

Alison Peterman

University of Rochester
Department of Philosophy
Lattimore Hall 520
Rochester, NY 14607

Phone: (843) 290-8391
Email: alison.peterman@rochester.edu
Website: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/faculty/alisonpeterman>

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester, 2018 to present.

James P. Wilmot Distinguished Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester, 2015 - 2017.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester, 2012 - 2015, 2018.

EDUCATION

B.S. Philosophy, University of Richmond, 2004.

M.S. Physics, University of Maryland, 2012.

Ph.D. Philosophy, Northwestern University, 2012.

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Early Modern Philosophy, History of Philosophy of Science

Areas of Concentration: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Perception, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

PUBLICATIONS

“Cavendish on motion and mereology,” forthcoming in *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*.

“Spinoza and the mind-body relation,” forthcoming in *Spinoza in 21st-Century American and French Philosophy*, ed. Charles Ramond and Jack Stetter, Bloomsbury. Also to appear in French translation in *Spinoza transatlantique, Les interprétations américains de Spinoza aujourd’hui*.

“Canonizing Cavendish” (Essay review of David Cunning’s *Cavendish*), *Journal of the History of Philosophy of Science*, preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1086/696383>.

“Newton and Spinoza,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Newton*, ed. Eric Schliesser and Chris Smeenk (Oxford University Press), 2018.

“Empress vs. Spider-Man: Cavendish on pure and applied mathematics,” *Synthese*, preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-017-1504-y>.

“The ‘physical’ interlude,” in *Cambridge Critical Guide to Spinoza’s Ethics*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Cambridge University Press), 2017.

“Spinoza on Skepticism,” in *Skepticism: From Antiquity to the Present*, ed. Diego Machuca and Baron Reed (Bloomsbury), 2018.

“Two Kinds of Embodiment,” in *Embodiment: A History*, ed. Justin E. H. Smith (Oxford University Press), 2016.

“Spinoza on Extension and Space,” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 15(14), April 2015, 1-23.

“Spinoza on Physical Science,” *Philosophy Compass* 9(3), March 2014.

“Spinoza on the ‘principles of natural things,’” *Leibniz Review* 22, December 2012.

Under Review

Removed to preserve blind review

Invited Works in Progress

“The World-Soul in 17th century natural philosophy,” for *Oxford Philosophical Concepts: World-Soul*, edited by James Wilberding (Oxford University Press).

“Spinoza’s Physics,” for *The Blackwell Companion to Spinoza*, edited by Yitzhak Melamed (Blackwell).

“Spinoza and the sciences,” for *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences* (Springer).

“Margaret Cavendish,” for *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Science* (Springer).

In Preparation

“Certainty in Descartes and Spinoza.”

“The Common Notions.”

“Attribute-neutrality and levels of physical explanation.”

“Two Spinozistic theories of mind.”

“Does Spinoza believe in Spinozan belief? Cartesian and Spinozan belief models in cognitive science.”

Physics (selected)

With the CMS Collaboration, all papers from July 2011 until September 2012, including “Observation of a new boson at a mass of 125 GeV with the CMS experiment at the LHC.” *Phys. Lett. B.* 716 (1), 17 September 2012, 30-61 (<http://arxiv.org/abs/1207.7235v2>).

With the MINERvA Collaboration. “Demonstration of Communication Using Neutrinos.” *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* 27 (2012) (<http://arxiv.org/abs/1203.2847v2>).

PRESENTATIONS

“Margaret Cavendish and the problem of bodies”

Workshop in honor of Katherine Brading, University of Notre Dame, March 23, 2017.

“Two theories of the mental”

French-American Spinoza conference, Paris, France, June 4, 2016.

London Spinoza Circle, May 19, 2016.

“Cavendish on motion and true predication”

Lehigh University, Women In Early Modern Philosophy, October 19, 2017.

University of Southern California, February 10, 2017.

University of Colorado at Boulder, December 15, 2016.

Cornell University, November 14, 2016.

Society for Analytical Feminism, September 17, 2016.

Chicago Early Modern Roundtable, June 13, 2016.

“The inferior spiderman: Cavendish on pure and applied mathematics”

New Narratives in Philosophy Conference, Duke University, April 14, 2016.

University of Pittsburgh HPS, January 16, 2016.

University of California, Irvine, LPS, January 21, 2016.

“Two kinds of embodiment: Descartes and Spinoza”

University of Pittsburgh, January 15, 2016.

University of Maryland, December 10, 2015.

Georgetown University, December 3, 2015.

“Intelligibility and Theories of Matter”

University of Maryland Physics Seminar, October 13, 2015.

Laboratory for Laser Energetics, Science and Technology Seminar Series, April 10, 2014.

“Weird theories of matter from natural philosophy”

Department of Chemistry Seminar Series, University of Rochester, February 24, 2014.

Physics and Philosophy Lecture Series, University of Rochester, April 29, 2013.

“Spinoza on Embodiment”

Temple University, October 29, 2015.

