

Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen

Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT

2026-	Teaching Associate Professor, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
2024-2026	Postdoc, Department of Philosophy, University of Southampton, UK
2023-2024	External Lecturer, DIS, Copenhagen, Denmark
2022-2024	External Lecturer, Department of Systematic Theology and Department of History, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
2019-2022	External Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Roskilde University, Denmark

EDUCATION

2021	PhD in Philosophy, The New School for Social Research Dissertation: <i>Letting Go: Sacrifice and Reconciliation in the Critiques of Modernity of Schiller, Hegel, and Kierkegaard</i> Committee: Richard J. Bernstein and Jay M. Bernstein (co-chairs), Dmitri Nikulin, and René Rosfort
2019	MPhil in Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
2013	MA in Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
2010	BA in Philosophy, University of Copenhagen
2008-2009	Studies at University College London, Department of Philosophy

Periods of Leave

2024-2025	Parental leave (May 2024-February 2025)
2021-2022	Parental leave (June 2021-February 2022 + July-August 2022)

RESEARCH AREAS

AOS	Post-Kantian philosophy, 20th century continental philosophy, social and political philosophy
AOC	Feminist philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, philosophy of religion

PUBLICATIONS

Publications

“Just as the Movements of the Winds Prevent the Seas from Stagnation’: Fear of Death, Self-Sacrifice, and Absolute Spirit in Hegel’s Account of War” (forthcoming in *War and Peace After Kant: Hegel’s Political Realism and the Aesthetics of Conflict*, edited by Martin Hergouth and Lea Kuhar, Bloomsbury Press, 2027)

“‘Restless Repose’: Kierkegaard on the Activity and Passivity of the Modern Subject,” Brill Press (forthcoming in *Kierkegaard and the Negative*, edited by Brian Soderqvist, Anna Soderqvist, and René Rosfort, Brill, 2026)

“The Matter of Freedom: Schiller and the Emancipatory Potential of Art,” *Symphilosophie: International Journal of Romantic Philosophy*, 5, 2024.

“The Art of Living: Bernstein on Kierkegaard,” *Dewey Studies* 7:1, 200-214, 2023.

“Mothers and Melancholia: Sacrifice in Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*,” *Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society* (Brill), 8(2), 377-392, 2022.

“Refleksioner over selvobjektivering og –seksualisering”. *Slagmark: Tidsskrift for Idéhistorie*, 74, 199-204, Neoliberalisme og Feminisme-temanummer, 2016.

“Kierkegaard og modernitetens dobbelthed,” *Hvorfor Kierkegaard i dag?*, Bjarke Mørkøre Stegel Hansen and René Rosfort eds., Eksistensen Akademisk, 2026.

Book Reviews

Eleanor Helms, “Kierkegaard and the Structure of Imagination: Rethinking Thought Experiments with Kant and Ørsted” (Cambridge University Press, 2025) (forthcoming in *International Journal for Kierkegaard Studies* 2026).

“Isak Winkel Holm, *Kierkegaard and Climate Catastrophe: Learning to Live on a Damaged Planet* (Oxford University Press, 2023)”, *Passage*, 92, 155–158, 2024.

In Progress

“‘Resisting Transformation: Hegel on Stubbornness (*Eigensinn*) in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*.”

Kierkegaard’s Critique of Modernity, Cambridge Elements Series on *Philosophy of Kierkegaard*, series editor Rick Anthony Furtak. Cambridge University Press (under contract).

Hannah Arendt, *Jødiske skrifter*, translated by Joachim Wrang; idea, academic editing, text selection, and foreword by **Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen**, afterword by Jakob Egholm Feldt, KLIM (expected publication 2027).

Hegel’s Critique of Ethical and Political Modernity: Fragmentation, Sacrifice, Reconciliation (monograph—book proposal accepted).

The Political Dimension in Hegel’s Aesthetics, **Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen** and Gregor Schafer (eds), Oxford University Press (expected publication 2027).

Genia Schönbaumsfeld and **Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen**, guest editors of special issue “Kierkegaard, Doubt, and Virtue in an Age of Uncertainty” for *Philosophies* (MDPI, 2026)

Public Philosophy

”Var det torturen af en ung algerisk kvinde, der gjorde Simone de Beauvoir til feminist?: Hvordan krigen mellem Frankrig og Algeriet transformerede den franske eksistensfilosofi,” (forthcoming in *Baggrund*, 2026).

