

Dr. Peter Amato

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, 1998 Fordham University, NY

Dissertation “Marx’s Dialectic: Structure & History,” Dr. James L. Marsh, director
MA, Anthropology, Hunter College of the City University of New York, NY 1993

BA, Anthropology, Fordham University, NY 1984

My areas of specialization are Political Philosophy and Ethics, focusing on Continental authors. I have research interests in Hermeneutics, Marxism, African and Africana Philosophy. Critical Reasoning and the History of Western Philosophy are my strongest areas of teaching competence. I have taught a wide range of courses in all the major areas and periods of Western Philosophy.

Professional Positions

- Teaching Professor, English & Philosophy Dept., Drexel University, PA (2013-present)
- Director, Philosophy Program, English & Philosophy Dept., Drexel University, PA (2011-)
- Associate Teaching Professor, English & Philosophy Dept., Drexel University, PA (2008-13)
- Instructor, English & Philosophy Dept., Drexel University, PA (2002-8)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy Dept., Saint Joseph’s University, PA (2001-2)
- Adjunct, Philosophy Dept., Saint Joseph’s University, PA (2000-1)
- Adjunct, English & Philosophy Dept., Drexel University, PA (2000-1)
- Adjunct, Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, PA (1999-2000)
- Adjunct, Department of Philosophy, Fordham University, NY (1992-9)
- Adjunct, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Iona College, NY (1990-1)
- Adjunct, Department of Philosophy, Hunter College, City University of New York (1989-97)
- Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Fordham University, NY (1989-90)

Courses Taught

Drexel University: PHIL101 Introduction to Western Philosophy, PHIL105 Critical Reasoning, PHIL201 and 212 Ancient Philosophy, PHIL202 and 214 Modern Philosophy, PHIL203 and 215 Contemporary Philosophy, PHIL210 Philosophy of Sport, PHIL241 Social & Political Philosophy, PHIL251 Ethics, PHIL330 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice, PHIL351 Philosophy of Technology, PHIL361 Philosophy of Science, PHIL381 Philosophy in Literature, PHIL421 Seminar in Ancient Philosophy, PHIL461 Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy, PHIL485 Marx’s Philosophy, PHIL485 Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics, AFAS220 Africana Political Philosophy, HNRS200 Seminar *Flatland* and Philosophy, HNRS200 Seminar *Philosophy in 1984*

Saint Joseph’s University: PHIL1011 The Human Person, PHIL1031 Moral Philosophy, PHIL2011 Knowledge & Existence, PHIL2681 Marxist Philosophy

Philadelphia University: L363 Personality & Culture, L383 World Philosophies

Iona College: PHIL210G Introduction to Moral Thought

Hunter College, City University of New York: PHIL101 Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL102 Logical Thinking, HUM101 Maps of Knowledge

Fordham University: PHRU1000 Philosophy of Human Nature, PHRU2000 Philosophy of Human Knowledge, PHRU1100 Ethics

Edited Volumes Published

Virtue, Order, Mind: Ancient, Modern and Post-Modern Perspectives, ed. Peter Amato, (Department of Philosophy, State University College at Oneonta, 1994)

Book Chapters, Edited Collections

“Toward a Fuller Understanding of the Enigma of Health: The Strange Art of Healing From Mathesis to Anamnesis,” in Francis Egbokhare and Adeshina Afolayan (eds), *Global Health, Humanity and the COVID-19 Pandemic, Philosophical and Sociological Challenges and Imperatives*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2023), 15-31

“On Vernacular Rationality: Gadamer and Eze in Conversation,” chapter 20 in *The Palgrave Handbook of African Philosophy*, eds. Adeshina Afolayan and Toyin Falola, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 303-313

“Radical Protest and Dialectical Ethics,” in *Peace Philosophy and Public Life: Commitments, Crises, and Concepts for Engaged Thinking*, eds. Greg Moses and Gail Presbey, (Rodopi, 2014), 145-162

