

NICOLÁS GARCÍA MILLS

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EMPLOYMENT

2021-2022: John and Daria Barry Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago

2019-2021: Lecturer, Tufts University

2019 (Spring): Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

EDUCATION

2019: Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dissertation Committee: Sally Sedgwick (Chair), Mark Alznauer (Northwestern), Anthony Laden, Frederick Neuhouser (Columbia), Will Small

2017 (June-July): Visiting Student, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

Host: Dina Emundts

2015-2016: Visiting Student, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (Germany)

Host: Marcus Willaschek

2015 (May-July): Visiting Student, Eberhard Karls-Universität Tübingen (Germany)

Host: Ulrich Schlösser

2015: M.A. in Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago

2010: M.A. in Philosophy, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

2009: “Licenciatura” (B.A.) in Philosophy, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

AOS – Kant, 19th-Century German Philosophy (especially Hegel), Ethics

AOC – Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Action

DISSERTATION – HEGEL’S ETHICAL NATURALISM

ABSTRACT: My dissertation articulates and defends the interpretive view that Hegel is an ethical naturalist. I argue, in particular, that Hegel holds the following two theses: First, our moral obligations are grounded in our nature or essence, which Hegel tells us is freedom. Second, human freedom emerges for Hegel out of the exercise of capacities that we share with other animals. Otherwise put: Human nature is made up out of materials that we share with other animals. By articulating and defending the view that Hegel is an ethical naturalist, I attempt *inter alia* to resolve the apparent tension between his claims that freedom, considered as the source of our moral obligations, consists in the “movement of liberation” from nature while nonetheless remaining “within the natural.” My naturalist interpretation differs from some of the more standard readings of Hegel, as either a historicist or a Kantian epigone. It differs also from other allegedly naturalist readings, which I argue either remain at a highly programmatic level or attribute to Hegel views that are only questionably naturalistic.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2021: “Self-Consciousness is Desire Itself: On Hegel’s Dictum”, *Review of Metaphysics*

2020: “Hegel on the Normativity of Animal Life”, *Hegel Bulletin*

2018: “Realizing the Good: Hegel’s Critique of Kantian Morality”, *European Journal of Philosophy*

2012: “¿Cuál debe ser el comienzo de la ciencia? El problema del comienzo en Hegel”, *Anales del Seminario de Historia de la Filosofía*

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2017: “Hegel, Kant and the Realizability Problem”, *Hegel-Jahrbuch*

BOOK REVIEWS

2021: *The Actual and the Rational: Hegel and Objective Spirit*, Jean-François Kervégan,
British Journal for the History of Philosophy

2013: *Fichte: De la consciència a l'absolut*, Salvi Turró, *Éndoxa*

WORK IN PROGRESS

-“Human Beings as the ‘Perfect Animals’: Hegel on the Difference between Animal Life and Human Spirit” (*Hegel’s Philosophy of Nature: A Critical Guide*, Cambridge University Press)

-Paper on Hegel’s conception of practical freedom (Under review)

-Paper on issues at the intersection of Hegel’s philosophy of nature and his social and political philosophy (Under review)

-“Our Changing Essence? Hegel on History, Freedom, and Morality”

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS (* = invited)

12/2021: TBD, 12th European Philosophy Workshop, Harvard University*

04/2020: TBD, Conference in Honor of Rolf-Peter Horstmann, Boston University* (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

09/2019: “Hegel on Human Spirit, the Animal Soul, and Nature,” Habit: Theoretical, Practical, and Historical Approaches, UIC

01/2019: Comments on Gerad Gentry, “Two Critiques of German Idealism”, Eastern APA, NYC*

12/2018: “Hegel on Human Spirit, the Animal Soul, and Nature”, Annual Conference of the Society for German Idealism and Romanticism (SGIR), Sydney (Australia)

01/2018: “Hegelian Practical Freedom and Nature”, Workshop on Hegel’s Philosophy of Spirit, UIC

06/2016: “Hegel’s Ethical Naturalism”, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (Germany)*

05/2016: “Hegel’s Naturalism: Self-Consciousness as Desire Itself”, 31st International Hegel Congress, Internationale Hegel-Gesellschaft, Bochum (Germany)

01/2016: “Self-Consciousness, Desire and Recognition: Hegel’s Practical Turn in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*”, Eberhard Karls-Universität Tübingen (Germany)*

09/2015: “The Fact of Reason and the *Triebfedern*: Kant’s Answer to the Practicality Problem”, 12th International Kant Congress, Kant-Gesellschaft, Vienna (Austria)

06/2015: “Hegel, Kant and the Realizability Problem”, Workshop on Kant and German Idealism, University of Warwick (UK)

04/2014: “Realizing the Good: Hegel’s Critique of Kantian Morality”, 30th International Hegel Congress, Internationale Hegel-Gesellschaft, Vienna (Austria)

03/2014: Comments on William Bristow, “Hegel’s Political Philosophy?”, Hegel Workshop, Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy, Marquette University*

07/2011: “Hegel’s Syllogisms of Reflection and Necessity”, Summer School on German Philosophy, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (Germany)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

-Freedom, Morality, and the Social World: Kant, Hegel, Marx (Spring 2022)

AT TUFTS:

-Independent Study: Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Spring 2021)

-What is a Person? (Summer 2020)

-Freedom, Morality, and Society: From Kant to Beauvoir (Spring 2020)

-Introduction to Philosophy: What is Freedom? (Fall 2019 x 2, Spring 2020 x 2)

AT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO:

-History of Philosophy: Hegel to the 20th Century (Spring 2019)

AT UIC:

-Phil102: Introductory Logic (Spring 2017 and Summer 2018)

-Phil104: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Spring 2018)

-Phil230: Morality and Human Nature (Fall 2017)