”Jeg vil at du skal være’: Hannah Arendts kærlighed til verden under katastrofens betingelser,” *Baggrund*, 2025.

”Hinsides køn: hvorfor læse Judith Butler i dag?” *Eftertryk Magasin*, 2023.

”Butlers briks” *Eftertryk Magasin*, 2023.

”Hegels ånd: den etiske vision om gensidig afhængighed.” *Paradoks – tidsskrift for filosofi og teori*, 2022.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025	The Mind Association Conference Grant
2023	Grant from Collstrups Foundation, Denmark
2022	Alfred Schutz Memorial Award in Philosophy and Sociology (dissertation prize)
2017	Dissertation Fellowship, New School for Social Research
2014	Dean’s Discretionary Stipend, The New School for Social Research.
2013	Dean’s Fellowship, The New School
2011	Scholarship from the Denmark-America Foundation

PRESENTATIONS

2026	- “The End of Art in Light of the End of ‘the End of History’,” <i>The Political Dimension in Hegel’s Aesthetics</i> , conference presentation, University of London, UK - “Attuned to Transformation,” workshop presentation in the international research network <i>Kierkegaard and the Philosophies of Existence</i> , University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
2025	- “Hegel and the Violence of Absolute Beginnings,” conference presentation, <i>Hegel and Schelling on the Problem of Beginning</i> , KU Leuven, Belgium. - “Hannah Arendt’s Critique of Modernity: Loss of Authority, World Alienation, and Love of the World,” conference presentation, University of Aarhus, Denmark “We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live’: Response to John Lippitt’s ‘Obstacles to Courage: Kierkegaard, Social Comparison and the Vices of Pride,’” response paper, University of Southampton, UK.
2024	“Just as the Movements of the Winds Prevent the Seas from Stagnation’: Another Look at Hegel and War,” <i>War and Peace After Kant</i> , conference presentation, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia. - “Stubborn Individuals: Hegel and Kierkegaard on Existential Skepticism,” conference presentation, University of Southampton, UK. - “Hegel in Scandinavia,” conference presentation, <i>Decentering Hegel: Intercultural Perspectives on his Legacy</i> , Graduiertenkolleg “Normativität – Kritik – Wandel,” Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.
2023	“The Mourning Body: A Feminist Essay on Weaning and Sacrifice,” conference presentation, <i>Sacrifice and the Body Beyond Metaphysics</i> , Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Austria.

- “The Golgotha of Absolute Spirit: Crisis and the Language of Sacrifice in Hegel,” conference presentation, *The Persistence of Crisis of Speculative Reason*, University of Basel, Switzerland.
- “Ethics Only Judges but does not birth’: Hegel and Kierkegaard’s Critique of Abstract Ethics,” Studies in Faith and Worldviews Research Seminar, Center for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University, Sweden
- 2022 “A Trusting Community: Christianity and Patriotism in the Early Hegel,” conference presentation, *Christianity and Crisis in European Contexts*, Lund University, Sweden.
- ”’Naar Barnet skal vænnes fra, da er ei heller Moderen uden Sorg’: Moderskab og offer i Kierkegaards *Frygt og Bæven*,” Søren Kierkegaard selskabet, Denmark.
- “Moderskab og melankoli i det pseudonyme forfatterskab,” conference presentation, Aarhus University, Denmark
- “Kierkegaards modernitet: om begreb og stemning”, presentation in research group, University of Southern Denmark
- “Revising the Canon: Individual Heroes, and Collective Efforts,” response on book panel on Kristin Gjesdal and Dalia Nassar (eds), *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteen Century* (Oxford University Press, 2021), University of Copenhagen
- “Thinking Through Fragmentation: Kierkegaard on Concept and Mood,” conference paper, *Romanticism Today: Realism, Nature, and Existence in Romantic Philosophy*, Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2021 “Hegels ånd: gensidig afhængighed”. Contribution to panel “251 år efter: Om aktualiteten af Hegels filosofi”, Idealismekredsen, Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2020 “Schiller’s Critique of Modernity: Sacrifice and Aesthetic Reconciliation.” Philosophy Society, Lund University, Sweden.
- “Ligesom vindens bevægelser forhindrer havene i at forplumre,” Dansk Filosofisk Selskabs Årsmøde, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark.
- 2019 “Translation and the Untranslatable: From the Religious to the Secular and *vice versa* in Hegel and Kierkegaard,” conference presentation, Roskilde University, Denmark
- “Kierkegaard and Adorno” (Response), “Kierkegaard as Educator,” conference, The New School for Social Research, USA
- 2018 “The Split Self in Kierkegaard (and Hegel): Acting and Judging.” Invited talk. Roskilde University, Denmark
- “Kierkegaard and Carl Schmitt on Risk and Political Action,” Søren Kierkegaard Research Center Annual Conference 2018, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- “Kierkegaard’s Critique of Instrumental Rationality,” talk, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- “Stubborn Interiority: Hegel’s *Eigensinn* and Kierkegaard’s the Demonic”. Dansk Filosofisk Selskabs Årsmøde, Roskilde University, Denmark
- 2016 “On Trust and Reason” (Response), The Wittgenstein Workshop, The New School for Social Research
- 2014 “From Phenomenology of Sexual Difference to Feminism: Sara Heinämaa’s reading of Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex*”, conference, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Media Appearances

