Muhammad Ali Khalidi

Philosophy Department
City University of New York - Graduate Center
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Education

PhD, awarded with distinction, Philosophy, Columbia University, 1991 MA, Philosophy, Columbia University, 1987 BS, Physics, American University of Beirut, 1984

Academic Positions

City University of New York – Graduate Center: Presidential Professor, Department of Philosophy (2020-)

York University: Professor, Department of Philosophy (2015-); Associate Professor (2008-2014); Assistant Professor (2007-2008); Chair, Department of Philosophy (2015-2018); Coordinator, Cognitive Science Program (2009-2012, 2013-2015)

American University of Beirut (AUB): Chair, Department of Philosophy (1998-2005); Associate Professor (2002-2007); Assistant Professor (1997-2002)

University of Minnesota: Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy (2005-2006; sabbatical courtesy appointment)

University of Virginia: Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy (Spring 2003)

University of Nevada, Reno: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy (1996-97)

University of Chicago: Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy and Division of the Humanities (1993-96)

Columbia University: Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities (1991-93)

Grants and Awards

SSHRC Insight Grant, 2018-2023

York University Faculty Association Research Development Fund Award, 2014-2015

LA&PS Minor Research Grant, York University, 2012

York University Faculty Association Teaching-Learning Development Grant, 2011

Summer Research Grant, Center for American Studies and Research, AUB, 2006

Teaching Excellence Award, AUB, 2005

University Research Board Grant, AUB, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2004-2005

Mellon Foundation Summer Grant, Center for Behavioral Research, AUB, July-August 1998

Co-Organizer, Conference on *Science, Technology, and Society*, Mellon Foundation Grant awarded to Center for Behavioral Research, AUB, November 1998

M.A. Khalidi – CV 09/2020 2/9

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grant: Seminar on the *Metaphysics of Mind* (Director: Prof. John Heil), Cornell University, June-August 1996

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grant: Seminar on *Mental Representation* (Director: Prof. Robert Cummins), University of Arizona, June-August 1993

Columbia University graduate school awards: Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, 1990-91; President's Fellowship, 1986-87 and 1987-88; David H. Siff Philosophy of Science Award, 1986

Publications

Books

Natural Categories and Human Kinds: Classification in the Natural and Social Sciences, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013 (paperback edition 2015)

Reviewed in: Mind; British Journal for the Philosophy of Science; Metascience; Dialogue; International Studies in the Philosophy of Science; Journal for General Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of the Social Sciences; Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science; Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Analysis & Metaphysics; Quarterly Review of Biology

Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings (Editor and Translator), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Reviewed in: Journal of the History of Philosophy; Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews; Journal of the American Oriental Society; Speculum: A Journal of Mediaeval Studies; Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale; Islam and Science; Muslim World Book Review

Articles in Refereed Journals

"Etiological Kinds," Philosophy of Science, in press

(with Liam Murphy) "Disagreement about the Kind Law," Jurisprudence, in press

"Neural Correlates without Reduction: The Case of the Critical Period," Synthese **197** (2020), 1947-1959

"Natural Kinds as Nodes in Causal Networks," Synthese 195 (2018), 1379-1396

"Crosscutting Psycho-Neural Taxonomies: The Case of Episodic Memory," *Philosophical Explorations* **20** (2017), 191-208

"Mind-Dependent Kinds," Journal of Social Ontology 2 (2016), 223-246

"Innateness as a Natural Cognitive Kind," Philosophical Psychology 29 (2016), 319-333

"Three Kinds of Social Kinds," Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 90 (2015), 96-112

"The Pitfalls of Microphysical Realism," Philosophy of Science 78 (2011), 1156-1164

"Interactive Kinds," British Journal for the Philosophy of Science 61 (2010), 335-360

"How Scientific Is Scientific Essentialism?" Journal for General Philosophy of Science **40** (2009), 85-101

"Should We Eliminate the Innate? Reply to Griffiths and Machery," *Philosophical Psychology* **22** (2009), 505-519

