

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Davis

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Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh
Ph.D. in Philosophy 2012-present
University of California, San Diego
Visiting Scholar 2015
University of California, Berkeley
B.A. in Philosophy 2007-2011

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Kant's Theoretical Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History and Philosophy of Logic, Modern Philosophy

DISSERTATION

Rethinking Logical Hylomorphism and Kant's Logical Legacy

Committee: Stephen Engstrom, John McDowell, Robert Brandom, Clinton Tolley (UC San Diego)

Kant's central logical contribution is often taken to be the introduction of logical formality. Recent influential work argues that this hylomorphic distinction between the form of thought (syntactic structure) and its content (semantic significance) is what first makes logic purely formal. While this historical narrative places Kant at the center of the formal achievements in contemporary logic, it does so at the cost of committing Kant to views antithetical to central tenets of his transcendental idealism. I argue that a closer look at Kant's pure general logic reveals a hylomorphic structure which distinguishes between the twofold nature of thought: (1) thought's relation to its object (matter) and (2) thought's relation to consciousness (form). Though strikingly different from contemporary notions of logical hylomorphism, I take Kant's account to offer a deeply suggestive and novel account of logic which has yet to be explored or developed.

PUBLICATION

"The Possibility of Universality" Proceedings of the 12. International Kant Congress Nature and Freedom Ed. Violetta L. Waibel and Margit Ruffing. Berlin 2018

TALKS AND COMMENTARY

*=*invited*

January 2019	TBD German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago*
June 2018	“Rethinking Logical Hylomorphism and Kant’s Logical Legacy” Grounding the Space of Reasons, FRIAS University of Freiburg*
September 2017	“Rethinking Logical Hylomorphism and Kant’s Logical Legacy” U.K. Kant Society, St.Andrews University
June 2016	Commentator for Berlin Kant Workshop* Kant on Following Rules, Humboldt University
May 2016	“Rethinking Logical Hylomorphism: Kant and the Subjective Formalists” Logic in Kant’s Wake, McMaster University
September 2015	“The Possibility of Universality” XII. International Kant Congress, Universität Wien
November 2014	“Generality and Purposiveness” Purposiveness in Kant and German Idealism, KU Leuven
November 2013	“Purposiveness and the Logical Origin of Concepts” North American Kant Society Pacific Study Group, UC Riverside

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2018	Anna Margaret and Mary Sloan Fellowship
2016	Candidate for Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award
2015	ICPH Fellowship 5th International Summer school in German Idealism
2013	Candidate for Markus Herz Prize
2013	Awarded travel stipend for NAKS Pacific Study Group <i>Awarded to the best graduate student submission</i>
2011	Departmental Honors
2011	Phi Beta Kappa
2010	Ephraim and Amelia Weiss Scholarship
2007-2011	Distinction in general scholarship
2007-2011	Regents and Chancellors Scholarship <i>University of California’s most prestigious scholarship, awarded to the top 2% of applicants</i>
2007	Santa Clarita Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

Modern Philosophy (Summer 2017)

Teaching Assistant

Theories of Knowledge and Reality (Strom, Fall 2018)

Modern Philosophy (Howton, Spring 2018)

Introduction to Logic (Manders, Fall 2017)

Introduction to Existentialism (Strom, Spring 2016)

Philosophical Problems (Shaw, Fall 2015)

Ancient Philosophy (Allen, Spring 2014)

Modern Philosophy (Engstrom, Fall 2013)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

*= *audited*

Kant's Critique of pure Reason (Engstrom)

Directed Study: Kant's Mathematics (Manders)

Kant's Critique of Judgment (Chignell)

Kantian Ethics (Engstrom)*

Directed Study: Aristotle's Logic (Allen)

Consciousness and Intentionality in German Idealism (Tolley, UC San Diego)*

Descartes (Manders)

Schopenhauer (Jauernig)*

Hegel (Brandom) *

Philosophy of Mathematics: Frege (Manders)

Philosophy of Language (Brandom)

Epistemology (McDowell)*

Advanced Logic (Gupta)

Topics in Contemporary Philosophy (Gupta)

Perception (Chirimuuta and Machery)*

Darwin's Origin (Lennox)

Ethics Core (Setiya)

Metaphysics and Epistemology Core (Wilson)

Concepts, Attitudes and the Unity of Judgment (Stroud, UC Berkeley)

Philosophy of Language: Perspective in Language (Yalcin, UC Berkeley)

Conceptual Representation (Ginsborg, UC Berkeley)*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Undergraduate Philosophy Mentor
Graduate student representative for faculty search committee

LANGUAGES

German (reading)

REFERENCES

Stephen Engstrom
Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
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John McDowell
Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
jmcdowell@pitt.edu

Clinton Tolley
Associate Professor, University of California, San Diego
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