- 2025 “Hannah Arendt så det lille barns fødsel som meningen med livet,” *Kristeligt Dagblad*, interview in newspaper, (in print 19/12/25).
- 2024 “Hannah Arendt: ånd, sandhed, løgn og tilhørsforhold” (24/6/24), *Supertanker* (radio show), radio interview, Danish Broadcast Corporation (DR), Denmark.

Public Lectures and Guest Lectures

- 2026 - ”Hannah Arendt om sandhed og løgn i politik i lyset af den aktuelle videnskrise og nye totalitære tendenser,” sommerhøjskole, Trinitatis kirke, Denmark.
 ””Det nye viser sig altid i skikkelse af mirakel’: Hannah Arendt om begyndelse, handling og frihed,” Tommerup efterskole, sommerhøjskole DKG, Denmark.
 - “Køn, arbejde og identitet: Hvordan kan man undervise i feministisk filosofi i gymnasiet,” årstræf i Filosofilærerforeningen, Middelfart, Denmark.
 “Hannah Arendt: Ondskab, det politiske og kærlighed til verden,” Glostrup sognegård, Glostrup, Denmark.
 “Sindslidelser i forandring: forfattersamtale med Anna Rieder og Marie Meier,” moderator of panel, Thiemers Magasin, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2025 Hannah Arendt – fra verdensløs kærlighed til kærlighed til verden, in the series *Love*, Golden Days Festival, Cinemateket, Copenhagen.
 “Blikke, køn og kroppe i Pedro Almodóvars *Tal til hende*,” in the series *Philosophical Film Festival*, Cinemateket, Copenhagen.
 “Hannah Arendt,” Goethe Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2024 - ”Døden i den græske polis: GWF Hegel om begravelsesritualer, krig og Sofokles’ Antigone,” guest lecture, the SAXO Institute, Departement of History, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
 - “Kierkegaard’s Philosophy of Existence,” DIS—Study abroad Scandinavia, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2024 - ”Kierkegaard og fake news: sådan kan du forske i internationalt regi,” Magistrenes A-Kasse, Denmark.
 - ”Praxis: om handling (og mangel på samme) hos Arendt, Kierkegaard og Carl Schmitt,” Testrup Højskole, Mårslet, Denmark.
- 2023 ”Kan vi ’begynde paa et andet Punkt end ved Begyndelsen’? Hegel, Kierkegaard og den svære begyndelse,” Testrup Højskole, Mårslet, Denmark.
 - “Nietzsche and the Affirmation of Life,” guest lecture, DIS (Study Abroad Scandinavia), Denmark.
 - “An Introduction to the Thought of Simone de Beauvoir,” guest lecture, Helsingør International People’s College, Denmark.
 - “Simone de Beauvoirs politiske eksistentialisme,” in the series *Philosophical Film Festival*, Cinemateket, Copenhagen.
- 2022 “Hannah Arendt: Et politisk begreb om ondskab,” in the series *Female Thinkers and the Political*, Golden Days Festival, Cinemateket, Copenhagen.
 - “Hegel’s dialektik i dag: det negative er *in*, det spekulative er *out*,” book panel on *Hegel’s dialektik* (Forlaget Mindspace), Copenhagen.
 “Et Tilværelsens System kan ikke gives’: Kierkegaard, Hegel og moderniteten som problem,” Testrup Højskole, Mårslet, Denmark.
- 2018- Instructor at Folkeuniversitet. Around 60 lectures on Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Arendt Aesthetics, and feminist theory (Simone de Beauvoir, Silvia Federici, Judith Butler). Folkeuniversitetet (University of Aarhus, University of Copenhagen, and University of Southern Denmark).

