

Dr. Alexander Urszu Bertland

Curriculum Vitae: 3 February 2023

Department of Philosophy
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Areas of Specialization: Early Modern Philosophy, Contemporary Italian Philosophy,
Giambattista Vico

Areas of Competence: Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Art,
Social and Political Philosophy

Education:

Ph.D. Philosophy	Emory University	May 1996
	Dissertation: <i>The Philosophic Appropriation of Myth in the Work of Giambattista Vico and Ernst Cassirer</i>	
M.A. Philosophy	Emory University	August 1993
B.A. Communication, History, and Philosophy	University of Scranton	May 1989
	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	

Academic Appointments:

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Niagara University	Fall 2011-Present
Chair, Department of Philosophy, Niagara University	Summer 2009-Summer 2013
	Fall 2014-Spring 2019
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Niagara University	Fall 2006-Spring 2011
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Hastings College	Fall 2005-Spring 2006
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Hastings College	Fall 2000-Spring 2005
Instructor, University of Scranton	Fall 1994-Spring 2000

Publications:

Monograph:

- *Myth and Authority: Giambattista Vico's Early Modern Critique of Aristocratic Sovereignty*. SUNY Press. 2022

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals:

- “Wonder, Politics and the Founding of Civilizations in Gravina’s *Della Ragione Poetica* and Vico’s *Scienza Nuova*” *Lumen*, 39 (2020), 213-238.
- “The Limits of Workplace Community: Jean-Luc Nancy and the Possibility of Teambuilding,” *The Journal of Business Ethics* 99, Supplement 1 (2011): 1-8. Winner of the Primeaux Prize for best submission from the Sixteenth Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference
- “Virtue Ethics in Business and the Capabilities Approach,” *The Journal of Business Ethics* 84, Supplement 1 (2009): 25-32.

- “Vico's *Sensus Communis*, Natural Law and the Counter-Enlightenment,” *New Vico Studies* 25 (2007): 77-86.
- “Vico's Reasoning Concerning the Origin of Number,” *New Vico Studies* 22 (2004): 49-62.
- “Ernst Cassirer's Metaphysics and the Investigation of History,” *Clio* 28:3(1999): 279-301.
- “The Significance of Tacitus in Vico's Idea of History,” *Historical Reflections*. 22 (1996): 499-516.

Book Chapters and Introductions:

- "The Enduring Value of Giambattista Vico's Discovery of the True Homer" in *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Homer from Byzantium to the Enlightenment*. Edited by Christina-Panagiota Manolea. Brill. Forthcoming
- “Feudal Authority and Conflict in History: Giambattista Vico and Roberto Esposito’s *A Philosophy for Europe: From the Outside*.” In *Roberto Esposito: New Directions in Biophilosophy*. Edited by Tilottama Rajan and Antonio Calcagno. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021, 40-59.
- “On Failing to Imagine the Lives of Others: Remo Bodei and Jean-Luc Nancy on Citizenship and Sancho Panza.” In *Open Borders: Encounters Between Italian Philosophy and Continental Thought*. Edited by Silvia Benso and Antonio Calcagno. Albany: SUNY University Press, 2021, 99-116.
- "The Presence and Absence of Origin: Roberto Esposito's Early Interpretation of Giambattista Vico" In *Roberto Esposito: Biopolitics and Philosophy*. Edited by Inna Viriasova and Antonio Calcagno. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2018: 3-26.
- "Trauma and Political Existence: Remo Bodei on Not Confronting Delusion," in *Contemporary Italian Political Philosophy*. Edited by Antonio Calcagno. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2015: 139-161.
- “Doctor Who as Philosopher and Mythmaker,” in *Doctor Who and Philosophy* edited by Courtland Lewis and Paula Smithka. Indianapolis, IN: Open Court Press, 2010: 361-371.
- * Introduction to Paolo Fabiani's *The Philosophy of the Imagination in Vico and Malebranche*, translated by Giorgio Pinton. Florence: University of Florence Press, 2009.
- “Habermas and Vico on Mythical Thought” in *Perspectives on Habermas* edited Lewis Hahn. Indianapolis, IN: Open Court Press, 2000: 71-88.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entry:

- Review of *Measured Words: Computation and Writing in Renaissance Italy* by Arielle Saiber in *Quaderni d'italianistica*, 39, 1 (2018): 231-2.
- Review of *Europe and Empire: On the Political Forms of Globalization* by Massimo Cacciari. *Quaderni d'italianistica*. 37, 1 (2017): 194-6.
- “Giambattista Vico” entry for the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, (2008): <http://www.iep.utm.edu/v/vico.htm>
- Review of *Giordano Bruno and the Geometry of Language* by Arielle Saiber. *New Vico Studies*. 25 (2007): 118-120.
- Review of *La Filosofia dell'Immaginazione in Vico e Malebranche* by Paolo Fabiani. *New Vico Studies*. 22 (2004): 128-134.

