

# DAVID EGAN

email: degan@ku.edu.tr • web: eganphilosophy.com • phone: +90 544 455 67 50

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy (esp. Heidegger), Wittgenstein, Aesthetics

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, History of Analytic Philosophy, Ethics, History of Western Philosophy, Asian Philosophy

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## CAREER

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| 2024–present        | Koç University                      | Assistant Professor  |
| 2020–24             | David Egan Philosophy               | Founder/Proprietor   |
| Winter 21/autumn 23 | Kwantlen Polytechnic University     | Sessional Instructor   |
| Winter/spring 2023  | Deep Springs College                | Visiting Professor   |
| Autumn 2020/2021    | Outer Coast                         | Teaching Faculty   |
| 2017–2020           | Hunter College (CUNY)               | Visiting Assistant Professor (2017–19)<br>Substitute Doctoral Lecturer (2019–20) |
| 2013–17             | University of Chicago               | Society of Fellows   |
| 2012–13             | Christ Church, University of Oxford | Lecturer in Philosophy   |
| Winter 2012         | McMaster University                 | Sessional Instructor   |
| 2012                | University of Oxford                | DPhil in Philosophy  |
| 2006                | University of Toronto               | MA in Philosophy   |
| 2000                | Harvard University                  | BA <i>cum laude</i> in Philosophy  |

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## BOOKS

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|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2019 | <i>The Pursuit of an Authentic Philosophy: Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and the Everyday</i> . Single-author book published by Oxford University Press. |
| 2013 | <i>Wittgenstein and Heidegger</i> (Routledge). Co-edited collection of essays.  |

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## PAPERS AND REVIEWS

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|------|---|
| 2022 | ‘Neoteny, Play, and the Anthropological Difference’. In <i>A Tribute to Ronald de Sousa</i> , ed. J. Deonna, C. Tappolet, and F. Teroni. ( <a href="#">web link</a> )   |
| 2021 | ‘Rule Following, Anxiety, and Authenticity’. <i>Mind</i> 130:518, 567–93.<br><br>‘Wittgenstein’s <i>Confessions</i> : Reading <i>Philosophical Investigations</i> with St. Augustine’. <i>The Heythrop Journal</i> 62:1, 25–38.                               |
| 2018 | ‘Rehabilitating Austin, Reassessing Grice: The Case of Cancellability’. <i>Archiv für die Geschichte der Philosophie</i> 100:4, 469–90.   |
| 2016 | ‘Literature and Thought Experiments’. <i>Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism</i> 74:2, 139–50.<br><br>Review of <i>What Is Fiction For?: Literary Humanism Restored</i> by Bernard Harrison. <i>Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism</i> 74:2, 212–15. |

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**PAPERS AND REVIEWS (CONT.)**

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- 2013 'The Authenticity of the Ordinary'. In *Wittgenstein and Heidegger* (see above), 66–81.  
'Introduction' (co-authored). In *Wittgenstein and Heidegger* (see above), 1–18.  
'Playing Well: Wittgenstein's Language-Games and the Ethics of Discourse'. In *The Philosophy of Play* (Routledge), ed. Emily Ryall, Wendy Russell, Malcolm MacLean, 54–63.  
Review of *Heidegger* by John Richardson. *European Journal of Philosophy* 21:S3, 10–15.
- 2012 'Das Man and Distantiality in *Being and Time*'. *Inquiry* 55:3, 289–306.
- 2011 'Pictures in Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy'. *Philosophical Investigations* 34:1, 55–76.

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**PHILOSOPHICAL WRITING FOR A NON-SPECIALIST AUDIENCE**

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- 2024 'We Can't Outspurt Cheetahs, but We Can Beat them in a Marathon'. *Washington Post* ([web link](#))
- 2023 'On Animals, Persons, and Things'. *The Line of Beauty* ([web link](#))
- 2022 'What Heidegger Can Teach Us about Life Hacks'. *Culturico* ([web link](#))  
'Why the History of Philosophy Matters to Philosophy'. *Daily Nous* ([web link](#))
- 2021 'Where the Light is Better'. *The Point* ([web link](#)) (featured article in *Arts & Letters Daily*)  
'How to Be Anxious'. *Psyche* ([web link](#))  
'Looks Are Not Superficial'. *Institute for Art and Ideas* ([web link](#))  
'What Our Animal-Based Use of Slurs and Endearments Says about Us'. *Psyche* ([web link](#))
- 2020 'The Moral Conflict Between Environmentalism and Animal Welfare'. *The New Statesman* ([web link](#))
- 2019 'Is There Anything Especially Expert About Being a Philosopher?' *Aeon* ([web link](#))  
'Can You Step in the Same River Twice? Wittgenstein v. Heraclitus'. *Aeon* ([web link](#))
- 2018 'Calling Bullshit'. *The Point* ([web link](#)) (featured article in *Arts & Letters Daily*)
- 2017 'Speaking Nonsense'. *The Point* ([web link](#))  
'Donald Trump's Victory Shows Why We Need Philosophy Students More Than Ever' (with Simona Aimar). *Times Higher Education* ([web link](#))
- 2012 'Seeing Double: Children and Animals'. *The Point* 6, 138–42 ([web link](#))

