

Assoc Professor. Chris Watkin
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Biography

As an undergraduate I read Modern and Medieval Languages (French and German) at Jesus College, Cambridge from 1998-2002, with a wonderful year in Paris as part of my study. In 2002-03 I completed an MPhil in European Literature and Culture, with essays on Derrida and Calvin (a fascinating pair of thinkers to explore together), and a dissertation on Paul Ricoeur's work on justice. I then received AHRC funding to complete a PhD from 2003-2006, which became the book *Phenomenology or Deconstruction?*

After that I spent a year without a regular job, supervising and teaching at various colleges in Cambridge and applying for Junior Research Fellowships. I am very grateful to Magdalene College for the opportunity to work as the Lumley Junior Research Fellow from 2007-09, giving me the chance to work on the project that became *Difficult Atheism*. Gradually working my way further up Castle Hill, I then took up a temporary University Lectureship in French at Cambridge and fellowship at Murray Edwards College (formerly New Hall) from 2009-11, before moving with my wife Alison to Melbourne in 2011 to begin a senior lectureship in French Studies at Monash University. In addition to teaching and research duties I have served terms of office as Deputy Head of School (Research), school Honours Coordinator and Head of French. I became a Christian when I was fifteen years old and since then I have been fascinated by the ways in which philosophy and contemporary culture can be brought into conversation with Christian theology.

Qualifications

Modern European Thought, PhD, *Phenomenology or Deconstruction? The Question of Ontology in Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Paul Ricoeur and Jean-Luc Nancy*, University of Cambridge
Award Date: 31 Jul 2007

European thought, Junior Research Fellow, *Difficult Atheism*, Magdalene College

Employment

ARC Future Fellow

European Languages
MONASH UNIVERSITY
26 Sept 2011 → present

Monash Data Futures Institute

MONASH UNIVERSITY
1 Sept 2020 → present

Books

Michel Serres: Figures of Thought

Watkin, C., 2020, Edingburgh UK: Edinburgh University Press. 488 p.

Michel Foucault

Watkin, C. M., 2018, Phillipsburg NJ USA: P&R Publishing. 179 p. (Great Thinkers)

Jacques Derrida

Watkin, C., 2017, Phillipsburg NJ USA: P&R. 148 p. (Great Thinkers: Critical Studies of Minds That Shape Us)

Thinking Through Creation: Genesis 1 and 2 as Tools of Cultural Critique

Watkin, C. M., 2017, Phillipsburg NJ USA: P&R.

French Philosophy Today: New Figures of the Human in Badiou, Meillassoux, Malabou, Serres and Latour
Watkin, C., 2016, 1st ed. Edinburgh UK: Edinburgh University Press. 258 p.

Difficult Atheism: Post-theological thinking in Alain Badiou, Jean-Luc Nancy and Quentin Meillassoux
Watkin, C., 2011, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 277 p.

From Plato to Postmodernism: The Story of the West Through Philosophy, Literature and Art
Watkin, C., 2011, UK: Bristol Classical Press. 256 p.

Phenomenology or Deconstruction? The Question of Ontology in Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Paul Ricoeur and Jean-Luc Nancy
Watkin, C., 2009, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 263 p.

Editorial Responsibilities

Articles and Book Chapters

Sites of modernity: Rousseau and the state of nature
Watkin, C., Apr 2023, In: Australian Journal of French Studies. 60, 2, p. 185-197 13 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Una narrativa fenomenologica del contratto sociale
Watkin, C., Nov 2021, In: Logoi.ph. VII, 18, p. 171-176 6 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Nancy is a thinker of radical emancipation
Watkin, C., 2021, In: Angelaki - Journal of the Theoretical Humanities. 26, 3-4, p. 225-238 14 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Figures de la pensée
Watkin, C., 2020, *Michel Serres : Hommage À 50 Voix*. Bancquart, S. (ed.). Paris France: Editions le Pommier, p. 104-106 3 p.
Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Other

