Perspectives on the History of Logic, Mathematics, and Epistemology*, edited by Vincenzo De Risi, Springer Nature (2019). *Metascience* 29, 523–526 (2020). DOI: [10.1007/s11016-020-00543-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-020-00543-x)
- [4] Christopher P. Noble. *Let There Be Enlightenment: The Religious and Mystical Sources of Rationality* edited by Anton M. Matytsin and Dan Edelstein, John Hopkins University Press (2018). *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 53, no. 3 (Spring 2020): 499–502. DOI: [10.1353/ecs.2020.0046](https://doi.org/10.1353/ecs.2020.0046)
- [3] Christopher P. Noble. *Living Mirrors: Infinity, Unity, and Life in Leibniz’s Philosophy* by Ohad Nachtomy, Oxford University Press (2019). *The Leibniz Review* 29 (2019): 141–155. [Review Essay] <https://doi.org/10.5840/leibniz20192912>
- [2] Christopher P. Noble. *Leibniz and the Environment* by Pauline Phemister, Routledge (2016). *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 100, no. 2 (2018): 232–35. <https://doi.org/10.1515/agph-2018-2005>
- [1] Christopher P. Noble. *Hans-Georg Gadamer: Hermeneutics Between History and Philosophy: The Selected Works of Hans-Georg Gadamer: Volume I* edited by Pol Vandevelde and Arun Iyer, Bloomsbury (2016). *Phenomenological Reviews*. <https://reviews.ophen.org/2018/03/05/hans-georg-gadamer-hermeneutics-between-history-and-philosophy/?lang=pb>

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conferences & Workshops:

- [22] “Self-Mover of Clockwork Mechanism? The Eighteenth-Century Reception of Leibniz’s ‘Spiritual Automaton.’” *Florida Philosophical Association*, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL (Feb., 2023).
- [21] “Three Models for Globalizing Courses in the History of Philosophy.” *Southeast Association for the Continental Tradition* (“SEACT”), Virtual Meeting (April, 2021).
- [20] “Leibniz, Lange, and Bilfinger on whether the Soul is an Automaton.” *International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* (HOPOS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (June, 2020). Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- [19] “Leibniz and the Rational Reconstruction of the History of Philosophy.” *Southeastern Association for the Continental Tradition* (SEACT), Saint Leo University, Tampa, FL (Feb., 2020).
- [18] “Leibniz on the Instincts of Machines of Nature and Souls.” *International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* (HOPOS), University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands (July, 2018).
- [17] “Automata in Spinoza’s Critique of Descartes in the *Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione*.” Summer School: *Collegium Spinozanum II*, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands (July, 2017).
- [16] “Understanding the Past through Past Historiography: The Case of Leibniz.” Summer School: *Understanding the Past Today: Methodology in the History of Philosophy*. University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, (June, 2017).
- [15] “The Spiritual Automaton in Deleuze.” *Theorizing at Rowan Summer Symposium: Deleuze and Guattari, Here and There, Then and Now*, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ (June, 2017).
- [14] “The Soul as Spiritual Automaton in Spinoza and Leibniz.” *New York City Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy*, Fordham University, New York, NY (May, 2017).
- [13] “Leibniz, Plastic Natures, and Unknowing Activity in the *Essais de théodicée* ¶403.” *Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland (May, 2016).
- [12] “On Analogies in Leibniz’s Philosophy: The Case of the Spiritual Automaton.” *The Continuing Relevance of Leibniz*, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH (April, 2016).
- [11] “The Soul as Principle of Individuation in Leibniz.” *Superorganisms, Organisms and Suborganisms as Biological Individuals (First Interdisciplinary Summer School on Individuality in the Life Sciences*, Siggen, Germany (July, 2015).
- [10] “The Soul as Spiritual Automaton: Leibniz’s Natural Philosophy and the Construction of Concepts.” *Leibniz-Scientist, Leibniz-Philosopher*, University of Lampeter, Lampeter, Wales (July, 2015).
- [9] “Leibniz’s Critical Appropriation of Hobbesian Materialism.” *Working Group on Contemporary Materialism: Workshop on Transcendental Materialism*, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD (April, 2015).
- [8] “‘Eminent Mechanism’ and the Soul in Leibniz,” *Leibniz Society of North America*, 8th Annual Meeting, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (Nov., 2014).

