

# Róbert Mátyási

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*Last updated: July, 2025*

Areas of specialization: 17th and 18th Century Philosophy, Metaphysics

Areas of competence: Ethics, Epistemology, Mind, Early Analytic Philosophy, Social Philosophy, Race and Gender

## Academic positions

Adjunct professor, Saint Joseph's University, 2024 – current

Postdoctoral researcher, University of Pennsylvania, 2021 – 2022

- Aiding the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada Partnership Grant, Extending New Narratives in the History of Philosophy
- Supervisor: Karen Detlefsen

## Education

PhD, Philosophy, University of Toronto, 2021

- Dissertation topic: Spinoza's metaphysics of the finite: composition, essence, modality
- Dissertation committee: Karolina Hübner (supervisor), Nick Stang, Marleen Rozemond, Michael Rosenthal (internal reader), Samuel Newlands (external reader)

Visiting assistant in research, Yale University, 2019

- Advisor: Michael Della Rocca

MA, Philosophy, Central European University, 2014

BA, Philosophy, University of Pécs, 2012

## Publications

### Articles

- “Spinoza on Composition, Monism and Beings of Reason”, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, 2(1). 2020. <http://doi.org/10.32881/jomp.74>
- (with Karolina Hübner) “Spinoza on Expression and Grounds of Intelligibility”, *Philosophical Quarterly*, 72(3). 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqab056>
- “Expression”, *Cambridge Spinoza Lexicon*. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108992459.064>

## Reviews

- (with Karolina Hübner) *Reconceiving Spinoza*, by Samuel Newlands, *Mind*, 129(513): 307-314. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzzo15>

## Teaching

### Course Instructor

- Moral Foundations (introduction to logic, ethics, social and political philosophy), 100-level, Saint Joseph's University, Spring & Fall, 2024 -25
- Topics in 17th and 18th century philosophy (problems of the self, mind and matter, human nature, human difference), 300-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer, 2021
- 17th and 18th century philosophy, 200-level, University of Toronto Mississauga, Winter, 2021
- 17th and 18th century philosophy, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer, 2020
- Knowledge and Reality, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer, 2019
- Knowledge and Reality, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer, 2018

### Teaching Certificate

- Teaching in Higher Education (THE500), University of Toronto, 2020

### Tutorial Leader

- 17-18th Century Philosophy, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Fall/Spring 2020 – 21
- 17-18th Century Philosophy, 200-level, University of Toronto Mississauga, Fall/Spring 2017 – 18
- Knowledge and Reality, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer 2017
- 17-18th Century Philosophy, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Fall/Spring 2016 – 17

### Teaching Assistant

- Critical reasoning, 100-level, University of Toronto Mississauga, Summer 2016
- Modern Symbolic Logic, 200-level, University of Toronto St. George, Spring 2016
- Minds and Machines, 300-level, University of Toronto St. George, Fall 2015
- Ethics, 300-level, University of Toronto St. George, Summer 2015
- Puzzles and paradoxes, University of Toronto Scarborough, Spring 2015

## Talks and Conference Papers

(\* = refereed, # = invited)

### Cavendish on Nature, Constitution, and Ontological Dependence

- Cavendish Collective workshop, July 7, 2022

### Cavendish on Metaphysical Dependence

- \*Extending New Narratives Monthly Seminar for Early Career Researchers, April 29, 2021, Commentator: Stewart Duncan

### Spinoza's Modest Realism about Universal Natures

- #American Philosophical Association 2021 Pacific Division Meeting, April 8, 2021

#### Spinoza on Essence and Determination

- NYC Early Modern WIP Workshop, New York University, April 20, 2019
- #International Workshop on Early Modern Philosophy, Harvard University, September 29, 2018, Commentator: Sebastian Bender

#### Spinoza on Composition

- SEMPY, Yale University, March 5, 2019

#### Spinoza on Objective Being and Modality

- \*8th Margaret Wilson conference, University of Buffalo, June 16, 2018
- \*Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Université du Québec à Montréal, June 7, 2018
- \*Finnish-Hungarian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Central European University, 28 May, 2018

#### Moore on the Unreality of Agent Relative Value (with Damian Melamedoff)

- \*Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, University of British Columbia, June 4, 2019 (winner of the English Student Essay Prize), commentator: Graham Moore

#### Spinoza's Two Concepts of Parthood

- \*Collegium Spinozanum II, University of Groningen, July 7, 2017
- History of Modern Philosophy Research Group talk, University of Toronto, March 23, 2017

#### Need Recurrence be Eternal? (with James Davies)

- \*Canadian Philosophers Association Congress, Ryerson University, May 27, 2017

#### Spinoza on Expression

- #Early Modern Symposium, Research Group for the History and Philosophy of Science, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, August 3, 2016
- (with Karolina Hübner) History of Modern Philosophy Research Group talk, University of Toronto, April 25, 2016