- Review of *Naples in the Eighteenth Century: The Birth and Death of A Nation State* edited by Girolamo Imbruglia. *New Vico Studies*. 22 (2004): 148-150.
- Review of S. G. Lofts's *Ernst Cassirer: A 'Repetition' of Modernity*, *New Vico Studies*. 18 (2000): 126-131.
- Review of Elizabeth M. Baeten's *The Magic Mirror: Myth's Abiding Power*, *New Vico Studies*. 16 (1998): 104-109.

Reports:

- Report on the conference “Vico and the Map of Modernity” held at Yale University, *New Vico Studies*. 15 (1997): 90-94.
- "Vico in English: Bibliography Supplement (1984-1991)," *New Vico Studies*. 9 (1991): 157-193.
- "Vico in English: Bibliography Supplement (1984-1990)," *New Vico Studies*. 8 (1990): 163-195.

Translations:

- with Emanuela Pecchioli: Pirandello, Luigi. “Twelve Letters” (“Le dodici lettere”) In *Stories for a Year*, eds. Lisa Sarti and Michael Subialka, Digital Edition, www.pirandellointranslation.org, 2022.

Professional Presentations:

- "Representations of Florentine Artists in Board Gaming" Northeastern Modern Language Association Meeting. Niagara Falls. March 2023
- "Is Giambattista Vico's *New Science* Anti-Capitalist?" Society of Italian Philosophy Conference. Virtual. June 2022.
- "Economic Crisis and the Reconstruction of the Family in Current Italian Cinema" at the Northeastern Modern Language Association Meeting. Baltimore. March 2022.
- "Remo Bodei on Literature as Living *Atopia*" Society of Italian Philosophy Conference. Virtual. November 2021.
- “Economic Perspectives and Traditions in the Films of Alice Rohrwacher” for the panel Representations and Allegories in Italian Cinema of Changing Cultural Traditions” at the Northeastern Modern Language Association Meeting. Virtual. March 2021.
- Respondent to Professor Giulio Gorla’s 2-day Seminar. “Vico’s Poetic Wisdom: Lessons for the Contemporary World” Virtual. January 2021
- “The Morality of Commerce and Social Entrepreneurship: A Neapolitan Perspective” at the International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference, Virtual, October 2020
- "Fellini's Satyricon and Agamben's State of Exception: A Contemporary Re-Examination of the Ancient Rome of Fellini" for the Roundtable "Frederico Fellini in 2020" at the Northeastern Modern Language Association, Boston, March 2020
- "Giambattista Vico and Gianvincenzo Gravina on the Role of Poetic Wisdom in Politics" at the Richmond Fellows Symposium, Rome, Italy.
- “The Journey of Mercury: Giambattista Vico and Roberto Esposito on the Origin and End of Property” at the Society for Italian Philosophy Conference at Stony Brook University, March 2019
- “Politics and Generational Ties in the Films of Paolo Virzì” at the Northeastern Modern Language Association, Washington, DC March 2019

- “On Failing to Imagine the Lives of Others: Remo Bodei and Jean-Luc Nancy on Citizenship and Sancho Panza” for the Italian Philosophy Reading Group, MacMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, November 2018.
- “Wonder, Ignorance and the Birth of Nations in Giambattista Vico’s 1744 *Scienza Nuova*” at the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Niagara Falls, Ontario, October 2018.
- “Colonialism and the Investigation of Poetic Wisdom by Giambattista Vico” at the Society for Italian Philosophy Conference at the Rochester Institute of Technology, March 2018.
- “‘Reason of State’ and the Problem of Secret Laws in the Philosophy of Machiavelli and Vico.” Invited lecture for the Nazareth College Philosophy Department. November 2017.
- “Myth and the Tension between Mimesis and Intersubjectivity in Giambattista Vico” for the special session of the Society for Italian Philosophy at the Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Memphis October 2017.
- “Aristotelian Habituation and Modern Theories of Capitalism: An Exploration of Passion and Virtue Ethics in Contemporary Business Culture” at 24th International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at DePaul University. October 2017.
- “Vico on the Multitude and the End of Heroism” at the Society for Italian Philosophy Conference at the University of Western Ontario. April 2017.
- "Secret Laws and Public Histories: Giambattista Vico on Divination as an Instrument of Power" at Canadian Society Eighteenth Century Studies Meeting at Queens University October 2016.
- "Considering Borders between Business and the Environment Through Contemporary Italian Political Philosophy" at the 23rd International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at Niagara University. October 2016.
- "Corporate Image, Corporate Responsibility and Honest: Understanding how the Capabilities Approach is Significant for Business Ethics at the 22nd International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at St. John's University. October 2015.
- “The Comparative Approach to Accounting Ethics: Can It Justified?” at the 19th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at Niagara University. October 2012.
- “Jean-Luc Nancy: Decision as Radical Action” at the Radical Philosophy Association Conference, Buffalo, NY. October 2012.
- “Sustainability, Profitability and Education: The Case of Afterschool Tutoring Programs in Buffalo” at the 18th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at St. John’s University. October 2011.
- “The Possibility of Ethical Decision Making: Antonio Negri and Globalization” at the 17th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at DePaul University. October 2010.
- “Poetic Wisdom and the Problem of Chance and Necessity in the *New Science* of Giambattista Vico” at the Western New York/Western Pennsylvania meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association Meeting at Canisius College. April 2009.
- “Poetic Wisdom and the Problem of Chance and Necessity in the *New Science* of Giambattista Vico” at the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers at Assumption College. March 2009.

