

THOMAS C. LAND

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Donnelley Research Fellow, Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, 2011-
Preceptor and Lecturer, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities, University of Chicago, 2010-11

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Chicago (August 2010)
Visiting Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst (1996-1997)
B.A. equivalent, Philosophy, Germanic Studies (double major), Univ. of Heidelberg, Germany (1995)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Kant, Analytic Kantianism, German Idealism

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Perception, Philosophy of Action, Early Modern Philosophy

DISSERTATION

Title: *Kant's Theory of Synthesis*

Committee: James Conant (director), Robert Pippin, Michael Kremer, Daniel Sutherland

Brief Abstract: I develop and defend a novel account of how, in the *First Critique*, Kant conceives the relation between thought and perception, or understanding and sensibility. A concern with this relation lies at the heart of Kant's theoretical philosophy. On my account, the distinctive feature of Kant's position, which commentators have failed to appreciate, is the special way in which the understanding is involved in perception. This has been overlooked because of an exclusive focus on the understanding as a capacity for judgment. In contrast, I propose an account on which the understanding can also be exercised in a distinct non-discursive act of synthesis. On this account, the understanding is conceived by Kant as a power for the spontaneous representation of categorial unity, a power that has two distinct species: judgment and sensible synthesis. This not only provides a more adequate account of Kant's position; it also provides a general conception of how human perception is informed by rational capacities, which represents an important alternative to the dominant positions in contemporary philosophy of perception.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- "No Other Use than in Judgment? Kant on Concepts and Sensible Synthesis," *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, forthcoming
- "Nonconceptualist Readings of Kant and the Transcendental Deduction," *Kantian Review*, forthcoming
- "Spatial Representation, Magnitude, and the Two Stems of Cognition," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 44 (2014), 524-550
- "Intuition and Judgment," in: Claudio La Rocca et al. (eds.), *Kant and Philosophy in a Cosmopolitan Sense*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2013, 221-231
- "Kantian Conceptualism," in: Günther Abel and James Conant (eds.), *Rethinking Epistemology*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2011, 197-239

“Kant’s Spontaneity Thesis,” *Philosophical Topics: Analytic Kantianism*, vol. 34 (2006), 189-220 (appeared 2008)

“Prescribing Unity to Intuition: Sensibility and Understanding in the Transcendental Deduction,” in: Guido de Almeida et al. (eds.), *Law and Peace in Kant’s Philosophy*, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2008, vol II, 419-430

Reviews, Discussions etc.

Entry on ‘Erkenntnisvermögen’ in: Marcus Willaschek et al. (eds.), *Kant-Lexikon*, Berlin: de Gruyter, forthcoming

Discussion of Stefanie Grüne, *Blinde Anschauung*, in: *Critique: A Philosophical Review Bulletin* 5 (2014)

Review of Peter Bieri, *Das Handwerk der Freiheit*, in: *Ethics* 113 (2003), 680-684

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

“Spatial Representation, Magnitude, and the Two Stems of Cognition”

UK Kant Society Annual Conference, Oxford, August 2014

“Intuition and Productive Imagination”

UK Kant Society Annual Conference, London, August 2013

“Perception, Concepts, and Spatial Representation in Kant”

Leuven Kant Conference, May 2013

Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, University of Stirling, July 2012

“Intuition and Judgment”

APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, April 2011

11th International Kant Congress, Pisa, Italy, May 2010

“Prescribing Unity to Intuition”

10th International Kant Congress, Sao Paulo, Brazil, September 2005

Invited

“Kant, Perception, and the Argument from Animals”

University of Stirling, November 2014

“Spatial Representation, Magnitude, and the Two Stems of Cognition”

Frankfurt University, Germany, July 2014

University of Potsdam, Germany, May 2014

German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, February 2014

“Kant on Concepts and Sensible Synthesis”

Williams College, March 2014

“Intuition and Productive Imagination”

Kant and Sellars Conference, University of Chicago, February 2014

“Räumliches Vorstellen bei Kant”

University of Basel, Switzerland, November 2013

“Kant, Conceptualism, and the Problem of Perceptual Presence”

Workshop on Intentionality and Mental Content, University of Luxembourg, December 2013

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 2013

University of Washington at Seattle, February 2013

University of Wisconsin at Madison, February 2012

“The Nonconceptualist Reading of Kant and the Transcendental Deduction”

Post-Kantian Seminar, Oxford University, October 2012

Conference on Logic and Self-Consciousness in Kant, Leipzig University, July 2012
 German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2012

“Perception, Concepts, and Spatial Representation in Kant”

Cambridge Kant Workshop, University of Cambridge, June 2012

“Judgment and Construction: On Kant’s Conception of the Understanding”

Boston College, February 2012
 University of Sheffield, June 2011
 Williams College, March 2011
 Kenyon College, February 2010