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**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2025 'Wittgenstein and the Religious Point of View'. Consciousness Perspectives Forum, 24 February 2025.
- 2024 'Is Life a Game?' Koç Sohbetleri, 15 November 2024.
- 2022 'Was Wittgenstein an Existentialist?' British Wittgenstein Association, 26 April 2022.
- 2021 '*Homo neotenicus* and *Homo ludens*'. Humboldt Conversations, University of Leipzig. 21 April 2021.
- 2019 'Calling Bullshit: A Debate about Philosophical Method'. With Daniel Harris. Hunter College Fall Faculty Seminar, 19 November 2019.  
'Rule Following, Anxiety, and Authenticity'. Oxford University Post-Kantian and European Philosophy Workshop, 22 January, and University of East Anglia Wittgenstein Workshop, 23 January 2019.
- 2018 'Rule Following, Anxiety, and Authenticity'. Hunter College Fall Faculty Seminar, 10 October 2018.
- 2017 'Games and Stories'. Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Society, University of Edinburgh, 16 July 2017.

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## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

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| 2017 | 'Anxiety, Skepticism, and Authenticity'. University of Chicago's Society of Fellows Workshop, 9 January 2017.   |
| 2016 | 'Brazening it Out'. Weissbourd Fall Symposium, University of Chicago, 22 October 2016.<br><br>'Who Is the Happiest Mortal in the <i>Iliad</i> ?' Human Being and Citizen Sequence-Wide Quarterly Lecture, University of Chicago, 20 October 2016.   |
| 2015 | 'How To Undo Things With Words: Wittgenstein and Heidegger on Dissolving Philosophical Problems'. 'Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Mulhall: Chemins croisés' Conference, Institut Catholique de Paris, 6 November 2015.<br><br>' <i>Homo neotenicus</i> and <i>Homo ludens</i> '. 'The Human Difference' Conference, University of Oxford, 24 July 2015.<br><br>'Rehabilitating Austin: A Critical Appraisal of Grice's Criticism'. Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Society, University of Warwick, 11 July 2015.<br><br>'Later Wittgenstein as Literature'. Literature and Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, 28 May 2015.<br><br>'Transformation and Improvisation in Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy'. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Biennial Performance Philosophy Conference, Chicago, 12 April 2015.<br><br>'Games and Stories'. Colloquium Presentation at APA-Pacific Division Conference, Vancouver, 2 April 2015. |
| 2015 | 'How To Undo Things With Words: Wittgenstein and Heidegger on Dissolving Philosophical Problems'. Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, 13 February 2015.   |
| 2014 | 'Explanations and Ordinary Language'. 'Know Thyself' Conference, Prometheus Trust, London, 5 July 2014.<br><br>'The Deferral of Authority in the Opening Passages of St. Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> and Wittgenstein's <i>Philosophical Investigations</i> '. Paradoxes of Authority/Authority of Paradoxes Conference, University of Chicago, 10 May 2014.<br><br>'Rehabilitating Austin'. University of Chicago's Society of Fellows Workshop, 14 March 2014.   |
| 2013 | 'Stories as Games'. Weissbourd Fall Symposium, University of Chicago, 18 October 2013.<br><br>'Later Wittgenstein as Literature'. University College Dublin Philosophies of Philosophy conference, 18 June 2013.<br><br>'The Difficulty of Description'. Oxford Post-Kantian Seminar, 5 February 2013.  |
| 2012 | 'Later Wittgenstein as Literature'. Art as a Mode of Enquiry, graduate symposium, University of Oxford, 17 June 2012.   |
| 2011 | 'Wittgenstein and Play'. Philosophy at Play Conference, University of Gloucestershire, 12 April 2011.   |
| 2010 | 'The Authenticity of the Ordinary in Wittgenstein and Heidegger'. Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference, 20 November 2010.<br><br>'Recollection and Authenticity in Wittgenstein and Heidegger'. University of Sussex Graduate Conference on Phenomenology, 20 May 2010.  |
| 2009 | 'Sceptical Themes: Groundlessness and the Uncanny in Heidegger and Wittgenstein'. University of Southampton Graduate Conference, 6 June 2009.<br><br>'What is Philosophical Knowledge, and How is it Possible?' Oriel Interdisciplinary Student Conference, Oriel College, Oxford, 16 May 2009.   |
| 2009 | 'Necessity, the First Person Plural, and the Appeal to Ordinary Language in Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy'. North American Wittgenstein Society, APA-Pacific Division Conference, Vancouver, 8 April 2009.  |

