

Jan Szaif

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Curriculum vitae

Education

Free University of Berlin (West-Germany)

1980-1988: Studies in Philosophy, Ancient Greek, German Lit., Greek and Roman History. completed with an M.A. in Philosophy & Ancient Greek (M.A.-Thesis on *Aristotle's Theory of Universals*).

1989 – 1993: PhD Student in Philosophy (advisor: Ernst Tugendhat), Dissertation on *Plato's Concept of Truth*, defended Oct. 1993.

University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)

April 1990 – March 1991: Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Classics and Darwin College (advisor: Myles Burnyeat).

Appointments

University of Bonn (Germany)

Feb. 1993 – Dec. 2004: consecutive full time appointments as:
Research Fellow, Assistant Professor (C1), Replacement Professor.

June 2001: *Habilitation* (= promotion to senior standing with the title *Privatdozent*).

University of California, Davis

January 2005 – March 2006: visiting professor.

July 1, 2006: Associate Professor of Philosophy.

July 1, 2009: promotion to (full) Professor.

Stipendiary Fellowships and Visiting Professorships:

Oct. 1997 – Apr. 1998: Europaeum Exchange Research Fellow, University of Oxford.

Jan.–June 2002: Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies (Harvard-University) in Washington DC.

April – Sept. 2000: Research Fellowship of the *Görres Gesellschaft*.

March – April 2003: visiting professor, University of Łódź (Poland).

Oct. 2003 – March 2004: visiting professor, University of Hamburg (Germany).

Jan. 2005 – March 2006: visiting professor, University of California-Davis.

May – June 2014: visiting professor and DoRa fellow, University of Tartu (Estonia).

July 2016: visiting professor (summer course), Xiamen University (China).

AOS: Ancient Greek Philosophy, especially Plato; Aristotelian ethics and metaphysics, including their later reception (also **medieval**); the history of the concepts of truth and being; research interests in ethics and metaphysics/ philosophy of language.

AOC: Ancient and medieval philosophy, contemporary topics in ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of language, and philosophy of religion.

My main area of historical specialization is ancient Greek philosophy. The initial focus of my research was on the development of Plato's conception of truth. This research project spread out into various related topics in **Plato's metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics**. The main outcome of this project has been a book on Plato's concept of truth, which also addresses central problems of Platonic metaphysics and epistemology (1996/98). I continue to work on Plato's metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of language, and on the Socratic and Platonic approach in ethics.

After completing my book on Plato, I turned to an investigation of the **Aristotelian** approach in **ethics**. The outcome of this work has been a book on the Aristotelian and Peripatetic theories of human goods, human well-being, and its natural foundations (published in 2012), in addition to a number of articles that I published on various topics in Aristotelian ethics.

In between, I also published monographs and articles on the role of the concept of **friendship** in ethics and on the function and meaning of the concept of **being** as a focal term in metaphysics.

My current English **book projects** relate to (1) the history of the philosophical concepts of truth and being from Presocratic philosophy to Plato, and (2) the work of the Aristotelian doxographer Arius Didymus as a source on the development of ethical theories in the late Hellenistic Peripatos.

I am also working on a commentary on Platos' *Meno*.

Service:

Philosophy Undergraduate Adviser.

I have served as a peer reviewer for a number of philosophical journals, publishing houses, and grant-giving institutions, and as a member of program committees and advisory committees for academic societies and journals.

From 2001 till 2007, I served as treasurer for the German 'Association for Ancient Philosophy' (GANPH e.V.), which I also helped to found.

Languages:

German, English, Ancient Greek, Latin, French; basic knowledge of Italian and Biblical Hebrew.

Publications
(through August 2017)

Books and monographs:

Platons Begriff der Wahrheit [Plato's Concept of Truth]. Freiburg / München: Alber, 1996, 561 pp., ISBN 3-495-47815-9.
revised **paperback edition**: 1998, ISBN 3-495-47881-7.

Der Sinn von „sein“. ***Grundlinien einer Rekonstruktion des philosophischen Begriffs des Seienden*** [The Sense of 'to be': Outline for a reconstruction of the philosophical concept of being]. Freiburg / München: Alber, 2003, 122 pp., ISBN 3-495-48092-7.

