

## SANEM SOYARSLAN

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### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

NC State University, Associate Professor of Philosophy (August 2020, present)  
NC State University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy (August 2013-August 2020)  
Boston University, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy (July 2011-July 2013)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy	Duke University	(2011)
M.A. Philosophy	Boğaziçi University, Turkey	(2005)
M.A. Political Science	Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)	(2000)
B.A. Political Science, <i>with honors</i>	Boğaziçi University, Turkey	(1999)

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Spinoza, Early Modern Philosophy, History of Ethics

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Monographs

Soyarslan S. (under contract), *Human Freedom in Spinoza's Ethics*, Cambridge University Press.

#### Journal Articles

Soyarslan S. (2025), "Loneliness, "Solitude, and Philosophic Contemplation," *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review / Revue canadienne de philosophie*,  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0012217325000113>

Soyarslan S. (2024), "Spinoza's Authentic Solitude," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*,  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12603>

Soyarslan, S. (2024), "How to Understand the Ineliminable Weakness of Finite Modes in Spinoza," *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, Volume 41, Number 1, 23-44.

Soyarslan, S. (2023), "Reply to Nadler: Spinoza's Free Person and Wise Person Reconsidered," *Journal of Spinoza Studies*, 2, no. 2: 60–76, doi: <https://doi.org/10.21827/jss.2.2.41365>

Soyarslan, S. (2023), "The Power and Limits of Friendship in Spinoza's *Ethics*," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 31:5, 932-949, DOI: 10.1080/09608788.2023.2173137

Soyarslan, S. (2021), "Spinoza's Account of Blessedness Explored Through an Aristotelian Lens," *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review / Revue canadienne de philosophie*, 60 (3): 499-524.

- Soyarslan, S. (2020) “From Humility to Envy: Questioning the Usefulness of Sad Passions as a Means towards Virtue in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, 28:1, 33-47.
- Soyarslan, S. (2019), “Two Ethical Ideals in Spinoza’s *Ethics*: The Free Man and The Wise Man,” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 5:3, 357-370.
- Soyarslan, S. (2018) “Spinoza’s Critique of Humility in the *Ethics*,” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 56:3, 342-364.
- Soyarslan, S. (2016) “The Distinction between Reason and Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, 24:1, 27-54.
- Soyarslan, S. (2014) “The Susceptibility of Intuitive Knowledge to *Akrasia* in Spinoza’s Ethical Thought,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 22:4, 725-747.

### **Book Chapters**

- Soyarslan, S. (forthcoming), “Spinoza’s Changing Views on Humility Explored Through a Cartesian Lens” in Justin Steinberg (ed.) *Oxford Philosophical Concepts: Humility, A History*, Oxford University Press.
- Soyarslan, S. (2014) “From Ordinary Life to Blessedness: The Power of Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” in Matthew Kisner and Andrew Youpa (eds.) *Essays on Spinoza’s Ethical Theory*, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 236-257.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

- Soyarslan, S. (2025), The entries on *acquiescentia (mentis, in se ipso)* [word count:1438], love (including intellectual love of God) [word count: 1506)], and pride and humility [word count: 508] in Justin Steinberg and Karolina Hübner (eds.) *Cambridge Spinoza Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108992459>

### **Translations**

- Translation from French to Turkish: Balibar, Etienne. (2004) *Spinoza ve Siyaset (Spinoza et la Politique)*, Otonom Publishing, Istanbul.

### **RECENT PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & INVITED COMMENTS (\* INDICATES REFEREED)**

- \*“Together Alone? Examining the Freedom and Isolation of the Philosopher in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” North American Spinoza Society 2025 Meeting, University of South Carolina, May 20, 2025.
- \*“Human Freedom in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society, Wake Forest University, March 21-22, 2025
- “How to Read the *Ethics*? (Etika’yi Nasıl Okumali?),” *Spinoza Circle in Turkey*, May 14, 2024.
- “Together Alone? Loneliness, Solitude, and the Good Life,” Departmental Work-in-Progress Session, NC State University, April 12, 2024.