“Human Nature, Thomas Hobbes, and Philosophy, (Or, How A Philosopher Who Argued That We All Deserve Peace Came to Be Seen as A Champion of Violence and War),” *The 33rd: An Anthology of Student and Faculty Writing*, ed. Scott Stein, (The Drexel Publishing Group, 2009), 203-209

“Crisis, Terror, & Tyranny: On the Anti-Democratic Logic of Empire,” in *Philosophical Perspectives on the ‘War on Terrorism,’* ed. Gail Presbey, (Rodopi, 2007), 113-128

“Marxist Critique and Philosophical Hermeneutics: Outlines of a Hermeneutical-Historical Materialism,” in *Radical Philosophy Today, Volume 4: Philosophy Against Empire*, eds. Tony Smith and Harry van der Linden, (Philosophy Documentation Center, 2006), 235-242

“A Sphere’s Progress: Flatland as a Social-Ethical Space,” in *Space and Time in Management and Social Analysis: Emerging Concepts and Working Models*, ed. Róger Churnside, (Universidad de Costa Rica, Centro de Investigación y Capacitación en Administración Pública, 2004), 381-396

“African Philosophy and Modernity,” Chapter 3 in *Post-Colonial African Philosophy: A Critical Reader*, ed. Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, (Basil Blackwell, 1997), 71-100

“Modernity, Kolakowski and Myth,” Chapter 13 in *Virtue, Order, Mind: Ancient, Modern and Post-Modern Perspectives*, ed. Peter Amato, (Department of Philosophy, State University College at Oneonta, 1994), 181-197

Refereed Articles

“On the Relevance of the Ontological – A Critique of Thaddeus Metz’s Relational Ethics,” *African Philosophical Inquiry*, (forthcoming)

“The Menkiti-Gyekye Conversation: Framing Persons,” *Filosofia Theoretica: Journal of African Philosophy, Culture and Religions*, special issue ed. by Michael Onyebuchi Eze, 7, 2, May-Aug. 2018, 34-46

“Language, Reflection and the Dimensions of Conduct,” *Human Nature Review*, 4, August 2004, 142-151

“Hobbes, Darwinism, and Conceptions of Human Nature,” *Minerva-An Internet Journal of Philosophy*, 6, November 2002

“Habermas’s Other Legitimation Crisis: Ethical-Philosophical Considerations,” *Radical Philosophy Review*, 4:2, Fall, 2002, 205-228

“Marx’s Science and the ‘First Critique’ of Hegel,” *Rethinking Marxism*, 13:1, Spring, 2001, 97-107

“The Future and an Illusion: Toward a Post-anthropological Concept of Religion,” *Bridges: An Inter-disciplinary Journal of Theology, Philosophy, History & Science*, 7: 3-4, Fall/Winter, 2000, 187-203

“The Invisibility of Ethics and the Hermeneutics of Conduct,” *Budhi: A Journal of Thought and Culture*, 4:1, October 2000, 67-78

Reviews

“Marx, Property, Possession and Power,” a review of *The Dispossessed: Karl Marx’s Debates on Wood Theft and the Right of the Poor* by Daniel Bensaid, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019, *Radical Philosophy Review* 24.2 (2021) 261-4

“Ethics, Politics, and Social Existence,” a review of *Ethics and Social Survival* by Milton Fisk, New York: Routledge, 2016, *Radical Philosophy Review*, 20.2 (2017) 373-6

“On the Irrelevance of the Beautiful,” a review of *Gadamer and the Legacy of German Idealism* by Kristin Gjesdal, Cambridge, 2009, *Research in Phenomenology*, 41.2 (2011) 287-294

“Decentering and Refocusing Marx,” a review of *Marx at the Margins: on Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies* by Kevin B. Anderson, University of Chicago Press, 2010, *Radical Philosophy Review*, 14.2 (2011) 217-221

Review of *Rescuing Justice and Equality*, Cambridge: Harvard, 2008, and *Why Not Socialism?* by G.A. Cohen, New Jersey: Princeton, 2009, *The Marx & Philosophy Review of Books*, 2010, <http://www.marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviewofbooks/reviews/2010/125>

