

Michael Portal

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Education

IAU College (Institut Américain Universitaire) Masters in French Studies	Area: Contemporary French Literature	Aix-en-Provence, France Expected Spring 2018
Rice University Bachelor of Arts	Philosophy and Policy Studies	Houston, Texas Spring 2017 GPA: 3.875 / 4 Cum Laude
IAU College (Institut Américain Universitaire) Study Abroad	French Language and History	Aix-en-Provence, France Fall 2015 GPA: 3.93 / 4

Research Interests

- Post-Kantian European Philosophy with particular interests in Hermeneutics and Phenomenology
- Political Philosophy with particular interests in Empire studies and French thought following May 1968
- Aesthetics and the philosophy of music
- Jewish Philosophy

Research

Martin Heidegger's Critique of Technology and Modern Education (Thesis Director: Dr. Steven Crowell)	2015 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring Heidegger's educational philosophy at the intersection of his views on Technology and Enframing.• Developing common ground between Andrew Feenberg and Iain Thomson to contextualize the modern and political classroom environment.	
Philosemitism in Post-Holocaust Europe (Research Assistant to Dr. Daniel Cohen)	2015 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracing the reversal in common attitudes post-World War II that used Jewish identity as a surrogate for trauma in a Europe recovering from catastrophe.• Compiled and updated a file repository for mobile access to research material (Google Drive Suite).	
What makes Jewish philosophy <i>Jewish</i>?; Studying Levinas	Summer 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independently conducted archival research in Paris funded by the Rice Jewish Studies department.• Investigated the (contested) distinction between Levinas' general philosophical views and his thoughts about Judaism and "Jewish philosophy."	
Modernity and Street Trees: Haussmann's Paris post-1870 (Thesis Director: Dr. Leigh Smith)	Fall 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researched the means by which Haussmann's redesign of Paris facilitated social control through the use of green public space (primarily parks) to mask the modern Military-State apparatus.• Awarded Special Certificate in European Studies from IAU College.	
Haiti and Medical Diplomacy (Research Assistant to Rebecca Gimbel (GS Anthropology))	2013 - Fall 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathered research tracing the history and function of the word "diplomacy" in foreign policy.	

Presentations and Publications

Portal, M. (2018) Noise Beyond Music: Re-reading Drott on the Sound of May 1968 in Two Films by Nilsson and Simonsson. <i>International Symposium of Cinema and Philosophy: Critical May 68</i> at the CineLab FILNOVA, FCSH - New University of Lisbon.	2018
Portal, M. (2018) Revisiting Hobbesian natural law: between normativity, materialism, and politics. <i>Warwick Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory 2018</i> at the University of Warwick.	2018
Troumbley, R., Portal, M. , Duke, S. (2016) Dark Networks of Power: Dissimulation and Procedural Cunning on the Silk Road. <i>Platform: Journal of Media and Communication</i> , Special Issue on "Cunning Knowledge and Media Technologies."	Submitted

Sun, R., Portal, M. (2016) Roundabout Technology and the Energy Economy." <i>The Rice Cultivator</i> .	In Press
Portal, M. (2016) Complicating Peder Anker's Notion of the "Philosopher's Cabin". <i>Undergraduate Conference for Philosophy and Theory</i> at the University of Florida.	2016
Portal, M. , Sun, R. Drip Irrigation and Agricultural Energy. <i>The Rice Cultivator</i> , Vol. 6, 41-52.	2015

Experience

IAU College (Institut Américain Universitaire)	Aix-en-Provence, France
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> (Professor David Coombes, PHIL 312 "Ethics and Society")	Fall 2017 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independently led multiple courses, was responsible for office hours and exam preparation, and designed and graded weekly quizzes on assigned reading. Developed and revised the course syllabus and was the primary contact for students in the course. 	

Congregation Emanu El	Houston, Texas
<i>Teacher</i>	Fall 2014 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/7th Grade (2016 - 2017): Led experimental education program on Judaism and gender. Computer Lab (2014 - 2015): Designed an electronic curriculum and database for classes. 	

Peltier Avocats	Paris, France
<i>Legal Assistant</i>	Summer 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translated contractual documents and drafted press releases for an international union. Conducted general legal research and the production of organograms for cases. 	

Rice University	Houston, Texas
<i>George R. Brown Forensic Society and Debate Team, Traveling Team Member</i>	2013 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally ranked in Parliamentary Debate, peak ranking: 19th out of 730 two-person teams. Coordinated the Rice team's research, preparation and practice before local and national tournaments. Placed as the highest North American team at the Old Parkland Invitational Debate (January 2015). 	
<i>The Rice Mockingbird (www.ricemockingbird.com), Editor-in-Chief</i>	2014 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded a campus-wide satirical online paper with over 60,000 unique website visits. Led 12 writers to publish articles that parody campus, national and international news. 	
<i>Rice University Chess Society, President (2014 - 2015), Affiliate (2015 - Present)</i>	2014 - Spring 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewrote the club charter to emphasize casual chess, doubling membership. 	
<i>McMurtry College, Associate Justice</i>	2014 - Spring 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided counsel for students referred to the university's internal court system. Facilitated conversation over, and access to, Rice's legal framework by being a constantly available representative. 	

Awards

• Travel and Conference Grant, IAU College (Institut Américain Universitaire)	2018
• Honors in Philosophy, Rice University, Philosophy Department	2017
• National Parliamentary Debate Association Tournament, 9th place	2017
• Konstantin Kolenda Fellowship, Rice University, Philosophy Department	2016
• Desirée and Max Blankfeld Fellowship, Rice University, Jewish Studies Department	2016
• President's Honor Roll	Spring 2015, 2016, 2017
• Baker Institute Student Forum, Undergraduate Policy Competition, 1st Place	2016
• Jeane and Evron Kirkpatrick Prize in Political Science, IAU College, France	2015
• Judith L. Rice International Relations & Global Studies Scholarship, IAU College, France	2015
• Baker Institute Student Forum, Undergraduate Policy Competition, 3rd Place	2014
• International Baccalaureate Diploma, Lamar High School	2013

Skills

- English (fluent), French (high proficiency)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel)