

Curriculum vitae for Bennett Gilbert[bbg2@pdx.edu](mailto:bbg2@pdx.edu)

## Academic address:

117 Cramer Hall  
Portland State University  
1721 SW Broadway  
Portland, Oregon 97209

## Education:

B. A. magna in philosophy, Yale University, 1974. Advisors: Prof.s Robert Brumbaugh and Karsten Harries. Bates Fellow at Balliol, Oxford, summer 1973. Tutor: A. J. Ayer. Scholar of the House in philosophy, 1973–1974. Thesis advisor: Prof. Rulon S. Wells.

M. A. in philosophy, University of Chicago, 1975.

M. S. in library science (specialization in book history), Columbia University, 1976.

M. A. in liberal studies (MALS), (specialization in intellectual history) Reed College, 2012. Advisor: Prof. Ülker Gökberk. Menashe Scholarship 2010–2011.

M. A. in history, Portland State University, 2014. Major advisor (history of ideas): Prof. Thomas Luckett; minor advisor (medieval): Prof. John S. Ott. Oregon Laurels Scholarship 2013–2014.

## Employment:

2017–: Adjunct Senior Instructor, Portland State University (rolling two-year contract through at least 2021).

2014–2017: Adjunct Instructor, University Studies, Portland State University.

2009–2014: graduate school (Reed College 2009–2012; Portland State University (2012–2014)).

2006–2009: independent study and writing in normative ethics and general philosophy.

1980–2006: sole proprietor of Bennett Gilbert Rare Books, Los Angeles  
Started and remained principal of the business, with one employee; bought, catalogued, marketed, and sold inventory; researched; developed long-term contacts with colleagues and buyers; supervised shipping of large collections; consulting for research libraries; prepared traveled and exhibited at shows worldwide; served in chapter offices and helped organize an international conference of the professional trade organization.

1978–1980: Zeitlin & Ver Brugge Rare Books, Los Angeles.

1976–1980: catalogued a private collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Book publication:

A Personalist Philosophy of History. London: Routledge, 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351216265>

Published peer-reviewed papers:

Forthcoming: “Repairing Historicity.” *Cosmos and History*, 2020.

“On Some Moral Implications of Linguistic Narrativism Theory.” Co-author Natan Elgabsi. *De Ethica*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2020): 75–91, doi:

<https://doi.org/10.3384/de-ethica.2001-8819.206175>

“Eternity and Print: How Medieval Ideas of Time Influenced the Development of Mechanical Reproduction of Texts and Images.” *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, vol. 15, no. 1 (Summer, 2020): 1–21. [doi:10.3167/choc.2020.150101](https://doi.org/10.3167/choc.2020.150101)

“Gravity and Graves.” *Rethinking History*, vol. 25, no. 1 (online winter, 2020).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13642529.2020.1718396>

“To Copy, To Impress, To Distribute: The Beginning of European Printing.” *On\_Culture*, no. 8 (Winter, 2019). <https://www.on-culture.org/journal/issue-8/copy-impress-distribute/>

“Ideas, Persons, and Objects in the History of Ideas.” *Journal of the Philosophy of History*,

vol. 13, no. 2 (2019): 141–162. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18722636-12341371>

“Simone Weil’s Philosophy of History.” *Journal of the Philosophy of History*, vol. 13, no. 1 (2019): 66–85. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18722636-12341367>

“Jakob Leupold’s Imaginary Automatic Anamorphic Devices of 1713.” *Media History*, vol. 25, no. 2 (2019): 127–154. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2016.1266240>

“On Breaking Up Time, or, Perennialism as Philosophy of History.” *Journal of the Philosophy of History*, vol. 12, no. 1 (2018): 5–26.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/18722636-12341334>

“The Parisian Porters’ Revolt of January 1786.” *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, vol. 39, no. 3 (2016): 359–375. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1754-0208.12337>

“Johannes Fontana’s Drawing for a ‘Castellus Umbrarum’ (‘Castle of Shadows’), Udine or Padua, c. 1418–1420.” *Mediaevalia*, vol. 35 (2014): 254–276.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/mdi.2014.0008>

“Early Carthusian Script and Silence.” *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*, vol. 49, no. 3 (Fall, 2014): 367–397.

