

# Matthew A. Leisinger

## CONTACT

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### ADDRESS

Department of Philosophy  
S448 Ross Building  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
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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  
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  
2008-2012 The University of Western Ontario (Canada), Honours BA in Philosophy  
Awarded Governor General Silver Medal

## PUBLICATIONS

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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. 2023. "Cudworth and More on Immaterial Extension: A New Text with Analysis." *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 5(1): 5, 1–23.
2. 2022. "Cudworthian Consciousness." *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 11: 163–196.  
Awarded the 2020 Marc Sanders Prize in the History of Early Modern Philosophy.
3. 2022. "Liberty and Suspension in Locke's *Essay*." *Locke Studies* 21: 26–55.
4. 2021. "Locke on the Motivation to Suspend Desire." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 51:1, 48–61.
5. 2021. "Cudworth on Freewill." *Philosophers' Imprint* 21:1, 1–25.
6. 2020. "Locke's Diagnosis of Akrasia." *Journal of Modern Philosophy* 2(1): 6, 1–13.
7. 2019. "The Inner Work of Liberty: Cudworth on Desire and Attention." *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 27:5, 649–667.
8. 2019. "Locke on Persons and Other Kinds of Substances." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 100:1, 129–155.
9. 2017. "Locke's Arguments against the Freedom to Will." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 25:4, 642–662.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Forthcoming. "Locke on Freedom and the Will." In Patrick Connolly (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Locke*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## 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. "Cudworth's Conscious Self." 2023 John Locke Society Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 2023.
2. "Cudworth's Conscious Self." 2023 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, York University, May 2023.
3. "Cudworth's Conscious Self." Berlin-Hamburg Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Hamburg, May 2023.
4. "Cudworth's Conscious Self." TEMPO 2023, Washington University in St. Louis, May 2023.
5. "Ralph Cudworth's Sentimentalism." 18<sup>th</sup> Annual International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (virtual), June 2021.
6. "Cudworth's Theory of the Self." Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy VIII (virtual), May 2021.
7. "Cudworth's Theory of the Self." Princeton-Bucharest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy (virtual), March 2021.
8. "Cudworth on Freewill." 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2019.
9. "Cudworth on Freewill." 2019 Finnish-Hungarian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Helsinki, June 2019.
10. "Cudworth on Freewill." Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Groningen, May 2019.
11. "The Role of Desire in Cudworth's Account of Human Agency." Agency in Early Modern Philosophy, University College Dublin, September 2018.
12. "Locke on the Motivation to Suspend Desire." 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, July 2018.
13. "Locke's Gatekeeper." The 8<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, SUNY Buffalo, June 2018.
14. "Locke and the Possibility of Self-Control." 2018 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Université du Québec à Montréal, June 2018.
15. "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.
16. "Locke on Persons and Substance-Mode Composites." Dutch Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy IV, University of Groningen, February 2017.
17. "Cudworth on Personality." Personal Identity in the History of Philosophy, University of Melbourne, August 2016.
18. "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.

19. "Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge." The 7<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016.
20. "Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge." Scottish Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy VII, University of St. Andrews, May 2016.

#### INVITED TALKS

1. "Racing Horses and Wagging Tails: Cudworth's Speculations about Animal Minds." Animal Minds in the Early Modern Age, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, June 2023.
2. "Cudworth's Conscious Self." Department Colloquium, McMaster University, November 2022.
3. "Cudworth's Response to More on Immaterial Extension." Québec-Ontario Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Toronto, October 2022.
4. "Cudworth on Consciousness and the Self." Workshop on Topics in Early Modern Moral Philosophy and Moral Psychology, University College Dublin, February 2020.
5. "Ralph Cudworth and the Structure of Personhood." Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture, Keele University, November 2019.
6. "Cudworth on Freewill: A More Plausible Libertarianism?" Cambridge Platonism and the Origin of the Philosophy of Religion, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, May 2019.
7. "Ralph Cudworth's Epistemology of Love." The Ontology of Love, University of Cambridge, April 2019.
8. "Ralph Cudworth on Freewill (and the Compatibility of Freewill and Divine Grace)." The D Society, University of Cambridge, March 2019.
9. "Locke on Persons, Kinds, and Composite Ideas." History of Early Modern Philosophy Working Group, University of Toronto, March 2017.
10. "Locke on Judgment, Desire, and Weakness of Will." History of Philosophy Works in Progress, Harvard University, November 2016.
11. "Cudworth on Reason and Moral Knowledge." Harvard-Yale Graduate Workshop in the History of Philosophy, Harvard University, April 2016.
12. "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 Eduardo Melo de Andrade Lima, "From homo economicus to homo aestheticus: a critique of Foucault's Reading of Adam Smith." 2023 Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, York University, May 2023.
2. On Ruth Boeker, "Locke on Vital Union." Vitalism in Early Modern Philosophy, Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, March 2019.
3. On Elisabeth Thorsson, "Revisiting Locke's Thinking Matter: A Third Way?" 2018 Locke Workshop, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, July 2018.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. On Julie Walsh, "Malebranche and the Tension Between Virtue and Goodwill." The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), November 2015.
7. On Stephen Darwall, "Cudworth, Shaftesbury, and Leibniz." The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), October 2015.