"Temporal and Counterfactual Possibility," Sorites 20 (2008), 37-42

- "Innate Cognitive Capacities," Mind & Language 22 (2007), 92-115
- "Orientalisms in the Interpretation of Islamic Philosophy," Radical Philosophy 135 (2006), 25-33
- "Against Functional Reductionism in Cognitive Science," *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* **19** (2005), 319-333
- "Al-Fārābī on the Democratic City," British Journal for the History of Philosophy 11 (2003), 379-394
- "Nature and Nurture in Cognition," British Journal for the Philosophy of Science 53 (2002), 251-272
- "Innateness and Domain Specificity," Philosophical Studies 105 (2001), 191-210
- "Natural Kinds and Crosscutting Categories," Journal of Philosophy 95 (1998), 33-50
- "Incommensurability in Cognitive Guise," Philosophical Psychology 11 (1998), 29-43
- "Averroes' Method of Re-Interpretation," International Philosophical Quarterly 38 (1998), 175-185
- "Two Concepts of Concept," Mind & Language 10 (1995), 402-422
- "Carving Nature at the Joints," Philosophy of Science 60 (1993), 100-113

Book Chapters and Proceedings

- "Law as a Social Kind," in A. Barton, S. Seppälä, and D. Porello (eds.), *Proceedings of the Joint Ontology Workshops*, 2019
- "Are Sexes Natural Kinds?" in S. Dasgupta and B. Weslake (eds.), *Current Controversies in the Philosophy of Science*, New York: Routledge, forthcoming
- (with Tarif Khalidi) "Is Physiognomy a Science? Reflections on the Kitab al-Firasa of Fakhr al-Din al-Razi," in N. El-Bizri and E. Orthmann (eds.), *The Occult Sciences in Pre-Modern Islamic Cultures*, Beirut: Orient-Institut, 2018
- "Natural Kinds," in P. Humphreys (ed.) Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
- "Zaki Najib Mahmud, *Nahwa Falsafah `Ilmiyyah* (Towards a Scientific Philosophy)," in K. El-Rouayheb and Sabine Schmidtke (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
- "Naturalizing Kinds," in B. Bashour and H. Muller (eds.), *Contemporary Philosophical Naturalism and Its Implications*, London: Routledge, 2013
- "Kinds: Natural vs. Human Kinds," in B. Kaldis (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2013
- "What Is Domain Specificity (and Why Does It Matter)?" in S. Ohlsson & R. Catrambone (eds.), Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Austin, TX, 2010: Cognitive Science Society, pp. 194-199
- "Incommensurability," in W.H. Newton-Smith (ed.), *A Companion to the Philosophy of Science*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2000
- "Formulating the Right of National Self-Determination," in T. Kapitan (ed.), *Philosophical Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, New York: Sharpe, 1997

Book Reviews and Commentaries

Review of Catherine Kendig (ed.), *Natural Kinds and Classification in Scientific Practice*, BJPS Review of Books (online at: https://bjpsbooks.wordpress.com/2017/07/04/catherine-kendig-natural-kinds-and-classification-in-scientific-practice/)

(with Joshua Mugg) "The Inherent Bias in Positing an Inherence Heuristic: Commentary on Cimpian & Salomon," *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **37** (2014), 493-494

"The Perils of a Science of Intentional Change: Commentary on Wilson, Hayes, Biglan & Embry," *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* **37** (2014), 427-428

Review of Crawford Elder, Real Natures and Familiar Objects, Mind 115 (2006), 149-152

Review of Joseph LaPorte, *Natural Kinds and Conceptual Change*, *Philosophy of Science* **72** (2005), 519-523

Review of Ian Hacking, Historical Ontology, Philosophy of Science 70 (2003), 449-452

Review of Alicia Juarrero, *Dynamics in Action: Intentional Behavior as a Complex System*, *Philosophical Review* **110** (2001), 469-472

Review of Jerry Fodor, The Elm and the Expert, Biology and Philosophy 12 (1997), 275-280

Review of Jerry Fodor and Ernest Lepore, Holism, Mind 102 (1993), 650-654

Lectures and Presentations

(with Amy MacKinnon) "Reclassifying Body Dysmorphic Disorder: A Causal Model Informed by the Patient's Perspective," Canadian Philosophical Association, 06/20 (postponed); Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, 05/20 (postponed)

"Etiological Kinds," Society for Metaphysics of Science, Toronto, 11/20; American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Chicago, 02/20

"Neural Correlates without Reduction: The Case of the Critical Period," Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 06/19

"The Self-Reflexivity of Cognitive Bias," Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Mind, Language, and Cognitive Science (PhilMiLCog), Keynote Address, Western University, London, Ontario, 06/17; (with Joshua Mugg), Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI 07/18

"What Are Historical Kinds and Why Does It Matter?" Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Montreal. 06/18

"Are Sexes Natural Kinds?" Philosophy Department Colloquium, City University of New York, 02/18; Philosophy Department Colloquium, American University of Beirut, 10/18

