

# Matthew A. Leisinger

## CONTACT

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ADDRESS  
Emmanuel College  
St Andrews Street  
Cambridge, UK  
CB2 3AP

EMAIL  
ml888 [at] cam [dot] ac [dot] uk

WEB  
www.matthewleisinger.com

## EMPLOYMENT

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2020-            Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University  
2018-2020      Research Fellow, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge

## EDUCATION

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2012-2018      Yale University, PhD in Philosophy, with distinction  
                    Dissertation: *John Locke and the Demand for Self-Determination*  
                    Committee: Kenneth Winkler (chair), Stephen Darwall, Michael Della Rocca, Alison Simmons (external)

2016-2018      Yale Graduate Fellow in Applied Ethics, Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics  
Spring 2017    University of Toronto, Visitor  
Fall 2016        Harvard University, Exchange Scholar  
2008-2012      The University of Western Ontario (Canada), Honours BA in Philosophy  
                    Awarded *Governor General Silver Medal*

## AREAS

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION    Early modern philosophy  
AREAS OF COMPETENCE        Freedom, personal identity, moral psychology, ethics, bioethics

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. "Locke on Persons and Other Kinds of Substances," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 100:1 (2019), 129-155.
2. "Locke's Arguments against the Freedom to Will," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 25:4 (2017), 642-662.

### REVIEWS

1. "Locke and Cartesian Philosophy, eds. Philippe Hamou and Martine Pécharman," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2019). Retrieved from <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/locke-and-cartesian-philosophy>

## PRESENTATIONS

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1. “Cudworth on Freewill”, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2019
2. “Cudworth on Freewill”, 2019 Finnish-Hungarian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Helsinki, June 2019
3. “Cudworth on Freewill”, Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Groningen, May 2019
4. “Cudworth on Freewill: A More Plausible Libertarianism?”, Cambridge Platonism and the Origin of the Philosophy of Religion, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, May 2019
5. “Ralph Cudworth’s Epistemology of Love”, The Ontology of Love, University of Cambridge, April 2019
6. “Cudworth on Freewill”, Department Colloquium, York University, April 2019
7. “Ralph Cudworth on Freewill (and the Compatibility of Freewill and Divine Grace)”, The D Society, University of Cambridge, March 2019
8. “The Role of Desire in Cudworth’s Account of Human Agency”, Agency in Early Modern Philosophy, University College Dublin, September 2018
9. “Locke on the Motivation to Suspend Desire”, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2018
10. “Locke’s Gatekeeper”, The 8<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, SUNY Buffalo, June 2018
11. “Locke and the Possibility of Self-Control”, 2018 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montreal, June 2018
12. “The Gatekeeper of the Will: On Locke’s Claim that Judgment and Desire Both Determine the Will”, 2017 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, May 2017
13. “Locke on Persons, Kinds, and Composite Ideas”, History of Early Modern Philosophy Working Group, University of Toronto, March 2017
14. “Locke on Persons and Substance-Mode Composites”, Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy IV, University of Groningen, February 2017
15. “Locke on Judgment, Desire, and Weakness of Will”, History of Philosophy Works in Progress, Harvard University, November 2016
16. “Cudworth on Personality”, Personal Identity in the History of Philosophy, University of Melbourne, August 2016
17. “Locke, Cudworth, and the Vulgar: What’s Wrong With Really Distinct Faculties?”, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2016
18. “Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge”, The 7<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016
19. “Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge”, Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy VII, University of St. Andrews, May 2016
20. “Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge”, Harvard-Yale Graduate Workshop in the History of Philosophy, Harvard University, April 2016
21. “Reconciling Freedom and Suspension: Locke on freedom of the will and ‘the source of all liberty’”, Locke Workshop, Yale University, October 2014

## INVITED COMMENTS

1. On Ruth Boeker, “Locke on Vital Union”, Vitalism in Early Modern Philosophy, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, March 2019

2. On Elisabeth Thorsson, “Revisiting Locke’s Thinking Matter: A Third Way?”, 2018 Locke Workshop, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, July 2018
3. On Elliot Rossiter, “Mixed Modes and Moral Epistemology in John Locke’s *Essay concerning Human Understanding*”, 2018 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montreal, June 2018
4. On Ruth Boeker, Chapter 2 of *Locke on Persons and Personal Identity*, Book Workshop on *Locke on Persons and Personal Identity* by Ruth Boeker, Columbia University, March 2018
5. On Julie Walsh, “Malebranche and the Tension Between Virtue and Goodwill”, The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), November 2015
6. On Stephen Darwall, “Cudworth, Shaftesbury, and Leibniz”, The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), October 2015
7. On Kenneth Winkler, “The Scope of Sensitive Knowledge”, The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), December 2014
8. On Martha Bolton, “Locke on Substance and Identity: a Univocal and Internally Consistent Theory”, Locke Workshop, Yale University, October 2014

## TEACHING

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### AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

Introduction to Bioethics, Yale University, Summer 2017

Personhood and Personal Identity in Bioethics, Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, Yale University, Summer 2017

### AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Death, Shelly Kagan, Yale University, Spring 2018

Introduction to Ethics, Shelly Kagan, Yale University, Fall 2017

Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant, Kenneth Winkler, Yale University, Spring 2016

Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant, Keith DeRose, Yale University, Spring 2015

Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, Paul Franks, Yale University Fall 2014

### AS PHILOSOPHY WRITING TUTOR

Directed Studies (Ancient and Medieval Philosophy): Philosophy, Yale University, Fall 2015

## AWARDS & HONOURS

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2017-2018	Edgar H. Stone Fellowship, Yale University
2016-2017	Robert E. Darling Fellowship, Yale University
2016-2017	University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University
2015-2016	Edgar H. Stone Fellowship, Yale University
2012-2016	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
2012-2013	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (declined)
2012	Governor General Silver Medal, The University of Western Ontario (For attaining the highest graduating average over all disciplines in the University)
2012	Faculty of Arts & Humanities Gold Medal, The University of Western Ontario (For attaining the highest graduating average over all disciplines in the Faculty)

- 2012 Gold Medal for the Honors Specialization in Philosophy, The University of Western Ontario  
(For attaining the highest graduating average in the Honors Specialization in Philosophy)
- 2011 Stephanie Spinks Arts Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario
- 2011 Allison H. Johnson Scholarship in Philosophy, The University of Western Ontario  
(For excellence in both philosophy and non-philosophy courses)
- 2010, 2009 Memorial Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario
- 2010 Edna Jeffrey Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario  
(For the highest standing in the second year of an Honors Specialization in Philosophy)
- 2009 UWOFA Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association
- 2008-2012 Continuing Admissions Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario
- 2008 Canfor Corporation Major Open Scholarship
- 2008 School District 57 Dogwood District/Authority Award
- 2008 British Columbia Provincial Scholarship Award

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Referee for *Theoria* and *Philosophers' Imprint*

#### **LANGUAGES**

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English (native), French (reading proficiency), Latin (reading), German (reading)

#### **REFERENCES**

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*References available upon request*

*updated 2019.05.15*