

MANISH OZA

Assistant Professor
Faculty of Law
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EDUCATION

- 2020 PhD, University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy
Title: *Logical Form and the Limits of Thought*
- 2018 Birkbeck, University of London (visiting research student)
- 2015 JD, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law
- 2011 BA (Honours), University of Oxford

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021– Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario
Cross-appointed to Department of Philosophy
- 2025 Visiting Professor, Global Professional LLM Program, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Commission Counsel, Ottawa Light Rail Transit Public Inquiry
- 2020–21 Judicial Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Canada (Justice Rowe)
- 2016–17 Judicial Law Clerk, Court of Appeal for Ontario

PUBLISHED PAPERS

[Justiciability in Private Law: Religion and Politics](#) *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* (forthcoming)

[Voluntary Associations and the Rule of Law](#) *McGill Law Journal* (2026)

[Can We Legally Revise the Highest Legal Rule?](#) *Legal Theory* (2025)

[The Personality of Public Authorities](#) *Law and Philosophy* (2024)

[Agency and Theoretical Reason in *The Practical Self*](#) *Inquiry* (2024)

[Fictions in Legal Reasoning](#) *Dialogue* (2023)

[Structural Analysis and the Canadian Constitution](#) (with M. Rowe) *Canadian Bar Review* (2023)

[Tort Claims Against Public Authorities](#) (with M. Rowe) *Alberta Law Review* (2022)

[Nonsense: A User's Guide](#) *Inquiry* (2022)

[Hegel and Formal Idealism](#) *Hegel Bulletin* (2022)

[The Value of Thinking and the Normativity of Logic](#) *Philosophers' Imprint* (2020)

BOOK CHAPTERS AND REPORTS

[Personification in Private Law](#) in P. Miller, E. Micheler, C. Essert (eds.), *Legal Personhood in Private Law* (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press)

Advocacy and the Best Interests of Charitable Corporations (with B. Miller), report accepted for *Charity and Law in Canada* (forthcoming, Law Commission of Canada)

Intention to Contract in Jason Neyers (ed.), *Fridman on Contracts*, 8th ed. (2024)

BOOK REVIEWS

[Eric Claeys, *Natural Property Rights*](#). *Law and Philosophy* (2026)

[Gabriele Badano & Alasia Nuti, *Politicizing Political Liberalism*](#). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2025)

[Allan Beever, *Freedom Under the Private Law*](#). *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* (2024)

[Daniel Chandler, *Free and Equal: What Would a Fair Society Look Like?*](#) *Perspectives Journal* (2024 online).

[Irit Samet, *Equity: Conscience Comes to Market*](#). *University of Toronto Law Journal* (2020)

[Edward Kanterian, *Frege*](#). *History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis* (2015)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 “Personification in Private Law.” Philosophy & Private Law Discussion Group (online).

2026 “Legal Reasoning and Ordinary Reasoning.” University of Calgary, Department of Philosophy.

2026 “Legal Reasoning and Ordinary Reasoning.” Western University, Department of Philosophy.

2025 “Personifying Nature in Private Law.” Legal Personhood in Private Law Workshop, Notre Dame Law School, Rome, Italy.

2025 “Convergence in Property Theory.” *Obligations XI*, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA.

2025 “The Rights of Nature.” *Canadian Philosophical Association Congress*.

2025 “Revising the Highest Rule Legally and Democratically.” Berger International Speaker Series, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY.

2024 “Is There a Doctrine of Justiciability in Private Law?” *Canadian Law of Obligations IV*, Université de Montréal.

2024 “Revising the Highest Rule Legally and Democratically.” *Deliberative Governance and Law Workshop*, University of Toronto.

2024 “Public Private Censorship.” *Standing and Disagreement Workshop*, York University.

2024 “Can We Legally Revise the Highest Legal Rule?” *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2023 “The Personality of Public Authorities.” *Obligations X*, Banff, AB.

2023 “Can We Legally Revise the Highest Legal Rule?” *CS-IVR Workshop* (online).

2023 “The Personality of Public Authorities.” *North American Workshop in Private Law Theory (NAWPLT-IX)*, UCLA School of Law.

- 2023 “Can We Legally Revise the Highest Legal Rule?” *Legal Reasoning and Adjudication Workshop*, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2022 “Voluntary Associations and the Rule of Law.” *Canadian Law of Obligations III*, University of British Columbia.
- 2022 “Fictions in Legal Reasoning.” *UK-IVR Annual Conference*.
- 2022 “The Personality of Public Authorities.” MANCEPT Workshop: Corporate Agency and the Responsibilities of Citizens and States, University of Manchester.
- 2022 “Fictions in Legal Reasoning.” *Canadian Philosophical Association Congress*.
- 2019 “Holism and the Limits of Thought.” *8th Annual Wiener Forum für Analytische Philosophie Graduate Conference*.
- 2018 “The Value of Thinking and the Normativity of Logic.” *Logic, Epistemology and Metaphysics Seminar*, Institute of Philosophy, London.
- 2018 “The Necessity and Rationality of Legal Disagreement.” *Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Conference*.
- 2018 “Husserl’s Theory of Logic: Contradiction and Countersense.” *Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy Annual Meeting*.
- 2018 “Illogical Thought and the External Conception.” *Canadian Philosophical Association Congress*.
- 2017 “Kant and Original Acquisition.” *Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Conference*.
- 2016 “Hegel and Formal Idealism.” *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*.
- 2016 “Hegel and Formal Idealism.” *Ontario–Quebec Hegel Organization Conference*, Toronto.

