

BENJAMIN RANDOLPH

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EDUCATION

- April 2023 PhD, Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University
Dissertation: *Adorno's Secularization of Hope*
Committee: Amy Allen (director); Uygur Abaci, John Christman, Eduardo Mendieta, Daniel Purdy (ext.)
- Sept. 2016 MA, Philosophy, Pathway in Critical Social Theory, University of Essex
Dissertation: *Identity Politics in Alcoff, Butler, and Rancière*
Committee: Jörg Schaub (director), Steve Gormley (reader)
- June 2015 A.B., Comparative Literature and Philosophy, Dartmouth College, *magna cum laude*
and Phi Beta Kappa
Honors Thesis: *Toward a Decolonial Critical Theory*
Committee: Amy Allen (director), Antonio Gómez (associate director)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Social and Political Philosophy (esp. Critical Theory), Continental Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Theories of Racism and Colonialism, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

CURRENT POSITIONS

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Arcadia University, Historical and Political Studies Department

Series Editor, "Ethical Dilemmas in Public Philosophy," The Blog of the APA

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Refereed Journals

"Tragic Genealogies: Adorno's Genealogical Method," forthcoming in *Radical Philosophy Review* 26, no. 2: (2023).

"Waiting for Godot: The Fragmentation of Hope," forthcoming in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 30, no. 5: (2025).

Book Chapters

"From Eclecticism to the Reconstruction of Communicative Reason: Habermas in the United States," Co-authored with Eduardo Mendieta. In *Habermas Global: Wirkungsgeschichte eines Werks*, ed. Stefan Müller-Doohm (Frankfurt a.M.: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2019).

Blog Posts

"Nature's Revenge? Ecological Catastrophe and Metz's Negative Theology"
Political Theology Network: Catholic Re-Visions. Forthcoming.

“(Re)introducing the Ethical Dilemmas in Public Philosophy Series”
Blog of the APA. May 2023.

Works in Progress

Adorno’s Secularization of Hope (book manuscript)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- Feb. 2024 “The Problem of Divine Providence in Cugoano’s *Thoughts and Sentiments*” (peer-reviewed)
 APA Central, Colloquium Presentation, New Orleans
- Sep. 2023 “Nature’s Revenge? Metz’s Political Theology of Climate Catastrophe”
 Political Theology Network Conference (*by invitation*)
- June 2023 “Adorno’s non-identical concept of hope”
 Critical Theory Colloquium (University of Essex)
- April 2023 “Adorno’s secularization of hope”
 The Rock Ethics Institute (Penn State)
- November 2022 “The Fragmentation of Natural Metaphor: Beckett’s *Molloy*” (peer-reviewed)
 7th International Annual Conference of The Samuel Beckett Society: Beckett & Poetry / Beckett & la poesía, Buenos Aires 2022
- October 2022 “*Waiting for Godot* and the Fate of Hope” (peer-reviewed)
 SPEP 60th Annual Meeting, Texas A&M University
- June 2022 “Marcuse’s Utopianism”
 Berlin Critical Theory Summer School on “Needs,” Humboldt Universität
- March 2022 “The Utopian Consciousness from Kant to Adorno”
 The Concept of Utopia and its Function, Vytautas Magnus University
- September 2021 “A Marxist return to religion? Adorno reads Marx”
 The Penn State Humanities Institute
- October 2018 “The ‘Pseudo-Problem’ of Free Will and Determinism: Adorno on the Third Antinomy” (peer-reviewed)
 SPEP 57th Annual Meeting, Penn State University
Honorable Mention: Best Submission by a Graduate Student
- April 2018 “The Critical Theory of Ideology: Adorno on Narcissism”
 Resistance: Psychoanalysis and Critical Theories,” Villanova University
- March 2018 “Contradiction as real repression and the *Weltalter*’s theory of the unconscious”
 Co-presented with Tano Posteraro at “Schelling’s *Ages of the World*,” Penn State University
- Jan. 2018 “‘The Actuality of Revolution’: Fanon’s Relation to Lenin” (peer-reviewed)
 “The New Frantz Fanon,” Penn State University

- July 2017 “Adorno's Critique of Universal History” (peer-reviewed)
 Berlin Critical Theory Summer School on “Progress,” Humboldt Universität
- June 2017 “Deleuze on the Timelessness of the Unconscious: Freud and Lacan in *Difference and Repetition*” (peer-reviewed)
 Deleuze Studies Conference 2017, Toronto, ON

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Philosophy Department Nominee: Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Pennsylvania State University
- 2022-2023 Rock Ethics Institute, Center and Institute Fellow, Pennsylvania State University
- 2021 Pennsylvania State University Humanities Institute Summer Residency
- 2016-2021 Pennsylvania State University Graduate Fellowship
- 2015-2021 Beinecke Scholarship
- 2018 Honorable Mention: Best Submission by a Graduate Student
 Paper title: “The ‘Pseudo-Problem’ of Free Will and Determinism: Adorno on the Third Antinomy”
 SPEP 57th Annual Meeting, Penn State University
- 2017 Max Kade Institute Travel and Research Award
 (Penn State German Department)
- 2015 Essex School for Philosophy and Art History (SPAH) Masters Scholarship
- 2015 James B. Reynolds Scholarship for Foreign Study, Dartmouth College
- 2015 The Mary and Melvin Hershenson 1933 Prize, Dartmouth College, Comparative Literature Program