- \*“A Conceptual Analysis of Solitude and Loneliness,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, April 6, 2024.
- \*“Loneliness, Solitude, and the Good Life,” Joint Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society and the South Carolina Society for Philosophy, March 16, 2024.
- “Spinoza’s Authentic Solitude,” Colloquium, Sabanci University Cultural Studies Program, July 11, 2023.
- “How to Understand the Ineliminable Weakness of Finite Modes in Spinoza,” *Acosmism and Pantheism from Spinoza to German Idealism*, University of Toronto, May 1, 2023.
- \*“Spinoza’s Solitude,” North Carolina Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Duke University, March 4, 2023.
- Comment on Matthew Kisner’s “Spinoza’s Comparison Argument: Why Good and Bad Only Exist in Thought,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, April 16, 2022.
- “Two Kinds of Friendship in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *North American Spinoza Society Session*, APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, February 23, 2022.
- “Two Kinds of Friendship in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” Departmental Work-in-Progress Session, NC State University, February 4, 2022.
- “Spinoza’s Changing Views on Humility Explored Through a Cartesian Lens,” *OPC Humility Workshop*, Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic), May 18, 2021.
- “Are There Two Ethical Projects in Spinoza’s *Ethics*?” *Spinoza Workshop@UCSD*, Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 pandemic, May 23, 2021.
- Comment on Joel Van Fossen’s “On Egoism and Honor in Spinoza,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Virtual Meeting due to Covid-19 pandemic, January 16, 2021.
- “The Unity of Spinoza’s Ethics Explored Through an Aristotelian Lens,” Departmental Colloquium, The Pennsylvania State University Philosophy Department, March 6, 2020.
- “Is Spinoza’s Blessedness a Contemplative Ideal?” Departmental Work-in-Progress Session, NC State University, November 8, 2019.
- \* “Spinoza’s Account of Blessedness Explored Through an Aristotelian Lens,” *North American Spinoza Society Session*, APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, February 23, 2019.
- “The Attainability of Spinoza’s Free Person Reconsidered,” *North American Spinoza Society Session*, APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York City, January 8, 2019.
- “The Empowered Life,” *Spinoza’s Ethics of Joy: A Manuscript Workshop*, University of Toronto, March 24, 2018.
- \* “Rethinking the Usefulness of Sad Passions as a Means towards Virtue in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *North American Spinoza Society Session*, APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, February 22, 2018.
- “From Humility to Envy: Rethinking the Instrumental Value of Humility in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *Spinoza Workshop*, Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, June 28, 2017.

\* “Spinoza’s Critique of Humility in the *Ethics*,” *New England Colloquium in Early Modern Philosophy*, Yale University, May 18, 2016.

“Spinoza’s Critique of Humility in the *Ethics*,” *Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy*, UNC-Chapel Hill, April 26, 2016.

“From Humility to Envy: Rethinking the Instrumental Value of Humility in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” Departmental Work-in-Progress Session, NC State University, April 22, 2016.

Comment on Anne-Lise Rey’s “L’Épistémologie d’Emilie du Châtelet: Quelques Éléments,” *New Narratives in Philosophy Conference*, Duke University, April 16, 2016.

Comment on Matthew Homan’s “Towards a More Concrete Interpretation of Spinoza’s *Scientia Intuitiva*,” APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, March 2, 2016.

“Spinoza’s Critique of Humility in the *Ethics*,” Departmental Colloquium, Boğaziçi University, May 12, 2015.

*Descartes-Spinoza Workshop*, Johns Hopkins University, September 14, 2014.

“The Transformative Ascent in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *Triangle Area Philosophy Symposium*, Duke University, August 23, 2014.

“The Transformative Ascent from Ordinary Life to Blessedness in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” Departmental Colloquium, Istanbul Technical University, May 27, 2014.

\* “The Power of Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s *Ethics*: The Case of *Akrasia*,” *South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, Texas A&M University, September 27-28, 2013.

“The Distinction between Reason and Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” Departmental Colloquia, NC State University, January 2013; Loyola University Chicago, January 2013; George Washington University, February 2013.

\* “The Susceptibility of Intuitive Knowledge to *Akrasia* in Spinoza’s Ethical Thought,” *Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, California State Polytechnic University, February 16-17, 2013.

“The View *Sub Specie Aeternitatis* in Spinoza’s Moral Philosophy,” Departmental Colloquium, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, February 2012.

\* “The View *Sub Specie Aeternitatis*: Understanding Nature and Oneself in Spinoza’s Ethical Thought,” *Spinoza Workshop*, Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences, Ghent University, December 2-3, 2010.

\* “The Distinction between Reason and Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of New Mexico, February 27-28, 2010.

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

- NC State University College Outstanding Junior Faculty Award in the Humanities (2020)
- Duke University Summer Research Fellowship (June-August 2011)
- The Woodrow Wilson Foundation Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship (Finalist)
- Duke University Summer Research Fellowship (June-August 2009)
- Duke University Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Colloquium Award (2008-2009)
- Boğaziçi University Merit-Based Fellowship (for entire undergraduate education)

**JOURNAL REFEREE**

*Journal of the History of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, History of Philosophy Quarterly, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale, Revue philosophique de la France et de l'étranger, Journal of Modern Philosophy, The Southern Journal of Philosophy*

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*North American Spinoza Society, Spinoza Society of Canada*

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), French (speaking and reading), Latin (reading), Turkish (native).