

Aminah Hasan-Birdwell, Ph.D.
aminah.hasan-birdwell@emory.edu
ahasanbirdwell@gmail.com

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Early Modern Philosophy (Women Philosophers, Cartesians)
History of Political Thought (Bodin to Marx)
Ideas of Race and Gender (c. 17th-18th)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy (Phenomenology and Existentialism)
Africana Philosophy (African-British Abolitionists, French-Caribbean, African-American)
Jewish Philosophy (Rosenzweig, Cohen, Levinas, Buber)

EMPLOYMENT

2022-present	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
2021-2022	Visiting Scholar , School of Philosophy, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA
2021-2022	Visiting Fellow , Institute of Early Modern Studies, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA
2021-2022	Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellow at the Huntington Library, Los Angeles, CA
2021-2022	Fellow at the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
2019-2021	Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Associate Research Scholar in the Philosophy Department, Columbia University, New York, NY
2019-2020	Associate Director of the Center of New Narratives in Philosophy, Columbia University, New York, NY
2017-2021	Alva and Beatrice Bradley Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Furman University, Greenville, SC (professional leave 2019-2021)
2016-2017	Teaching and Research Fellow, Pennsylvania State University, PA

EDUCATION

2011–2016 **Ph.D. in Philosophy**, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Graduation August 2016
Chair, Robert Bernasconi

Dissertation Title: *Metaphysics, War, and the Critique of the Conatus Essendi in Emmanuel Levinas*

EDUCATION (Continued)

2011–2012 **M.A. in Philosophy**, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

2009–2011 Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
Graduate Studies in Philosophy (non-degree)

2003–2008 **B.A. in Liberal Arts**, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

AWARDS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

2022-2025 **Chair of the American Philosophical Association Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers**

2021-2022 **Awarded the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Early Career Fellowship**

2021-2022 **Awarded the Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellow at the Huntington Library**

2021–2022 **Associate Chair of the American Philosophical Association Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers**

2020–2027 **Early Career Researcher on the Academic Committee in SSHRC Grant Award for *Extending New Narratives in the History of Philosophy***

2019–2021 **Member of American Philosophical Association Committee on the Status of Black Philosophers**

2019–2022 **Member of the Editorial Board of *Levinas Studies* Journal**

2018–present **Reviewer for *Review of Metaphysics, Hypatia, Levinas Studies, Springer Books, and Polity Books***

2018–2019 **Founded Faculty Initiative Group (FIG) on “Pedagogy and Curriculum Initiatives to Integrate Findings of the Furman Slavery Task Force (Finding Abraham Project)”**

2018–2019 **Awarded “New Course Design Grant,” Humanities Development Fund Committee, Furman University**

2018 **Awarded Three Student Summer Research Fellows, Furman Advantage**

2018–2019 **Faculty Fellow in Cothran Faculty Seminar, *Engaging Diverse Ways of Knowing in the Academy***

2016–2017 **Awarded Teaching and Research Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA**

2015 **Awarded Summer Mellon Foundation Pre-Doctorate Fellowship (HWW)**

TOPICS/COURSES TAUGHT

Senior Ethics Seminar: Philosophy & Slavery
Graduate Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy
Philosophy of Race
Modern Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy
Independent Study: Topics in 19th Century Philosophy—Marx and Post-Marxism
Twentieth-Century Philosophy
Existentialism
Africana Philosophy
Ethics
Philosophy of Love and Sex
Social and Political Thought
The Good Life
Basic Problems in Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Committed *Early Modern Women on War and Peace. Book Manuscript.* (Committed to Cambridge University Press. Due Fall 2022)

Articles (Peer Reviewed)

Published “Interrogating the Doctrine of the Univocity of Being: A Levinasian Critique of Immanent Causality (Contra Deleuze).” *Levinas Studies* 12 (2018): 119–140.
Article

Book Chapters

Forthcoming “On War,” *Oxford Handbook on Margaret Cavendish*, edited Julie Crawford and Jacqueline Broad. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Published “Critical Histories of Philosophy: Hannah Arendt and the Critique of the Meditative Tradition.” In *Pluralizing Philosophy: New Reflections on the History of Philosophy*, edited by Amber L. Griffioen and Marius Backmann. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

Book Reviews

Published *Out of Control: Confrontations between Spinoza and Levinas* by Richard Cohen. *Review of Metaphysics* 71, no. 4 (2018): 794–796. **Book Review**

Published *The Ethics of Resistance: Tyranny of the Absolute* by Drew M. Dalton. Notre Dame Philosophical Review (2021). **Book Review**
<https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/the-ethics-of-resistance-tyranny-of-the-absolute/>

Works in Progress

Under Review “Contesting *Ius Gentium*: Ottobah Cugoano on Chattel Slavery and the Moral Limitations of the Law of Nations.” **Article**