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT (solo instructor)

At Arcadia University:

- Philosophy 150: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 285A: Modern European Philosophy (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 350: Social Justice (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 155: Introduction to Logic (Spring 23)
- Philosophy 180: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Spring 23)
- Philosophy 240: Philosophy in Literature (Spring 23)

At Penn State:

- Philosophy 002: Philosophy, Politics, and Social Theory (Spring 18)
- Philosophy 009: Philosophy, Race, and Diversity (Fall 18)
- Philosophy 010: Critical Thinking (Summer 19)

Philosophy 103 and 103W: Introduction to Ethics (Summer 20, Summer 22, Fall 22)
Philosophy 108: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (Fall 20)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division)

Society for Phenomenology and Existentialism

SERVICE

- April – Sept. 2023 UK Awards Nominations Committee, Pennsylvania State University
Select, interview, and mentor Penn State candidates for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Churchill scholarships.
- Jan. 2021 – May 2022 Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring, Pennsylvania State University
Advise students on research, fellowship opportunities; mentor students through fellowship and scholarship application process (e.g., Fulbright, Rhodes, Beinecke); present on undergraduate research and on fellowships; design prewriting, outlining, drafting, and revising materials for fellowships and research applicants; collaborate with URFM team and writing centers to improve fellowships applications; collaborate with different advising offices at Penn State and beyond to improve office mentoring practices
- 2021-2022 Awards Committee, Philosophy Department, Pennsylvania State University
- Sep. 2021 – May 2022 Political Education Coordinator, Democratic Socialists of America, Centre County Chapter
Lead and organize reading groups and discussions on theoretical and political texts for the Centre County chapter of the DSA.
- 2017-2018 Secretary and Collegiate Workshop Series Organizer
Penn State Philosophy Graduate Student Organization
- 2017-2018 Editorial Assistant
The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon (Eds. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta)
- Summer 2018 Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University
Amy Allen, *Critique on the Couch*. New York: Columbia UP, 2020.
- May 2018 Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University
Christopher Moore, *Calling Philosophers Names: On the Origin of a Discipline*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2019.
- Spring 2017 Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University
Allesandro Stavru and Christopher Moore (eds.), *Socrates and the Socratic Dialogue*. Brill, 2017.
- Summer 2016 Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University
Amy Allen, Frankfurt School Critical Theory and Psychoanalysis

LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading, writing, speaking); German (reading); French (reading)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

At Penn State:

PHIL 555: Theories of Freedom in Modern Philosophy (Abaci) Fall 21 (audit)
PHIL 539: The Critical Philosophy of Race: Genealogies of Racism (Bernasconi) Fall 19
PHIL 589: German Philosophical Translation (Vogtsburg) Summer 18
PHIL 596: Kant's Practical Philosophy (Abaci) Spring 18
PHIL 508: Social and Political Philosophy: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Christman) Spring 18
PHIL 479: Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School (Allen) Spring 18
PHIL 596 T.W. Adorno and Psychoanalysis (Allen) Fall 17
PHIL 564: Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception* (Toadvine) Fall 17
PHIL 562: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Abaci) Fall 17
PHIL 539: Critical Philosophy of Race: Frantz Fanon (Bernasconi) Spring 17
PHIL 563: German Idealism (Bowman) Spring 17
PHIL 597: Psychoanalysis and Social Criticism (Allen) Spring 17
ENGL 583: Theories of Desire and the Social (Colebrook) Spring 17 (audit)
PHIL 508: Soc. and Pol. Philosophy: The Social Conception of the Self (Christman) Fall 16
PHIL 564: Deleuze's *Difference and Repetition* (Lawlor) Fall 16
PHIL 553: Ancient Philosophy: Socrates (Moore) Fall 16

At Essex:

PY938: Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Subjectivity, Language and the Other (Dews) Spring 16
PY946: Kierkegaard (Watts) Spring 16
PY953: Autonomy and Mental Health (Martin) Spring 16
PY952: The Frankfurt School: Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* (Jütten) Fall 15
PY954: Philosophy and Aesthetics: Aesthetics and Politics (Schaub) Fall 15
PY951: MA Writing Workshop: Insight and Self-Knowledge (Martin) Fall 15
German Philosophical Translation (Walker) Fall 15-Spring 16
German A1-2, Fall 15-Spring 16

REFERENCES

1) Amy Allen

Dissertation director, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Advancement and Liberal Arts Professor of Philosophy and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University

Email: ara17@psu.edu

Address: 111 Sparks Building, University Park, PA 16802

2) Uygur Abaci

Dissertation committee member, Associate Professor of Philosophy and William J. and Charlotte K. Duddy University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities, Penn State University

Email: uxa14@psu.edu

Address: 206 Sparks Building, University Park, PA 16802

3) John Christman

Dissertation committee member, Professor of Philosophy, Political Science, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Director of the Penn State Humanities Institute, Penn State University

Email: jpc11@psu.edu

Address: 105 Ihlseng Cottage, University Park, PA 16802