

FREYA KATHARINA GERZ

PhD Candidate in Philosophy · University of Potsdam

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DOCTORAL RESEARCH

11/2024–02/2028 **University of Potsdam, Institute of Philosophy**

PhD in Philosophy · **expected February 2028**

Dissertation: *Form(s) of Relation: Skepticism, Acknowledgment, and Aesthetic Form*

My dissertation examines what becomes visible when our relations to other persons, the world, language, and ourselves become objects of reflection and questioning. Drawing especially on Ludwig Wittgenstein, Stanley Cavell, and Iris Murdoch, I approach skepticism as a form of relational problematization through which the conditions, limits, and possibilities of these relations become explicit and available for reconsideration. The project explores the relations among skepticism, acknowledgment, moral attention, and aesthetic form, with particular attention to literature and film.

Supervisors: Logi Gunnarsson and Thomas Khurana

Funding: Cusanuswerk Doctoral Scholarship

RESEARCH AREAS

Primary Moral Philosophy · Aesthetics · Ordinary Language Philosophy

Further Skepticism · Philosophy of Film · Feminist Philosophy · Philosophy of Language

Themes Acknowledgment · Moral Attention · Other Minds · Aesthetic Form

EDUCATION

03/2021–10/2024 **University of Potsdam · M.A. in Philosophy**

Thesis: *Bridging Souls: From Cavell's Acknowledgment to Nussbaum's Knowledge of Love*

Supervisors: Logi Gunnarsson and Lucilla Guidi

Final grade: 1.3 (very good)

10/2018–02/2021 **Freie Universität Berlin · M.Ed. in Philosophy**

Thesis: *Feminist Metaphysics: Gender Categories and Personal Identity*

Supervisors: Barbara Vetter and Tamara Jugov

Final grade: 1.7 (good)

10/2014–07/2018 **Freie Universität Berlin · B.A. in Philosophy and French Philology**

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2025 Gerz, Freya Katharina. "[Reading as a Resonant Relation between Cultural Creation and Human Universality.](#)" *Humanities Bulletin* 8, no. 2 (2025): 21–28.

2024 Gerz, Freya Katharina. "[Constructing Connection: The Soul Bridge as a Transformative Contribution to the Philosophy of Empathy.](#)" *Sofia Philosophical Review* 17, no. 2 (2024).

BOOK REVIEWS & REVIEW ESSAYS

2026 Gerz, Freya Katharina. "[Celluloid Babel: Pursuing a Universal Language in Cinema, by Ori Levin.](#)" *Teaching Philosophy* 49, no. 2 (2026): 305–308.

Forthcoming Gerz, Freya Katharina. Review essay on Jacob Engelberg, *Cinemas of Bisexual Transgression*, and Lori Jo Marso, *Feminism and the Cinema of Experience*. *The Philosopher*. Forthcoming.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

10/2026 "Loving Attention and Moral Vision: Revisiting Iris Murdoch through Anscombian Grammar." *Women in Parenthesis Work-in-Progress Seminar* · **forthcoming**

09/2026	"The Expressive Body under Suspicion: Pain, Voice, and Gaslighting after Wittgenstein and Cavell." <i>Ordinary Language Philosophy at the Limits of Speech: Voice, Gesture, and the Body, UCLouvain-Bruxelles, Belgium · forthcoming</i>
08/2026	"Loving Attention and Moral Vision: Iris Murdoch and the Grammar of Ethical Attention." <i>ECAP12 — 12th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, Madrid, Spain</i>
07/2026	"A Right Response in the Wrong World: Acknowledgment, Skepticism, and Feminist Praxis." <i>IGReC Summer School 2026, Institute for Global Reconstitution, Bard College Berlin</i>
06/2026	"Acknowledgement as Feminist Praxis: Reframing Skepticism through Wittgenstein, Cavell and Aesthetic Media." <i>Stanley Cavell at 100: An International Centennial Conference, Paris, France</i>
10/2025	"From the Unsayable to Acknowledgment: Wittgenstein, Cavell, and the Ethics of Responsiveness." <i>Lectures on Ethics: A Graduate Conference, University of Potsdam</i>
08/2025	"Acknowledgment as Feminist Praxis: Reframing Skepticism and Empathy through Wittgenstein, Cavell, and Aesthetic Media." <i>46th International Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg am Wechsel</i>
07/2025	"Seeing Rightly: Iris Murdoch, Moral Vision, and the Aesthetic Grounds of Empathy." <i>Iris Murdoch Summer School, Central European University (CEU)</i>
05/2024	"Bridging Souls: von Cavells anerkennendem zu Nussbaums Liebeswissen." <i>9th Dia Student Conference, Justus Liebig University Giessen</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2026	University of Potsdam · Lecturer <i>World, Evidence, Experience: Acknowledgment under Conditions of Transgression</i>
Winter 2021/22	University of Potsdam · Tutorial Instructor <i>On the Philosophical Potential of Films</i>
10/2018–10/2021	Freie Universität Berlin, Institute of Philosophy · Student Assistant and Tutor Undergraduate teaching support, student supervision, course preparation, and departmental academic work.

RESEARCH VISITS

Winter 2026/27	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne · Doctoral Research Visit · forthcoming Host: Sandra Laugier
01–03/2027	Centre for Ethics, Politics and Society (CEPS), University of Minho, Braga · Doctoral Research Visit · forthcoming Host: Giuseppe Ballacci

EDITORIAL WORK & ACADEMIC SERVICE

03/2025–present	The Philosopher · Managing Editor Editorial planning, manuscript evaluation, and copy-editing. Additional editorial work: • Referee for the English translation of Eva Meijer's "Maybe Is Another Word for Hope." • Proofreader for the second edition of Michael Bavidge's <i>Philosophy on the Borders</i>.
08/2025	46th International Wittgenstein Symposium · Panel Chair, Ordinary Language Philosophy

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

12/2026	Workshop on Cavell, Wittgenstein, Ethics, and Feminism <i>Paris · 5 December 2026 · forthcoming</i> Organizer of a workshop with Alice Crary, Sandra Laugier, and Mickaëlle Provost.
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SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

11/2025–present **Cusanuswerk** · Doctoral Scholarship

11/2024–04/2025 **University of Potsdam** · Partial Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & RESEARCH NETWORKS

- Women in Parenthesis
- Interpersonal Philosophy Network
- German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP)
- German Society for Philosophy (DGPhil)