“Kant on the Objective Purport of Intuition”

Oxford University, January 2011

“No Other Use than in Judgment? Kant on Concepts”

German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, January 2011

“Kantian Conceptualism”

Conference on Kant on Intuition, University of Chicago, May 2010
 Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2009

“Vernunftkenntnis aus der Konstruktion der Begriffe: Zur Rolle der Mathematik in der *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*”

University of Basel, April 2009

“Intuition and Judgment”

Modern Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, November 2008
 Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2009

“Kant’s Spontaneity Thesis”

Forschungskolloquium Prof. Sebastian Rödl, University of Basel, Switzerland, October 2008;
 Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, January 2008

Comments

Comments on Leslie Stevenson, “Kant’s Sensational Philosophy,” Kant Festival, Keele University, November 2014

Comments on Stefano Franchi, “Teleonomy and Contingency in Kant’s *Third Critique*,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2011

FELLOWSHIPS

SIAS Summer Institute Fellowship, “The Second Person: Comparative Perspectives”, 2011-12
 Fellowship to participate in a two-part international summer school

New Faculty Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-2013 (declined)

Tave Teaching Fellowship, Division of Humanities, University of Chicago, 2009
 Competitive fellowship to design and teach an undergraduate course

Junior Fellow, Swiss National Science Foundation Research Project on “Perception, Thought, and Knowledge”, University of Basel, Switzerland, 2007-2009

Sawyer Graduate Student Fellowship, Mellon Foundation Research Project on “The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein,” University of Chicago, 2006-07

Doolittle-Harrison Travel Fellowship, University of Chicago, Fall 2005

H. B. Earhart Fellowship, Earhart Foundation, 2004-05 and 2005-06
 Competitive dissertation fellowship

Shaw Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2003-04

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1998-2003
 The University of Chicago’s most prestigious graduate student fellowship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE****Director of Studies**

Director of Studies in Philosophy, Corpus Christi College, 2012-13

Responsible for advising of students, admissions interviews, and administrative work

Principal Instructor

Ethics, Michaelmas Term 2012

Responsible for individual tutorials and small discussion group for first-year students

European Philosophy from Kant, Lent Term 2012, Lent Term 2013, Lent Term 2014

Responsible for individual tutorials for third-year students

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**Principal Instructor**

Kant's Theoretical Philosophy, Spring 2011

Freedom of the Will, Spring 2010

Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities III: Modern Ethics, Spring 2005

Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities III: Modern Ethics, Spring 2003

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Spring 2003

Preceptor

Master of Arts Program in the Humanities, 2010-11

Responsible for weekly discussion section, grading, and M.A. thesis writing workshop

Master of Arts Program in the Humanities, 2009-10

Responsible for weekly discussion section, grading, and M.A. thesis writing workshop

Philosophy B.A. Thesis Workshop, 2005-06

Responsible for year-long thesis writing workshop

Teaching Assistant

The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein II, Winter 2007

The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein I, Fall 2006

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Winter 2004

History of Philosophy III: Kant and 19th Century, Spring 2002

Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2001

Ordinary Language Philosophy, Spring 2001

History of Philosophy II: Descartes to Hume, Winter 2001

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Referee for *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Kantian Review*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*

Organizer, Cambridge Kant Workshop, Cambridge, September 2013

Co-organizer, "Perception, Thought, and Knowledge" conference, University of Basel, Switzerland, May 23-25, 2008

Coordinator of Mellon Foundation Grant held by Professors Conant (Philosophy) and Wellbery (Germanic Studies), University of Chicago, 2005-2007

Co-organizer, "The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein II," Sawyer Seminar at the University of Chicago, Closing Conference, October 12-14, 2007

Co-organizer, “The Problem of Non-Discursive Thought from Goethe to Wittgenstein I,” Sawyer Seminar at the University of Chicago, Opening Conference, October 6-8, 2006
Research Assistant to Prof. Michael Green for research on Hume’s *Treatise of Human Nature*, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2004-05

TRANSLATION

Robert Pippin, “On Being Anti-Cartesian: Hegel, Heidegger, Subjectivity and Sociality,” in: Pippin, *Die Verwirklichung der Freiheit: Der Idealismus als Diskurs der Moderne*, Frankfurt: Campus, 2005.

LANGUAGES

German (native fluency), Greek (reading), Latin (reading), Italian (reading)

REFERENCES

Prof. James Conant, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
Prof. Michael Green, Department of Philosophy, Pomona College (teaching)
Prof. Michael Kremer, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
Prof. David Levin, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Chicago (teaching)
Prof. Robert Pippin, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago
Prof. Sebastian Rödl, Department of Philosophy, University of Basel, Switzerland
Prof. Daniel Sutherland, Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois at Chicago
Prof. David Wellbery, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Chicago