- [7] "Leibniz's Synthesis of Causal Powers and the Laws of Nature." *Rotman Summer Workshop on Causal Powers*, University of Western Ontario, Grand Bend, ON, Canada (July, 2014).
- [6] "Is Knowledge Necessary for Action? Leibniz and the Occasionalists." *Leibniz Society of North America*, 7th Annual Meeting, Yale University, New Haven, CT (Oct., 2013).
- [5] "Living Mechanism in Leibniz." *Pittsburgh Summer Symposium in Contemporary Philosophy: Schelling and Naturphilosophie*, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (August, 2013).
- [4] "Does it Matter if Deleuze is a 'Post-Critical' Philosopher?" *Deleuze Studies*, New Orleans, LA (July, 2012).
- [3] "Leibniz's Seashore: Individuation and Confused Perception in Leibniz and Deleuze." *International Philosophy Colloquium Evian*, Evian, France (July, 2011).
- [2] "Leibniz's Comments on Spinoza's Philosophy." *Leibniz Society of North America*, 4th Annual Meeting, University of Houston, Houston, TX (Dec., 2010).
- [1] "Material Critique and Ideology: Marx and Althusser on Social Transformation." *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, Arlington, VA (Oct., 2009).

Invited Talks and Commentaries:

- [10] Commentary on Joseph Orttung: "Possibility and Leibniz's Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles." APA Pacific Division Meeting, Portland, OR (March, 2024)
- [9] "Automatism and Freedom: The Soul as Spiritual Automaton in Modern European Philosophy." Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA (Feb., 2024).
- [8] "The Spiritual Automaton in Modern European Philosophy." University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH (Feb., 2023).
- [7] Commentary on Michael Hansen: "Sensation and Bare Perception in Leibniz." APA Eastern Division Meeting, Virtual Meeting. (Jan., 2022).
- [6] "Leibnizian Reflections on Place and Community." *PACT* (Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition) Virtual Meeting. (Jan., 2021).
- [5] "Kant's Dialectic of the Teleological Power of Judgment." *Quarantine Kant Seminar*. (April, 2020).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6j_0CD7lvo&t=2564s
- [4] "Moderation and Synthesis: Leibniz and the Aims of Philosophy." University of Memphis (Feb. 2019).
- [3] "Leibniz on the Public Morality and Natural Theology of China." *Ethics for Lunch Lecture Series*, Villanova University, Villanova, PA (Nov., 2017).
- [2] "'To Condemn Nothing and Profit from Everything Good?' Leibniz and the History of Philosophy." *Theorizing at Rowan Lecture Series*, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ (March, 2017).
- [1] "Leibniz and Technology: What Automata, Mills, and Calculators Teach Us About Cognition." *Colloquium in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN (Oct., 2015).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught:

- [20] *Asian Philosophy*, UMSL (Spring 2026).
- [19] *Biomedical Ethics*, UMSL (Fall 2025, online asynchronous).
- [18] *Philosophy of the Person II*, Boston College (two sections, Spring 2025).
- [17] *Philosophy of the Person I*, Boston College (two sections, Fall 2024).
- [16] *Spinoza and Leibniz*, New College of Florida (Spring 2024).
- [15] *Early Modern Women Philosophers*, New College of Florida (Fall 2021).
- [14] *What is Philosophy? Global Perspectives on Philosophical History*, First-Year Seminar, New College of Florida (Fall 2021).
- [13] *Spinoza*, New College of Florida (Fall 2020).
- [12] *Philosophy of Science*, New College of Florida (Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2024).
- [11] *The Philosophy of Leibniz*, New College of Florida (Fall 2019).
- [10] *Philosophy and/or Film*, New College of Florida (Fall 2019, co-taught with Dr. April Flakne).
- [9] *Modern Philosophy*, New College of Florida (Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2023).
- [8] *Comparative History of Philosophy*, New College of Florida (Spring 2019).
- [7] *Philosophical and Utopian Literature*, New College of Florida (Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2023).
- [6] *Medieval Philosophy*, New College of Florida (Fall 2018, Fall 2020).
- [5] *Classical Chinese Philosophy*, New College of Florida (Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2022).
- [4] *World Philosophy II*, Rowan University, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies (Fall 2016).
- [3] *The Good Life: Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems*, Villanova University Ethics Program (multiple sections, Fall 2013–Spring 2018).
- [2] *Logic and Critical Thinking*, Villanova University, Department of Philosophy (Summer 2012).
- [1] *Introduction to Philosophy*, Villanova University, Department of Philosophy (multiple sections, Fall 2009–Spring 2014).

