

Gerald Nelson Jr.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: gkn5069@psu.edu

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Doctor of Philosophy, expected May 2026

Dissertation: “The Ethics of Place: The Kyoto School and Levinas”
Committee: Nicolas De Warren (director), Sarah Clark Miller, Ted Toadvine, Erica Brindley (ext.)

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Bachelor of Arts, May 2018
Major: Philosophy
Minor: Japanese Language and Culture

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- *Areas of Specialization*
 - Asian philosophy (with a focus on the Kyoto School), 20th-century continental philosophy (with a focus on Emmanuel Levinas), Ethics
- *Areas of Competence*
 - Care Ethics, Critical Philosophy of Race

PUBLICATIONS

- “A Nishitanian Ethics of Sympathy,” *The Journal of East Asian Philosophy*

TRANSLATIONS

- *Under Review*
 - Translation from Japanese to English of Nishida Kitarō’s “On Descartes’s Philosophy,” *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy*

TEACHING

- *Instructor*
 - Ethics — Spring 2024
 - Asian Philosophy — Fall 2023
 - Ethical Leadership — Summer 2023
 - Ethics — Spring 2023
 - Asian Philosophy — Spring 2022
- *Teaching Assistant*
 - Social and Political Philosophy — Fall 2021

HONORS

- President of Vanderbilt Japanese Cultural Foundation (2013– 2014)
- Dean’s List at Vanderbilt University (2014 - 2016)
- Posse Foundation Full Tuition Leadership Scholarship (2012– 2017)
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Summer Fellow (2022)
- Shoyu Scholarship for Japanese Language Study (2022-2023)

PRESENTATIONS

- *Peer-reviewed*
 - “Intersubjectivity as Openness and Expression: A Deleuzian Approach to Intersubjectivity,” Boston College Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 2021.
 - “Nishitani’s Concept of Absolute Autonomy,” European Network of Japanese Philosophers Conference, September 2023.
 - “A Nishitanian Ethics of Sympathy,” International Society for East Asian Philosophy Conference, September 2023.
 - “Black Experience Interpreted as Species: Frantz Fanon and Tanabe Hajime,” Philosophy of the Black Experience Conference, March 2024.
- *Invited Talks*
 - “Nishitani Keiji’s Ethics of Mysticism,” Nishitani Keiji Workshop on the Philosophy of Religion, May 2023.
 - “The Reality of Doubt: Nishida’s Rereading of Descartes and His Legacy,” Nishida’s Philosophy Permanent Seminar, Nov 2023.

LANGUAGES

- *Language:*
 - Business-level fluency in the Japanese language
 - Graduate of Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama (2022-2023)
 - JLPT N2 Certificate (Second highest fluency certificate offered for the national exam in Japan)