"Should We Be Pluralists about Natural Kinds?", Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, Toronto, 05/17

Commentary on John Bickle, "From Microscopes to Optogenetics: Ian Hacking Vindicated," American Philosophical Association Central Division, Kansas City, 03/17 (via Skype)

"Diversifying Our Syllabi: Arabic-Islamic Philosophy," Minorities and Philosophy talk, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan, 02/17

"Law as a Social Kind," Prospects of Naturalistic Jurisprudence Workshop, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, 11/16; Workshop on Law, Language, and Social Ontology, University of Surrey, 6/19; Joint Ontology Workshop, Graz, Austria, 9/19

5/9

"Mind-Dependent Kinds," Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, Atlanta, 11/16

"Crosscutting Psycho-Neural Kinds," Conference on New Trends in Metaphysics of Science, Sorbonne, Paris, 12/15; Conference on Rethinking the Taxonomy of Psychology, Western University, London, Ontario, 04/16; Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois, Chicago, 09/16; Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan, 02/17

"Whose Land Is It Anyway? Territorial Rights and the Question of Palestine," Conference on Human Rights and the Palestinian Situation, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, 01/16

"Natural Psychological Kinds: The Curious Case of ASMR," Workshop on Natural and Social Kinds, KU Leuven, Belgium 05/15; Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, 04/15

"How to Translate a Philosophical Concept: Arabic-Islamic Philosophy and the Western Canon," Conference on Islamic Civilization and the Formation of the Modern West, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, 10/14

"Critical Questions about the Critical Period," Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, 11/14; Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, Toronto, 07/14

"In Defense of Human Kinds," Faculty Keynote Lecture, Philosophy Graduate Students Association Conference, York University, 04/14

"Natural Kinds as Nodes in Causal Networks," Symposium on Causation and Natural Kinds, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST), Université Paris 1, Paris, 03/14

(with Tarif Khalidi) "Is Physiognomy a Science? Reflections on *Kitab al-Firasa* by Fakhr al-Din al-Razi," Conference on the Occult Sciences in Pre-Modern Islamic Culture," Beirut, 12/13

"Wherein Does Language Influence Thought?" European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Granada, Spain, 07/13

"Natural Cognitive Kinds: Innateness as a Case Study," Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice," Toronto, 06/13; European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Granada, Spain, 07/13

"Natural Kinds, Social Kinds, Eternal Kinds, Copied Kinds," Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Victoria, 06/13

"Scientific Dualism and Theological Materialism: Avicenna and the History of the Philosophy of Mind," Society for Philosophy and Culture, McMaster University, 04/13

"Three Kinds of Social Kinds," American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), San Francisco, 03/13; Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Victoria, 10/12

"Biological Kinds as Special-Science Kinds," Society for Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science in Spain, 7th Annual Conference, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 07/12

"Naturalizing Kinds: Taxonomy in the Natural and Social Sciences," Conference on the Metaphysics of Evolutionary Naturalism, Beirut, 05/11

"The Pitfalls of Microphysical Realism," Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, Montreal, 11/10

"Uses and Abuses of the Laws of War," Philosophers for Peace, University of Toronto, 11/10

"What Is Domain Specificity (and Why Does It Matter)?" Cognitive Science Society Conference, Portland, 08/10; Faculty-Student Forum, York University, 11/10

"Making Up Our Minds: Human Categories and Interactive Kinds," Keynote Address, Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, University of Toronto at Scarborough, 03/10

"Which Truth? Whose Power? Chomsky and Said on the Public Role of the Intellectual in the United States," Conference of the Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Beirut, 1/10

6/9

"The Trivialization of Essentialism about Kinds," Metaphysics of Science Conference, Nottingham 09/09

"Are All Interactive Kinds Human Kinds?" Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, Pittsburgh 11/08

"Making Up Our Minds: Human Categories and Interactive Kinds," Keynote Lecture, Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Washington and Jefferson College, 4/08

"Interactive Kinds," Department of Philosophy, York University, 1/08

"The Arab Street: Tracking a Political Metaphor," Center for American Studies and Research, AUB, 11/06

Commentary on Matthew Rellihan, "The Medium Is Not the Message," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Portland, 3/06

"Innate Cognitive Capacities," Department of Philosophy, York University, Toronto, 1/06

"Teaching Islamic Philosophy," Department of Philosophy, University of Regina, 1/06

"Orientalism, Neo-Orientalism, and Oriental Orientalism in the Interpretation of Islamic Philosophy," Conference in Homage to Edward Said, Université Paris 7-Denis Diderot, Paris 9/04; University of Regina 2/06