Review of *Platonism, Music and the Listener's Share* by Christopher Norris, New York: Continuum, 2006, in *The Journal of Critical Realism*, 9.1 (2010) 122-125

Review of *Epistemology: Key Concepts in Philosophy* by Christopher Norris, New York: Continuum, 2005, in *The Journal of Critical Realism*, 8.3 (2009) 370-373

Review of *On Truth and Meaning* by Christopher Norris, New York: Continuum, 2006, in *The Journal of Critical Realism*, 8.3 (2009) 374-377

Review of *Thinking from Things: Essays in the Philosophy of Archaeology*, by Alison Wylie, University of California Press, 2002, *Bridges: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Theology, Philosophy, History & Science*, Fall-Winter, 2003, 353-355

“Sympathy for the Devil,” a review of *A Darwinian Left: Politics, Evolution, and Cooperation*, by Peter Singer, Yale, 1999, *Social Theory and Practice*, Vol. 29, no. 3, July 2003, 515-522

Short Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

“Cognition” entry, eds. V.Y. Mudimbe and Kasereka Kavwahirehi, *Encyclopedia of African Religions and Philosophy*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2021

Review of *Gadamer: A Philosophical Portrait*, by Donatella Di Cesare, Indiana, 2013, in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, February 2014

Review of *Hermeneutic Communism: from Heidegger to Marx*, by Gianni Vattimo and Santiago Zabala, Columbia, 2011, in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, July 2012

Review of *Marx and the Alternative to Capitalism* by Kieran Allen, Pluto, 2011 in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, March 2012

Review of *Social Structures and Forms of Consciousness*, by István Mészáros, Monthly Review, 2010 in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, November 2010

Review of *Gadamer and the Legacy of German Idealism* by Kristin Gjesdal, Cambridge, 2009, in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, February 2010

Review of *The Question of Sacrifice*, by Dennis King Keenan, Indiana, 2005, *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, September 2006

Review of *Targets of Opportunity: On the Militarization of Thinking*, by Samuel Weber, Fordham University, 2005, in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, November 2005

Review of *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics*, eds. Andrew I. Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman, Blackwell, 2005, in *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, July 2005

“Social Darwinism” entry, Dinah Shelton, ed. *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*, 3 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005

Review of *The Robot's Rebellion: Finding Meaning in the Age of Darwin*, by Keith Stanowich, Chicago, 2004, *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, December 2004

Review of *Gadamer's Repercussions: Reconsidering Philosophical Hermeneutics*, ed. Bruce Krajewski, California, 2004, *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, October 2004

Review of *Hans-Georg Gadamer: A Biography*, by Jean Grondin, translated by Joel Weinsheimer, Yale, 2003, *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, December 2003

Review of *A Community of Individuals*, by John Lachs, Routledge, 2003, *Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, October 2003

Scholarly Conference and Invited Presentations

Commentary on "After Capitalism, What?," by Paul Mattick, Suffolk Community College Philosophy Conference, NY, April 2012

"Teaching Philosophy in Flatland: Negation, Refusal, Transcendence," Critical Refusals: The Fourth Biennial Conference of the International Herbert Marcuse Society, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 2011

"Marx's Overcoming of Morality," for the Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism at the American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago, IL, February 2010

"Gadamer's *Republic* and Other Dialogues," invited presentation to the Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey, Richard Stockton College, Pomona, NJ, November 2006

"Reclaiming *Republic*: Democracy as a Real and Ironic Ideal," Radical Philosophy Association Seventh Biennial National Conference, Omaha, NE, November 2006

"Applied Ethics and/as Radical Philosophy," Radical Philosophy Association group meeting, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Conference, NY, December 2005

"Socratic Philosophy, Democracy, and the 'War on Terror,'" for the Concerned Philosophers for Peace at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, New York, NY, December 2005

"Marxist Philosophy and Philosophical Hermeneutics," Radical Philosophy Association Sixth Biennial National Conference, Washington, DC, November 2004

"Marxism, Subjectivity, and Hermeneutics," Rethinking Marxism International Conference: Marxism and the World Stage, Amherst, MA, November 2003

