

NATALIE HELBERG

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AOS: Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy

AOC: Philosophy of Literature, Bioethics

LANGUAGES: French (reading)

EDUCATION

- 2022 University of Toronto, PhD Philosophy
Committee: Rebecca Comay (supervisor),
Robert Gibbs, and Willi Goetschel
- 2013 University of Guelph, MFA Creative Writing
Supervisor: Dionne Brand
Thesis: Motley O (Hybrid Novel)
- 2009 University of Alberta, BA in Philosophy with First Class Honors
Supervisor: Cressida Heyes
Thesis: Foucault and the Prozac Body

PHD THESIS: Catherine Malabou's Dangerous Supplement

I engage in an in-depth examination of Catherine Malabou's conception of transformation—'plasticity.' Tracking her thinking on the subject of plasticity through her early work and onward, and situating 'plasticity' with respect to a continental conception of change which preceded it, and which Malabou attempts to displace, I argue that Malabou divests herself of the resources she needs to theorize politically salient forms of change. I suggest that if 'plasticity' is to do justice to the emancipatory promise Malabou associates with it, the history Malabou attempts to cast off must be restored to the concept.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-2024 Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream)
University of Toronto
- 2021-2023 Lecturer (LTA)
Concordia University, Montreal

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming “Fanon’s New Wounded and New Humanism.” For a dossier on “Asceticism as Method: Genealogy, Biopolitics, Resistance.” *Philosophy Today* 69.1, Winter 2025.
- 2020 “Insubordinate Plasticity: Judith Butler and Catherine Malabou.” *Hypatia* 35: 4. 587-606.
- 2009 With Cressida J. Heyes and Jaclyn Rohel. “Thinking through the Body: Yoga, Philosophy, and Physical Education.” *Teaching Philosophy* 32:3. 263-84.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Depression’s Non-Mimetic Plasticity and Its Discontents”
Metamorphoses of Mimesis Conference: Plasticity, Subjectivity and Transformation with Catherine Malabou
KU Leuven. Refereed.
- 2022 “Fanon's New Wounded and New Humanism”
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy Annual Meeting
King's University College at Western University. Refereed.
- 2020 “Reconfiguring Plasticity: Foucaultian Feminism and the Death Drive”
PhiloSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism 14th Annual Meeting
Vanderbilt University. Refereed.
- 2019 “Adustion: A Long Poem”
Text/Sound/Performance: Making in Canadian Space
Sponsoring Organizations: Associated Writing Programmes of Ireland, Brock University’s Humanities Research Institute, University College Dublin’s College of Arts and Humanities, UCD’s School of English, Film and Drama, and The Embassy of Canada to Ireland
University College Dublin. Refereed.
- 2018 “Explosive Plasticity, Insubordination, Deconstruction”
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress
Université du Québec à Montréal. Refereed.
- “Insubordinate Plasticity: Judith Butler and Catherine Malabou”
Society of Women in Philosophy — Ireland 6th Annual Conference
University College Dublin. Refereed.
- 2017 “Violence as Resistance: Autoimmunity and Anorexia”
Duquesne's Women in Philosophy Conference
Duquesne University. Refereed.

2012 “Moving beyond Aesthetic-Normalization through Willed-Listening”
Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs Conference
Humber College. Refereed.

AWARDS

2015-2018 Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

2012-2013 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Master’s Scholarship
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

TEACHING

Concordia University

Winter 2023 Critical Thinking (PHIL 210)
Course Instructor

From Modern to Postmodern: Philosophical Thought and
Cultural Critique (PHIL 275)
Course Instructor

20th-Century Continental Philosophy (PHIL 377)
Course Instructor

Fall 2022 Problems of Philosophy (PHIL 201)
Course Instructor

Introduction to Philosophy of Language (PHIL 216)
Course Instructor

Advanced Topics in Continental Philosophy/Selected
Topics in Continental Philosophy (PHIL 473/658)
Topic: Foucault on Madness
Course Instructor

Summer 2022 Critical Thinking (PHIL 210)
Course Instructor

Winter 2022 Introduction to Philosophy of Religion (PHIL 266)
Course Instructor

Philosophy of Race (PHIL 372)
Course Instructor

Existentialism (PHIL 387)
Course Instructor

Fall 2021 Introduction to Philosophy of Religion (PHIL 266)
Course Instructor

Philosophy of Feminism (PHIL 371)
Course Instructor

20th-Century Continental Philosophy (PHIL 377)
Course Instructor

University of Toronto

Summer 2021 Philosophy and Literature (PHL 388)
Course Instructor

Winter 2021 Philosophy and Literature (PHL B04)
Course Instructor

Summer 2020 Contemporary Continental Philosophy (PHL 322)
Course Instructor

Topics in Continental Philosophy (PHL C09)
Topic: Catherine Malabou and Plasticity
Course Instructor

Summer 2018 Science Fiction and Philosophy (PHL 242)
Course Instructor

OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE:

Tutorial Leader (University of Toronto):

PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Winter 2021 and Fall 2020)
PHL 113: Persons and Values (Winter 2019)
PHL 217: Introduction to Continental Philosophy (Winter 2020 and Fall 2018)
PHL 271: Law and Morality (Winter 2018)
PHL 281: Bioethics (Summer 2017 and Fall 2016)
PHL B09: Biomedical Ethics (Fall 2020, Fall 2019 and Fall 2017)

Grader (University of Toronto):

PHL B12: Philosophy of Human Sexuality (Winter 2016)
PHL 243: Philosophy of Sexuality (Winter 2017)
PHL 324: The Continental Tradition (Fall 2018)

REFEREES

Rebecca Comay	Philosophy and Comparative Literature University of Toronto rebecca.comay@utoronto.ca
Robert Gibbs	Philosophy and Department for the Study of Religion University of Toronto robert.gibbs@utoronto.ca
Willi Goetschel	Philosophy and Department for German Language and Literature University of Toronto w.goetschel@utoronto.ca
Emilia Angelova	Philosophy Concordia University emilia.angelova@concordia.ca