

# Matthew A. Leisinger

## CONTACT

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### ADDRESS

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### EMAIL

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### WEB

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## EMPLOYMENT

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2020-            Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University (Canada)  
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, Visiting Student  
Fall 2016        Harvard University, Exchange Scholar  
2008-2012      The University of Western Ontario (Canada), Honours BA in Philosophy  
                    Awarded the Governor General Silver Medal

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Forthcoming. "Cudworthian Consciousness." *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*.  
Awarded the 2020 Marc Sanders Prize in the History of Early Modern Philosophy.
2. Forthcoming. "Locke on the Motivation to Suspend Desire." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.
3. Forthcoming. "Cudworth on Freewill." *Philosophers' Imprint*.
4. 2020. "Locke's Diagnosis of Akrasia." *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 2(1): 6, 1-13.
5. 2019. "The Inner Work of Liberty: Cudworth on Desire and Attention." *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 27:5, 649-667.
6. 2019. "Locke on Persons and Other Kinds of Substances." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 100:1, 129-155.
7. 2017. "Locke's Arguments against the Freedom to Will." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 25:4, 642-662.

## REVIEWS

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

## INFORMAL WRITING

1. 2019. "Animals, Freewill, and Animal Freewill: A Development in Cudworth's Freewill Manuscripts." *The Cambridge Platonist Research Group*. Retrieved from <https://cprg.hypotheses.org/830>.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### REFEREED TALKS

1. *Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*. "Ralph Cudworth's Sentimentalism", 18<sup>th</sup> Annual International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, The American College of Greece, June 2020
2. *Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*. "Cudworth on Consciousness and the Self", Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen, May 2020.
3. "Cudworth on Freewill", 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2019
4. "Cudworth on Freewill", 2019 Finnish-Hungarian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Helsinki, June 2019
5. "Cudworth on Freewill", Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Groningen, May 2019
6. "The Role of Desire in Cudworth's Account of Human Agency", Agency in Early Modern Philosophy, University College Dublin, September 2018
7. "Locke on the Motivation to Suspend Desire", 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2018
8. "Locke's Gatekeeper", The 8<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, SUNY Buffalo, June 2018
9. "Locke and the Possibility of Self-Control", 2018 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal, June 2018
10. "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
11. "Locke on Persons and Substance-Mode Composites", Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy IV, University of Groningen, February 2017
12. "Cudworth on Personality", Personal Identity in the History of Philosophy, University of Melbourne, August 2016
13. "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
14. "Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge", The 7<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016
15. "Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge", Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy VII, University of St. Andrews, May 2016

### INVITED TALKS

1. "Cudworth on Consciousness and the Self", Workshop on Topics in Early Modern Moral Philosophy and Moral Psychology, University College Dublin, February 2020

2. “Ralph Cudworth and the Structure of Personhood”, Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture, Keele University, November 2019
3. “Cudworth on Freewill: A More Plausible Libertarianism?”, Cambridge Platonism and the Origin of the Philosophy of Religion, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, May 2019
4. “Ralph Cudworth’s Epistemology of Love”, The Ontology of Love, University of Cambridge, April 2019
5. “Cudworth on Freewill”, Department Colloquium, York University, April 2019
6. “Ralph Cudworth on Freewill (and the Compatibility of Freewill and Divine Grace)”, The D Society, University of Cambridge, March 2019
7. “Locke on Persons, Kinds, and Composite Ideas”, History of Early Modern Philosophy Working Group, University of Toronto, March 2017
8. “Locke on Judgment, Desire, and Weakness of Will”, History of Philosophy Works in Progress, Harvard University, November 2016
9. “Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge”, Harvard-Yale Graduate Workshop in the History of Philosophy, Harvard University, April 2016
10. “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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##### YORK UNIVERSITY

##### *Undergraduate*

1. Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz (PHIL 2020), Fall 2020
2. Locke, Berkeley and Hume (PHIL 2025), Winter 2021
3. Seminar in the History of Modern Philosophy (PHIL 4011), Summer 2021

##### *Graduate*

1. Early Modern Philosophy (PHIL 6120), Winter 2021

## YALE UNIVERSITY

1. Death (Teaching Fellow for Shelly Kagan), Spring 2018
2. Introduction to Ethics (Teaching Fellow for Shelly Kagan), Fall 2017
3. Introduction to Bioethics, Summer 2017
4. Personhood and Personal Identity in Bioethics, Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, Summer 2017
5. Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant (Teaching Fellow for Kenneth Winkler), Spring 2016
6. Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant (Teaching Fellow for Keith DeRose), Spring 2015
7. Directed Studies: Philosophy (Writing Tutor), Fall 2015
8. Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Teaching Fellow for Paul Franks), Fall 2014

## AREAS

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION    Early modern philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE        Freedom, personal identity, moral psychology, ethics, bioethics

## SELECTED AWARDS & HONOURS

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1. Awarded the 2020 Marc Sanders Prize in the History of Early Modern Philosophy for the paper "Cudworthian Consciousness" (2020)
2. SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2012-2016)
3. Governor General Silver Medal, The University of Western Ontario (2012)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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1. Referee for *History of Philosophy Quarterly* (2020), *Philosophers' Imprint* (2018, 2018), and *Theoria* (2018)
2. Co-organizer of workshop "Vitalism in Early Modern Philosophy" at Emmanuel College, Cambridge (2019)
3. Co-organizer of the Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (2014-2018)
4. Co-organizer of the Yale Leibniz Workshop (2012)

## REFERENCES

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*References available upon request*

*updated 2020.11.29*