Université Paris Diderot, December 18, 2014.

“Spinoza on Extension and Space”

Attributes Workshop, Barnard College, August 22, 2014.

Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2013.

The 17th Foundations of Physics UK and European Meeting, LMU Munich, 2013.

“Spinoza on Physical Science.”

Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Princeton, NY, 2012.

University at Buffalo, February 11, 2012.

University of Rochester, February 18, 2012.

“The attribute-neutral foundations of Spinoza’s physics”

Biennial Conference for the Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Ghent, Belgium, July 3, 2014 (*invited*).

From Medieval to Modern Philosophy, Boulder, CO, July 20, 2015.

“The Common Notions”

Sarton Center for the History of Science, December 10, 2014.

Princeton-Bucharest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Bran, Romania, July 11, 2014.

Early Modern Philosophy Workshop, University of Toronto, April 11, 2014.

Hobbes and Spinoza Workshop, University of Pittsburgh, October 18, 2013.

“Spinoza’s Physical Interlude.”

Central Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2011.

“Spinoza, Naturalism, and Explanatory Physicalism.”

Biennial Conference for the Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, Central European University, Budapest, 2010.

“On Spinoza’s Explanatory Physicalism.”

South Central Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Texas, San Antonio, 2009.

“Contractualism and Constructivism.”

Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado, 2008.

“*Conatus* in Spinoza’s Physical Philosophy.”

Northwestern University Research Seminar, 2007.

“The Spirit in Plato’s *Republic*”

Manfred S. Frings Philosophy Colloquium, DePaul University, 2006.

Reviews and Commentary

On David Cunniff’s *Cavendish*; Author Meets Critics session. Pacific Meeting of the APA, Seattle, WA, April 12, 2017.

Review of *The Young Spinoza*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed, in *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.

On Karen Bennett’s *Making Things Up*, Morris Colloquium on Metaphysics and its History, UC Boulder, March 12, 2016.

On Yitzhak Melamed’s *Spinoza’s Metaphysics: Substance and Thought*. AMC event, The Mod Squad blog. April 2014.

On John Gray’s “Necessitarianism in Spinoza”. Eastern Meeting of the APA, Philadelphia, PA, December 28, 2014.

On Ursula Goldenbaum’s “The Necessitarian Threat of the Geometrical Method due to its Mathematizing of Nature.” *The Language of Nature: Reconsidering the Mathematization of Science*, Rotman Institute for Philosophy of Science and Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, London, Ontario, October 2012.

On Karolina Huebner’s “Spinoza on the Power of Thought.” Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Cornell University, December 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Rochester Humanities Center Fellowship (Spring 2018)

Participant, NEH Summer Seminar: *Between Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy* (Summer 2015)

Co-coordinator, Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy (Mellon Foundation, 2013-2016)

James P. Wilmot Distinguished Assistant Professorship for the Humanities (2014-2016)

Selected as “Young Researcher” to attend the Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Physics, 2012.

Paris Program in Critical Theory Fellowship (for one year of study in Paris at École Normale Supérieure and École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, 2008-2009).

Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University (2004-2010).

Oldham Scholarship, University of Richmond (Merit scholarship granting full tuition, room, board and stipend, 2000-2004).

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT (PHYSICS)

Research associate, the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at the LHC/CERN (2010-2012)

Research associate, the MINERvA neutrino scattering experiment at Fermilab (2009-2010)

Research associate, NA48 charge-parity violation experiment at LEP/CERN (2001-2002)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Abstraction (graduate seminar in Philosophy of Mind and its History, co-taught with Hayley Clatterbuck), Fall 2017

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (grad/undergrad), Fall 2017

Introduction to Philosophy, Five Points Correctional Facility (with the Cornell Prison Education Program), Spring 2017

Graduate seminar in Metaphysics and its History: Properties and Predications (co-taught with Paul Audi), Fall 2016.

Theory of Perception (cross-listed with Cognitive Science, co-taught with Lauren Emberson), Fall 2014

Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Empiricism (grad/undergrad), Spring 2015

Rationalism (grad/undergrad), Spring 2016

Hume and Reid (grad/undergrad), Spring 2017

Freedom (undergraduate seminar for majors), Spring 2014

Graduate seminar: Leibniz’s metaphysics, Fall 2013

Reason and Argument, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016

Perception (undergraduate seminar for majors), Spring 2013

Early Modern Philosophy of Perception, Fall 2012

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Latin, French, German, Spanish

SERVICE

At the University of Rochester

Colloquium director (Spring 2018)

Graduate admissions reader (2015, 2017)

Director of graduate admissions (2014, 2016)

Director of job placement (2012-2015)

University Fulbright committee (2014, 2016)

Organizer: Workshop on Spinoza's Metaphysics (with Yitzhak Melamed, Anat Schechtman, Michael LeBuffe, Fall 2013)

Previously

Co-organizer, First Annual Northwestern University Conference in Moral and Political Philosophy (2006)

Assistant organizer, Chicago Area Ancient Philosophy Consortium (2007)