Robin McPherson Muller

Curriculum Vitae

California State University, Northridge
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Areas of Specialization	19th- and 20th-Century European Philosophy; Phenomenology; Philosophy and the Human Sciences (esp. Archaeology, Geography).
Areas of Competence	18th-Century Philosophy; History of American Philosophy; Africana Philosophy
Languages	English (native speaker) French (read, speak, write) German (read)

A. Employment and Professional Preparation

Academic Employment

2022–	Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge
2021–	Associate Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge
2015–2021	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge
2010–15	Lecturer at Fordham University, Fairfield University, The Pratt Institute.
2010–13	Teaching Fellow, Eugene Lang College
2010–13	Teaching Fellow, New School University
2007–2009	Lecturer at St. John's College, Queens, NY

Education

2015	Ph.D., Philosophy, The New School for Social Research Dissertation: *The Romantic Subject of Perception: A Phenomenological Account of Conceptual Mindedness* * Winner of the Hans Jonas Memorial Award for Best Dissertation in Philosophy
2008	M.A., Philosophy, The New School for Social Research * Winner of the Outstanding MA Graduate Award
2005	M.A., Theoretical Linguistics, University College London
2004	B.A., Philosophy, Trinity College, CT * Winner of the Presidential Fellowship in Philosophy

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B. Teaching and Instructional Contributions

B.1 Writing on Pedagogy

2024	*Contributor*, APA Syllabus Spotlight Series: Teaching the history of American philosophy pluralistically and inclusively.

B.2 Professional Development

2024 *Participant*, Pedagogy Seminar in Indigenous and Land-Based Philosophies (NEWLAMP, Northeastern University)
2024 *Participant*, Center for Urban Education's Equity-Minded Syllabus Review
2022 *Participant*, Pedagogy Seminar in Africana Social and Political Philosophy (NEWLAMP, Northeastern University)

B.3 Past and Current Courses

Courses taught CSUN

PHIL 402: Advanced Modern Philosophy
Topic: *Liberalism and the Birth of the Black Radical Tradition: John Locke, Ottobah Cugoano, and David Walker*
PHIL 403: Contemporary Philosophy
Topic: *The Meaning of Social Construction*
Topic: *The Philosophy of Bureaucracy from Weber to Ahmed*
PHIL 423: Continental Philosophy
PHIL 439: Phenomenology
PHIL 455: Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind
Topic: *Mind in Nature*
Topic: *Active Matter and Extended Mind*
PHIL 497: Senior Seminar
PHIL 313: Philosophy of Film and Literature (co-taught with Julie Yoo)
PHIL 317: History of American Philosophy
PHIL 333: American Indian Philosophy [Spring 2025]
PHIL 353: Existentialism
PHIL 354: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
PHIL 396E: Philosophical Methods and Research
PHIL 280: Philosophy of Sport and Games
PHIL 200: Critical Reasoning
PHIL 150: Introduction to Philosophy

Courses Taught Prior to CSUN

Graduate Aesthetics (Pratt Institute) [MA course]
Introduction to Philosophy (Fairfield; Fordham; St. John's University, Queens)
Existentialism (Fairfield; Eugene Lang)
Twentieth-Century Philosophy (Fairfield)
Philosophical Ethics (Fordham)
Feminist Aesthetics (Parsons)
Philosophy and Linguistics (Eugene Lang College)
Critical Reading and Writing (Parsons)
Metaphysics (St. John's University, Queens)

C. Contributions to the Field of Study

C.1 Published and Forthcoming Work

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

2024 "Humanism, as a theme in Phenomenology" in *Encyclopedia of Phenomenology* (Springer Living Reference Work)
2023 "Merleau-Ponty on Movement and Relativity, or, the 'Irrepressible Consciousness' of Einstein's Little Finger," *Phenomenological Investigations* 3:1
2022 "The Dred Scott Ontology and the Philosophical Significance of Slave Narratives," *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 36:3
2019 "Merleau-Ponty and the Radical Sciences of Mind," *Synthese* 198: supp. 9
2017 "The Logic of the Chiasm in Merleau-Ponty's Early Philosophy," *Ergo* 4:7
2010 "Kant and Saussure," *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia Linguaggio* 4

Chapters in Edited Collections
Forthcoming "Making History: Sedimentation, Petrification, and the "Elevation of Humanity" in Husserl and Fanon" [with Chad Kidd], in *New Directions in Phenomenology*
2023 "The Landscape of Merleau-Pontyan Thought," in *Horizons of Phenomenology*, ed. Jeffrey Yoshimi, Patrick Londen, and Philip Walsh (Springer)
2022 ""We are ourselves the entities to be analyzed: Heidegger on Being Human," in *Routledge Companion to Literature and Humanism* (Routledge).

