

## Council for International Teaching and Research

### GLOBAL SCHOLARS



#### **2012-13 Princeton Global Scholar**

##### **Dominik Perler**

Dominik Perler is a professor of philosophy at Humboldt University in Berlin, where he has established a dynamic, thriving program in the history of philosophy that has become a major international center for philosophy scholars from around the world. He is one of very few philosophers or historians of philosophy to have won Germany's highest research honor, the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, for his work on the philosophy of mind in the early modern period.

A distinguished Swiss historian of medieval and early modern thought, Perler focuses on how thinkers in past centuries grappled with such age-old questions as conceptions of consciousness and theories of the soul. He is unusual in his ability to weave together medieval and early modern intellectual traditions — thus challenging the conventional thinking that a historic break occurred between the two periods and that Descartes and other early modern thinkers started philosophy anew. With penetrating insight, Perler identifies themes associated with later thinkers and shows how they are grounded in earlier discussions, and makes illuminating connections between early modern philosophy and contemporary treatments of similar subjects.

A prolific writer and editor in both English and German, Perler has published pioneering studies of the history of occasionalism and skepticism that reveal the medieval roots of these topics that are central to later philosophical and religious thought. He serves on the editorial or advisory boards of eminent philosophical journals such as “Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie,” “Journal of the History of Philosophy,” “Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy,” and “Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung.”

Perler's extensive international teaching and research experience includes visiting positions at the University of California, Los Angeles; Tel Aviv University; All Souls College, Oxford; Cornell University; and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and the Swiss Institute in Rome.

At Princeton, his appointment as a Global Scholar spans philosophy, religion, and medieval studies, fulfilling the University's need for a medievalist and providing students and faculty in three disciplines with exciting new opportunities for international collaboration. His affiliation expands the joint humanities graduate program between Princeton and Humboldt University, further strengthening a critical University partnership, and his commitment to student exchange between Princeton and Berlin is enriching the intellectual experience of brilliant young scholars on both sides of the Atlantic.