

NATALIE HELBERG

Department of Philosophy
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AOS: Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy

AOC: Philosophy of Literature, Philosophy of Sexuality

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

- 2024-2025 Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream)
 University of Toronto
- 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*, date TBD.

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.

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

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.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2025 "Weird Love: Love within and beyond Neoliberal Eeriness"
The Symposium on Love, Philosophy Course Union
University of Toronto.
- 2024 "True Love's True Finitude"
The Symposium on Love, Philosophy Course Union
University of Toronto.
- Political Violence Panel, Philosophers for Humanity
University of Toronto
- 2022 "Narcissism as Philosophy's Madness: Derrida Vs. Foucault"
Association of Philosophy Students
University of Toronto.

TEACHING

University of Toronto

- Winter 2025 Philosophy of Human Sexuality (PHL 243)
Course Instructor

Aesthetics (PHL 285)
Course Instructor
Independent Study (PHL 495)
Topic: Memory, time and alterity in 20th and 21st-century French
continental philosophy
Supervisor

Fall 2024 Contemporary Continental Philosophy (PHL 330)
Topic: Plasticity and Anarchy
Course Instructor

Philosophy and Psychoanalytic Theory (PHL 319)
Course Instructor

Winter 2024 Philosophy of Human Sexuality (PHL 243)
Course Instructor

Intro to Continental Philosophy (PHL 217)
Course Instructor

Independent Study (PHL 495)
Topic: Post-Foucaultian/post-disciplinary conceptions of power and
resistance
Supervisor

Independent Study (PHL 495)
Topic: The relation between Schopenhauer and Horkheimer and the
contemporary relevance of their theories
Supervisor

Fall 2023 Topics in 20th-Century Continental Philosophy (PHL 329)
Topic: Continental Biopolitical Theory
Course Instructor

Social and Cultural Theory (PHL 323)
Topic: The Neoliberal University
Course Instructor

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 2028 Science Fiction and Philosophy (PHL 242)
Course Instructor

SERVICE

Moderator. 'Nancy and the Sense of the World' (panel), SPEP 61: The 61st Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, The Hilton Toronto (hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University), Oct. 14, 2023.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Toronto Regional Ethics Bowl Judge, Feb. 8, 2025.

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

Martin Pickavé Philosophy
(Teaching reference) University of Toronto
martin.pickave@utoronto.ca