Edited Collections
2014 Special Co-Editor (with Alexis Dianda), "Race and the History of Philosophy," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 35:1–2
2010 Special Editor, "Philosophy, Language, Literature," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 31:1
2009 Special Co-Editor, "Merleau-Ponty at 100," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:1

Translations [* all translations are from French]
2015 Renaud Barbaras, "The Event of Finitude," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 37:1.
2010 H. J. Pos, "Phenomenology and Linguistics," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 31:1.
2010 Jean-Claude Milner, "Truth and Exactitude," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 31:1.
2010 Pierre Macherey, "Science, Literature, Philosophy," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 31:1.
2010 "Letters between Alexandre Kojève and Tran Duc Thao," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:2.
2010 Tran Duc Thao, "From Phenomenology to the Materialist Dialectic of Consciousness," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:2.
2009 Étienne Bimbenet, "Merleau-Ponty and the Quarrel over the Conceptual Contents of Perception," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:1.
2009 Mauro Carbone, "The Sensible Ideas between Life and Philosophy," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:1.
2009 Emmanuel de St. Aubert, "Space and the Image of the Body in Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy of the Flesh," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:1—with Erick Raphael Jiménez
2009 Pierre Kerszberg, "Reconsidering the Subject: Merleau-Ponty and the Life-World," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30:1—with Erick Raphael Jiménez

C.2 Works in Progress
Proposed Monograph
Merleau-Ponty's Transcendental Geology [Book proposal in progress]

Invited Works in Progress

Due 9/2025 "The Unbecoming of the Body: Nature and History in Beauvoir's Phenomenological Biology," in *Simone de Beauvoir's Phenomenology* (Palgrave MacMillan)

Due 4/2025 "Domination and Disorientation: Groundwork for a Critical Phenomenological Geography" in *The Handbook for the Geographies of Race: A Multidisciplinary Global Perspective* (De Gruyter)

Due 1/2025 "On (Not) Containing Oneself: Notes toward a Critical Phenomenology of Exuberant Transcendence," in *The Metaphor of Slavery in the Philosophy of Emotion: History and Critique.*

C3. Conferences, Presentations, and Invited Talks

Refereed Presentations

2022 "Some (Critical) Assessments of Critical Phenomenology" (with Chad Kidd), *Phenomenology & Critique* (Chicago, IL)

2022 "Some (Critical) Assessments of Critical Phenomenology" (with Chad Kidd), *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (San Marcos, TX)

2021 "The Dred Scott Ontology and the Philosophical Significance of Slave Narratives," *Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association* (New York, NY)

2020 "The Dred Scott Ontology and the Philosophical Significance of Slave Narratives," *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy* [*presentation deferred until 2021 SPEP Meeting due to Covid-19*]

* Winner of the Best Submission by a Junior Scholar Award

2020 "What Is the Method of *Phenomenology of Perception*?" *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (San Marcos, TX) [*cancelled due to Covid-19*]

2020 "What Is the Method of *Phenomenology of Perception*?" *North American Society for Early Phenomenology* (New York) [*cancelled due to Covid-19*]

2019 "Being and Being-Owned: A Phenomenology of Enslaved Embodiment," *Diverse Lineages of Existentialism* (Washington, DC)

2019 "Being and Being-Owned: A Phenomenology of Enslaved Embodiment," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Salt Lake City, Utah)

2018 "The Posture of Dasein: Erwin Straus' Critique of Heidegger," *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy* (State College, PA)

2018 "The Ontology of Flesh and the Archaeology of Mind," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Northern Arizona University)

2018 "Merleau-Ponty Today," *Horizons of Phenomenology* (UC–Merced)

