

Prof. Dr. Jan Slaby, *Philosophy*

born January 12, 1976

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Jan Slaby is Professor in Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Emotion at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

My work spans the area between the philosophy of mind, social philosophy and philosophy of human and mind sciences. I aim to develop an integrative account of the social constitution of the human mind by combining enactivism, extended mind and embodied mind approaches with emphasis on emotion and affect. A related orientation is toward the affective dynamics of social interaction and toward a ‘political philosophy of mind’, broadly in a critical theory tradition. I am also interested in the nature and methodological role of concepts in both the humanities and natural science research, and I have developed a critical perspective on the explanatory range and methodological potential of neuroscience. Another research interest is in interdisciplinary affect studies, and on bringing a discussion of philosophical methodology in conversation with work in cultural studies, including approaches from feminist, postcolonial and critical race theory. I’m also drawn to themes of political ecology, society-nature relations and the socio-ecological crisis both in its present form and with regard to its historical root causes.

With Suparna Choudhury (McGill University), I was co-initiator of the *Critical Neuroscience network* that has developed a multi-perspectival contextualization of the human neurosciences, responding critically to the claim of an alleged ‘neuro-revolution’ in the human sciences, the humanities and the academy at large.

Academic Employment

2023 –	Full Professor (W2) of Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Emotion at the Institute of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2016 – 2023	Professor (W2, temporary) of Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Emotion at the Institute of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2010 – 2016	Junior Professor (non-tenured assistant professor) in Philosophy of Mind at the Research Cluster of Excellence “Languages of Emotion” and the Institute of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
2008 – 2010	Assistant Professor (<i>Akademischer Rat auf Zeit</i>) at the Institute of Philosophy of the Philipps-University, Marburg. Area: Theoretical Philosophy

- 2006 – 2008 Research fellow (full-time) in the research project “Animal emotionale” (Osnabück/Bonn), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, conducted at the Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück
- 2003 – 2006 Teaching and research assistant (full-time) at the Institute of Cognitive Science of the University of Osnabrück (working group “Philosophy of Cognition”, Prof. Achim Stephan)

Education

- 2006 PhD degree in Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück. PhD thesis on the intentionality and existential dimension of human emotion; German title: *Gefühl und Weltbezug*; Grade: *summa cum laude*
- 2002-2006 PhD studies in the Graduate Program of Cognitive Science at the University of Osnabrück (complementing full employment as a research & teaching assistant in Philosophy of Cognition)
- 10/2001 Examination (Magister Artium), grade 1,1 (A)
- MA Thesis (Philosophy). “Evolution, Mind, and Human Nature. A Critique of Evolutionary Psychology”; Humboldt University, Grade: 1,0 (A)
- 1996–2001 Undergraduate studies at the Humboldt University Berlin in Philosophy (major), Sociology and English Language and Literature

Main Publications

Monograph

Slaby, J. (2008). *Gefühl und Weltbezug. Die menschliche Affektivität im Kontext einer neo-existentialistischen Konzeption von Personalität*. Paderborn: mentis 2008.

Edited Volumes

Churcher, M., Calkins, S., Böttger, J. & **Slaby, J.**, eds. (2023). *Affect, Power and Institutions*. London & New York: Routledge.

Mühlhoff, R., Breljak, A., & **Slaby, J.**, eds., (2019). *Affekt Macht Netz: Auf dem Weg zu einer Sozialtheorie der digitalen Gesellschaft*. Bielefeld: transcript.

Slaby, J., & von Scheve, C. eds., (2019). *Affective Societies: Key Concepts*. New York: Routledge.

Röttger-Rössler, B., & **Slaby, J.**, eds., (2018). *Affect in Relation: Families, Places, Technologies*. New York: Routledge.

Choudhury, S., & **Slaby, J.**, eds., (2012). *Critical Neuroscience. A Handbook of the Social and Cultural Contexts of Neuroscience*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. (Paperback 2016)

Slaby, J., Stephan, A., Walter, H. & Walter, S., eds. (2011). *Affektive Intentionalität. Beiträge zur welterschließenden Funktion der menschlichen Gefühle*. Paderborn: mentis.

Articles (selection)

Slaby, J. (2024). Structural Apathy, Affective Injustice, and the Ecological Crisis. *Philosophical Topics* (in press).

Bernhardt, F., & **Slaby, J.** (2022). On Being Stuck: The Pandemic Crisis as Affective Stasis. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11097-022-09855-1>

Slaby, J. (2022). Intentionality's Breaking Point: A Lesson from Grief. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 29(9-10), 105-127.

Hauéis, P., & **Slaby, J.** (2022). Humanities as Conceptual Practices: The Formation and Development of High-Impact Concepts in Philosophy and Beyond. *Metaphilosophy* 53(4), 385-403.