Freundschaft und Moral. Über Freundschaft als Thema der philosophischen Ethik [Friendship and Morality. On Friendship as a Subject of Philosophical Ethics (with a chapter on Aristotle's theory of friendship)]. Bonn: University Press, 2005, 90 pp., ISBN 3-86529-005-1.

Gut des Menschen. Problematik und Entwicklung der Glücksethik bei Aristoteles und in der Tradition des Peripatos [The Good of Human Beings. Problems and Developments in the Aristotelian and Peripatetic Ethics of Eudaimonia] (Quellen und Studien zur Philosophie, ed. by J. Mittelstraß, D. Perler, and J. Halfwassen). Berlin / New York: deGruyter, 2012, 322 pp., ISBN 978-3-11-021691-2.

Audio-book:

Platon. Eine kurze Einführung [Plato. A Short Introduction] (Argon Hörbuch). Berlin: Argon Vlg., 2006, 59 minutes, ISBN 3-86610-108-2.

Edited books:

(coeditor: M. Lutz-Bachmann.) ***Was ist das für den Menschen Gute? Menschliche Natur und Güterlehre / What is good for a human being? Human nature and values***. Berlin / New York: de Gruyter, 2004, ISBN 3-11-017206-2.

(ed. together with M. Enders). ***Der philosophische Wahrheitsbegriff in seiner Geschichte*** [The Philosophical Concept of Truth in its History]. Berlin / New York: de Gruyter, 2006, ISBN 3-11-017754-4.

Book Chapters and Articles in Journals:

“Platoni koopa-võrdpilt” [Plato's Simile of the Cave], transl. into Estonian by M. Lepajõe, *Akadeemia* 9 (1997), Tartu: 1829-1842.

- “Strebensnatur und Interpersonalität in Platons Konzeption von *philia* (Lysis 213D-222D)”**
 [Appetitive Nature and Interpersonality in Plato’s conception of *philia*]. In *Natur und Person im ethischen Disput*, ed. by M. Dreyer and K. Fleischhauer, 25-60. Freiburg / München: Alber, 1998.
- “Selbsterkenntnis: Thomas contra Augustinum”** [Self-Knowledge: Thomas contra Augustinum],
Theologie und Philosophie 74 (1999): 321-337.
- “Platon”** [Plato]. In *Philosophen der Antike, vol. I*, ed. by M. Erler and A. Graeser, 130-148.
 Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2000.
- “Platon über Wahrheit und Kohärenz”** [Plato on Truth and Coherence], *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 82 (2000): 119-148.
- “Artifizielles Werden. Zur ethischen Problematik der künstlichen Herstellung des menschlichen Genoms”** [Artificial Coming-to-be. Ethical Problems of the Artificial Production of the Human Genome], *Jahrbuch für Wissenschaft und Ethik* 5 (2000): 53-62.
- “Sprache, Bedeutung, Wahrheit. Überlegungen zu Platon und seinem Dialog *Kratylos*”**
 [Language, Meaning, Truth. Considerations concerning Plato and his Dialogue *Cratylus*],
Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Philosophie 26 (2001): 45-60.
- “Plato on the ‘Cultivation of the Soul’ through Philosophical Knowledge.”** In *Ideal and Culture of Knowledge in Plato*, ed. by W. Detel, A. Becker, and P. Scholz, 25-36. Stuttgart: Steiner, 2003.
- “Die *Aletheia* in Platons Tugendlehre”** [The *Aletheia* in Plato’s Theory of Virtue]. In *Platon Verstehen. Perspektiven der Forschung*, ed. by M. van Ackeren, 183-209. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2004.
 also published in *La vérité. Antiquité – Modernité*, publié par J. Aenishanslien sous la direction de D. O’Meara et I. Schüssler, 19-45. Lausanne: Éditions Payot, 2004.
- “Naturbegriff und Güterlehre in der Ethik des Aristoteles”** [The Concept of Nature and the Doctrine of the Good in Aristotle’s Ethics]. In *Was ist das für den Menschen Gute? Menschliche Natur und Güterlehre / What is good for a human being? Human nature and values*, ed. by J. Szaif and M. Lutz-Bachmann, 54-100. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2004.
- “Aristoteles: eine teleologische Konzeption von Besitz und Eigentum”** [Aristotle: a Teleological Concept of Possession and Property]. In *Was ist Eigentum? Philosophische Klassiker der Eigentumstheorie*, ed. by A. Eckl and B. Ludwig, 43-58. München: Beck, 2005.
- “Der Wahrheitsbegriff in der klassischen Antike”** [The Concept of Truth in Classical Antiquity]. In *Der philosophische Wahrheitsbegriff in seiner Geschichte*, ed. by M. Enders and J. Szaif, 1-32. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2006.
- “Aristotle on the Benefits of Virtue (NE X.7 and IX.8).”** In *The Virtuous Life in Greek Ethics*, ed. by B. Reis, 167-193. Cambridge UP, 2006.
- “Remarks on the Socratic Conception of Rationality,”** *Newsletter of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy*, 2006/7, 2: 3-8.

