

DAVID W. JOHNSON
CURRICULUM VITÆ

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Philosophy, Boston College,
2019-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Boston College, 2013-2019

Visiting Appointments

Haas Fellow, Bibliotheca Mystica et Philosophica Alois M. Haas, and Visiting
Researcher, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain (spring semester, 2018)

Visiting Research Fellow, The International Research Center for Japanese Studies,
Kyoto, Japan (2015-2016)

Visiting Research Fellow, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya,
Japan (April-August 2013)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, The Pennsylvania State University, 2007-2013
- Dissertation: *Language, Truth, and Reason: Gadamer with Nishida*

Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany – visiting doctoral researcher:
audited courses in German philosophy; German language study, 2010-2011

B.A., Philosophy, Emory University, 1997

Yonsei University, Korea – exchange student: coursework in Confucianism, Neo-
Confucianism, Daoism, Zen Buddhism, East Asian history, East Asian art
history, Korean language, 1996-1997

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Cross-Cultural Philosophy
- Contemporary Japanese Philosophy (esp. Watsuji, Kimura, Nishida)
- Hermeneutics and Phenomenology (esp. Gadamer, Merleau-Ponty, Heidegger)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Classical Chinese Philosophy, Aesthetics, Ethics

RESEARCH

Publications

Book

Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger (Northwestern University Press, 2019)

-Reviewed in: *Environmental Philosophy, Contemporary Japan, The European Journal of Japanese Philosophy, Journal of World Philosophies, Tricycle: The Buddhist Review, The Journal of Japanese Philosophy* (forthcoming), *Continental Philosophy Review* (forthcoming)

-Selected from among 62 submissions for the Book Session of the 59th meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 2021

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

12. "Phenomenology and the Impersonal Subject: Between Self and No-Self," *Philosophy East and West* (forthcoming)
11. "Word as Image: Gadamer on the Unity of Word and Thing," *Continental Philosophy Review* 55, no. 1 (2022): 101–118
10. "Enneads IV and V: A Puzzle about Perception," *Dionysius*, 38 (2020): 22–35
9. "Naturaleza, cultura y mundo de la vida: algunas consideraciones ontológicas" (Nature, Culture, and Lifeworld: Some Ontological Considerations), trans. Raquel Bouso, *Theoría Revista del Colegio de Filosofía* 38 (2020): 151–171
8. "The Limits of Language: Philosophical Hermeneutics and the Task of Comparative Philosophy," *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 34, no. 3 (2020): 378–389
7. "The Anonymous Subject of Life: Some Philosophical, Psychological, and Religious Considerations," *Research in Phenomenology* 49, no. 3 (2019): 385–402
6. "Self in Nature, Nature in the Lifeworld: A Reinterpretation of Watsuji's Concept of *Fūdo*," *Philosophy East and West* 68, no. 4 (2018): 1134–1154
5. "Acting-Intuition and the Achievement of Perception: Merleau-Ponty with Nishida," *Philosophy East and West* 67, no. 3 (2017): 693–709
4. "Watsuji's Topology of the Self," *Asian Philosophy* 26, no. 3 (2016): 216–240
3. "The Experience of Truth: Gadamer on the Belonging Together of Self, World, and Language," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 36, no. 2 (2015): 373–396

2. “Perception, Expression, and the Continuity of Being: Some Intersections Between Nishida and Gadamer,” *Asian Philosophy* 24, no. 1 (2014): 48–66
1. “Merleau-Ponty and the Other World of Painting: A Response,” *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* 40, no. 1 (2009): 89–97

Book Chapters and Symposia

“Synopsis and Replies to Stevens, Berque, Mine, and Liederbach,” Book Symposium on *Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger*, *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* 6 (2021): 134–215

“*Fūdo* as the Disclosure of Nature: Re-Reading Watsuji with Heidegger.” In *Critical Perspectives on Japanese Philosophy*, edited by Takeshi Morisato, 299–326. Nagoya: Nanzan Institute Press, 2016

Book Review

Review of *Relational Hermeneutics*, edited by Paul Fairfield and Saulus Geniusas. London: Bloomsbury, 2018. In *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* 11, no. 3 (2019): 76–79

In Progress

Second Book Manuscript

This study attempts to reconcile two experiences, two truths, that seem fundamentally opposed to one another and that lie, respectively, at the center of Western culture, on the one hand, and East Asian philosophy, on the other: the reality of the self and the doctrine of no-self. Buddhism and Daoism promise a form of spiritual equanimity that turns on the denial of a self. But there seem to be good reasons to hold onto the reality of the self. The existence of a self enables us to account for praise and blame, the hopes for oneself that motivate actions, and attachments to the selves of others in bonds of love and affection. I show how it may be possible to reconcile the reality of the self with a particular interpretation of the no-self doctrine by engaging with the work of thinkers from the phenomenological tradition such as Merleau-Ponty, Zahavi, Kimura, Gallagher, and Petitmengin.