- “Outsourcing Internal Departments and Fostering Ethical Responsibility” at the 15th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at St. John's University. October 2008.
- “Applying Integrated Social Contract Theory to Issues of Gender in Uganda” at the 14th Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference at DePaul University. November 2007.
- “Vico's *Sensus Communis*, Natural Law and the Counter-Enlightenment” at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in Atlanta. April 2007.
- “Virtue Ethics in Business and the Capabilities Approach” to the Thirteenth Annual International Conference Promoting Business Ethics at Niagara University. October 2006.
- “Beyond the Odor of Tobacco: Rousseau's Defense of Geneva's *Cercles* as a Statement to D'Alembert about Productive Conversation” at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in Montreal. March 2006.
- “Giambattista Vico's Political Philosophy in Light of his Cartesian Psychology” for the European Studies Conference held at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. October 2004.
- “Art, Freedom and the Social Contract: Essaying the Question of Jean-Jacques Rousseau” at Hastings College as the ALS Invited Faculty Lecture. March 2004.
- “Myth and Number in Giambattista Vico's *New Science*” for the Society for Literature and Science annual conference in California. October 2002.
- “Friedrich Schiller on Beauty and the Social Contract” for the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Conference at the University of Iowa. November 2001.
- “Descartes and Vico on the Relationship of Freedom to the Passions” at the Northwest Conference on Philosophy at Washington State University. Commented on Noel Boultong's Paper “Ideas Towards a Theory of Works of Art.” October 2001.
- “Embodied Thought and Natural Law in the Writings of Giambattista Vico” at the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society for Christian Philosophers at the University of South Carolina. May 2000.
- “Myth and Necessity in Giambattista Vico” at the conference “Vico at the Millenium” held at Emory University. April 2000.
- “Apocalypse and Autobiography: Giambattista Vico and Jean-Jacques Rousseau Living Amongst the Ruins” at the annual meeting of the East-Central Division of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Washington and Jefferson College. October 1999.
- “Paul Ricoeur and the Promise of Myth” at the Philosophy of Interpretation and Culture Conference held at Binghamton University. April 1999.
- “Giambattista Vico: Myth, Philosophy and Unearthing the Asylums” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Nashville. April 1997.
- Organized the session “Giambattista Vico and the Principle of Humanity” and presented “Vico's Principles and the Constitution of Thought” at the Conference “Global and Multicultural Dimensions of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy and Social Thought” held at Binghamton University. October 1996.
- “The Philosophical Significance of Vico's Poetic Characters” at the Conference “Vico and the Map of Modernity” at Yale University. April 1996.

- “Mythic Thought and Academic Responsibility: The Ethics of Ernst Cassirer” at the Philosophy of Interpretation and Culture Conference held at Binghamton University. April 1996.
- “The Discovery of Mythical Thought: The New Science of Giambattista Vico” for a lecture series sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Binghamton University. April 1996.
- “Vico's Interpretation of Myth Applied to Modern Discourse” before the Folger Institute Seminar “Barbarism, Memory and Rhetoric: Giambattista Vico's *New Science*.” April 1994.
- Commented on James Goetsch's “Vico's Axioms” at the Mid-South Philosophy Conference held at Memphis State University. April 1992.
- “The Role of the Imagination in Kant's Schematism” held at the Ohio State Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. April 1989.

Other Scholarly Activity

- Reviewer for Bloomsbury Press.
- Reviewer for *The Journal of Business Ethics*. Spring 2009-Present.
- Presented Poster “Developing Reading Comprehension in Philosophy Classes through Take-Home Reading Assignments” for the 10th Annual Niagara University International Conference on Teaching and Learning. January 2011.
- Organized the Public Panel Discussion “Is it Art?” for the Max Striecher installation at the Castellani Art Museum. The panel was made of students from Phi 318: Philosophy of Art. October 2008.
- Organized the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers held at Niagara University. April 2008.
- Wrote the essay “Moral Leadership, Political Philosophy and Hastings College” for the 2005 Hastings College Vocation and Values Essay Book distributed to First Year Students attending Hastings College. Fall 2005.
- Developed and maintained the website for the Institute for Vico Studies, www.vicoinstitute.com. December 2000-August 2010.
- Organized and chaired the session “Custom, History and Moral Responsibility in Eighteenth-Century Philosophy” at the national meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Philadelphia. April 1999.

