

CHRISTIA MERCER
Curriculum Vitae

Gustave M. Berne Professor
Philosophy Department, Columbia University, New York NY 10027
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HIGHER EDUCATION

Princeton University, PhD, Philosophy, 1989
Princeton University, MA, Philosophy, 1984
Universität Münster (Münster, Germany), Fulbright Scholar, 1984-85
Gregorian University (Rome, Italy), Latin, 1980-81
Rutgers University, MA, Art History and Philosophy, 1978
Brooklyn College, B. A., Art History, 1974

MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

Early modern philosophy, with special interests in Leibniz, Descartes, Aristotelianism, Platonism, philosophical theology, and post-Lutheran German philosophy.

Main Current Projects:

General editor of a new series of books with Oxford University Press, entitled *Oxford Philosophical Concepts*, whose goal is to increase understanding of key concepts in the history of philosophy. Each volume will explicate the main steps in the transformations of the idea from its ancient sources to its modern conception with special attention to historical context. The series should be of interest to philosophers and historians of all stripes.

Main works in progress: an introduction to Leibniz in the *Blackwell Great Minds* series; a book-length reevaluation of the development of early modern philosophy Germany, entitled '*Divine Madness*': *Metaphysics, Method, and Mind in Early Modern German Philosophy*; and an historical and critical study of the notion of matter in the development of seventeenth-century science, entitled *Material Difficulties: Matter, Explanation, and Mind in Early Modern Philosophy*.

Other Areas of Interest:

Renaissance philosophy, the history of Platonism, feminism, and the history of feminism.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Gustave M. Berne Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 2004-present.
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 1999-2004.
Director, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, 2000-01.
(Visiting) Professor, Department of Philosophy, Oslo, Norway, Spring, 1998.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 1991-1997.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of California at Irvine, 1989 -1991.
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 1987-89.
Hiram College, Rome Program, Instructor of Art History and History of Ideas, 1975-76.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Sovern/Columbia Affiliated Fellowship, America Academy, Rome, Italy, 2009-10.
 Great Teacher Award, Society of Columbia Graduates, Columbia College, 2008.
 Gustave M. Berne Professorship in the Core Curriculum at Columbia College, 2003-present.
 North American Editor, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2002-present.
 Guest Professor, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2003, November 05, December 07.
 Ernst Cassirer Lectures, Ernst Cassirer Guest Professorship, Philosophy Faculty, University of Hamburg, Spring 2006.
 Guest Professor, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, University of Munich, Munich, Germany, 2003.
 Member, University Seminar on The History and Philosophy of Science, 2004-present.
 National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship, Spring 2002
 Herzog August Bibliothek, Fellowship, Wolfenbüttel, Summer 2002
 Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, Fellowship, Fall 2001.
 Lurcy Foundation Award, Columbia University, 1997-98.
 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship Extension, April - September, 1995.
 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Leibniz Archives, Münster, Germany, 1993-94.
 American Council of Learned Societies, Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D., 1990-91.
 Faculty Research Grant, University of California, Summer, 1990.
 Fellow, N.E.H. Institute on Modern Philosophy, Brown University, Summer 1988.
 Fulbright Scholarship, Leibniz Archives, Münster, West Germany, 1984-85; and Fulbright Scholarship Extension, Fall, 1985.
 Committee for European Studies, Princeton University, grant for summer research in Rome, 1983.
 Fellowship, Princeton University, 1981-84; 1985-86.

PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS

Early Modern Philosophy: Mind, Matter, and Mechanism, co-edited with Eileen O'Neill, Oxford University Press, 2005.

Leibniz's Metaphysics: Its Origin and Development, Cambridge University Press, 2001, 528 pp; paperback edition: 2006.

PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES /CHAPTERS

"Scholarly History of Philosophy: Yes, You Can," submitted with papers on methodology in the history of philosophy by Gary Hatfield and Michael Della Roca, *History and Theory*. Submitted June 2008.

"Leibniz on Mathematics, Methodology, and the Good: A Reconsideration of the Place of Mathematics in Leibniz's Philosophy," *Journal of Early Science and Medicine*, issue on mathematics and rhetoric, ed. by G. Cifoletti, October, 2006.

"The Platonism at the Core of Leibniz's Metaphysics: God and Knowledge," *Platonism and the Origins of Modernity: The Platonic Tradition and the Rise of Modern Philosophy*, ed. S. Hutton, Ashgate Press, 2007.

