

KELLY SWOPE

Curriculum Vitae

Philosophy Department, Vanderbilt University
kelly.m.swope@vanderbilt.edu | 740.504.7152

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 2021 (**graduated 15 May 2021**)
 - M.A. Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 2018
 - M.A. Chinese Literature, Columbia University, 2012
 - B.A. Spanish, Chinese, Philosophy (minor), Vanderbilt University, 2011
-

AREAS OF RESEARCH

- AOS*: Nineteenth-century Philosophy (especially German)
 - AOC*: History of Political Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy (especially Democratic Theory), Philosophy of Education
-

DISSERTATION

G.W.F. Hegel's political thought took shape in response to the two great democratic revolutions of his lifetime (France, Saint-Domingue). Although Hegel sympathized with aspects of both rebellions, his final judgment was that the revolutionaries surged into politics without the education necessary to actualize their ideals. In response, Hegel attempted to formulate a systematic account of *Bildung* (education) that modeled political development after natural genesis (the life-process of organisms). The subject of this more systematic *Bildung* was not a revolutionary but a citizen of a rationally organized state. My dissertation examines whether Hegel's account of *Bildung* as the unified process of natural genesis and political education, fully elaborated in the *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*, succeeds as an answer to the problems raised by the French and Saint-Domingue revolutions. Taking a systematic approach to this text raises at least three major questions: First, how can natural genesis and political education be discussed in analytic separation if they are also dialectically entwined? Second, once the analytic distinction between these two senses of *Bildung* is established, how are we to understand the shift from natural genesis, a concept that can be applied to living nature in general, to political education, a concept that applies exclusively to the life-activity of human beings? Third, what does it mean to conceptualize *Bildung* as political education under the nurture of a rational state? I conclude that Hegel's account does not quite succeed and propose a supplement that heeds the submerged democratic spirit of his own philosophy. *Fields of application: democratic theory, philosophy of education, social reproduction theory, Hegel studies.*

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

1. "Education as 'Absolute Transition' in Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*," *Idealistic Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 3, 2018.
2. "On David Hume's Forms of Moderation," *Hume Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2018.

RECENT ESSAYS, COMMENTS, BOOK REVIEWS

1. "Unionisation is essential in addressing the graduate school mental health crisis." *Times Higher Education*, 12 December 2019. (Co-authored with Sebastian Ramirez)
2. "Democracy, Nature, Manifest Destiny," *Full Stop Quarterly*, Issue 9, Winter 2018/19. Published online 26 March 2019.
3. "Review of Astra Taylor's *What Is Democracy?* and *Democracy May Not Exist, But We'll Miss It When It's Gone*," *Full Stop*, 19 September 2019.
4. "Education and politics: A Reply to Su and Su." *On Education. Journal for Research and Debate*, 2(4), 2019. https://doi.17899/on_ed.2019.4.7
5. "State-Run Schools Reconsidered: A Reply to Merry." *On Education. Journal for Research and Debate*, 1(1), 2018. doi: 10.17899/on_ed.2018.1.13.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Vanderbilt Association of Modern Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2021
Author Meets Critics: "On Karen Ng's *Hegel's Concept of Life*"
- Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Utah Valley University, Spring 2019
Paper: "Hegel on the Transition from First to Second Nature"
- Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Columbus, Ohio, Spring 2019
Paper: "W.E.B. Du Bois on the Ruling of Men by 'Ignorance and Poverty'"
- Philosophy Born of Struggle XXIV, Hamilton College, Fall 2018
Paper: "W.E.B. Du Bois on the Ruling of Men by 'Ignorance and Poverty'"
- Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2018
Paper: "On Daniel Viehoff's Critique of Epistemic Political Authority"
- Louisiana State University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Spring 2018
Paper: "On Tragedy and Revolution in Aristotle's Political Science"
- Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2017
Author Meets Critics: "On Alan Itkin's *Post-Holocaust Poetics*"
- Literature & Social Justice, Lehigh University, Spring 2017
Paper: "Aesthetic Education: The Case of Sherwood Anderson"
- Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2016
Author Meets Critics: "On Mark Anderson's *Moby Dick as Philosophy*"
- Literature & Social Justice, Lehigh University, Spring 2016
Paper: "Who is the Public Intellectual of the Public Humanities?"
- Literature & Social Justice, Lehigh University, Spring 2015
Paper: "Whitman, Ellison, Metonymy"

PUBLIC EVENTS

- Panel on Ibram Kendi's *How to be an Anti-Racist*, Nashville Public Library, Winter 2021
- Critical University Studies Seminar Series, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2020
- Vanderbilt Graduate Workers United Labor Film Series, Fall 2019

ACADEMIC AWARDS

2020: Berry Teaching Award in General Logic, Vanderbilt Philosophy Department
2018: Dissertation Field Language Study Grant, Vanderbilt University
2015-2020: Vanderbilt Graduate Fellowship in Philosophy
2011: Highest Honors for Senior Thesis, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
2011: Dean's List Graduate, *Magna cum Laude*
2009: CET-Harbin Summer Chinese Language School Achievement Award
2009: Vanderbilt Summer Language Study Award

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

2017-2021: Philosophy Instructor of Record, Vanderbilt University
2016-2017: Teaching Assistant and Grader, Vanderbilt University
2015-2020: Writing Studio Peer Consultant, Vanderbilt University
2015: English 10 Long-term Substitute Teacher, Granville High School (Granville, OH)
2013-14: Adjunct Instructor, Franklin University (Columbus, OH)
2013-14: Public Humanities Teaching (Columbus, OH; Cincinnati, OH)

COURSES AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Introduction to Philosophy, Vanderbilt University (F2017, F2018, F2020)
General Logic, Vanderbilt University (S2017, S2019, S2020, S2021)
"Global Issues," Franklin University (2013-2014)

COURSES AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Introduction to Ethics, Vanderbilt University (S2016)
Moral Problems, Vanderbilt University (F2016)

RESEARCH ASSISTANSHIPS

2019-2020: Research Assistant, Dr. Karen Ng, Philosophy, Vanderbilt University
2017-2019: Research Assistant, Dr. Lenn Goodman, Philosophy, Vanderbilt University
2013-15: Research Assistant, Dr. Karen Miner-Romanoff, Franklin University
2011-12: Research Assistant, Dr. Frances Negrón-Muntaner, Columbia University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2016-2020: Organizing Committee Member, Vanderbilt Graduate Workers United
2019-2020: Graduate Workers United Department Liaison, Philosophy Department
2018-2019: Dean's Advisory Committee on Graduate Workspace
2018-2019: Philosophy Department Teaching Committee
2017-2018: Co-editor, Vanderbilt Mental Health Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Hegel: Philosophy of Right
German Idealism
Kant: What is a Human Being?
Marx's Capital
Adorno
Ancient Philosophy
Later Heidegger
Aristotle
Democracy
Liberalism
Philosophy of Law
Hume
Thinking, Acting, Valuing
Ralph Ellison
Race
Refugees: French-Continental Approaches
Proseminar: Teaching & Research Methods

LANGUAGE STUDY

Middlebury German School (Summer 2018)
German for Graduate Readers (Spring 2017)
French for Graduate Readers (Spring 2016)
Classical Greek for Graduate Readers (2017-2018)
Advanced Modern Chinese (2016-2017)
CET-Harbin Chinese Summer School (Summer 2009)