2017 "Social Isolation and the Bodily Experience of Lived Distance: A Case Study," *Nordic Society for Phenomenology* (Trondheim, Norway)

2017 "The Logic of the Chiasm in Merleau-Ponty's Early Philosophy," *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association* (Seattle University)

2016 "Herder's Romantic Conceptualism," *19th-Century Philosophy: 1781–1905* (Lehigh University)

2016 "The Logic of the Chiasm in Merleau-Ponty's Early Philosophy," *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Phenomenology* (Utah Valley State College)

2016 "What Are Things to the Wild Child: Embodiment and the Spatiality of Culture," *Embodiment, Perception, and Critical Practice* (Bochum, Germany)

2016 "The Forbidden Experiment and the Spatiality of Culture," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Texas A&M University)

2015 "Ethology and the Ontology of the Flesh," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Northern Arizona University)

2014 "Ways of Seeing and Ways of Mattering: Herder and Heidegger on Language and Affectivity," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Colorado College)

2014 "Ways of Seeing and Ways of Mattering: Herder and Heidegger on Language and Affectivity," *Seminar in Phenomenology and the History of Philosophy* (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

2013 "Heidegger on Mood and Perceptual Cognition in *Being and Time*," *Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy* (Eugene, Oregon)

2013 "Heidegger's Philosophy of Perception," *Women, Truth, and Action* (Helsinki, Finland)

2013 "McDowell's Romantic Conceptualism," *23rd World Congress of Philosophy* (Athens, Greece)

2012 "Mood and Perceptual Meaning in *Being and Time*," *Copenhagen Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind*

2012 "Merleau-Ponty, Herder, and the Phenomenology of Perceptual Meaning," *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy* (Brigham Young University)

2012 "Merleau-Ponty, Herder, and the Phenomenology of Perceptual Meaning," *New York Phenomenology Research Group*

2012 "Merleau-Ponty's Romantic Insight: The Meaning of Meaning in *Phenomenology of Perception*," *Louisiana State University Annual Philosophy Conference*

2011 "Hermeneutic Foreclosure and the Grammaticalization of Bodies in Sade's *The 120 Days of Sodom*," *Annual Meeting of the Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle*

2010 "On Mood and Meaning: The Applicability of a Heideggerian Philosophy of Language to the Problem of Metaphor," *Articulations: A Conference on Philosophy and Art* (New School University)

2009 "Cartesian Linguistics and the Port-Royal Logic," *Seminar in the History of Philosophy*

2008 "Meaning, Mourning, and Memory," *Time, Memory, History (Villanova University)*

Invited Talks

2025 "Groundwork for a Critical Phenomenological Geography: The Ownership of Lived Space from Erwin Straus to Frantz Fanon" *Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy*, Colorado College

2023 "Being and Being Owned: A Phenomenology of Enslaved Embodiment," *Leonard Lecture Series in Philosophy*, University of Nevada, Reno

2023 "Critical Phenomenology and Phenomenological Critique: Ambiguities in the Legacy of Merleau-Ponty," *Network for Phenomenological Research,* Monthly Phenomenology Series.

2023 "Merleau-Ponty on Movement and Relativity, or the Irrepressible Consciousness of Einstein's Little Finger," Keynote talk at the *North American Society for Early Phenomenology,* University of California San Diego.

2023 "Phenomenology Traps: Some (Critical) Assessments of Critical Phenomenology" (with Chad Kidd), Denison College [*presented by Chad Kidd*]

2023 "Merleau-Ponty and the Method of Vertical History" (invited symposium presentation, Eastern APA) [*cancelled for parental leave*]

2020 "The Landscape of Merleau-Pontyan Thought" (Invited Presentation at UC San Diego's History of Philosophy Roundtable)

2019 "Rethinking the Forbidden Experiment with Merleau-Ponty," *World Philosophy Day* at California State University, Long Beach (Keynote Presentation).