- “Doxa and Epistêmê as Modes of Acquaintance in Republic V,”** *Les Etudes Platoniciennes*, vol. IV (2007). Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 253-272.
- “Requirements of Knowledge according to the *Meno*.”** In *Plato: Menon und Gorgias* (Akten des VII. Symposium Platonicum), ed. by M. Erler and L. Brisson, 212-217. St. Augustin: Academia Vlg., 2007.
- “Plädoyer für eine formalsemantische Rekonstruktion des philosophischen Begriffs des Seienden”** [A Plea for a Reconstruction of the Concept of Being with the Help of Formal Semantics]. In *Metaphysik heute – Problem und Perspektiven der Ontologie / Metaphysics Today – Problems and Prospects of Ontology*, ed. by M. Lutz-Bachmann and Th. M. Schmidt, 146-195. Freiburg/München: Alber, 2007.
- “Die Aretê des Leibes. Die Stellung des Gesundheit in der Platonischen Güterlehre”** [The Aretê of the Body: The Place of Health in Plato’s Theory of Goods]. In *Leib und Seele in der antiken Philosophie*, ed. by D. Frede and B. Reis, 205-246. Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2009.
- “Epistemologie”** [Epistemology]. In *Platon-Handbuch [Plato-Handbook]. Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, ed. by C. Horn, J. Müller, and J. Söder, 112-130. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2009.
- “Wahrheit”** [Truth]. In *Platon-Handbuch [Plato-Handbook]. Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, ed. by C. Horn, J. Müller, and J. Söder, 347-351. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2009.
- “Wissen - Meinen” [Knowledge - Opinion].** In *Platon-Handbuch [Plato-Handbook]. Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, ed. by C. Horn, J. Müller, and J. Söder, 354-358. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2009.
- “The Beginnings of Greek Ontology and the Question of Temporal Being.”** In *Unity and Time in Metaphysics*, ed. by L. Honnefelder, E. Runggaldier, and B. Schick, 151-182. Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2009.
- “Aristotle on Friendship as the Paradigmatic Form of Relationship.”** In *How Should One Live? Comparing Ethics in Ancient China and Greco-Roman Antiquity*, ed. by R. King and D. Schilling, 208-237. Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2011.
- “Leben aus universaler Wahrheit? Die antiken Wurzeln des Konzepts der Bildung durch Wissenschaft”** [The Ancient Roots of the Concept of Education through Science]. In *Bildung durch Wissenschaft*, ed. by L. Honnefelder e.a., 33-83. Freiburg/München: Alber, 2011.
- “Krieg und Kriegsvermeidung aus der Sicht der platonischen Kultur- und Staatsphilosophie”** [War and Avoidance of War from the Point of View of the Platonic Philosophy of Culture and Politics]. In *Konflikte um Ressourcen – Kriege um Wahrheit* (Alber Grenzfragen), ed. by Gregor Hoff, 51-79. Freiburg/München: Alber, 2013.
- “Natürlichkeit und Künstlichkeit: Bemerkungen zur ethischen Problematik der Manipulierbarkeit des humangenetischen Substrats”** [Naturalness and Artificiality: Comments on ethical questions relating to the manipulability of the human genome]. In *Synthetische Biologie – Leben als Konstrukt*, ed. by G. Rager and G. Wegner, 161-195. Freiburg/München: Alber, 2015.