“Leibniz’s Platonism and Theory of Expression,” *Forms of Platonism: From the Heritage of Ficino to the Cambridge Platonists*, *Journal of Instituto Nazionale de Studi sul Rinascimento*, Florence, 2007.

“Leibniz”, *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ed. Donald Borchert, ed., 2nd edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2006.

“Material Difficulties: Matter and the Metaphysics of Resurrection in Early Modern Philosophy,” *Matter and Materialism in the Aristotelian Tradition*, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2005, pp. 123-135.

"Telling Tales about the History of Philosophy," *Robert Brandom and the Mighty Dead*, ed. E. Mendieta, Harvard University Press, 2006.

“Leibniz and the German Tradition of the Power of Language,” *Leibniz et les puissances du langage*, eds. D. Berlioz and F. Nef, Paris: Vrin, 2005, pp. 30-42.

“Leibniz and Sleight on Substantial Unity,” *Leibniz: Nature and Freedom*, eds. by Donald Rutherford and J.A. Cover, Oxford University Press, 2005.

“Leibniz and His Master: The Correspondence with Thomasius,” *Leibniz and his Correspondents*, ed. P. Lodge, Cornell University Press, 2004, pp. 10-46.

“Leibniz, Aristotle, and Ethical Knowledge,” *The Impact of Aristotelianism in Modern Philosophy*, ed. Riccardo Pozzo, *Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy*, vol. 33, Catholic University Press, 2003.

Reply to Leijenhorst’s Review of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics*, *The Leibniz Review*, vol. 12, 2002, 81-7.

“Leibniz on Knowledge and God,” *Leibniz and Religion*, ed. Donald Rutherford, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 76, Fall 2002, 531-50.

“Platonism and Philosophical Humanism on the Continent”, *A Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*, ed. Steven Nadler, Blackwell, 2002, 25-44.

“The Aristotelianism at the Core of Leibniz’s Philosophy,” C.H. Leijenhorst, C.H. Lüthy and J.M.M.H. Thijssen (eds.), *The Dynamics of Aristotelian Natural Philosophy from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publisher, 2002 (= *Medieval and Early Modern Science*, vol. 5), 413-40.

“Metaphysics Matters: the Origins and Development of Leibniz’s Metaphysics,” *Intellectual News, Review of the International Society for Intellectual History*, No. 8: Summer, 2000, 30-43.

“Leibniz and Spinoza on Substance and Mode,” *Rationalists*, ed. Derk Pereboom, Rowman and Littlefield, 1999, 273-30.

“Unity and Multiplicity in Leibniz’s Early Thought,” *Unity and Multiplicity in the Philosophical and Scientific Thought of Leibniz*, ed. A. Lamarra, Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, 1999, 1-25.

“Humanist Platonism in Seventeenth-Century Germany”, *London Studies in the History of Philosophy*,

vol. I, eds. Jill Krayer and Martin Stone, Routledge, 1999, 238-58.

“Clauberg, Cartesian Corporeal Substance, and the German Response”, *The Philosophy of Johann Clauberg*, ed. T. Verbeek, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999, 147-160.

“Leibniz’s Teachers: Their Eclecticism and Platonism”, *The Philosophy of the Young Leibniz*, ed. S. Brown, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999, 19-40.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, ed. M. Ayers, *et al.*, “Kenelm Digby”, 1998.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, ed. M. Ayers, *et al.*, “Bartholomew Keckermann”, 1998.

Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy, ed. Daniel Garber and Michael Ayers, Cambridge University Press, 1998; Biobibliographies: Johann Heinrich Alsted, Herborn Philosopher, 1588-1638; Johann Clauberg, German Cartesian, 1622-1665; Johann De Raey, Dutch Cartesian, 1622-1702; Johann Christoff Sturm, German Cartesian, 1635-1703

Discussion of Philip Beeley’s *Kontinuität und Mechanismus: zur Philosophie des jungen Leibniz in ihren ideengeschichtlichen Kontext*, co-authored with Justin Smith, *The Leibniz Review*, Vol. 8, 1997, pp. 62-73.

"Mechanizing Aristotle: Leibniz and Reformed Philosophy," *Oxford Studies in the History of Philosophy: Seventeenth-Century European Philosophy*, ed. M.A. Stewart, vol. ii, 117-52, 1997.

