MICHAEL BROWN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow ..... September 2026
University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science ..... August 2026
University of Notre Dame

Dissertation: *"Between the Flesh and the Idea: Situating the Body in the Psychiatry of Self-Harm"*

> In the last several decades, self-harm has emerged as a serious mental health challenge. It also presents a philosophical conundrum: the body that is harmed is both distinct from and, at the same time, identical to the self. This formal paradox has a phenomenological analog: When certain individuals harm themselves, they experience their body from at least two aspects: as a source of medical representations and as a way of expressing and making real their feelings. I untangle this conundrum by exposing its cause: the psychiatric disambiguation of the body. The representing body cannot be the expressive body, and the expressive body struggles to be merely representative. More specifically, the body, under the lens of psychiatry, cannot both intend to express its inner pain and be a passive representation of mental disorder. Drawing on extensive case studies in self-harm, I examine how a phenomenology of the body like that offered by Maurice Merleau-Ponty can help psychiatry conceptualize these bodily conundrums. By accepting that the body is ambiguous, we gain a better understanding of self-harm and a richer philosophy of the body in general.

Committee: Barbara Montero (advisor), Francesca Bordogna, Stephen Watson, Adam Leite (external)

Master of Arts in History ..... December 2020
Southern Connecticut State University

Thesis: *"The Proteus of Nature: The Epigenetic Metaphor in Kant and Schelling"*

Covenant College ..... December 2014
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of science; history of modern philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Twentieth-century Continental philosophy (Merleau-Ponty and Foucault); philosophy of biology; philosophy of artificial intelligence

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- "Expression and Representation: Bodily Ambiguity in the Psychiatry of Self-Harm"
- "Hegel's Logic of the Body Politic"
- "Kant's Problematic Life Concept"
- "Pluralism, Gestalts, and the Body in Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy of Science"

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"Logic of the Body Politic: The Novelty of Hegel's State-Body Analogy," 2026
History of Philosophy Forum Works in Progress Luncheon

"Four Problems for a Science of the Body in Merleau-Ponty," 2024
World Congress of Philosophy

"I, Organism: Reflections on a Particular History and Philosophy of the Organism Concept," 2023
Philosophy and Biology Shop-Talks

"I, Organism: Reflections on a Particular History and Philosophy of the Organism Concept," 2023
AAAS

"Schelling and the Genesis of Matter," 2022
History of Philosophy Forum Works in Progress Luncheon

"Human Freedom is Nature's Freedom," 2022
The International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place

"The Death of Birth: Ecological Totalitarianism," 2021
The International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Organs & Origins Student Fellowship — McGrath Institute 2024

Fran Dykstra Thesis of Distinction in History Award — SCSU 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Human and Machine: History and Philosophy of AI ..... Fall 2026

Freedom and Nature: Introduction to German Philosophy from Kant to Hegel ..... Spring 2026

Philosophy and Biology ..... Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant

Scientific Inquiry: Past & Present ..... Fall 2023

Intro. to Philosophy: Philosophy and Science ..... Fall 2022

ANT209: Archaeology ..... Spring 2019

Guest Lectures

Mind, Consciousness and the Human Self (2 classes) ..... Spring 2025

Modern European Philosophy (2 classes) ..... Spring 2023

HIS105 ..... Fall 2020

Philosophy of Science ..... Fall 2020

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

Normativity of Nature 2022
Witherspoon Institute Thomistic Seminar (Princeton)

Representation in Art and Science 2022
Institute Vienna Circle Summer School

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

20th Century Continental Philosophy

Proust and the Philosophers

Sci/Fi: About Worlds Old & New

Phenomenology

Historical Epistemology

Adorno

History of Modern Philosophy

The Soul

Leibniz

Hegel, Appropriators & Critics

The Kantian Mind

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Dr. Katharina Kraus ..... Spring 2022

Research Assistant for Dr. Michele Thompson ..... Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

SERVICE

Respondent, "Phenomenological Measurement," Central APA 2026

Co-organizer, Sixth Annual Notre Dame HPS Conference 2024

Referee, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 2024
Undergraduate Mentor 2023
Co-organizer, HPS Colloquium 2022

LANGUAGES

German ..... Speaking proficiency
French ..... Reading proficiency

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Completed