“Yet Another Crisis of the Book.” *Forma Revista d'Humanitats*, vol. 7 (“Images of the Book”) (Fall, 2013): 65–80.  
[https://www.upf.edu/documents/3928637/7795473/forma\\_vol08\\_06gilbert.pdf/df9f74d7-2257-6482-ed61-c78765580bb4](https://www.upf.edu/documents/3928637/7795473/forma_vol08_06gilbert.pdf/df9f74d7-2257-6482-ed61-c78765580bb4)

“Freshest advices on what to do with the historical method in philosophy when using it to study a little bit of philosophy that has been lost to history.” *Essays in Philosophy*, vol. 13, no. 1 (“Philosophical Methodology”) (February, 2012): 106–118.  
<http://commons.pacificu.edu/eip/vol13/iss1/7/>  
[doi: 10.5840/eip20121317](https://doi.org/10.5840/eip20121317)

Other edited scholarly publications:

“We Worry About the Philosophy of History.” Oulu University Centre for Philosophical Studies of History blog, *Philosophy of History Now!* December, 2019.  
<https://www.oulu.fi/blogs/weworry>

“Two Gardens in Two Books.” *Cabinet Magazine*, no. 65 (October, 2018).

“Theory After All: comments on Kleinberg at al., ‘theoryrevolt.com.’” Oulu University Centre for Philosophical Studies of History blog, *Philosophy of History Now!* July, 2018. <http://www.oulu.fi/blogs/theoryafterall>

“Chandling a Scholar.” In *Worlds and Networks of Higher Learning*, a peer-reviewed group blog on early modern scholarship. May, 2018  
<https://networks.h-net.org/node/6873/blog/premodern-universities/1871241/chandling-scholar>

“The Dreams of an Inventor in 1420.” *Public Domain Review*. January, 2018  
<http://publicdomainreview.org/2018/01/24/the-dreams-of-an-inventor-in-1420/>  
Republished in: *The Public Domain Review: Selected Essays*, vol. VI, edited by Adam Green (Public Domain Review Press, 2019).

87 catalogues and lists of fully described rare books for sale by Bennett Gilbert Rare Books, 1985–2006.

Review of Thomas Tanselle, *Literature and Artifacts*, in *The Library Quarterly*, vol. 70, no. 4 (October, 2000): 504–506. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/603225>

Catalogue of the Grolier Club exhibition. *The Art of the Woodcut in the Italian Renaissance Book*. (New York and Los Angeles, 1995.) (Part of the essay and all the exhibit label text online at <http://www.archive.org/stream/artofwoodcutinit00gilb#page/n3/mode/2up>).

*Alchemy*, a comprehensive bibliography of the Manly P. Hall Collection of books and manuscripts : including related material on Rosicrucianism and the writings of Jacob Boehme. (Los Angeles: Philosophical Research Society, 1986). (Published under the name of Ron Hogart as “editor.”)

Editor, *A Leaf from the Letters of St. Jerome*, first printed by Sixtus Reissinger, Rome, c. 1466-1467, with an historical essay by Jeremy duQuesnay Adams and a bibliographical essay by John L. Sharpe III. (Los Angeles: Zeitlin & Ver Brugge; London : H.M. Fletcher, 1981).

Long-term research and book projects:

*Temporal Humanity: Essays in moral philosophy, philosophy of history, and the humanities.*

Co-edited collection of papers on the moral turn in philosophy of history and theory of culture. 2020 onward. (In preparation; publishing contract to be sought in late 2020; to be completed in 2022.)