Courses Taught:

Niagara University

- Ethics, Justice and the Market: Niagara First Year Seminar
- Philosophy of Film
- Philosophy of Art
- Phenomenology and Existentialism
- Modern Philosophy
- Special Topics: Italian Philosophy
- Business Ethics
- Ethics
- Introduction to Philosophy

Other Courses Taught at Hastings College and University of Scranton

- Advanced Topics: Philosophy of Revolution
- Theory of Knowledge
- Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion
- The Roman Catholic Tradition
- Seminar in Christian Spirituality: The Human Religious Experience
- Philosophy and Literature
- Ethical Decision Making
- Logic
- Italy in the Inter-War Years
- Achilles and Moral Leadership
- Women and Political Discourse: The Struggle for Freedom
- Sexual and Political Discourse in the Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Morality, Society and the Unconscious: Nietzsche, Freud and Jung
- Recent Science Fiction and Social Philosophy

Campus Service:

Niagara University

- Niagara University Academic Senate Fall 2022-Spring 2024
- ^a Niagara University Research Council February 2022-May 2023, Fall 2014-Spring 2016.
- Grade Appeal Board, Fall 2019-Present
- Advisor, Phi Sigma Tau: International Philosophy Honor Society. 2007-Present.
- Committee for Selecting the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Service Award 2016-2018
- Co-Chair for the Criteria VII Committee of the Middle States Assessment Committee. Fall 2015-Spring 2017
- Co-Chair for the Strategic Enrollment Committee. Fall 2014-Spring 2017
- Universal Design Grant Committee. Fall 2009-Spring 2013, Fall 2015-Present.
- Sabbatical Leave Committee. Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
- Registrar Search Committee. Spring 2015.
- Advisor for the Niagara University Student Government Class of 2012. Fall 2009-Spring 2012.
- Academic Standards, Planning and Support Services Committee. Chair Fall 2012-Spring 2013, Co-Chair Fall 2010-Spring 2012, Secretary Fall 2007-Spring 2010.
- Niagara University Beginnings Committee. Summer 2010-Spring 2013.
- College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Chair Fall 2009-Spring 2013. Member Fall 2008-Spring 2009.
- Faculty Student Engagement Group. Fall 2008-Spring 2010.
- Women's Studies Committee. Fall 2010-Spring 2013.
- Convocation Committee, Summer 2010, Summer 2011.
- Vincentian Learning Community. Spring 2010.

Hastings College

- Faculty Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate, Fall 2005-Spring 2006.
- Pre-Law Advisor, Fall 2002-Spring 2006.
- Walter Scott Selection Committee, Fall 2002-Spring 2006.
- Admissions Committee, Fall 2003-Spring 2005.

- Enrollment Management Committee for Hastings College Strategic Plan, Spring 2004-Spring 2005.
- HLC/NCA Accreditation Steering Committee and Student Learning Outcomes Committee, Fall 2003-Spring 2005.
- Faculty Sponsor for the Artist Lecture Series Student Symposium, Fall 2001-Spring 2003.
- Chair of the Humanities Division, Fall 2001-Spring 2004.

Awards:

- Niagara University College of Arts and Sciences Service Award. Spring 2015.
- Artist Lecture Series Invited Faculty Lecture Series, Hastings College, March 2004.
- Outstanding Faculty Member by Nebraska Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi at Hastings College. May 2002.
- Polished Apple Award by the Student Alumni Ambassadors at Hastings College. November 2001.

Grants and Fellowships:

- Summer Research Stipend from Niagara University. Summer 2020
- Grant from Richmond University to attend the Rome Summer Fellows program Summer 2019
- Summer Research Stipend from Niagara University. Summer 2018
- Supplemental Research Grant from Niagara University to study in Florence. Fall 2013-Spring 2014.
- Niagara University College Committee on Teaching and Learning Grant. Fall 2009-Spring 2010.
- Supplemental Research Grant from Niagara University to work at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence, Italy. Summer 2009.
- Summer Research Stipend from Niagara University. Summer 2008.
- Istituto Italiano per gli studi filosofici Grant to attend the lecture series "Vico in the Anglo-Saxon World" given in Naples, Italy. May 1994.
- Lewis White Beck Fellowship from Emory University to attend the Folger Institute Seminar "Barbarism, Memory and Rhetoric: Giambattista Vico's New Science" in Washington D.C. Spring 1994.
- Graduate Assistant for National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar, "Vico and Humanism." June-July 1993.