2017 "The Meaning of the Body in Phenomenology," *VIII Annual CSUN Philosophy Conference* (Faculty Keynote Address)
2017 "Merleau-Ponty on Child Development, and the Problem of Social Isolation," *California Phenomenology Circle* (University of California, Irvine).
2017 "Herder's Romantic Conceptualism," *CSUN Philosophy Department Workshop Series*
2015 "Merleau-Ponty's Ontology of Life: From Naturalism to Phenomenological Ontology," *California State University, Northridge*
2015 "Affective Intentionality and Heidegger's Phenomenology of Perception," *The University of North Carolina at Charlotte*
2014 "Second Nature Naturalism and the Merits of Reading McDowell Backwards," *Louisiana State University*
2013 "Affective Intentionality and Heidegger's Phenomenology of Perception," *New School Speaker Series* (New York, NY)
2012 "Jakobson and Lévi-Strauss at the *École Libre*," *The New School Century*
2009 "Rational Choice and Organized Crime," *Trinity College (CT)*
2008 "Rational Choice and Organized Crime," *Trinity College (CT)*
2007 "Private Semantics and the Question of Worldview in Monolingual Dialogue," *Workshop for People in Support of Women in Philosophy*
2005 "Order without Law," *Trinity College (CT)*
2003 "Order without Law," *Trinity College Center for Collaborative Teaching and Research*
2002 "Prostitution and Rational Choice," *Trinity College Center for Collaborative Teaching and Research*

Responses and Panel Discussions
2022 *Panelist*, University of South Florida *Gender and Slavery Roundtable Series*
2021 *Panelist*, University of South Florida *Gender and Slavery Roundtable Series*
2019 *Respondent*, "Mark Tanzer on 'Heidegger's Critique of Mechanistic Biology'," *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.*
2013 *Respondent*, "Ludger Hagedorn on Jan Patočka," *Workshop on Patočka's Philosophy of History.*
2011 *Respondent*, "Nat Hansen on Radical Contextualism," *Wittgenstein Workshop.*

Conference Organization
2021 *Organizer and Chair*, Annual Meeting of the Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy Virtual Conference
2017 *Organizer*, Annual Meeting of the Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy (June 8–10, 2017 at CSUN)
2015 *Organizer and Chair*, 2015 Arendt-Schürmann Symposium in Political Philosophy, "Philosophy and the Concept of Race" (February 5–6, 2015 at The New School)
2013–2015 *Coordinator*, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* Roundtable Series (ongoing series at The New School)

C.4 Professional Recognition

Fellowships and Awards
2024 RSCA Grant: *The Unbecoming of the Body: Nature and History in Beauvoir's Phenomenological Biology*
2024 CSUN Exceptional Service to Students Award

2021 CSUN Exceptional Service to Students Award
2021 RSCA Grant: *Merleau-Ponty's Archaeology of Mind*
2020 Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Junior Scholar Award
2020 CSUN Exceptional Service to Students Award
2019 College of Humanities Faculty Fellowship
(*The Ontology of Flesh and the Archaeology of Mind*)
2019 Probationary Faculty Fellowship
(*Embodied Phenomenology and the Archaeology of Mind*)
2018 CSUN Probationary Faculty Summer Research Grant
(*The Posture of Dasein: Erwin Straus' Critique of Heidegger*)
2017 CSUN College of Humanities Academic Programming Fund Grant
(*Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy*)
2017 CSUN Probationary Faculty Summer Research Grant
(*Heidegger and the Normativity of Natural Perception*)
2017 CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Research Fellowship
(*Heidegger and the Normativity of Natural Perception*)
2016 CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Research Fellowship
(*The Phenomenology of Joint Attention*)
2016 CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Research Fellowship
(*The Logic of the Chiasm in Merleau-Ponty's Early Philosophy*)

Grants
2017–2025 Campus Quality Fee Grant: Philosophy Tutoring Program
2022 Special Projects Grant for CSUN Philosophy's Virtual Tutoring Center

Journal, Press, and Conference Reviewing
2021 Reviewer, Oxford University Press
2020 Reviewer, Routledge Press
2020– Reviewer, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*
2018– Reviewer, *Synthese*
2018– Reviewer, *Phenomenology and Cognitive Science*
2017– Reviewer, *Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture*