"Workshop on Philosophy and Human Nature," International Earth Charter Summit, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, October 2003

“Ethics & Emics: Toward a Hermeneutics of Conduct,” Conference on Value Inquiry, Grand Forks, ND, April 2003

“Sympathy for the Devil: On Peter Singer’s Proposal for a Darwinian Left,” Radical Philosophy Association Fifth Biennial National Conference, Providence, RI, November 2002

“Marxism, Globalization, and Politics in *Empire*,” Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, Seattle, WA, March 2002

“Darwin, Hobbes, and Human Nature,” presentation to the Faculty of Humanities & Arts, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, January 2002

“Commentary on ‘Moral Diversity in a Liberal Society: Buddhist Perspectives on Overlapping Consensus,’ by Chris Gowans,” Suffolk Community College Philosophy Conference, NY, May 2001

“From the Kingdom of Ends to the End of Kingdoms: Marxism and Kantian Moral Theory,” Radical Philosophy Association Fourth Biennial National Conference, Boston, MA, Nov. 2000
“Discourse Ethics and Habermas’s Other Legitimation Crisis,” Mid-South Annual Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, February 2000

“Marx and the ‘Critical Failure’ of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*,” Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Boston, MA, December 1999

“Commentary on ‘Forgiveness and the Affective Moral Gap,’ by Karen D. Hoffman,” Mid-South Annual Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, March 1999

“Communicative Ethics and Deliberative Democracy: Between Rationale and Rationality,” Critical Theory Roundtable, Boston, MA, October 1998

“Unfinished Business: Marx’s *Manifesto* and Social Science,” Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism at the American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago, IL, May 1998

“Nature, Mind, and Community in Plato’s *Protagoras*,” Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy Annual Philosophy Conference, New York, NY, October 1991

College and Department Related Activities

Star Scholar Mentor, Summer 2022

English & Philosophy Dept. Curriculum Committee 2018 –

English & Philosophy Dept. Committee on Teaching Faculty 2018 – 19

English & Philosophy Dept. Elections Committee 2018 – 19

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Committee 2018 – 20

Fulbright Fellowships Committee 2017–20; 2022 –

English & Philosophy Dept. Committee on Professional Development 2017-18

English & Philosophy Dept. Hiring Committee 2016-17
Truman Scholarship Committee 2015-16
English & Philosophy Dept. Teaching Faculty Promotions Committee 2015-16
English & Philosophy Dept. Cooperative Education Committee 2014-15
English & Philosophy Dept. Program Alignment Review Committee 2013-14
University Committee on Assessment Working Group on Critical Thinking Spring, 2010
English & Philosophy Dept. Outcomes Assessment Subcommittee 2008
Philosophy Program Committee to Revise the Philosophy Minor 2006-2007
Department of English and Philosophy Hiring Committee 2004
College of Arts and Sciences UNIV101 Committee 2003-2004

Other Service, Appointments, and Awards

Drexel Undergraduate Mock Trial Club Faculty Advisor, 2018 –
Co-Executive Director, Marxism and Philosophy Association, 2011 – 21
Drexel Latinos for a United Campus Club Faculty Advisor, 2018 –19
Pennoni Honors College, Fellowships Office Mentor Award, 2018
Editorial Board Member Radical Philosophy Review, 2010-2018
Principal Organizer Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium UG Conference, 2015-17
Organizing Committee Co-Chair Drexel Philosophy Week, 2013-17
At-large Member Radical Philosophy Association Advisory Committee, 2008-16
Program Committee Radical Philosophy Association Biennial Conference, 2010-12
Co-Executive Director Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism, 2006-10
Chair Radical Philosophy Association Biennial Conference Program Committee, 2006-8
Founder The Hermeneutics Circle, Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, 2004-7
Principal Organizer Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium UG Conference, 2006
Organizing Committee Radical Philosophy Association Biennial Int'l. Conference, 2004-6
Chair National Program Committee, Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism, 2001-6
Founding and Contributing Editor Conference, a graduate student philosophy journal, 1989-93
Teaching Fellow of the Year Fordham University Graduate School, 1989-90