"The Light of Reason and the Right of Return," panel on "Can Reason Be a Basis for Dialogue in the Middle East?" American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, 4/04

"Freedom in Islamic Philosophy: al-Farabi on the Democratic City," Department of Philosophy, University of Virginia, 4/03; Department of Philosophy, City College of New York, 3/03, Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona, 9/01

"Translating Islamic Philosophy: Literal Discourse and the Cultural Imaginary," Southwest Regional Conference on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Arizona, 8/02

"Innateness and Domain Specificity," American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Minneapolis, 5/01

"Two Models of Innateness," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Twenty Fifth Anniversary Meeting, Stanford University, 6/99

"Taxonomic Incommensurability or Crosscutting Categories?" Conference on Incommensurability, University of Hanover, Germany, 6/99

Commentary on Omar Dahbour, "The Ethics of Political Self-Determination," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia, 12/97

"Is the Child the Parent of the Scientist?" Leonard Endowment Lecture, Philosophy Department, University of Nevada, Reno, 3/97

"Incommensurability in Cognitive Guise," Cognitive Science Colloquium, Psychology Department, University of Chicago, 5/96

"Poisons and Parasites: Incommensurability and Crosscutting Categories," Philosophy Department, University of Maryland at Baltimore County, 2/96

"Two Concepts of Concept," Philosophy Department, University of California at Berkeley, 2/95; Philosophy Department, University of Chicago, 2/95

"Conceptual Change," Philosophy Department, Emory University, 2/93; Society of Fellows, Columbia University, 10/91

"Methodological Issues in Islamic Philosophy," conference sponsored by the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, New York, 10/91

"Science and Reference," Philosophy Department, Wellesley College, 2/91; Philosophy Department, AUB. 6/90

"Canon, Kanon, Qanun: The Idea of Western Civilization," Society of Fellows, Columbia University, 4/93; Civilization Sequence Program, AUB, 1/90

Courses Taught

Graduate level:

Philosophy of Cognitive Science: Cognitive Ontology (York) Metaphysics of Science: Reduction and Emergence (York) Major Problems in the Philosophy of Mind: Mind & Brain (York)

Philosophy of Social Science (York) Metaphysics: Natural Kinds (York) Core Theoretical Philosophy I & II (York) Philosophy of Cognitive Science (AUB) American Pragmatism and Its Critics (AUB)

Innate Ideas (AUB)

The Morality of Nationalism (AUB, Virginia)

Philosophy of Psychology (Nevada) Nativism and the Mind (Nevada) Islamic Philosophy (Chicago)

Semantics and Pragmatics (Columbia)

Undergraduate level:

Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: The Innate Mind (York)

Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Language and Thought (York)

Cognitive Science Honors Seminar (York)

Seminar in Philosophy of Mind: Innate Ideas (York)

Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (York)

Philosophy of Language (York, AUB)

Minds, Brains, and Machines (York)

Islamic Philosophy (York, AUB, Virginia, Nevada)

The Meaning of Life (York)

Philosophy of Science (AUB)

Philosophy of Mind (AUB)

History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (AUB)

Philosophical Classics (AUB)

Science and Society (AUB)

Modern and Contemporary Civilization I (AUB)

Ancient and Medieval Civilization I & II (AUB)

Introduction to Philosophy (Nevada)

The Nature of Concepts (Chicago)

Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities (Chicago)

Contemporary Western Civilization (Columbia)

Philosophical Classics (Columbia)

PhD Supervisions (York)

Dan Casey, "The Function of Memory" (in progress)

Dylan Ludwig, "The Functional Contributions of Consciousness" (in progress)

M.A. Khalidi – CV 09/2020 8/9

Abigail Klassen, "Social Constructionism and the Possibility of Emancipation" (defense: 08/2016) Joshua Mugg, "How Many Minds Do We Need? Toward a One-System Account of Human Reasoning" (defense: 05/2015)

PhD Committee Memberships (York)

Brandon Tinklenberg, "Learning from Others" (in progress)

Dan Barron, "A Pragmatist Exploration of Inquiry" (in progress)

Luke Kurowski, "Piecing Together the Puzzle of Consciousness" (in progress)

Maria Jimenez, "Care, Justice, and the State" (in progress)

David Rocheleau-Houle, "Non-Naturalism and the Metaphysics of Normative Properties" (defense: August 2018)

Vanessa Lehan-Streisel, "Justification for a Probabilistic Account of Conditionals" (defense: December 2016)

Craig Roxborough, "Putting the Folk Back in Folk Psychology: The Social, Cultural, and Moral Character of Folk Psychology" (defense: April 2016)

Olaf Ellefson, "Truth, Reference, and Intuition" (defense: September 2012)

PhD External Examiner

Nicholas Slothouber, "In Search of Psychiatric Kinds: Natural Kinds and Natural Classification in Psychiatry," Western University, Canada (defense: October 2019).

