

Evangelian Collings

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Areas of Specialization

Early Modern Philosophy
Philosophy of Birth and Pregnancy

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind/Action
Bioethics

Education

PhD in Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh Dissertation: <i>On what Nature taught Descartes</i>	expected 2027
MA in Philosophy, University of Calgary Thesis: <i>Bonum ex machina</i>	2018
BA in Philosophy with distinction, Queen's University	2015
BScE in Mathematics & Engineering with first class honours, Queen's University	2014

Dissertation

On what Nature taught Descartes

This dissertation aims to square the methods and content of Descartes's final treatise, the *Passions of the Soul*, with his philosophical system. In doing so, I critique deductive-rationalist readings of his epistemic project, give a reading of Descartes's approach to the problem of mind-body interaction, comment on the role of resoluteness in his ethics, and make room for the second person perspective in his philosophy. My interventions are organized by a close reading of Descartes's correspondence with Elizabeth of Bohemia, which provides a clear narrative that relates these issues to one another.

Publications

"[Animalism has a pregnancy problem](#)," *Synthese* 207:218 2026

Works in progress

(under contract) Co-edited with Myrna Gabbe and Maja Sidzińska, *Pregnancy in the History of Philosophy*, Palgrave Macmillan

(under contract) "Maternal resemblance and maternal effects in Porphyry's *To Gaurus*," *Pregnancy in the History of Philosophy*, Palgrave Macmillan

Professional Development

Minnesota Center for Canon Expansion and Change Summer Program	August 2022
Metaphysics of Pregnancy Summer School, King's College London (held virtually)	July 2021

Athena in Action Workshop, participant/session chair, Cornell University (held virtually) June 2020

Presentations

Refereed

- “Human institutions and natural institutions in Descartes’s philosophy”
Conference: Analogies in Modern Philosophy and Science, Leuven, Belgium October 2025
- “Elizabeth’s anxiety and Descartes’s method for tranquility”
Quebec Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Trois-Rivières QC August 2025
- “Persons as organisms and the pregnancy problem: an upshot for abortion debates”
APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco CA April 2023
- “Applying Descartes’s Causal Principle to the Passions of the Soul”
UCSD Modern Philosophy Graduate Workshop, San Diego CA May 2022
Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization Conference (held virtually) May 2022
- “What Should Animalism Say About Pregnant Human Animals?”
APA Central Division Meeting, Denver CO February 2023
Ohio Philosophical Association Conference, Akron OH April 2022
Syracuse University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Syracuse NY March 2022
- “Leibniz on the Order and Artifice in Reproduction”
Leibniz Society of North America Conference, Chicago IL (held virtually) November 2020
Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization, Washington DC (held virtually) June 2020
- “Rewards, Reinforcement, and Reasons”
Free Exchange Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Calgary AB March 2017

Invited

- “Persons as organisms and the pregnancy problem: an upshot for abortion debates”
Center for Bioethics & Health Law Colloquium, Pittsburgh PA September 2022
Humanities Center Colloquium, Pittsburgh PA September 2022
- “A Good from the Machine,” The Rule of Algorithms Symposium, Calgary AB March 2018

Comments

- For Matthew Homan’s “Descartes and the importance of being resolute”
APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York NY January 2025
- For Nicholas Michieli’s “Forced perceptions: Leibniz’s problem of aggregation”
Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Pittsburgh PA March 2024
- For Arianna Falbo’s “Why Two (or more) Belief-Dependent Peers are Better Than One”
Meeting of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Edmonton AB November 2016

Awards, Honours, and Scholarships

Nominee for the Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2025
Anna Margaret and Mary Sloan Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023 (\$13 300)
Center for Bioethics & Health Law Health Humanities and Ethics Fellow, U Pittsburgh, 2022-23
Humanities Center Graduate Student Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2022 (\$10 000)
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's, SSHRC, 2017-18 (\$17 500)
Alberta Graduate Student Scholarship, 2017-18 (\$3 000)
Institute for Liberal Studies Essay Contest, second place winner, 2017 (\$750)
Queen Elizabeth II Graduate (Master's) Scholarship, University of Calgary, 2016 (\$7 200)
Graduate Scholar in The Graduate College, University of Calgary, 2016-18 (\$3 000)

Travel grants and stipends

University of Pittsburgh: A&S GSO 2023, 2025 (\$200×2); A&S PBC, 2025 (\$400); Early Modern Worlds 2025 (\$300); GPSG 2025 (\$450)
American Philosophical Association: Central 2023 (\$300); Pacific 2023 (\$400)

Teaching Experience

As Primary Instructor

Introduction to Biomedical Ethics	University of Pittsburgh	W25
Introduction to Ethics	University of Pittsburgh	W24
History of Modern Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh	W21

As Teaching Assistant

Concepts of Human Nature	Kaplan	University of Pittsburgh	F24
Intro to Philosophical Problems	Strom	University of Pittsburgh	F20
History of Modern Philosophy	DeBrujin	University of Pittsburgh	W20
Philosophy of Mind	Stanton	University of Pittsburgh	F19
Value Theory	Framarin	University of Calgary	F17
Morality, Virtue, and Society	Habib	University of Calgary	W17
Linear Algebra	Alajaji	Queen's University	W14
Calculus II	Taylor	Queen's University	W15/14/13

Service

Mentoring and outreach

Philosophy departmental TA mentor, 2021/22
Mentor for participants in the Open Doors Philosophy Academy, 2022
Presenter for the Wonder Philosophy grad school application workshop, 2021
Guest lecturer for the Shad Canada high school program, July 2019

Committees and groups

History of Modern Philosophy search committee member, 2023/24
Co-organizer of a conference on the History of the Philosophy of Pregnancy, 2023
Organizer and webmaster of the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group, 2019/20, 20/21

University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Organization, Philosophy representative, 2018/19, 19/20
 Co-Chair of the Graduate College at University of Calgary, 2017/18
 Secretary of the University of Calgary Philosophy Graduate Student Association, 2017/18

Refereeing

Reviewer for the Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2020, 2023, 2024
 Editor for *Pensées Canadiennes: Canadian Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy*, 2014/15

Graduate-level Coursework

University of Pittsburgh

For Credit

Ethics (core)	Pallikkathayil
Metaphysics/Epistemology (core)	Gallow
Philosophy of Science (core)	Woodward
Topics in Value Theory	Theunissen
Women In and Out of Science	Palmieri
Augustine and the Philosophers	Hoenig
Leibniz	Rescher
Psychic Unity	Whiting
Descartes	Wilson
The Good	Theunissen
Personal Identity	Whiting/Shumener

Audited

Idealization and Modeling	Batterman
Kant's Practical Philosophy	Engstrom
Sellars	Brandom
Moral Theory	Thompson
Truth	Gupta
Plotinus's Account of Desire	Magrin
The First Person	McDowell
Wittgenstein	Ricketts/Shaw
Kant on Finite Knowledge	Pendlebury
Early Modern Mechanics	Wilson/Williams
Spinoza	Klingspor

University of Calgary

For MA

Non-Classical Logics	Kazmi
Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems	Zach
Money, Markets, and Morality	Dick
Open-Mindedness	Fantl
Charles Sanders Peirce	Migotti
Graduate Proseminar	Zach

Open Studies

Aquinas	MacIntosh
Issues in Historical Sciences	Currie

Audited at Other Departments

Topics in Early Modern Philosophy	Detlefsen	University of Pennsylvania
Reproduction	Kranson	University of Pittsburgh GSWS
Intermediate Latin	Lee	University of Pittsburgh Classics

Updated: August 5, 2026