Power and Compassion: On Moral Force Ethics and Historical Change. Monograph on the relationship of philosophical ethics and philosophy of history, arguing for a historically-oriented theory of normative ethics. 2019 onward. (In preparation; publishing contract to be sought in early 2021; to be completed in 2022..)

Impressum: The History of Ideas in the European Invention of Printing (1375–1450) (working title). A study of the philosophical concepts that pre-conditioned the invention of the new media of communication (woodcut, engraving, and letterpress), resulting in a massive replication of texts and images at the beginning of early modern Europe. 2014 onward.

The history of the concepts of compassion and conscience in Western thought.

Further work on media archaeology of the global Rococo period.

Papers in progress:

A philosophy of history approach to anthropocentrism. (Completed & submitted to a journal; under review.)

The ethical concept of compassion in philosophy of history. (Co-written with one colleague; writing in progress.)

Other past research projects:

Research assistant for vol. 9 (1786–1787) of Siméon-Prosper Hardy, *Mes loisirs, ou, Journal d'événemens tels qu'ils parviennent à ma connoissance: 1753– 1789*, ed. Thomas Luckett, in progress (gen'l. ed. Pascal Bastien).

Master's theses:

M.A. history thesis:

Some Neglected Aspects of the Rococo: Berkeley, Vico, and Rococo Style. (Advisor: Prof. Thomas J. Lockett). Online at: <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1562959696>; doi: [10.13140/RG.2.2.10441.16487](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10441.16487)

M.A. Liberal Studies thesis:

Plato's Lost Lecture "On the Good." Normative Ethics and Intellectual History. (Advisor: Prof. Peter J. Steinberger.). Online at: <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1285538511>; doi: [10.13140/RG.2.2.25960.08961](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.25960.08961)

Conferences:

Upcoming: "The Case of Lord O.: On the History of a Gesture," to be read at the 4th International Network for the Theory of History Conference ("Media, Mediations and Mediators: (Re) Mediating History in the 21st Century"), Puebla (Mexico), postponed until April/May, 2021.

"Philosophy of History Has A Big Job To Do For Moral Philosophy," read at The Role of Philosophy of History Conference, 5–7 October, 2017, University of Oulu, Finland.

"What the History of Early Printing Can Learn from the History of Early Photography," read at the Making of the Humanities V conference, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland), 5–7 October, 2016.

"Infinite Time in the Early Medieval Veneration of Relics," paper read at the second annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, 16-18 June, 2014.

"Cusan Enigmatics," for the "Intellectual Hinterlands" conference of the International Society for Intellectual History, Victoria College, University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada), 25–27 June, 2014.

"On The Reproduction of Images Before Printing," paper read at the Mechanics of Beauty symposium, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington (Seattle, Washington), May 17, 2013.

"The Hole in the Middle of Caxton Studies: Enriching early printed book studies," paper read at the Phi Alpha Theta Northwest Conference (Portland, Oregon), 4–6 April, 2013,

“Yet Another Crisis of the Book,” paper read at the American Graduate Liberal Arts Studies Programs Conference, The Crisis of the Book, Portland, Oregon), 18–20 October, 2012.

#### Interviews:

Podcast interview about “A Personalist Philosophy of History” by Colin Must on NewBooksNetwork

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/bennett-gilbert-a-personalist-philosophy-of-history-routledge-2019/>

#### University teaching:

Continuing: “Interpreting the Past” (Sophomore Inquiry), an introduction to historical thought, at Portland State University, Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters 2014–2020 (four to five courses per year), in four versions of my own design (offered through at least AY 2020–2021 in a fifth complete redesign).

Continuing: “Knowledge, Values, and Rationality” (Sophomore Inquiry), an introduction to philosophical ethics and related areas of philosophy, at Portland State University in Winter and Spring Quarters, 2020; online in Spring Quarter, 2020 (offered through at least AY 2020–2021).

Various Independent Studies with upper-division undergraduates.