“The Platonism of Leibniz’s ‘New System of Nature’”, *Leibniz’s New System*, ed. Roger Woolhouse, Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, 1996, 97-111.

Die Logik des Handelns, Catalogue of Award Winning Art by Michael Müller with Essays by Christia Mercer and Anna Gottfried, publication supported by the German Council of the Arts, 1996.

"Metaphysics: The Early Period to the *Discourse on Metaphysics*," co-authored with Robert C. Sleigh, Jr., *Leibniz: Cambridge Companions to Philosophy*, ed. Nicholas Jolley, 1994, 67-123.

"The Vitality and Importance of Early Modern Aristotelianism", *The Rise Of Modern Philosophy: The Tension Between the New and Traditional Philosophies from Machiavelli to Leibniz*, ed. Tom Sorell, Oxford University Press, 1993, 33-67. Paperback edition, 1995.

“The Seventeenth-Century Debate Between the Moderns and Aristotelians," *Studia Leibnitiana, Supplement 27*, 1991, 18-29.

Articles/Chapters in Progress

“Anne Conway’s Metaphysical System,” *Feminist History in Philosophy*, ed. Eileen O’Neill and Marcy Lascano, Springer, 2008.

“The World Soul and Mechanical Physics: The German Conciliators,” *The World as Active Power: Studies in the History of European Reason*, ed. J. Pietarinen, Brill, 2008.

Reviews

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz: *Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe*, ed. Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin:

- Akademie Verlag, 1923- , Series VI, volume 4 in *The Leibniz Review*, vol. 10, 2000, 61-71, and in the *Times Literary Supplement*, Oct. 18, 2002, 7-9.
- Donald Rutherford, *Leibniz and the Rational Order of Nature*, Cambridge University Press, 1995, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.
- The Yale Leibniz, *De Summa Rerum: Metaphysical Papers, 1675-76*, translated, with an Introduction and notes by G.H.R. Parkinson, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, Vol. xxxiii, No. 4, 689-691.
- Allison Coudert, *Leibniz and the Kabbalah*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1994, *The Leibniz Review*, Vol. 6, December, 1995.
- Susanna Akerman, *Queen Christina of Sweden and her Circle: The Transformation of a Seventeenth-Century Philosophical Libertine*. Brill's Studies in Intellectual History, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, April, 1993.

Invited Papers and Conference Participation

- “Mind and Methodology in 17th Century Philosophy,” Texas A & M Modern Philosophy Conference, October, 2008, College Station, Texas.
- “Ultimate Knowledge and How to Get It,” Master Class, Days on Campus, April 7 and 14, 2008.
- “The Core as a Response to the Problem of Evil?,” Session on *Beauty in the Core*, Dean’s Day, April, 2008.
- “Philosophy as Response to War: Making Peace in Early Modern Germany,” and “Leibniz’s Discourse and Peace,” Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, April 2008.
- Series of lectures under the general title, *L’art de penser la nature et l’art de penser les relations humaine l’époque moderne: contrastes et unite*, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 11, 12, 13, 2007.
- Invited Participant, Workshop for contributors of revised Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy, ed. Lloyd Gerson, Toronto, October, 2007.
- “Columbia College and the Acquisition of *Your* Wisdom,” Orientation for First Year Students of Columbia College, August 2006, August, 2007.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Being God,” Spinoza/Leibniz Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, September, 2007.
- “Platonism to the Rescue: Seventeenth Century Philosophy of Nature,” Conference on Neoplatonism in Natural Philosophy, Bonn, Germany, June 2007.
- “Leibniz on Self and Consciousness: The Self as a Footprint of God,” Conference on Self and Consciousness from Plato to Kant, University of Toronto, May 2007.
- “Context, context, context,” (Invited) Symposium on Methodology in the History of Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Washington D.C., December, 2006.
- “Material Difficulties: What Went Wrong in Early Modern Philosophy,” Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, April 2007.
- “Mechanical Difficulties: Why Early Modern Metaphysics Failed,” Philosophy Colloquium, Syracuse University, October 2006.
- “Resurrection and Identity: A Crisis for Mechanical Philosophy,” Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, October 2006.
- “Cassirer, the Seventeenth Century, and Reason in the Enlightenment,” Nassau County Community College, October 2006.
- “Cassirer and the *Geist* of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy,” University Lecture sponsored by Dean, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, June 2006.
- “A Reconsideration of German Philosophy from Luther to Leibniz,” Series of Six Lectures, Ernst Cassirer Lectures, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, spring, 2006.