TEACHING ASSISTANT AT UIC

-Phil100: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2016)

-Phil101: Critical Thinking (Spring 2015)

-Phil102: Introductory Logic (Fall 2014)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

2021: John and Daria Barry Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago

2018: Dean's Scholar Fellowship, Graduate College, UIC

2018: Ruth Barcan Marcus Award (Outstanding member of the philosophy graduate program), UIC

2017: Chicago Consular Corps Award

2016: Chancellor's Graduate Research Award, Graduate College, UIC

2016: Summer School on Kant and German Idealism Travel Grant, Universität Tübingen (Germany)

2015: Long-term (10-month) Research Fellowship, DAAD (Germany)

2014: Provost Award, Graduate College, UIC

2012: LAS Graduate Fellowship (Postponed until 2014-15 due to alternative financial support), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIC

2012: Premi Extraordinari de Màster (Prize awarded for outstanding academic performance during the 2009-2010 academic year), Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

2011: "la Caixa" Fellowship (Awarded to do graduate study in the US; 24 months; Tuition and fees, health insurance + \$51,600), Obra Social "la Caixa" (Spain)

2011: XXX Premi Arnau de Vilanova (Prize awarded annually to the best essay by a graduate student in philosophy), Centre d'Humanitats, Col·legi Oficial de Doctors de Catalunya (Spain)

2011: Summer School in German Philosophy Travel Grant, Universität Bonn (Germany)

SUMMER PROGRAMS AND LANGUAGE COURSES

2016: Summer School on Kant and German Idealism, Universität Tübingen (Germany)

2015: German language course (August), Level C2, Goethe Institut, Freiburg (Germany)

2014: German language course (June-July), C2, Humboldt Universität, Berlin (Germany)

2012: German language course (April-May), C1.2, Goethe Institut, Freiburg (Germany)

2011: Summer School in German Philosophy, Universität Bonn (Germany)

2011: German language course (April-May), C1.1, Goethe Institut, Freiburg (Germany)

2008: German language course (July-August), B2.1, Goethe Institut, Heidelberg (Germany)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK (UIC) (* = audit)

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY:

Plato's Theory of Forms (Constance Meinwald)

Leibniz (John Whipple)*

Independent Study: Kant's View of 1762-64 (Daniel Sutherland)

Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason* (Sally Sedgwick)*

Kants Theorie der Erkenntnisvermögen (Dina Emundts, FU Berlin)*

Kant: *Kritik der praktischen Vernunft* (Julia Peters, Universität Tübingen)*

Fichtes Jenaer Philosophie: Ichbewusstsein, Freiheit und Interpersonalität (Ulrich Schlösser/Julia Peters, Universität Tübingen)*

Hegel: *Philosophy of Right* (Sally Sedgwick)

Hegel's *Science of Logic: The Doctrine of Essence* (Robert Pippin, University of Chicago)

Hegel's Logic (Mark Alznauer, Northwestern University)*

Hegel's "Philosophy of Spirit" (Mark Alznauer, Northwestern University)*

History and Tragedy in Hegel and Nietzsche (Sally Sedgwick)

METAPHYSICS, EPISTEMOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE:

Free Will and Determinism [First-Year Graduate Seminar] (Colin Klein)

Kant's Critical Epistemology and Metaphysics (Daniel Sutherland)

Kant über Vernunft und Metaphysik (Marcus Willaschek, Universität Frankfurt)*

Quine (Peter Hylton)

Sense, Reference and Co-Reference (Aidan Gray)

AESTHETICS, MORAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY:

History and Moral Progress: Rousseau, Kant, Nietzsche (Sally Sedgwick)*

Rousseau (Anthony Laden)

Practical Reason (Stephen Engstrom, University of Pittsburgh)

Post-Kantian Ethics (Mark Alznauer, Northwestern University)

Aristotelische Ethik in der modernen praktischen Philosophie (Claudia Blöser/Béatrice Lienemann, Universität Frankfurt)*

Rawls (Anthony Laden)*

Philosophy of Action (Will Small)*

Handlungstheorie (Thomas Khurana, Universität Frankfurt)*

Practical Reasoning (Will Small)*

Virtue, Skill, and Habit (Will Small)*

Philosophy of Art: Depiction (Anne Eaton)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

-Referee for *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Teorema*

-Organizer, Work in Progress Series, Department of Philosophy, UIC, 2017-19

-Organizer, Job Market Workshop, University of Illinois at Chicago, Spring 2018

-Organizer, Workshop "Hegel's Philosophy of Finite Spirit: Mediating Nature and Spirit," UIC, 2018

-Organizer, Fourth Chicagoland Philosophy Graduate Conference, UIC, March 2017

-Graduate Student Representative at Philosophy Faculty Meetings, UIC, 2014-15

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native

Catalan: Native

German: Fluent (Goethe-Zertifikat C1, 2012)

Ancient Greek: Elementary

MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association

North American Kant Society

Society for German Idealism and Romanticism

REFERENCES

(All letters of recommendation are on file with the secretary of the philosophy department at UIC, Kei Hotoda. Her e-mail address is khotod2@uic.edu.)

Sally Sedgwick (ssedgw@bu.edu)

Professor of Philosophy

Boston University

Mark Alznauer (m-alznauer@northwestern.edu)

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Northwestern University

Frederick Neuhouser (fwn7@columbia.edu)

Professor of Philosophy and German

Barnard College, Columbia University

Will Small (wsmall@uic.edu)

Associate Professor of Philosophy

University of Illinois at Chicago

TEACHING REFERENCES:

Anthony Laden (laden@uic.edu)

Professor of Philosophy

University of Illinois at Chicago

David Denby (david.denby@tufts.edu)

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy

Tufts University