Tutorials Sponsored, New College of Florida. Tutorials allow individual or small groups of students to pursue directed study in collaboration with a faculty member.

[11] *18th Century German Philosophy* [incl. Wolff, Lau, Crusius, pre-critical Kant], spring 2023.

[10] *The Reception of Heraclitus: Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger*, spring 2023, half-term.

[9] *Heidegger's Being and Time*, spring 2023, half-term.

[8] *Philosophy of Psycho-Pass* (Japanese anime series), spring 2022.

[7] *Classical Indian Philosophy (Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Dhammapada, Ramayana)*, fall 2021.

[6] *Feminist Discussions of Work and Labor*, spring 2021.

[5] *Philosophical Conceptions of Quantity*, fall 2020.

[4] *Immanence and Transcendence*, fall 2020.

[3] *Henri Bergson*, spring 2020.

[2] *The Self in German Idealism*, spring 2020.

[1] *Go: Theory and Practice*, January term 2019 (students learned to play the ancient Chinese board game Go and studied associated philosophy and literature.)

Teaching Assistant: Villanova University, Department of Philosophy

- *Introduction to Philosophy* (fall 2008, spring 2009), *History of Early Modern Philosophy* (spring 2008), *History of Ancient Philosophy* (fall 2007)

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

Secretary of the Faculty, New College of Florida (Fall 2021)

- Documented proceedings and motions of college-wide faculty meetings.

Scholarship Committee, New College of Florida (Fall 2021–Spring 2022)

- Reviewed student applications for fellowships, grants, and research trips.

Interim Feminist Friday Coordinator, New College of Florida (Spring 2020)

- Organized weekly campus series on issues related to feminism & gender studies.

Faculty Sponsor, New College of Florida

- Go Club (Fall 2019–Spring 2020); Archery Club (Spring 2022).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION & COMMUNITY

Peer-Review Referee:

- *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*
- *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*
- *Res Philosophica*
- *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*

Co-Founder and Member of Board of Directors of SEACT (Southeast Association for the Continental Tradition), (2019–), <https://seactphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

- Co-organize and plan annual conference.
- Host of third-annual meeting in hybrid format at New College of Florida in April 2022.

Philpapers.org Category Editor: “Leibniz: Philosophy of Science,” (November 2017–)

<https://philpapers.org/browse/leibniz-philosophy-of-science>

Philosopher’s Cocoon Job Mentoring Program (Fall 2021)

- Provided feedback on application materials for an applicant for TT positions in Philosophy.

Judge, Delaware Valley Regional HS Ethics Bowl, Villanova University Ethics Program (2014–17)

- Observed discussion of ethical case studies and posed questions to facilitate further reflection.
- Evaluated teams on their overall presentation and depth of understanding of the ethical issues.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association.

HOPOS- The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science.

Leibniz Society of North America.

Southeast Association for the Continental Tradition (SEACT).

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Maribeth Clark

Chair, Division of Humanities
Professor of Music
New College of Florida
5800 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
Maribethclark123@gmail.com

Dr. April Flakne

Professor of Philosophy
Division of Humanities
New College of Florida
5800 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
anflakne@gmail.com

Dr. Julie Klein

Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Villanova University
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Julie.Klein@villanova.edu – (610) 519-4715

Dr. Mogens Lærke

CNRS, Directeur de recherche/Senior Researcher
IHRIM (UMR 5317), ENS de Lyon
Maison Française d'Oxford (MFO USR 3129)
mogenslaerke@hotmail.com

Dr. Justin Smith-Ruiu

University Professor of Philosophy
Université Paris Diderot – Paris 7
Department Histoire et Philosophie des Sciences
Bâtiment Condorcet – Case 701976025 Paris – Cedex 13- France
jehsmith@gmail.com – +33 7 78 88 20 46