Third Book Manuscript

This study begins from the disclosive character of perceptual experience as this has been elucidated in phenomenology (Merleau-Ponty, Patočka, Barbaras). I draw on the social ontology of the Japanese philosopher and psychiatrist Kimura Bin to link this understanding of perceptual awareness as a capacity to be *present* to things to our ways of being present to one another. My central claim is that our perceptual presence to others is a form of bearing witness—one that is both constitutive of the self and a primary source of existential meaning.

Articles

“Barbaras and Kimura on the Phenomenology of Life,” [I show that Kimura’s conception of life as an accomplishment unfolds the latent potential in Barbaras’s phenomenology of life as an event which itself is caught up in the ongoing activity of the world.]

“Life as a Movement of Disclosure,” [I set out an understanding of life as a movement (Sheets-Johnstone) of disclosure (Patočka, Barbaras) as an activity that culminates in the nobility of sight (Jonas)]

Book Chapter

“Nature,” in *Tetsugaku Companion to Watsuji Tetsurō* (Springer), ed. Hans Peter Liederbach

Encyclopedia Entries

“Watsuji Tetsurō,” in *Encyclopedia of Phenomenology* (Springer), ed. Ted Toadvine and Nicolas de Warren

“Kimura Bin,” in *Encyclopedia of Phenomenology* (Springer), ed. Ted Toadvine and Nicolas de Warren

AWARDS AND GRANTS (selected)

ERASMUS+ Staff Mobility for Teaching Grant to support a two-week lecture series on twentieth-century Japanese philosophy given at the University of Latvia

Haas Fellow, the Bibliotheca Mystica et Philosophica Alois M. Haas, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain (one-semester fellowship and stipend)

Baden-Württemberg Stipend, Department of Philosophy, University of Freiburg, Germany (one-year stipend)

University Fellow, The Graduate School, The Pennsylvania State University

George R. Gibbons Scholarship, Emory University

INVITED TALKS/LECTURES (selected)

2022 Commentator, Book Panel on *Engaging Japanese Philosophy: A Short History*, Thomas Kasulis, Comparative and Continental Philosophy Conference, Tallinn, Estonia (forthcoming)

“Japanese Philosophy in the United States Today,” Japanese Studies in the World Roundtable, European Network of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Budapest, Hungary (February 2)

“Being and Knowing: Between Self and No-Self,” Self-Creation and Self-Annihilation Symposium (with L.A. Paul and D. Tomlinson), American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting (January 13th) [online]

2021 “Between Self and No-Self: Some Phenomenological Considerations,” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago (December 3rd)

2019 “The Re-Enchantment of Nature as Fūdōsei 風土性,” Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (December 16th)

- 2018 “*Fūdo* 風土: From Ordinary Term to Philosophical Concept,” Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo, Japan (July 2nd)
- “Watsuji’s Philosophical Anthropology,” Temple University Japan, Tokyo, Japan (June 27th)
- Lecture series in Japanese philosophy given at the University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia sponsored by the ERASMUS+ Staff Mobility Program (May 1st-May 11th)
- “Nature, Culture, and Lifeworld: Some Ontological Considerations,” Institut de Cultura, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain (April 11)
- “Nature, History, Transcendence: Watsuji on the Spatio-Temporal Structure of Human Existence,” 場所, χώρα, *Einräumen*: Conceptualizing the Place of the *Coincidentia Oppositorum* Workshop, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain (February 19)
- 2016 “Nondualism, Disclosure, and the Re-Enchantment of Nature: Some Aspects of the Philosophical Potential of Watsuji’s Concept of *Fūdo*,” Views of Watsuji Tetsurō from around the World Workshop, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan (June 25)
- “The Relational Self: Nature and Sociality in the Philosophy of Watsuji Tetsurō,” The International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan (May 12)
- “The Disclosure of Nature: Watsuji with Heidegger,” Institute of Philosophical Research, Seoul National University, Korea (March 28)
- 2015 “The Place of the Self: Watsuji Tetsurō’s Relational Ontology,” Center for East Asian and Comparative Philosophy, The City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China (October 13)
- 2014 “On Selfhood: With and After Watsuji,” Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan (August 1)
- “Gadamer’s Hermeneutic Radicality,” Hermeneutics East and West Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (May 17)
- 2013 “Nishida and Gadamer,” Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan (July 24)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Between *Bios* and *Zoe*, Self and Nature,” 12th East-West Philosophers’ Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii (forthcoming)
- 2022 Book Panel on *Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger*, Comparative and Continental Philosophy Conference, Tallinn, Estonia (forthcoming)

