

# Roy Ben-Shai

## *Curriculum Vitae*

### **Institutional Address**

Sarah Lawrence College  
1 Mead Way,  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
[rbenshai@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:rbenshai@sarahlawrence.edu)

### **Professional Appointments**

- 2018 — Present     **Assistant Professor of Philosophy.**  
Sarah Lawrence College
- 2016 — 2018       **Lecturer.**  
Department of Philosophy  
Stony Brook University
- 2014 — 2016       **Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor.**  
John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities  
Haverford College
- 2012 — 2014       **Adjunct Assistant Professor.**  
Department of Philosophy  
College of Arts and Science  
Fairfield University

### **Education**

- 2005 — 2012       **Ph.D. (Hans Jonas Memorial Award for Best Dissertation in Philosophy).**  
Department of Philosophy  
New School for Social Research  
*Dissertation: Moral Pathology: A Philosophical Study of Jean Améry and a Pathos-Based Approach to Moral Thinking.*  
Committee: Richard J. Bernstein (Chair), Jay M. Bernstein, and Simon Critchley.
- 2003 — 2005       **M.A. (Outstanding M.A. Graduate Award).**  
Department of Philosophy  
New School for Social Research
- 1998 — 2002       **B.A. (Magna cum laude).**  
Philosophy Department  
Tel Aviv University

**Specialization**     19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Ethics, Critical Theory.

## Publications

- Edited Book      *The Politics of Nihilism: From the Nineteenth Century to Contemporary Israel*. Co-edited with Nitzan Lebovic. New York: Bloomsbury (2014).
- Peer-Reviewed Articles      “The Fifth Antinomy: A Reading of Torture for a Post-Kantian Moral Philosophy.” In: *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy—Revue de la philosophie française et de langue française*, Vol XXIV, No 3 (2016) 17-37.  
     “Schmitt or Hamlet: The Unsovereign Event.” In: *Telos*, No. 147, 77-98 (Summer 2009).  
     “*Reductio ad Moralem*: On Victim-Morality in the Work of Jean Améry.” In: *The European Legacy*, Vol. 12, No. 7, pp. 835–851 (2007).  
     “Living Without: On the Moral Philosophy of Jean Améry.” In: *Eurozine* (2007)  
     “Att leva utifrån: Om Jean Amérys moralfilosofi.” Translated into Swedish by Malin Lundh. In: *Glänta*, Vol. 4, pp. 54-62 (2006).
- Book Chapters      “La filosofía crítica de Jean-Paul Sartre [The Critical Philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre].” In: *Nicht für immer! ¡No para siempre! Introducción al pensamiento crítico y la teoría crítica Frankfurtiana*. Edited by A. Polidori and R. Mier. Mexico City and Madrid: Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco/Editorial Gedisa, pp. 1407-1412 (2017).  
     “In Sickness and in Health: Nietzsche, Améry, and ‘the Moral Difference’.” In: *The Politics of Nihilism*, edited by R. Ben-Shai and N. Lebovic. New York: Bloomsbury, pp. 125-150 (2014).  
     “Jean Améry (1912-1978): The Homesickness and Enlightenment of a Catastrophe-Jew.” In: *Europe in the Eyes of Survivors of the Holocaust*, edited by Z. Mankowitz, D. Weinberg and S. Kangisser Cohen. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, pp. 11-35 (2014).  
     “Imposition, or Writing from the Void: Pathos and Pathology in Améry.” In: *On Jean Améry: Philosophy of the Catastrophe*, edited by M. Zolkos. Lanham: Lexington Books, pp. 109-134 (2011).  
     “To Reverse the Irreversible: On Time Disorder in the Work of Jean Améry.” In: *Metacide: In the Pursuit of Excellence*, edited by J. Watson. Amsterdam: Rodopi, pp. 73-92 (2010).
- Review article      “Of All Things: On Michael Marder’s Reading of Derrida.” In: *Telos*, No. 150, pp. 185-192 (Spring 2010).
- Book Manuscripts      *Critique/Emancipation/Revolt* (Book proposal approved by Stanford University Press. Manuscript to be completed and published in 2018/9).  
     *Vita Passiva: Groundwork for a Philosophical Pathology* (Manuscript in preparation).

## Fellowships and Awards

- 2014—2016      Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (Haverford College).  
 2011      Teaching Fellowship (New School University).  
 2010—2011      Doctoral Research Fellowship (Leo Baeck Programme and the German National Merit Foundation).  
 2008—2009      Visiting Research Fellowship (The Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem).  
 2007—2008      Dissertation Fellowship (New School for Social Research).  
 2007—2008      Dean’s Teaching Fellowship (New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College).  
 2005—2007      University Prize Fellowship (New School for Social Research—highest departmental award).  
 2005      Research Fellowship (The Transregional Center for Democratic Studies. Krakow and NY).