TEACHING

Supervision

- 2024- Ph.D. dissertation, Peter Heath, “Kierkegaard’s Leap and Existential Courage,”
University of Southampton.
2019- BA and MA theses, and interdisciplinary student research projects in
2022 humanities, Roskilde University.

Courses Taught (primary instructor)

- 2026 “The Making of the Modern Self: Existential Philosophy”
“The Good Life: Ethics from Kierkegaard to Beauvoir and Fanon”
“Kierkegaard’s Authorship: On the Loss and Recovery of Meaning”
2025 “The Good Life: Existential philosophy from Kierkegaard to Beauvoir” (including
study tour to Provence region, France), DIS (Taught twice)
2023 “Søren Kierkegaard and the Challenge of Existence,” (undergraduate and graduate
course), University of Copenhagen. (Taught twice.)
“What’s So Funny? The Philosophy of Irony, Humor, and Laughter”
(undergraduate course), DIS. (Taught twice.)
2022 “Ethics and Philosophy of Religion” (foundational undergraduate course),
University of Copenhagen.
2021 “Modern Philosophy 1600-1900” (foundational undergraduate course), Roskilde
University
“Feminist Philosophy: The Concept of Intersectionality” (graduate course),
Roskilde University
2018 “Kierkegaard’s Critique of Modernity” (undergraduate course), Teaching
Fellowship, Eugene Lang – The New School for Liberal Arts.
2017 “Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*” (Philosophy close reading tutorial for advanced
undergraduates), Eugene Lang – The New School for Liberal Arts.
2016 “Modern Philosophy (1600-1800): Centuries of Progress?” (foundational
undergraduate course), Teaching fellowship, Eugene Lang – The New School for
Liberal Arts.
2014- “Civilization II: What is Modernity? Who Is the Modern Subject?” New
2016 Jersey City University. (Taught three times.)

Teaching Assistantships (responsible for discussion section + final grading)

- 2015-2018 “Aesthetics: Introduction to Philosophy of Art.” The New School, (Prof. Jay
Bernstein). (Taught four times)
2013 “Aesthetics: Introduction to Philosophy of Art.” The New School, (Prof. Paul
Kottman)
2013-2014 “Global Issues in Design and Visual Culture in the 21st Century.” Parsons,
The New School for Design. (Prof. Joel Towers) (Taught three times)

Research Assistantships

- 2014-2018 Research assistant for Professor Richard J. Bernstein, The New School for
Social Research.
2015-2016 Research assistant for Professor Marcia Morgan, Muhlenberg College.

SERVICE

Posts

- 2025- Editor at *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy*, Brill
2022- Board of External Examiners for Philosophy, Denmark

Committees

- 2020- The Søren Kierkegaard Society, Denmark (member of steering committee)
2016- Graduate student representative on hiring committee, The New
2017 School for Social Research, Department of Philosophy.

Research, Conference, and Workshop Organization

- 2026 Organizer of *Conspiracy Theory and Hinge Epistemology*, international conference, University of Southampton, UK.
Organizer (with Gregor Schäfer), *The Political Dimension in Hegel's Aesthetics*, international conference, University of London, UK.
2025 Organizer of "Kierkegaard and Intellectual Virtue," international conference, University of Southampton, UK.
2024 Organizer of "Kierkegaard and Scepticism," international conference, University of Southampton, UK.
2022 Organizer (with Hannah Lang) of "Beginning, Birth, and Motherhood in Søren Kierkegaard's Thought," conference, Aarhus University, Denmark.
2019 Organizer of "Kierkegaard as Educator," conference, The New School for Social Research.
2018 Co-organizer of the New York German Idealism Workshop, The New School for Social Research & Columbia University.

Peer-Reviews

British Journal for the History of Philosophy; *International Journal for Philosophical Studies*; *Symphilosophie—International Journal for Philosophical Romanticism*; *Idealistic Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*; *Res Cogitans*

REFERENCES

- Jay M. Bernstein, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy; The New School for Social Research; bernstej@newschool.edu
 - Andrew Stephenson, Professor of Modern Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, LMU Munich; andrew.stephenson@lmu.de
 - René Rosfort, Associate Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion; Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen; rer@teol.ku.dk
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MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association (APA); Society for German Idealism and Romanticism (SGIR); Danish Philosophical Society, British Society for Aesthetics (BSA)