- “Rhetoric and the Methodology of Peace: Finding Truth in Seventeenth-Century German Philosophy,” Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, May 2006.
- “Montaigne’s *Essays* and the Struggle to Live a Good Life,” Columbia College Day: Washington D.C., September, 2003; Miami, Fl., January, 2004; San Francisco, March, 2006; Los Angeles, March, 2006.
- “Women and Work in the Academy,” Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, November 2005.
- “The Creation of the History of Philosophy in Germany,” Conference on Concepts in the History of Philosophy, Conference in Honor of the *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, Università degli Studi di Verona, September 2005.
- “Suffering in Early Modern Philosophy: A Preliminary Investigation,” Conference on the Passions of the Soul, Washington University, St. Louis, April 2005.
- “Matter, Passivity, and the Failure of the Mechanical Philosophy,” Departments of Philosophy and Physics, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, February 23, 2005.
- “Plotinus and Descartes on Ultimate Knowledge,” Seminar on Studies in Religion, Columbia University Seminars, February 7, 2005.
- “Rhetoric and Mathematics in Early Modern Philosophy,” Two Lectures, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2004.
- “Activity, Passivity, and the Failure of the Mechanical Philosophy,” Seminar Series on the History and Philosophy of Science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, October 2004.
- “God and Causality,” Lecturer, Week 1 of NEH Summer Institute on The Intersection of Philosophy, Science, and Theology in the Seventeenth Century, Madison, Wisconsin, July, 2004.
- “Matter, Nature, and Explanation,” Conference on Nature and Necessity in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Toronto, May, 2004.
- “Author Meets Critics,” Panel Discussion of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics: Its Origins and Development*, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April, 2004.
- “Leibniz’s Methodology and the German Tradition, Two Lectures, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, December 2003-January 04.
- “Telling Tales in the History of Philosophy,” Tales of the Mighty Dead, Conference on Methodology in the History of Philosophy, S.U.N.Y., Stony Brook, November, 2003.
- “Montaigne’s *Essays* and the Struggle to Live a Good Life,” Columbia College Day, Washington D.C., September, 2003; Miami, Fl., January, 2004.
- “Leibniz’s Spinozism,” University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany, June, 2003.
- “Ficino and the Origins of Early Modern Idealism,” Institut für Philosophie, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, Munich, Germany, May, 2003.
- “The Divinely Unifying Powers of Mind,” Conference on the Young Leibniz, plenary lecture, Rice University, April, 2003.
- “The Platonism at the Core of Leibniz’s Philosophy,” Platonism and the Origins of Modernity: The Platonic Tradition and the Rise of Modern Philosophy, Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, Clare College, Cambridge University, March, 2003.
- “Leibniz on Divine Knowledge,” Philosophy Department, Johns-Hopkins University, Dec. 2002.
- “Intellectual Peace and Philosophical Truth in Renaissance and Early Modern Germany: Leibniz and his Predecessors,” Institut für Philosophie, Seminar für Geistesgeschichte und Philosophie der Renaissance, June 2002.
- “Leibniz, Rhetoric, and the Means to Truth,” Mathématiques et rhétorique: traditions et enjeux Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, June 2002.
- “Rhetorica e Logica in Leibniz,” University of Salerno, Salerno, Italy, April 2002.
- “A Discussion of *Leibniz’s Metaphysics: Its Origins and Development*,” Florence, Italy, April 2002.