## Selected Conference Presentations

- Invited Talks      “The Fifth Antinomy: Reflections on the Moral Significance of Torture.” *Philosophy and Violence*, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, UNAM, Mexico City. (August 2015)
- “What’s Next? Assessing Stanley Rosen’s Critique of Nihilism in Contemporary Philosophy.” *Symposium on Nihilism*. Institute of Cultural Inquiry, Berlin. (May 2013)
- “A Pathological Approach to Ethics.” *Frames of Ethics: International Symposium*, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Madrid. (May 2012)
- Presentations      “Commitment and Resistance: Between Hannah Arendt and Michal Aharony.” Tel-Aviv. (June 2017)
- “Between Critique and Emancipation: A Critique of Critical Thinking.” SPEP, Salt Lake City. (October 2016)
- “Critique, Emancipation, Revolt: A Critique of Critical Thinking.” *What Critique?* Symposium at UMASS Amherst. (April 2016)
- “Critique, Emancipation, Revolt: Three Paradigms of Critical Thinking.” Critical Theory Roundtable, Yale. (October 2015)
- “Stagnation, and the Melancholy of the Left.” *Five Thoughts on Nihilism* (Symposium), The New School for Social Research. (April 2015)
- “Nietzsche the Physician, and One Incurable Patient.” SPEP, Oregon. (October 2013)
- “Nihilisms, Vertical and Horizontal: On the Evolving Conception and Critique of Nihilism from Nietzsche through Heidegger to Stanley Rosen.” Nihilism Workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. (June 2012)
- “Being as Abundance and Void: Heidegger’s Reading of Nietzsche.” Nihilism Workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. (July 2010)
- “Beyond Remembrance and Forgetfulness, Between Self and Other.” Memory Studies Conference, New School for Social Research. (February 2008)
- “To Reverse the Irreversible! Trauma and Reconciliation in Jean Améry”, SPEP, Chicago. (November 2007)
- “The Moral Philosophy of Jean Améry” (Respondent Simon Critchley). Transregional Center for Democratic Studies (TCDS), NY. (December 2005)
- “Philosophy in Twilight: How Can We Think about Conditions in which We Cannot Think?” APA, Chicago. (April 2004)
- “After Experience: Remarks and Afterthoughts on Dewey’s Aesthetics.” Annual Conference of the Society for Student Philosophers, Temple University. (October 2004)

## Service to the Profession

- 2018                  Panel moderator at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (Penn State University).
- 2017—                Expert reviewer for *European Journal of Philosophy*.
- 2016—                Expert reviewer for “Religion and Philosophy” series at Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2016                  Panel chair at the Annual Convention of the American Philosophical Association (Baltimore).
- 2013—                Expert reviewer for *The European Journal of Political Theory*.
- 2011                  Managing editor for *Political Concepts: A Critical Journal*.

## Conference Organization

- 2016 Chair and organizer of the Mellon Symposium *Thinking Privilege* at the Hurford Center for Arts and Humanities (Haverford College).
- 2015 Co-organizer (with Dr. Nitzan Lebovic and Dr. Omri Boehm) of the symposium, *Five Thoughts on Nihilism* (NSSR).
- 2006—2007 Chair of the organizing committee of the Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy: “A-Way from Heidegger” (NSSR).
- 2005—2006 Member of the organizing committee of the Annual Graduate Conference in Philosophy: “Topics in the Philosophy of Wittgenstein” (NSSR).

## Languages

Hebrew: Native.

English: Fluent.

Spanish: Proficient.

German, French, Ancient Greek: Reading proficiency.

## Affiliations and Memberships

American Philosophical Association (APA).

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP).

The German National Merit Foundation (*Studentstiftung des deutschen Volkes*).

## References

- Richard Bernstein Vera List Professor of Philosophy, New School for Social Research.  
[BernsteR@newschool.edu](mailto:BernsteR@newschool.edu), (212) 229-5707, ext. 3073.
- Jay Bernstein University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, New School for Social Research.  
[BernsteJ@newschool.edu](mailto:BernsteJ@newschool.edu), (212) 229-5707, ext. 3072.
- Simon Critchley Hans Jonas Professor of Philosophy, New School for Social Research.  
[Critchls@newschool.edu](mailto:Critchls@newschool.edu), (212) 229-5707, ext. 3075.
- Jill Stauffer Associate Professor, Director of Peace, Justice, and Human Rights, Haverford College.  
[jstauffe@haverford.edu](mailto:jstauffe@haverford.edu), (610) 896-4972.
- Megan Craig Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of Masters’ Program, Stony Brook University.  
[Megan.Craig@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Megan.Craig@stonybrook.edu), (631) 632-7570.
- Deborah Roberts William R. Kennan Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, Koshland Director of the Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College.  
[Droberts@haverford.edu](mailto:Droberts@haverford.edu), (610) 896-1066.