

STEPHEN CUNNIFF

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago

PhD, Department of Philosophy (August 2025)

Dissertation: *Freedom through Shared Purpose: Hegel on Self-Consciousness, Recognition, and the Teleological Structure of Agency*. Advisors: Matthew Boyle (Chair), Matthias Haase, James Conant

McGill University

BA Honours (1st Class) in Philosophy (May 2014)

Minors: Mathematics, Physics

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

AOS: 18th-19th Century German Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

AOC: Ethics, Ancient Greek Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern, Logic, Medical Ethics

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer in the College and the Division of Arts & Humanities, *University of Chicago*

Autumn 2026; Summer 2026; Winter 2026

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor of Record

Human Being and Citizen (two sections, University of Chicago, Autumn 2026)

Introduction to Logic (University of Chicago, Summer 2026)

Topics in Medical Ethics (University of Chicago, Winter 2026)

Philosophical Perspectives II: Early Modern (two sections, University of Chicago, Winter 2026)

Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (University of Chicago, Winter 2021)

Teaching Assistant

Life, A Life (University of Chicago, Spring 2026)

Kant's Ethical Theory (University of Chicago, Autumn 2025)

Introduction to Political Philosophy: What is Democracy? (University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program, Summer 2024)

Does Virtue Make You Happy? (University of Chicago, Spring 2022)

Einstein for Everyone (University of Chicago, Winter 2022)

History of Philosophy III: Kant and the 19th Century (University of Chicago, Spring 2020)

Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (University of Chicago, Spring 2020)

Introduction to Phenomenology (University of Chicago, Winter 2019)

RESEARCH

Publications

Cunniff, Stephen. 2026. "The Master's Problem: Revisiting Hegel's Critique of Social Domination." *European Journal of Philosophy*. Early View, April 13, 2026.

Cunniff, Stephen. "Desire and Hegel's Concept of Self-Consciousness." *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. Accepted for publication.

Works in Progress

"Love without Lack: Aristotle on Friendship and the Complete Life"

"The *Apeiron* and the Bad Infinity: Hegel's Critique of Immediate Desire"

"Kant on the Content of Concepts"

SELECTED TALKS

Invited Talks

"Endless Struggle and the Need for Recognition," *Social Forms of Freedom Workshop*, Humboldt University, Berlin, June 2026

"The *Apeiron* and the Bad Infinity: Hegel's Critique of Immediate Desire," *Tulane German Philosophy Workshop*, Tulane University, February 2026

"The Master's Problem: Revisiting Hegel's Critique of Social Domination," *History of Philosophy Roundtable*, Loyola University Chicago, September 2025

"Content as Schema: Kant on the Content of Concepts," *Southern North American Kant Society Annual Meeting*, University of South Carolina, May 2024

Conference Presentations

"What Are Friends Good For? Aristotle on Friendship, Self-Knowledge, and the Joint Exercise of Virtue," *Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference*, New Orleans, January 2024

Internal Workshop Presentations

"Examining Aristotle's Account of Friendship," *Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy Workshop*, University of Chicago, May 2024

"Saving the Patient: Practical Knowledge and the Problem of Receptivity," *Practical Philosophy Workshop*, University of Chicago, May 2023

NOMINATIONS

Departmental Nominee, *Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award*
Division of Arts & Humanities, University of Chicago, 2026

Nominee, *Markus Herz Prize*, North American Kant Society
for "Content as Schema: Kant on the Content of Concepts"
Southern North American Kant Society Annual Meeting, 2024

SERVICE

Advisor, B.A. Capstone Project, Antonio Sanchez, "The Epistemic Architecture of Medical Spanish in Allopathic Education," University of Chicago, 2026.

Co-organizer, Conference: The Future of Capitalism: Neo-Feudalism?, University of Chicago, May 2024.

Coordinator, German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, July 2022 – June 2023.
Programming, administration, and communications for a bi-weekly workshop with graduate student and faculty speakers from within and outside the University of Chicago.

Visiting Week Co-Coordinator, UChicago Philosophy Department, January – April 2018
Organizing accommodations, travel, events, meetings, and outreach for the Philosophy Department's visiting week for prospective PhD students

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English, French, German

REFERENCES

Dr. Matthew Boyle, University of Chicago – mbboyle@uchicago.edu

Dr. Matthias Haase, University of Chicago – haase@uchicago.edu

Dr. James Conant, University of Chicago – jconant@uchicago.edu

Dr. Anselm Mueller, University of Chicago/Universität Trier – muellera94@hotmail.de