8. On Kenneth Winkler, “The Scope of Sensitive Knowledge.” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (SEMPY), December 2014.
9. 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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Completed *Certificate of Proficiency in Teaching for eLearning*, York University Teaching Commons, September 2022.

### YORK UNIVERSITY

#### *Undergraduate*

1. PHIL 2020: Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz (Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020).
2. PHIL 2025: Locke, Berkeley and Hume (Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Winter 2022, Winter 2021).
3. PHIL 2170: Freedom, Determinism and Responsibility (Winter 2024, Winter 2023, Winter 2022).
4. PHIL 4011: Seminar in the History of Modern Philosophy: Free Will from Hobbes to Hume (Summer 2021).
5. PHIL 4090: Seminar in Metaphysics: Incompatibilism (Fall 2021).
6. PHIL 4090: Seminar in Metaphysics: TBD (Fall 2023).

#### *Graduate*

1. PHIL 6010: Directed Readings: Applied Philosophy From Early Modern Women Philosophers (Winter 2023).
2. PHIL 6120: Early Modern Philosophy: Cambridge Platonism (Summer 2022).
3. PHIL 6120: Early Modern Philosophy: Free Will (Winter 2021).

#### *Graduate student supervision*

1. Michael Cust (PhD committee member, Department of Philosophy)
2. Leopold Kowolik (PhD committee member, Graduate Program in Social & Political Thought)

### 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.

## SELECTED AWARDS & HONOURS

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1. 2020 Marc Sanders Prize in the History of Early Modern Philosophy—for the paper “Cudworthian Consciousness” (2020).
2. 2020 York Research Leader.

3. SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2012–2016).
4. Governor General Silver Medal, The University of Western Ontario (2012).

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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1. Referee for *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *The Philosophical Forum*, and *Theoria*.
2. PhilPapers.org sub-editor for Locke: Free Will (2022–Present).
3. Co-organizer of workshop “Vitalism in Early Modern Philosophy” at Emmanuel College, Cambridge (2019).
4. Co-organizer of the Society for Early Modern Philosophy at Yale (2014–2018).
5. Co-organizer of the Seventh Annual Conference of the Leibniz Society of North America (2013).

### **SERVICE TO YORK UNIVERSITY**

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1. Co-panelist, “Publishing 101” and “Academic Placement,” Scholarly Skills Series, Department of Philosophy (April 2023)
2. Referee for Graduate Paper Exams, Department of Philosophy (January 2023, January 2022)
3. Member of Tenure & Promotion Committee, Department of Philosophy (2022–2023).
4. Member of PhD Admissions Committee, Department of Philosophy (2022–2023).
5. Member of MA Admissions Committee, Department of Philosophy (2021–2022).
6. Member of Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy (2020–2022).
7. Member of Graduate Scholarships Committee, Department of Philosophy (2020–2022).

### **LANGUAGES**

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

### **REFERENCES**

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Kenneth P. Winkler  
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Yale University  
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Stephen Darwall  
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University of Toronto at Mississauga  
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Michael Della Rocca  
Department of Philosophy  
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[michael.della@yale.edu](mailto:michael.della@yale.edu)

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