#### Causal Eliminativism and Ordinary Objects (titles may vary)

- \*Sixth Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy (VAF 2014); University of Groningen, January 29-31, 2014
- 6th In-house Graduate Philosophy Conference; Central European University, October 11, 2013
- #Logic and Philosophy of Mathematics seminar (LaPoM). The student and faculty seminar of the Department of Logic, Eötvös Lóránd University, October 14, 2011

#### Episztemikus lázadók és a szkepticizmus kihívása ("Epistemic Renegades and the Challenge of Skepticism")

- \*Megértés és magyarázat ("Understanding and explanation") | Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenology Conference Series; University of Kaposvár, January 18, 2013

#### Metametafizika mint még több metafizika ("Metametaphysics as More Metaphysics")

- \*Realizmus a fenomenológiában és az analitikus filozófiában ("Realism in phenomenology and analytic philosophy") | Analytic philosophy and Phenomenology Conference Series, University of Kaposvár, January 15, 2012

Hogyan értsük a Hume-diktumot, és miért érdemes alkalmaznunk a kortárs metafizikában?” (“How to Understand Hume's Dictum, and Why It's worth Using in Contemporary Metaphysics?”)

- \*David Hume évszázadai (“Centuries of David Hume”), Eötvös Lóránd University, September 30, 2011

## Invited Comments

Torin Doppelt, “‘A Sadness Born of a Fact’: a Study of Spinoza’s Humility”, Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Université du Québec à Montréal, June 7, 2018

## Other Academic Contributions

### Philosophy for General Audience in Hungarian

I am a frequent contributor to the *Kiskaté* column in the Hungarian journal *Műút*. In *Kiskaté*, we write short articles about philosophical debates—especially ones that have little or no discussion available in Hungarian—on the occasion of reviewing a recent major publication.

- Stephen Menn, Justin E.H. Smith: Anton Wilhelm Amo’s Philosophical Dissertations on Mind and Body
- Michael O. Hardimon: Rethinking Race
- Diana Raffman: Unruly Words
- Herman Cappelen: Philosophy without Intuitions (with Tibor Bányi)
- Daniel Z. Korman: Objects: Nothing out of the Ordinary
- Timothy Williamson: Modal Logic as Metaphysics

Our essays (until 2017) are also published as a collection:

*Kiskaté. Kortárs filozófiai kiskönyvtár*. Tibor Bányi, László Jenei (editors), Műút Könyvek, Miskolc, 2017

### Short Essays in Hungarian (fiction, political philosophy)

“Bagi Zsolt: Helyi Arcok, Egyetemes Tekintetek. Facies Localis Universi”, *Jelenkor* 56:7-8, 2013

“Paul Verhaeghen: Omega Minor”, *Jelenkor* 55:3, 2012

## Summer Schools

(\* = selective admission)

\*Humanist and Scholastic Roots of Early Modern Philosophy, Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome March 12-19, 2018

\*Collegium Spinozanum II, University of Groningen, July 4-7, 2017

Spinoza and German Idealism, University of Toronto, May 16-19, 2016

\*Ontology and Metaontology, Central European University, July 13-24, 2015

## Awards and Grants

Canadian Philosophical Association Student Essay Prize, 2019

School of Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto, 2014 – 2020

Full CEU Fellowship, Central European University, 2012 – 2014

Balzan Travel Fellowship, Department of Philosophy University of Toronto, 2015; 2018

Department of Philosophy Graduate Travel Grant, University of Toronto, 2016; 2017; 2018

University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities, Institutional, Professional, and Scientific Scholarship, 2010 – 2012

## Service

Administrator for the History of Modern Philosophy Research Group at the University of Toronto, 2019 – 2021

Board member of the Spinoza Society of Canada

Editor of the Philpapers entry “Spinoza: Teleology”

Conference organizing:

- “Method and the History of Philosophy: Extending New Narratives” (with Karen Detlefsen), University of Pennsylvania, April 21-23, 2022.
- “Slavery in Early Modern Philosophy” (assisting Marleen Rozemond), University of Toronto, October 23, 2020.
- “Spinoza: Method, Metaphysics, & Morality” (with the Spinoza Society of Canada), American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, February 21, 2018
- “Spinoza: New Directions of Research” (with Karolina Hübner) at the University of Toronto, September 9-10, 2017.

Course coordinator for CEU Summer Schools: Justice: Theory and Applications (2013); Applied Philosophy: Issues, Method, and Nature (2014); Social Theory and Romani studies (2014); Mediation Theory and Skills (2014).