Commentaries

- 2026 Jonathan Livengood, “On the Normativity of Logic”, *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, Chicago, IL.
- 2024 Eric Wilkinson, “Anscombe’s Philosophy of Law.” *Canadian Philosophical Association Congress*.
- 2023 Anil Gomes, *The Practical Self: New Work on the Self Workshop*, University of Toronto.
- 2022 Rebecca Stone, “Normative Uncertainty, Normative Powers, and Limits on Freedom of Contract.” *Yale–Toronto Private Law Theory Workshop*.
- 2018 Jacob Weinrib, “The Puzzle of the State.” *Toronto Graduate Research Weekend*.
- 2017 Christopher Jordan-Stephens, “A Conflict of Principles: The Origin and Problem of Conceptualism in Kant’s Philosophy.” *Canadian Philosophical Association Congress*.
- 2017 Thomas Hofweber, “Idealism and the Harmony between Thought and Reality.” *Workshop: The Intellect and its Philosophical Limits*, Simon Fraser University.

SELECTED RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2026 Interdisciplinary Think Tank Award, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, *Is Law Exceptional?* \$15,171 (Principal Investigator)
- 2025 SSHRC Connection Grant, *Law and Language in a Changing World* \$19,073 (Co-applicant)
- 2024 SSHRC Connection Grant, *New Directions in Law and Language* \$17,780 (Co-applicant)
- 2023 Canadian Journal of Philosophy Conference Grant, *New Directions in Law and Language* \$1,500 (Co-Applicant)
- 2024 Western Interdisciplinary Development Initiative Grant, *Legislative Intent and Ordinary Meaning* \$34,691 (Co-applicant)
- 2023 Law Open Educational Resource Grant, *Open Access Property Law Casebook* \$10,000 (Principal Investigator)
- 2022 Western SSHRC Exchange Grant, *Group Ownership Workshop* \$4,974 (Co-applicant)

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- Untenured Faculty Essay Prize, Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) Congress (2022)
For *Fictions in Legal Reasoning*, published in *Dialogue* (2023).
- Honourable Mention, David Savan Dissertation Prize, University of Toronto (2021)
- Honorary Fellow, Centre for Logic and Language, Institute of Philosophy, University of London (2018)
- Martha Lile Love Essay Award, University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy (2015)

SCHOLARLY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Research Groups, Projects and Events

- 2026– Co-director, “Is Law Exceptional?” Think Tank Project, Rotman Institute of Philosophy
- 2024– Co-director, Legal Philosophy Research Group, Western Law
- 2024– Co-organizer, [Law and Language Project](#), with Andy Yu
- 2025 Organizer, Moral and Legal Personality Symposium, CPA Congress
- 2024 Co-organizer, New Directions in Law and Language Workshop, with Andy Yu
- 2023 Co-organizer, Group Ownership Workshop, with Larissa Katz
- 2023– Co-organizer, Critical Race Theory Reading Group, with Nadia Lambek

Professional Service

- 2023– Programs Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association, member
- 2023– Cherniak Cup, director
- 2022– Clerkships Committee, co-director
- 2014–15 Senior Editorial Board, Indigenous Law Journal

Peer Review

Referee for *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, *Noûs*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Inquiry*, *Ergo*, *Res Philosophica*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Hegel Bulletin*, *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, *Law and Literature*, *Organon F*, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Alberta Law Review*, *UBC Law Review*, *Theory & Practice of Legislation*, University of Toronto Press.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & MEDIA

Media Commentary

“‘Lessons to be learned’ from report on University of Alberta campus protest, legal expert says.”
Law360 Canada, December 19, 2024

“Observers concerned about use of notwithstanding clause to protect Ontario trespass, drug use law.”
Law360 Canada, December 19, 2024.

“Municipalities should tread lightly when considering protest ‘bubble zones,’ lawyers say.” *Law360 Canada*, November 18, 2024.

“Danger of normalizing use of notwithstanding clause ‘cannot be overstated’: civil liberties group.”
Law360 Canada, November 18, 2024.

“Ontario mayors’ calls on homelessness, addiction raise spectre of involuntary detention.” *Law360 Canada*, October 25, 2024.

“Issue of trespass on university campuses less clear than it is for private property.” *Law360 Canada*, June 6 2024.

Public Scholarship and Legal Commentary

2025 [Interview with Lindsay Borrows](#) on Indigenous law and language. *Law and Language Blog*.

2018 Commentary on *Mikisew Cree First Nation v Canada*, 2018 SCC 40. *Ontario Bar Association Aboriginal Law Section Newsletter*.

2017 Commentary on *Cowper-Smith v Morgan*, 2017 SCC 61. *CanLII Connects*.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Courses Taught

Property Law, Western University (2021–present)

Administrative Law, Western University (2023–present)

Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy, Western University (2021–present)

Property Law, University of Toronto GPLLM Program (2025)

Jurisprudence, Western University (2023–24)

Coach, Julius Alexander Isaac Moot Team, Western University (2021–2024)

Topics in Philosophy of Law: Pluralism, University of Toronto (2018)