

## **Michael Chiddo, Ph.D.**

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516.375.7143

### **EDUCATION**

2016-2023	Ph.D. in Philosophy, Emory University
2013-2015	M.A. in Philosophy, Stony Brook University
2004-2008	B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, CUNY at Hunter College

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### **DISSERTATION**

“Complete Affirmation: Nietzsche, Critique, and Freedom”

In my dissertation I develop a framework for evaluating the transformative potential of ethical and political concepts through Nietzsche’s analysis of nihilism and call for affirmation. Nihilism expresses a movement of existential devaluation. It follows, ironically, from exclusively prioritizing the value of truth, which Nietzsche terms the will to truth. To combat this, he turns the will to truth on itself, less to embrace skepticism than to pursue its self-overcoming in an affirmative stance toward partial and limited knowledge, or untruth, in the name of values such as creativity, growth, and power. This process, I argue, exemplifies what Foucault later presents of critique as a practice of freedom. By reading these lines of thought together, I develop a way to assess the transformative character of critical initiatives. I pursue this assessment through discussions of destituent power, a concept of “counterpower” employed by various left-leaning initiatives, such as insurrectionary anarchism. I conclude that despite their intentions, these destituent efforts remain trapped in the orbit of nihilism. A more genuine, affirmative approach can be found elsewhere, however, as I demonstrate through efforts to “complete” counterpower.

Supervisor: John Lysaker (William R. Kenan Professor of Philosophy, Emory University)  
Committee: John Stuhr (Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and American Studies); Andrew Mitchell (Professor of Philosophy, Emory University); Ernesto Blanes-Martinez (Assistant Professor, Emory University); Christa Davis Acampora (Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia)

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### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy (esp. Nietzsche and post-structuralism)  
Social and Political Philosophy

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Aesthetics  
Ethics

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

2021-2022 Graduate Fellow, Emory Libraries/Center for Digital Scholarship -  
Instruction and Engagement and Emory Writing Center

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## PUBLICATIONS

2022 “Unwritten Futures: Deleuze, Affirmation, and Creative Becoming.”  
in *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Volume 36, Number 1, 2022.

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## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2021 “Comments on Nietzschean Compassion.” Commentator,  
Symposium: Nietzschean Compassion. Eastern Division Meeting  
of American Philosophical Association (APA)

2019 “Silent Places, Open Futures: Toward a Provincializing *Ethos*.”  
Panelist at Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, Villanova  
University

2017 “What is the Value of Kin?” Respondent for Speaker Series,  
Emory University

2015 “Redeem This! Nietzsche, Dionysus, and Punk Rock.” Panelist at  
Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy and Aesthetics, Stony  
Brook University

2014 “Outside Insides and Inside the Outside.” Respondent for panel on  
“Hospitality: Insides and Outsides” at Graduate Student  
Conference in Philosophy and Aesthetics, Stony Brook University

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## COURSES TAUGHT

### University of West Georgia

2024 Philosophy in Literature and Film  
Introduction to Philosophy

2023 Feminist Philosophy  
Critical Thinking  
Introduction to Philosophy

### Emory

2023 Introduction to Bioethics (current)

2022 Introduction to Philosophy of Film

2021 Introduction to Bioethics

2020 Introduction to Bioethics

2018

Existentialism and European Philosophy

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### **SERVICE**

2018-2019 Graduate Student Representative to Faculty, Department of  
Philosophy, Emory University  
2017-2018 Secretary for “Friday Philosophy Forum,” Emory University  
2016-2017 Caterer for “Friday Philosophy Forum,” Emory University

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### **COURSEWORK**

Deleuze: Difference, Sense, Politics, John Stuhr  
Politics in Deconstruction, Geoffrey Bennington  
Ethics and Emotions, Cynthia Willett  
Provincializing Kant, Dilek Huseyinzadegan  
Foucault and Sartre, Thomas Flynn  
Phenomenology and Race, George Yancy  
Psychoanalysis and Continental Political Philosophy, Noelle McAfee  
Aristotle on Justice, Marta Jimenez  
Poetics as Politics, Cynthia Willett  
Accounting for Ourselves, John Lysaker  
Cornel West and bell hooks, George Yancy  
Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School, Ralph Buchenhorst  
Introduction to Psychoanalytic Studies, Mark Stoholski

#### *At Stony Brook University:*

Deleuze, Edward Casey  
Kant: Practical Philosophy, Jeffrey Edwards  
Sex and Democracy, Anne O’Byrne  
Hegel’s Aesthetic Theory, David Kleinberg-Levin  
Phenomenology and Painting, Megan Craig  
Nietzsche, Anne O’Byrne  
Derrida: Early and Late, Edward Casey  
Phenomenology of Color, Megan Craig  
Temporality and Ethics, Eduardo Mendieta  
Art, Philosophy, and Genocide, Anne O’Byrne  
Written Word and Visual Image, Edward Casey

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### **LANGUAGES**

French Basic reading  
Spanish Basic reading

## REFERENCES

John Lysaker, Emory University (dissertation supervisor; [jlysake@emory.edu](mailto:jlysake@emory.edu))

John Stuhr, Emory University (dissertation committee; [jstuhr@emory.edu](mailto:jstuhr@emory.edu))

Christa Acampora, University of Virginia (dissertation committee;  
[christa.acampora@virginia.edu](mailto:christa.acampora@virginia.edu))