“Disagreement and Reception. Peripatetics Responding to the Stoic Challenge,” In *Reading the Past Across Space and Time: Receptions and World Literature*, ed. by R. Hexter and B. Schildgen, 121-147. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

“Socrates and the Benefits of Puzzlement.” In *The Aporetic Tradition in Ancient Philosophy*, ed. by George Karamanolis and Vasilis Politis. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2017 (*in press*).

“Plato and Aristotle on Truth and Falsehood.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Truth*, ed. by M. Glanzberg. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017 (*in press*).

“Two Conceptions of ‘Primary Acts of Virtue’ in Doxography C.” In *Arius Didymus on Peripatetic Ethics, Household Management and Politics: Text, Translation and Discussion*, Rutgers University Studies in Classical Humanities, ed. by W. Fortenbaugh, 161-203. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 2017 (*in press*).

Dictionary-Articles (selection):

“Metaphysik, II.1: Historisch, Antike” [Metaphysics (ancient)]. In *LThK*, 3rd ed., vol. 7, 192-194. Freiburg: Herder, 1998.

“Philosophie, II.1: Historisch, Antike” [Philosophy: ancient]. In *LThK*, 3rd ed., vol. 8, 250-252. Freiburg: Herder, 1999, .

“Platon, Platonismus” [Plato, Platonism]. In *LThK*, 3rd ed., vol. 8, 349-353. Freiburg: Herder, 1999.

“Natürlichkeit” [Naturalness]. In *Lexikon der Bioethik*, ed. by W. Korff, L. Beck, and P. Mikat, vol. 2, 736-738. Gütersloh, 1998.

“*eudaimonia*.” In *Wörterbuch der antiken Philosophie*, ed. by Chr. Rapp and Chr. Horn, 158-161. München: Beck, 2002.

“Wahrheit I (Antike)” [Truth (ancient)]. In *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, ed. by J. Ritter e. a., vol. 12, 48-54. Basel: Schwabe, 2005.

“Wahrhaftigkeit (Antike u. Mittelalter)” [Truthfulness (ancient and medieval)]. In *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, ed. by J. Ritter e. a., vol. 12, 42-44. Basel: Schwabe, 2005.

Review Articles:

“Platon: *Phaidros*, Übersetzung und Kommentar von E. Heitsch (= Platon: Werke, hg. von E. Heitsch und C.W. Müller, Bd. III 4), Göttingen 1993”, *Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung* 49 (1995): 620-625.

“Platon: *Lysis*, Übersetzung und Kommentar von Michael Bordt (= Platon: Werke. Übersetzung und Kommentar, hg. von E. Heitsch und C.W. Müller, Bd. V 4), Göttingen 1998”, *Theologie und Philosophie* 74 (1999): 414-418.

“Klassiker Auslegen (Bd. 7): Platon, Politeia, hg. von Otfried Höffe, Berlin 1997,” *Philosophisches Jahrbuch* 107 (2000): 219-222.

“Dorothea Frede: Platons ›Phaidon‹. Der Traum von der Unsterblichkeit der Seele, Darmstadt 1999,” *Philosophiegeschichte und logische Analyse* 6 (2003): 239-244.

Die Naturalisierung des Guten [The Naturalization of the Good]: Review of “Philippa Foot: Natural Goodness, Oxford 2001,” “Philippa Foot: Moral Dilemmas and other Topics in Moral Philosophy, Oxford 2002,” *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 6/2003: 1056-1061.

“Louis-André Dorion, *Socrate (Que sais-je?)*, Paris 2004,” *Les Etudes Platoniciennes*, vol. III (2006): 339-349. Paris: Les Belles Lettres.

“Paolo Crivelli: Plato’s Account of Falsehood: A Study of the *Sophist*. Cambridge UP: 2012,” *Gnomon* 87 (2015): 454-456.

Books in preparation:

A book on the Doxography of ‘Aristotelian Ethics’ attributed to Arius Didymus (extended draft).

A book on the development of (what I call) the ontologico-epistemic notion of truth in Presocratic philosophy and Plato (work in progress).

A translation with commentary of Plato’s dialogue *Meno* for the series *Platon, Werke*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (work in progress).