Von Scheve, C., & **Slaby, J.** (2022). Im Schattenreich der Institution: Eine affekttheoretische Perspektive. *Zeitschrift für Kultur- und Kollektivwissenschaft*, 8(1), 137-164. doi: 10.14361/zkkw-2022-080107

Slaby, J. (2022). Expanding the Active Mind. *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* 53(2), 193-209.

Slaby, J. (2021). A Challenge to Perceptual Theories of Emotion. In: Demmerling, C. & Schröder, D. (eds.). *Concepts in Thought, Action and Emotion: New Essays* (pp. 277-293). New York: Routledge.

- Slaby, J.** (2020). The Weight of History: From Heidegger to Afro-Pessimism. In: L. Guidi, & T. Rentsch (eds.). *Phenomenology as Performative Exercise* (pp. 173-195). New York & Leiden: Brill.
- Slaby, J., Mühlhoff, R. & Wüschner, P.** (2019). Affective Arrangements. *Emotion Review* 11(1), 3-12.
- Slaby, J.** (2018). Disclosive Postures and Affective Arrangements: Towards a Post-Phenomenology of Situated Affectivity. *Phänomenologische Forschungen* 2018(2).
- Slaby, J.** (2017). More than a Feeling: Affect as Radical Situatedness. *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 41(1), 7-26.
- Haueis, P., & **Slaby, J.** (2017). Connectomes as Constitutively Epistemic Objects. Critical Perspectives on Modeling in Current Neuroanatomy. *Progress in Brain Research* 233, 149-177.
- Slaby, J.** (2016). Mind Invasion: Situated Affectivity and the Corporate Life Hack. *Frontiers in Psychology* 7, 2016.
- Slaby, J.** (2016). Kritik der Resilienz. In P. Wüschner & F. A. Kurbacher (eds.). *Was ist Haltung?* (pp. 273-298). Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann.
- Slaby, J.** (2015). Critical Neuroscience Meets Medical Humanities. *Medical Humanities* 41, 16-22.
- Slaby, J., & Gallagher, S.** (2015). Critical Neuroscience and Socially Extended Minds. *Theory, Culture & Society* 32, 2015, 33-59.
- Slaby, J.** (2014). Empathy's Blind Spot. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 17(2), 249-258.
- Slaby, J.** (2014). Emotion and the Extended Mind. In: Salmela, M., & von Scheve, C., eds., *Collective Emotions* (pp. 32-46). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Slaby, J., & Wüschner, P.** (2014). Emotion and Agency. In S. Roeser & C. Todd (eds.). *Emotion and Value* (pp. 212-228). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Slaby, J., Paskaleva, A., and Stephan A.** (2013). Enactive Emotion and Impaired Agency in Depression. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 20 (No. 7-8), 33-55.
- Slaby, J.** (2012). Affective Self-Construal and the Sense of Ability. *Emotion Review* 4(2), 151-156.
- Slaby, J., & Stephan, A.** (2012). Depression als Handlungsstörung. *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 60(6), 919-935
- Slaby, J.** (2010). Steps Towards a Critical Neuroscience. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 9, 397-416.
- Slaby, J., & Stephan, A.** (2008). Affective Intentionality and Self-Consciousness. *Consciousness and Cognition* 17, 506-513.
- Slaby, J.** (2008). Affective Intentionality and the Feeling Body. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 7(4), 429-444.

Research Grants & Involvement in Research Projects

Co-PI and member of the Governing Board ('Vorstand') of the Collaborative Research Center *Affective Societies* at Free University Berlin, funded by the DFG

- All three funding phases 2015-2027, total funding sum: about € 27m

PI of the subproject "Changing Repertoires of Emotion I-III" of the Collaborative Research Center *Affective Societies* at Free University Berlin, funded by the DFG

- first funding phase 2015-2019, project funding sum € 265.000
- second funding phase: 2019-2023, project funding sum: € 456.000
- third funding phase: 2023-2027, project funding sum: € 520.000

Associated fellow at the DFG Kollegforschungsgruppe "Human Abilities" (HU Berlin & FU Berlin, 2020-2024)

Member of the DFG Cluster of Excellence "Languages of Emotion" at Free University Berlin, 2010-2012

PI of the project "Neuroscience in Context. Critical Perspectives, Neuroethics, and Anthropology", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, as part of the "European Platform for Life Sciences, Mind Sciences, and the Humanities"; funding period 11/2007-04/2010, funding sum 135.200 €.

Member and core contributor to DFG/AHCR project "Emotional Experience in Depression" (2008), principal investigators: Dr. Matthew Ratcliffe (Durham, UK) and Prof. Achim Stephan (Osnabrück).

<http://philosophyofdepression.wordpress.com/>

Core contributor to the successful grant proposal for research project "animal emotionale" (2005), Volkswagen Foundation. www.animal-emotionale.de, funding sum 400.000 €.

Berlin, October 16, 2023