Thesis writing advisor in Summer Intensive of the Research Design and Methods Seminar, Critical Research + Critical Theory MA program, Pacific Northwest College of Art, July–August 2014, June–August, 2015 and June–August 2016; thesis review committee, Critical Research + Critical Theory MA program, Pacific Northwest College of Art, May–June, 2015; and seminar on “Ideas and Objects” in the Research Design and Methods Seminar, Critical Studies MA program, Pacific Northwest College of Art, April 18, 2014.

Devised and taught a summer Latin introductory course to grad students and faculty (called “Lickety-Split Latin”), 2013–2014.

Co-taught “Fundamentals of Bibliography” (with Daniel Slive) in the Department of Library and Information Studies, U.C.L.A. Graduate School of Education, Fall Quarter 1998 (LIS 402).

Community teaching:

Upcoming: “The Essays of Michel de Montaigne” a four-week “Delve” seminar at Portland Literary Arts, October–November, 2020.

Upcoming: “William James: Inventing an American Philosophy,” a six-week “Delve” seminar at Portland Literary Arts, May–June, 2020.

“The Pre-Socratic Thinkers: The Greeks on Gods, Humanity, and Nature Before Socrates,” a six-week “Delve” seminar at Portland Literary Arts, October–December, 2019.

“Walter Benjamin: A Little Bit of Hope,” a six-week “Delve” seminar at Portland Literary Arts, May–June, 2019.

“Iris Murdoch as Philosopher and Novelist,” a six-week “Delve” seminar at Portland Literary Arts, September–November, 2018.

Grants:

2018: Portland State University Faculty Association faculty development fund for research and writing resources.

2017: Portland State University Faculty Association faculty development fund for conference presentation and attendance.

2016: Portland State University Faculty Association faculty development fund for conference presentation and attendance.

2014: Portland State University History Department, two conference attendance grants

Professional:

2019: Organizing committee for “The Future of Higher Education Teach-In,” sponsored by the Portland State University Faculty Association, November 12.

2015–2017: served in PSU Department of University Studies ad hoc committees on choosing



mentors (TA's) and evaluating student writing program results.

Member 1983–2006, Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (A.B.A.A.) and the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (I.L.A.B.)

1996–1998: Secretary of the Southern California Chapter, A.B.A.A.

1998–2000: Secretary, Southern California Chapter of the A.B.A.A.

1995–1996: Member, Organizing Committee of the 33rd International Congress of the I.L.A.B.

2001–2002 (published as Cynthia Burlingham and Bruce Whiteman, eds., *The World From Here....* Oxford University Press, 2002.)

1996–2001: Member of the Organizing Committee for “The World from Here,” a co-operative exhibition by Los Angeles special collections libraries at the Hammer Museum in 2001–2002. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/2001/the-world-from-here/>

1996: Delivered the Russell Shank Lecture on The Book, UCLA

1995: Curator, “The Art of the Woodcut in the Italian Renaissance Book”, exhibition at The Grolier Club, with lecture (exhibition repeated at UCLA in 1996)

1993: Guest Lecturer, Rare Books School, the University of Virginia

1988–1989: Consultant, Department of Special Collections, USC Libraries

Recognitions:

Excellence in Teaching Award for Sophomore Inquiry, Portland State University, 2019–2020.

Occasional essays:

“Roots to You.” In Marius Moldvaer, *Heimat, Hiraeth*. Kunsthøuset Kabuso. 7 February–1 March, 2015. (Catalogue of a show of sculptures by Moldvaer.) Kabuso, Norway.

“Séance.” In Heidi Hatry, *Not A Rose*, edited by Giovanni Aloï, 138–139. (Catalogue of a collection of sculptures by Hatry.) Milan: Charta, 2012.

Languages:

Classical Greek (high skill)

Latin (high skill)

French (fluent reading)

German (medium reading)

Italian (medium reading)

See also:

<https://pdx.academia.edu/BennettGilbert>

<http://philpapers.org/profile/9531>