- Book Panel on *Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger*, European Network of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Budapest, Hungary (February 2)
- 2021 Book Session on *Watsuji on Nature: Japanese Philosophy in the Wake of Heidegger*, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) meeting (September 25) [online]
- “Saving the Appearances: Reconsidering the Buddhist Doctrine of No-Self,” International Society of East Asian Philosophy, Tokyo, Japan (December 10th) [online]
- “The ‘Place’ of Life in the Phenomenology of Kimura Bin and Renaud Barbaras,” International Association for Japanese Philosophy, Kyoto, Japan (March 15) [online]
- 2019 “The Fullness of Nature: Overcoming Subjectivism in Watsuji’s Theory of *Fūdo*,” International Society of East Asian Philosophy Conference, Tokyo, Japan (December 14)
- “The Limits of Language: Philosophical Hermeneutics and the Task of Comparative Philosophy,” SPEP Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (October 31)
- “Nature Nascent and Enchanted: Watsuji, Merleau-Ponty, McDowell,” International Association of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii (October 12)
- “The “Anonymous Subject” of Life: Some Philosophical, Psychological, and Religious Considerations,” The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference, Leiden, The Netherlands (May 25)
- 2018 “Dasein as Being-in-Relation-to-Others: Watsuji and Heidegger on Intersubjectivity,” European Network of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Hildesheim, Germany (September 6)
- “Culture as the Completion of Nature: *Fūdo* as Philosophical Concept,” The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference, Bath, UK (April 7)
- 2017 “*Fūdo* 風土: History, Language, and Philosophy,” European Network of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Paris, France (November 3)
- 2016 “Cultivating the Interlacing of Self and World: Nishida and the Phenomenology of Perception,” Nishida Philosophy Association Conference, Tokyo, Japan (July 24)
- “Self in Nature, Nature in the Lifeworld: Re-Imagining Nature through Watsuji’s Concept of *Fūdo*,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii (June 5)
- “Watsuji’s Topology of the Self,” The 11th East-West Philosopher’s Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii (May 29)

- “Disclosure as the Re-enchantment of Nature: Thinking with and after Watsuji,” The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference, Taipei, Taiwan (March 26)
- 2015 “*Fūdo* as the Disclosure of Nature: Re-Reading Watsuji with Heidegger,” European Network of Japanese Philosophy Conference, Barcelona, Spain (December 4)
 “Watsuji on the Place of the Self: Continuity, Transcendence, and Ethical Life,” The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference, Reykjavík, Iceland (May 16)
- 2014 “Nature as Unity, Heterogeneity, Productivity: Merleau-Ponty on the Vertical Genesis of Sense,” Society for European Philosophy and Forum for European Philosophy Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands (September 3)
- “Comparative Philosophy and the Work of Disclosure: Ricoeur on Metaphor and Translation,” 2014 International Conference on Paul Ricoeur, Hermeneutics, and Asia, Taipei, Taiwan (May 30)
- “Belonging to the World: Nishida vs. Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty on Perceptual Truth,” The Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference, Santa Barbara, CA (March 21)
- 2013 “The Self-Determination of the Whole: Nishida on the Achievement of Perception,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference, Singapore (July 10)
- 2010 “Friendship as Reciprocity: Aristotle, Kant, and the Demands of Particularity,” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN (March 6)

TEACHING

Classical and Contemporary Asian Philosophy (undergraduate)
 History of Western Philosophy [from Plato to Nietzsche] (undergraduate)
 Modernism and the Arts (undergraduate)
 Ancient Philosophy East and West (proseminar)
 Merleau-Ponty (graduate)
 Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics (graduate)
 Intersubjectivity (graduate)
 Comparative Phenomenology (graduate)

SERVICE

To the Profession

- Member, American Philosophical Association Committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research (2021-2023)
 - Occasional Referee: *Philosophy East and West*, *Continental Philosophy Review*, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*, *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*, *Journal of Japanese Philosophy*, *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy*, *Contemporary Japan*, *Metodo*, *International Studies in Phenomenology and Philosophy*

- Reviewer of Book Manuscripts: *Bloomsbury, Palgrave Macmillan, SUNY Press, Rowman and Littlefield, Tetsugaku Companions to Japanese Philosophy*
- Editorial Board, European Network of Japanese Philosophy
- Editorial Board, *The Journal of East Asian Philosophy*
- Advisor, International Society of East Asian Philosophy

LANGUAGES

- Japanese – research proficiency reading, highly proficient speaking
- German – research proficiency reading, competent speaking
- French – research proficiency reading, competent speaking
- Classical Chinese – elementary proficiency

LEARNED SOCIETIES

- American Philosophical Association
- Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
- Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle
- International Association for Japanese Philosophy
- European Network of Japanese Philosophy
- International Society of East Asian Philosophy

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 1999-2005: Japanese language study; English language editor, translator, and instructor (writing and speaking), Tokyo and Osaka, Japan.
- 1998: AmeriCorps VISTA member, Minneapolis, MN