D. Contributions to the University and Community

Departmental Service
2024 *Member,* Department of Philosophy, Budget Working Group
2024 *Member,* Department of Philosophy, Curriculum Committee Sub-Group on Course Development: *Africana Philosophy* (cross-listed with Africana Philosophy)
2024 *Member,* Department of Philosophy, Curriculum Committee Sub-Group on Course Development: *Doing Philosophy* (new majors' only course in philosophical methodology)
2024 *Member,* Department of Philosophy, Working Group on the Structure of the Major
2023–25 *Project Leader*, Development of Major Option in Underrepresented Traditions
2023–24 *Project Leader*, Development of Minor Program in Philosophy and Emerging Technologies
2023 *Co-Chair,* Department Chair Search and Screen Committee
2023 *Project Leader*, Philosophy Department Curricular Review & Revision

2023 *Author*, "Course Positioning and Assessment Report" (with recommendations for revisions and course development).
2022–2023 *Member,* Luckenbach Award Committee
2022 *Member*, Department of Philosophy, Strategic Planning Committee
2022 *Member,* Department of Philosophy, Working Group on Departmental Transparency
2022 *Member*, Department of Philosophy Working Group on Web Content Migration
2021 *Member*, Sabbatical Committee (Department of Liberal Studies)
2021 *Equity & Diversity Representative,* Department of Philosophy Asian Philosophy Search Committee
2021 *Chair*, Critical Reasoning Committee
2019–2021 *Member*, Luckenbach Award Committee
2019– *Member*, Department Assessment Committee
2017– *Coordinator*, Philosophy Tutoring Program
2016–18 *Faculty Advisor*, CSUN Undergraduate Philosophy Journal
2016– *Chair*, Philosophy Department Curriculum Committee
2015– *Member*, CSUN Philosophy Climate Committee
2015–2018 *Reviewer*, CSUN Philosophy Department Student Conference

College Service
2024 *Member*, College of Humanities, Faculty Fellows Selection Committee
2024 *Reviewer,* HUMN 300 Lecture Pool
2023 *Reviewer,* HUMN 300 Lecture Pool
2022– *Member,* Interdisciplinary Studies Major Advisory Board
2022 *Reviewer,* HUMN 300 Lecture Pool
2021 *Reviewer,* HUMN 300 Lecture Pool
2021 *Member*, College of Humanities, Faculty Fellows Selection Committee
2018 *Interim Program Director*, College of Humanities MA in Knowledge Management
2016– *Departmental Representative*, College of Humanities Academic Council
2016–17 *Member*, Academic Programming Fund Selection Committee

University Service
2023– *Academic Lead for GE*, CSUN Partnership with University of Lahore
2023– *Program Co-Coordinator*, CSUN Partnership with University of Lahore
2022 *Member*, High Impact Innovation Award Committee
2022 *Member*, Highly Influential and Sustained Scholarship Award Committee
2021–23 *Academic Lead for GE,* CSUN Partnership with American University in Bahrain
2021–23 *Program Co-Coordinator*, CSUN Partnership with American University in Bahrain
2018 *Member*, Outstanding Faculty Award Selection Committee
2016–18 *Member*, Planning Team for MA in Knowledge Management

Statewide Service
2024 *Member*, "Argumentative Writing and Critical Thinking" (California Community College Common Course Numbering Development Working Group)
2023 *Member,* Cal-GETS Critical Thinking Standards Working Group

Other Service to the Community
2025 *Chair*, Session on Levinas at Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA)

2024	*Chair*, Session on Nagel's "What it's Like to be a Bat" at 50 at Pacific APA (Portland, OR)
2023	*Chair,* Session on Heidegger and Kant at Pacific APA (San Francisco)
2022	Manuscript Editor, *Slavery, Capitalism, & Women's Literature: Economic Insights of American Women Writers, 1852–1869* by Kristin Allukian (Duke University Press)
2021	*Chair*, Session on Merleau-Ponty at Pacific APA (San Francisco) [*2020 meeting postponed due to Covid-19*]
2018	*Chair*, Panel Session at the Annual Meeting of the Kristeva Circle
2015–17	Senior Consulting Editor, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*
2016–17	Mentor, *Philosopher's Cocoon* Job Market Mentoring Project
2013	Eugene Lang College Undergraduate Liaison
2012–2015	Editor-in-Chief, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*
2008–2012	Managing Editor, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*
2006–2009	Subscriptions Editor, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*
2003–2004	Editor, *The Trinity Papers*

Professional Memberships

California Phenomenology Circle
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
American Philosophical Association
North American Society for Early Phenomenology