Annelli Janssen, "Explanations in Neuroimaging Research," Radboud University, Netherlands (defense: June 2019)

Andrew Brigham, "Neural Reuse and the Evolution of Higher Cognition," University of Ottawa (defense: April 2019)

Danny Booth, "Empirical Evidence and the Multiple Realization of Mental Kinds," Western University, Canada (defense: June 2018)

Olivier Lemeire, "The Scientific Classification of Natural and Human Kinds," KU Leuven, Belgium (defense: May 2015)

MA Supervisions (AUB)

Joseph Bali, "The Anthropic Principle, the Multiverse Theory, and the Divine Designer Hypothesis" (defense: 05/2007)

Nelly Dib, "Essentialism and the Causal Theory of Reference" (defense: 11/2006)

Michel Kabalan, "Cultural Essentialism in Contemporary Arab Thought" (defense: 07/2006)

Layla Ezzedeen, "Dennett's Three Stances" (defense: 05/2005)

Bishr Madani, "Rationality and the Puzzle of Religious Belief" (defense: 02/2002)

Darine Zaatari, "What's Left of the Nativism-Empricism Debate?" (defense: 03/2001)

Raya Alameddine, "The Limits of Rationality" (defense: 01/2000)

Ghassan Masri, "Second Nature in McDowell's Mind and World" (defense: 10/1999)

Bilal Ghandour, "Science and the Sociology of Knowledge" (defense: 07/1999)

Service to the Profession

Member, Editorial Board, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, 2020-

Member, Editorial Board, Philosophy of Science, 1999-2009

Member, Committee on International Cooperation, American Philosophical Association, 2004-2007 Member, Philosophy Committee, Insight Grants, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

of Canada (SSHRC), 2020-2021

Member, Program Committee, Cognitive Science Society Annual Conference, 2004, 2005
Journal refereeing: British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (9), Philosophy of Science (5),
Philosophical Studies (4), Synthese (4), Ergo (2), Philosophical Quarterly (2), Philosophical
Psychology (2), Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science (2), Metaphysics (2),
Analysis (1), Nous (1), European Journal for the Philosophy of Science (1), Philosophers'
Imprint (1), Philosophy Compass (1), Mind (1), Journal for Philosophical Research (1),
American Philosophical Quarterly (1), Arab Journal for the Humanities (1)

Conference refereeing: Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress (7), Cognitive Science Society Annual Conference (4), Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference (2), Biennial Conference of the Philosophy of Science Association (1), National Science Foundation conference proposal (1), Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference (1)

M.A. Khalidi – CV 09/2020 9/9

Book proposal and manuscript refereeing: Routledge (5), Cambridge University Press (3), Oxford University Press (3)

Other refereeing: SSHRC Insight Grants (3), Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (1)

Service to the University (CUNY)

Member, Executive Committee, Philosophy Department, 7/2020-

Service to the University (York)

Chair, Department of Philosophy, 7/2015-6/2018

Member, University Senate, 7/2015-6/2018

Member, LA&PS Committee on Research Policy and Planning, 10/2013-7/2016

Coordinator, Honors Undergraduate Program in Cognitive Science, 7/2009-6/2012, 7/2013-6/2015

Member, Executive Committee, Department of Philosophy, 9/2009-6/2012, 7/2013-7/2020

Member, Committee for Graduate Admissions and Scholarships, Department of Philosophy, 9/2007-6/2009, 9/2014-6/2015

Member, Search Committee for Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Social and Moral Cognition, 8/2015-6/2016

Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Philosophy of Cognitive Science, 10/2011-2/2012

Member, Graduate Program Executive Committee, Department of Philosophy, 7/2010-6/2012

Member, Adjudicating Committee (Tenure & Promotion), Department of Philosophy, 9/2009-6/2012

Member, File Preparation Committee for Tenure & Promotion (Jacob Beck), 2014

Member, File Preparation Committee for Promotion (Robert Myers), 2013

Member, Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, 9/2007-6/2009

Placement Officer, Department of Philosophy, 9/2007-9/2009