CONFERENCES

- 2-25-2022** **APA Central Division. Presenter.** Teaching Hub: “**Teaching About Slavery in Philosophy Courses**”
- 9-29-2021** **Huntington Library. Presenter.** Long-Term Fellow Symposium: “**War and Peace in the Seventeenth Century**”
- 2-27-2021** **APA Central Division. Respondent.** Symposium: “Language, World Creation, and Exclusion in Fanon and Anzaldúa”
- 2-24-2021** **Invited Speaker.** Philosophy Colloquium, Columbia University, February 25, 2021. **Paper Title: “The Moral Danger of Political Factions: Mary Astell on Political Consent, Rebellion, and Civil War”**
- 1-16-2021** **APA Eastern Division. Session Chair.** Author Meets Critics: Stephen Menn and Justin E. H. Smith, *Anton Wilhelm Amo: Dissertations on Mind and Body*
- 12-9-20** **Invited Speaker.** The Medieval and Early Modern Seminar at Montclair State University, December 9, 2020. **Paper Title: “The Ethics in Imagination in Margaret Cavendish’s *Orations of a Divers Sorts*”**
- 01-11-20** North American Spinoza Society at APA Eastern. Topic: Spinoza, Cavendish, and Conway, January 8-11, 2020. **Paper Title: “Spinoza and Conway on Time, Duration, and Perfection”**
- 01-08-20** American Philosophical Association (APA Eastern), Philadelphia, PA, January 8–11, 2020. **Respondent** to Sasha L. Biro, “‘Once We Were Somebodies’: Arendt, Agamben, and the Right to Have Rights—Rethinking a Topology of Belonging”
- 11-21-19** **Invited Speaker,** MAP Talk Series (Minorities and Philosophy Initiative at Columbia University), November 21, 2019. **Paper Title: “Ontologies of War and Eschatologies of Peace: Intersections of the Political Thought of Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, and Anne Conway”**

- 10-4-19** The New York German Idealism Workshop, New York, NY, October 4, 2019. **Respondent** to Axel Honneth, “Democracy and the Division of Labor”
- 03-16-19** International Workshop: “New Directions in Levinas Studies,” Penn State, PA, March 15–17, 2019. **Paper Title:** “**Levinas on Bergson: Birth, Creation, and the Instant in *Existence and Existents***”
- 02-23-19** American Philosophical Association (APA Central), Boulder, CO, February 20–23, 2019. **Paper Title:** “**‘The Perils of Sovereignty’: Elisabeth of Bohemia’s Reading of Machiavelli’s *The Prince***”
- 02-2-19** **Invited Speaker, The Center for New Narratives Meditations Conference**, February 1–2. Topic: Finding the Way to Truth: Conference on the Sources, History, and Impact of the Meditative Tradition. **Paper Title:** “**‘Self-Reflection as Resistance’: Hannah Arendt’s Reading of the Meditative Tradition**”
- 10-18-18** SPEP Conference at Penn State, PA October 18–20, 2018. **Moderator** book session on Penelope Deutscher’s book *Foucault’s Futures*
- 08-31-18** North American Levinas Society, Western Carolina University, July 31–August 3, 2018, Cullowhee, NC. **Accepted Paper:** “**‘A Utopia That Comes to Pass’: On the Problem of Futurology in Levinas’ Reading of Ernst Bloch**”
- 07-1-18** Expanding the Canon: Transitions and Transformations in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, Workshop July 1–6, 2018, Gais, Italy, (Sponsored by University of Konstanz, Germany). **Paper Title:** “**‘On Two Different Paths of the *Conatus*: Leibniz and Spinoza’s Theoretical and Practical Use of the Idea of the *Conatus*’**”
- 03-23-18** 2018 Joint Meeting of South Carolina Society for Philosophy and the North Carolina Philosophical Society, March 22–23, 2018, Rock Hill, SC. **Paper Title:** “**‘The Transcendence of the Self in Spinoza’s *Ethics* and *Short Treatise*’**”
- 11-16-17** **Invited Speaker**, Colby College’s Philosophy Colloquium November 16, 2017. **Paper Title:** “**‘The Possibility of Self-Sacrifice in Spinoza’s Ethics’**”
- 10-19-17** SPEP, 56th Annual Meeting at Sheraton Hotel Memphis Downtown Hotel, October 19–21, 2017. **Paper Title:** “**‘Interrogating the Doctrine of the Univocity of Being: A Levinasian Reading of Spinoza’s Ethics (Contra Deleuze)’**”
- 05-12-17** Pacific American Philosophical Association, Seattle, WA.

Respondent to Daniela Vallega-Neu, “Levinas’ Reception of the Mythic”

- 10-26-15 Roundtable on Emmanuel Levinas: The Works of François-David Sebbah, State College, PA
Paper Title: “Levinas’ Revival of the *Conatus Existendi* in *Otherwise Than Being*”
- 10-9-15 Panel on Graduate Education in the Humanities, State College, PA
- 05-19-11 *Conference on Ethics, Evil and the State*, Warsaw, Poland
Paper Title: “Overcoming State Sovereignty Through Responsibility”
- 05-2-11 North American Levinas Society, Texas A&M University
Paper Title: “The Idea of Tyranny in Levinas’ Political Thought”
- 11-11-10 NAPSA North American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA
Paper Title: “Metaphysics, Politics, and the Dynamic *Arche* in Aristotle”

LANGUAGES

- French (Intermediate Reading)
Latin (Basic Reading)