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**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)**

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| 2009 | 'What's the Difference Between Humour and Horror?' Ockham Society, Oxford, 27 January 2009.  |
| 2008 | 'Bringing It All Back Home: Humour, Nostalgia, and the Ordinary'. University of Toronto Graduate Conference, 10 May 2008.                                      |
| 2006 | 'Words Are Not Dead: Humour, Seriousness, and Irony in the Work of J. L. Austin'. University of British Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference, 7 April 2006. |

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Koç University**

Game On: Why We Play and Why It Matters • Modern Philosophy • Aesthetics

**David Egan Philosophy**

How Should We Live? Answers from the Ancient World (2x) • 'Know Thyself': Knowledge and Self-Knowledge in Literature and Philosophy (2x) • The Philosophy of Love and Friendship • An Introduction to Philosophy in Ten Dangerous Ideas • The Story of Your Life: Life and Narrative • How Should We Live? Answers from the Modern World • Freedom and Its Limits • Humans and Other Animals • The World Around Us: Philosophy and the Environment • Thinking About the End: Philosophy and Death

**Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

Critical Thinking • General Introduction to Philosophy

**Deep Springs College**

Humans and Other Animals

**Outer Coast**

Humans and Other Animals • Philosophy as a Way of Life • The Philosophy of Games and Play

**CUNY Hunter College**

Heidegger • Twentieth-Century Philosophy (2x) • Humans and Animals • Wittgenstein • Introduction to Philosophy (3x) • Philosophy, Life, and Literature (2x) • Games, Play, and Philosophy • Aesthetics • Existentialism

**University of Chicago**

Human Being and Citizen (three-quarter sequence on Western philosophy and literature from antiquity to the present, 22 sections over four years) • Philosophy of Play and Games

**University of Oxford (tutorial instruction)**

General Philosophy (introductory metaphysics and epistemology) (3x) • History of Philosophy (Descartes to Hume) (2x) • Post-Kantian Philosophy (4x) • Frege, Russell, and Early Wittgenstein • Later Wittgenstein (2x) • Wittgenstein and Heidegger • Aesthetics

**McMaster University**

Technology & Society II

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**AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS**

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2011–12 | APRA (Adrian Piper Research Archive) Foundation Berlin, Multi-Disciplinary Fellowship   |
| 2010–11 | Oriel College Graduate Scholarship  |
| 2008–11 | Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Doctoral Fellowship  |
| 2008–10 | Overseas Research Studentship   |
| 2008    | John Locke Prize in Mental Philosophy, Subsidiary Prize (one of two runner-up prizes in a competition open to all Oxford graduates in their first three years of study) |
| 2007–10 | Clarendon Fellowship (for overseas students at Oxford, awarded to fewer than 10% of eligible candidates)  |
| 2007–10 | Graduate Studentship in Philosophy  |

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**SERVICE**

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| Refereeing | <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Brill Publishers, British Journal of the History of Philosophy, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, Continental Philosophy Review, Estetika: The Central European Journal of Aesthetics, European Journal of Philosophy, Idealistic Studies, Inquiry, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Philosophies, Synthese, Theoria</i> |
| 2017       | Prison + Neighborhood Arts Program: taught philosophy course at Stateville Correctional Center, a maximum security prison near Chicago  |
| 2014–15    | Weissbourd Conference Coordinating Fellow (Society of Fellows): co-chair  |
| 2012–13    | Christ Church Undergraduate Philosophy Reading Group: convener  |
| 2012–13    | Oxford Post-Kantian and European Philosophy Seminar: co-convener  |
| 2012       | Christ Church undergraduate admissions: interviewer   |
| 2008–10    | Oxford University Buddhist Society: treasurer (2008–09), president (2009–10)  |
| 2008       | Oxford Philosophy Graduate Conference: conference organizer   |

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**OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS**

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**Languages:** French and German, some Russian, some Turkish

**Theatre:** In my earlier life, I was a semi-professional playwright. I won several awards, and in 2003 I was nominated for the American Theater Critics Association's New Play Award for *The Fly-Bottle*, which deals with Wittgenstein's notorious encounter with Popper. My experience in the theatre informs my thinking in aesthetics.

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**REFERENCES**

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Stephen Mulhall (doctoral supervisor)  
Professor of Philosophy, New College, Oxford University

Michael Kremer (former colleague)  
Mary R. Morton Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago

Anita Avramides (doctoral examiner)  
Tutor in Philosophy, St. Hilda's College, Oxford University

Gabriel Citron (colleague)  
Assistant Professor of Religion, Princeton University

Carol Gould (teaching reference)  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Political Science, CUNY Graduate Center

Gabriel Richardson Lear and Samantha Fenno (teaching reference)  
Professor of Philosophy/Senior Lecturer in Humanities, University of Chicago