Representing French and francophone studies with michel serres
Watkin, C., 1 Jul 2019, In: Australian Journal of French Studies. 56, 2, p. 125-140 16 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Postmodernism
Watkin, C., 19 Apr 2019, *A Companion to Atheism and Philosophy*. Oppy, G. (ed.). Oxford UK: Wiley-Blackwell, p. 138-151 14 p. (Blackwell Companions to Philosophy).
Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Not more of the same: Michel Serres's challenge to the ethics of alterity
Watkin, C., 2019, In: Philosophy Today. 63, 2, p. 513-533 21 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Why Michel Serres?
Watkin, C., 2019, In: SubStance. 48, 9, p. 30-40 11 p.
Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

If my brain is damaged, do I become a different person? Catherine Malabou and neuro-identity
Watkin, C. M., 31 Jul 2017, *Reconstructing Identity: A Transdisciplinary Approach*. McDonald, S., Monk, N., Lindgren, M. & Pasfield-Neofitou, S. (eds.). Cham Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 21-40 20 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Michel Serres: From restricted to general ecology

Watkin, C., 2017, *French Ecocriticism: From the Early Modern Period to the Twenty-First Century*. Finch-Race, D. A. & Posthumus, S. (eds.). Frankfurt Germany: Peter Lang Publishing, Vol. 1. p. 153-172 20 p. (Studies in Literature, Culture, And the Environment).

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Dancing equality: Image, imitation and participation

Watkin, C., 2016, *Nancy and Visual Culture*. Giunta, C. & Janus, A. (eds.). 1 ed. Edinburgh UK: Edinburgh University Press, p. 39 - 54 16 p. (Critical Connections).

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Badiou and Nancy: political animals

Watkin, C. M., 2015, *Nancy and the Political*. Dejanovic, S. (ed.). 1 ed. Edinburgh UK: Edinburgh University Press, p. 43 - 65 23 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Entries on "God:", "Incarnation", "Christianity" and "Atheism"

Watkin, C. M., 2015, *A Nancy Dictionary*. Gratton, P. & Morin, M-E. (eds.). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Other › peer-review

Michel Serres' great story: from biosemiotics to econarratology

Watkin, C. M., 2015, In: *SubStance*. 44, 3, p. 171 - 187 17 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Rewriting the death of the author: Rancierian reflections

Watkin, C. M., 2015, In: *Philosophy and Literature*. 39, 1, p. 32 - 46 15 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Proving the principle of logic: Quentin Meillassoux, Jean-Luc Nancy, and the anhypothetical

Watkin, C. M., 2014, *Other Logics: Alternatives to Formal Logic in the History of Thought and Contemporary Philosophy*. Skodo, A. (ed.). Leiden Netherlands: Brill, p. 17 - 31 15 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Ricoeur and the autonomy of philosophy: a reappraisal

Watkin, C. M., 2014, In: *Philosophy Today*. 58, 3, p. 411 - 425 15 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

De Omni Re Scibili: Kevin Hart Philosopher, Theologian, Poet

Watkin, C. M., 2013, In: *Parrhesia: a journal of critical philosophy*. 18, p. 36-40 5 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Relativisme/[Relativism]

Watkin, C. M., 2013, *La foi chretienne et les defis du monde contemporain/[The Christian Faith and Challenges of the Contemporary World]*. Paya, C. & Farelly, N. (eds.). Charols France: Excelsis, p. 557 - 565 9 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Thinking equality today: Badiou, Ranciere, Nancy

Watkin, C. M., 2013, In: *French Studies*. 67, 4, p. 522 - 534 13 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Being Just? Ontology and incommensurability in Nancy's notion of justice

Watkin, C., 2012, *Jean-Luc Nancy: Justice, Legality, World*. Hutchens, B. (ed.). London: Continuum International Publishing Group, p. 19 - 34 16 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

Paul Ricoeur and the possibility of just love

Watkin, C., 2008, *Transforming Philosophy and Religion*. Wirzba, N. & Benson, B. E. (eds.). United States: Indiana University Press, p. 73 - 83 11 p.

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Conference proceeding › Chapter (Book) › Research › peer-review

A different alterity: Jean-Luc Nancy's 'Singular Plural'

Watkin, C., 1 Jul 2007, In: *Paragraph*. 30, 2, p. 50-64 15 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Neither/nor: Jean-Luc Nancy's deconstrcutions of Christianity

Watkin, C., 2007, In: *Research in Phenomenology*. 37, 1, p. 115 - 143 29 p.

Research output: Contribution to journal › Article › Research › peer-review

Engagement