

# Martin J Gak, Ph.D.

**Religious  
Correspondent -  
Editor and Producer -  
Deutsche Welle**

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## Martin J. Gak

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Germany

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## Interests

- **In-Depth Journalism:** Develop and deploy a form of journalism that recruits and effectively presents scholarly knowledge and scholarly analytic and critical strategies.
- **Journalism Ethics and Public Knowledge:** Understanding the role that journalism has in public knowledge and its political effects.
- **New Media:** researching and exploring the communicational and political effects of the digital expansion of the public sphere.
- **Literature:** Exploration of classic literature in original language.
- **Philosophy:** Developing an account of rules and rule-following in its many forms and in its different domains.

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## Experience

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### Conflict Zone, Deutsche Welle / Editor - Producer

August 2016 - Present, BERLIN, GERMANY

CZ is the channel's flagship political interview show. My job consists in procuring guests, researching the political and historical

### Deutsche Welle News / Religious Affairs Correspondent

January 2014 - Present, BERLIN, GERMANY

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### Deutsche Welle Español / Writer - adaptation

November 2014 - August 2016, BERLIN, GERMANY

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### Kosmopolitica Consulting / Director

May 2012 - November 2015, BERLIN, GERMANY

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## Education

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**Areas of Specialization:** Ethics, Phenomenology (Heidegger and Levinas)

**Areas of Competence:** Ancient and Early Medieval Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Digital Ethics and New Media

### **New School for Social Research / Philosophy Ph. D.**

May 1999 - May 2009, New York City, USA

I hold a doctorate degree in philosophy. A large part of my academic work was concerned with rules and rule-following in areas such as politics, morality, religion and law and their mutual relation. I wrote my dissertation on the ethical history of the idea of infinity among ancient thinkers.

### **Clark University / B.A.**

September 1993 - August 1997, Worcester, MA, USA

My BA was in philosophy as well but I also took a few courses in education, government and literature.

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## Publications and Public Presentations

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### Journalism

Various articles on religion, international politics and digital politics in Deutsche Welle Online, World Economic Forum Blog, Diario Clarín (Argentina), Diario Sur (Argentina) among others. Television, Radio and Print expert commentary on religious and political affairs for Deutsche Welle (Germany), BBC Television, Radio New Zealand (New Zealand), Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany), Estación Sur (Colombia).

### Academic Publications

"The Migration of Normative Principles and the Digital Construction of Transnational Ethics" forthcoming in *The Digital Transformation of the Public Sphere* (Palgrave, forthcoming)

*Hack or Be Hacked: The Quasi-Totalitarianism of Global Trusted Networks* (November, 2015) *New Formations: a journal of culture/theory/politics*

"Heidegger's Ethics and Levinas's Ontology: Phenomenology of Prereflective Normativity" (December, 2014) *Levinas Studies: An Annual Review*, Volume 9

"A Levinasian Theory of Action" (August, 2012) *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*

"On the hordes: Heidegger's Reading of the Allegory of the Cave (A response to students with opinions darkly projected.)" <http://philosophy.martingak.com> (2011)

"Designing Norms" in *Old Failures and New Alternatives* (Nova Press) ed. A. Mickunas

"A First Sketch of Non-Cognitive Ethical Realism" in *A Century with Levinas, On the Ruins of Totality* (Religious Studies Department, Vilnius University) edited by Rita Šerpytytė

### Academic Presentations

“What good and how common? Revisiting Mackie’s first argument in light of evaluative hyperinflation in the digital public sphere.” in *The Common Good: Ethics and Rights in Cyber Security*. University of Hull, United Kingdom. May 6, 2015.

“In search of ethical aliens. The problem of structural deviation in Levinas and Frege” in *Levinas and Analytic Philosophy*. New York University-Paris, France. April 23, 2014.

“Demarcating the space of the political: on legitimacy, justification and normative efficaciousness of the law” University of Tartu, Estonia. February 27, 2015.

“Turtles all the way down: the normative abyss of justificatory regressions” University of Riga, Latvia. February 23, 2015.

“Ethical Considerations of Public Epistemology and the Role of Scholarly Knowledge” in *Academic Identity*, Copenhagen University, Denmark. November 6, 2014.

“Back to the Cave of Hypnos: A Call of Conscience Against the Confabulation of Imbecility” *How to Facilitate the Great Academy?* Copenhagen University, Denmark. October 11, 2013.

“The Migration of Normative Principles and the Digital Construction of Transnational Ethics ” at *Intersectional Conflict and Dialogue: Transnational Migrant and Digital Diaspora Networks*, Hull, United Kingdom. April 13, 2013.

“The Good Europeans: A Vindication of Jewish Cosmopolitanism” at the *Kollegium Jüdische Studien*, Berlin, Germany. May 14, 2012.

“The Meaning of I” at *Problems of Identity: Tradition and Innovation*. Mykolas Romeris University. Vilnius, Lithuania. March 2, 2012.

“Sociology of Normativity” at *The Possibility of Social Theory*, Vytautas Magnus University. Kaunas, Lithuania. March 1, 2012.

“Our Ethical Brain: Natural Receptivity and Normativity” in *To Receive is Never Neutral*, Bristol University, UK, September 2011

“Divine Command, Secular Demand,” *Buenos Aires Metaethics Workshop*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2010

“The New Levinas,” *International Congress: Readings of Difficult Freedom*, Toulouse, France, July 2010

“The World as Limit: Ethics as a Theory of Action-Guidance,” *Pratt Philosophy Colloquium*, New York, April 2010

“On the Primordially of Normativity and the Posteriority of Prescription in Levinas’ Law,” *Hofstra University*, New York, November 2009

“Architecture and Normativity: The metaethical articulation,” *Pratt Philosophy Colloquium*, New York, October 2009

“The ways of Normativity,” *Buenos Aires Metaethics Workshop*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2009

“Ethics as a Phenomenology of Revelation in Levinas,” *North American Levinas Society*, Seattle, WA, September 2008

“The Problem of Structural Deviations in Constitutive Normativity: Frege and Levinas,” *Buenos Aires Metaethics Workshop*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2008

“El Sujeto Tecnologizado,” Invited Speaker to 5th Guatemalan Congress of Philosophy, October 2007

“L’ Ontologie Levinasienne,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Saskatoon, May 2007

“First Efficiency. Some ontological implications of Aristotle’s two infinities,” International Conference of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, New York, October 2006

“On the primordially of normativity and the posteriority of prescription,” Levinas and the Law, Centennial Conference, Montreal, Canada, September 2006

“Una breve historia filosófica de la intersubjetividad,” Laboratorio de Intersubjetividad, Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 2006

“A first sketch of non-cognitive ethical realism,” A Century with Levinas: On the Ruins of Totality, Vilnius, Lithuania, April 2006.

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## Languages

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English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese. Practical command of Hebrew. Reading knowledge of Latin and Ancient Greek.