- “Leibniz: Truth, Conciliation, and Rhetoric,” *Mathématiques et rhétorique: traditions et enjeux*, Centre Alexandre Koyré, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, March 2002.
- “Leibniz and the German Tradition of the Power of Language,” International Conference on Leibniz and the Power of Language, sponsored by the European Science Foundation and the University of Rennes, Rennes, France, March 2002.
- “Platonism and Leibniz’s Notion of Expression,” International Conference on Forms of Neoplatonism: From the Heritage of Ficino to the Cambridge Platonist, Florence, Italy October, 2001.
- “Leibniz and the Physics of the Eucharist,” Conference on the Physics of the Eucharist, Bochum, Germany, July, 2001.
- “Will the Real Pantheist Please Stand Up: Spinoza and Leibniz on the Relation Between God and Creatures,” Philosophy Department, Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Mode,” Philosophy Department, SUNY, Stony Brook, March, 2000.
- “How Revolutionary was the Scientific Revolution?,” Dean’s Day Lecture, Columbia University, April, 2000.
- “Leibniz’s Aristotelianism and Concept of Wisdom,” Philosophy Department, Catholic University, September, 1999.
- “Aristotelian Platonism in Seventeenth-Century Germany”, International Conference on The Aristotelian Paradigm of Science: The Nature of Natural Philosophy, 1200-1700, Sponsored by European Science Foundation, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, August 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance”, Graduate Center, The City University of New York, April 28, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on the Way to Truth”, Series of lectures, University of Norway, Oslo, Norway, March 15 - 20, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on Mind and God”, University of Utrecht, March 10, 1999.
- “Descartes, Clauberg, and Leibniz on Substance”, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Natural Philosophy, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, March 11, 1999.
- “Augustine and Descartes on Method and Mind”, New School for Social Research, February 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Activity”, University of Illinois, Chicago, January 1999.
- “Spinoza and Leibniz on Substance and Mode”, Invited Speaker at the First Annual Meeting of the Leibniz-Spinoza Society of North America, American Philosophical Association, December 1998.
- “Metaphysics and Method in Seventeenth-Century Philosophy: Rethinking Early Modern German Thought?”, November 12, Deutsches Haus Fall Lecture Series, 1998.
- “Augustine on the Mind as the Subject and Object of Knowledge and Some Early Modern Responses”, Conference on Early Modern Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind, Department of Philosophy, Helsinki, Finland, May 1998.
- “Descartes and Cartesian Corporeal Substance”, Department of Philosophy, Oslo, Norway, September 1997.
- Chair of Session and Invited Participant, International Conference on Women Philosophers in the Seventeenth Century, Institute for Modern Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 1997.
- “Humanist Eclecticism in Seventeenth-Century Germany”, International Conference on Humanism and Early Modern Philosophy, The Warburg Institute and Kings College London, June 1997.
- Comment on “When *Did* Leibniz Adopt the Preestablished Harmony: A Response to Mercer’s Proposal”, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April 1997.
- “Leibniz and Spinoza: The True Story”, Part of a Series of Lectures by Former Graduate Students at

- Princeton in Celebration of 250 Years of Philosophy at Princeton, February 1997.
- “Leibniz’s Metaphysics of Divinity”, Institute for Modern Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 1996.
- “Leibniz’s Early Platonism”, International Conference on The Young Leibniz, Sponsored by the British Society of the History of Philosophy, London, England, October 1996.
- “Unity and Multiplicity in Early Leibniz”, International Conference on Unity and Multiplicity in Leibniz, Sponsored by the Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, Rome, Italy, October 1996.
- “Leibniz and Spinoza: *The Ethics*”, panelist with Edwin Curley on the relation between Spinoza and Leibniz, American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, April 1996.
- “Clauberg, Corporeal Substance, and the German Response”, International Conference on Johann Clauberg, Groningen, The Netherlands, December 1995.
- “German Platonism in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century,” University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands, December 1995.
- "Platonism and Leibniz's *Nouveau système*", International Conference Celebrating the Tercentenary of the *Nouveau système*, York University, England, July 1995.

(Recent) PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- North American Editor, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2003-present.
- Program Committee, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, 2006-08.
- External Review Committee for Excellence Initiative, Humboldt University, June 2007, Research Committee of the German Government.
- Advisory Board, Lexicon Philosophicum, *International Journal of the History of Texts and Ideas* Lessico Intellettuale Europea e Storia delle Idee, University of Rome, beginning 2005.
- Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2005. American Council of Learned Studies, 2001-4.
- Steering Committee Member, Society for Women in Philosophy, New York Branch, 1994-present. Treasurer, 1994-2001; faculty mentor 2001-04.
- Referee for Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships to North America, 1996-present.
- Executive Committee, Leibniz Society of North America, 1994-97.
- Reviews for Tenure/Promotion, 10 cases, 2001-06, including Rutgers University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin, S.U.N.Y.
- Board Member, Leiter Report, 2002-04.
- Referee for Springer, Oxford, Cambridge, Cornell, Harvard, and other presses.