

# TORSTEN MENGE

Northwestern University in Qatar  
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## PROFILE

Areas of Specialization: Social and Political Philosophy, Social Ontology

Areas of Competence: Critical Philosophy of Race, 20th Century European Philosophy, Analytic Pragmatism, Social Epistemology

## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor in Residence, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2017-present

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, 2016-2017

Adjunct Instructor, Georgetown University, 2015-2016

## EDUCATION

Georgetown University: Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2015

Committee: Quill R. Kukla (Chair), Mark Lance, Terry Pinkard, Joseph Rouse

Dissertation: *The Power of Genealogy*

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany): M.A. in Philosophy, 2008

Advisor: Thomas Schmidt

Thesis: *Niklas Luhmann's Conception of Morality*

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Menge, Torsten. "How Far Does Occupancy Extend? Global Supply Chains, Foreign Land Acquisitions, and Territorial Sovereignty," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* (forthcoming).

Menge, Torsten. "Discriminating Borders: Nationality, Racial Ordering, and the Right to Exclude," *Genealogy+Critique* vol. 9, no. 1 (2023), pp. 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.16995/gc.9250>.

Menge, Torsten. "Colonial Genealogies of National Self-Determination," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*. Ahead of print (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1017/apa.2022.23>.

Menge, Torsten. "Colonial Genealogies of Immigration Controls, Self-Determination, and the Nation-State" (Review Essay), *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. Ahead of print (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2021.2007342>.

Menge, Torsten. "Fictional Expectations and the Ontology of Power," *Philosophers' Imprint*, vol. 20, no. 29 (2020), pp. 1-22. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3521354.0020.029>.

Menge, Torsten. "Violence and the Materiality of Power," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, (2022), pp. 761-879. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2019.1700344>.

Menge, Torsten. "How Far Does the European Union Reach? Foreign Land Acquisitions and the Boundaries of Political Communities," *Land*, vol. 8, no. 3 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.3390/land8030044>.

Menge, Torsten. "The Role of Power in Social Explanation," *European Journal of Social Theory*, vol. 21, no. 1 (2018), pp. 22–38, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1368431017714426>.

Menge, Torsten. "The Uncanny Effect of Telling Genealogies," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, vol. 33, no. 1 (2017), pp. 63-73, <http://doi.org/10.5840/swphilreview20173317>.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Menge, Torsten. "Mastering the Future: Power and the Futural Logic of Security." In *Developing Critical Security Studies from Doha*, edited by Hermez, S., Doha: #IAS\_NUQ Press/Beirut: Arab Council for the Social Sciences, 2024. <https://ias-nuq-press.shorthandstories.com/mastering-the-future-power-and-the-futural-logic-of-security/index.html>

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*How Power Matters: Expressing the Normative Significance of Causal Capacities in Human Ways of Life* (book manuscript)

"Beyond Social Power: Thinking Ecologically about Power"

"Power as an Expressive Concept"

## **PRESENTATIONS**

"An Ecological Account of Power"

Social Ontology of Power Workshop, Stockholm, September 2024

Social Ontology 2023, Stockholm, August 2023

2022 Critical Social Ontology Workshop, March 2022 (virtual)

NU-Q Liberal Arts Seminar and Speaker Series, March 2022

"An Ecological Account of Power"

Invited Talk, NYU Abu Dhabi Philosophy Department, May 2024

"How Power Matters — Forst, Rouse, and Arendt on the Co-constitution of Power and Normative Significance"

Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt Workshop, Leiden University, March 2024

"How Far Does Occupancy Extend? Global Supply Chains, Foreign Land Acquisitions, and Territorial Control"

Global Political Thought Conference, Princeton University, April 2024

*Territories, Peoples, Nations* Workshop, Northwestern University in Qatar, January 2024

MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, University of Manchester, September 2023

- “How Power and Normative Concerns Emerge Together in Niche Constructed Environments “  
2023 Critical Social Ontology Workshop, March 2023 (virtual)
- “Methodological Nationalism, Land Governance, and the ‘Disassembling of National Territory’”  
MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, University of Manchester, September 2022
- “Powerful Dualism: Power, Autonomy, and Agency in Amy Allen’s The Politics of Ourselves”  
Social Ontology 2022, Vienna, August 2022
- “Contested Notions of Collective Self-Determination and the Ethics of Immigration Control”  
2022 Global Meeting on Law and Society, Law and Society Association, Lisbon, July 2022
- “Discrimination at the Border: Telling Genealogies of Modern Immigration Practices”  
Confronting Discrimination: Phenomenological and Genealogical Perspectives, University of  
Innsbruck, October 2021
- “Power’s Expressive Role and the ‘Essential Contestedness’ of Social Ontology”  
Social Ontology 2021 (13th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference), August 2021  
(virtual)
- “Colonial Genealogies of Self-Determination”  
37th International Social Philosophy Conference, Neumann University (PA), July 2020  
(cancelled)  
38th International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2021 (virtual)
- “Fictional Expectations and the Ontology of Power”  
Social Ontology 2020 (12th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference), Online, July 2020
- “Making Concepts Uncanny: Foucaultian Genealogies and Conceptual Analysis”  
Workshop on Genealogy and Conceptual Engineering, University of St. Andrews, May 2020  
(cancelled due to Covid19 pandemic)
- “Neighborhoods and States: Why Collective Self-Determination Is Not Always Valuable”  
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Philadelphia, January 2020
- “Immigration, Imperialism, and the Genealogy of Liberal Self-Determination”  
Critical Genealogies Workshop, University of Oregon, May 2019
- “The Global Land Rush, Self-Determination, and the Ontology of Political Communities”  
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, New York, January 2019
- “Foreign Land Acquisitions, Self-Determination, and the Boundary Problem”  
3. Workshop für Politische Philosophie, Berlin, December 2018
- “What Determines the Boundaries of a Political Community?”  
Social Ontology 2018 (11th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference), Tufts University,  
August 2018
- “Is Collective Self-Determination Always Valuable? Civic Boundaries and the Effects of Past  
White Supremacist Immigration Policies”  
35th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, Oakland University July 2018
- “How Far Does the European Union Reach? Land Acquisitions, Transnational Governance, and  
Citizenship”

- Qatar Faculty Forum, Doha, September 2018  
 LANDac Annual International Conference 2018, Utrecht, June 2018
- “Self-Determination, Foreign Land Acquisitions, and the Ontology of Political Communities”  
 GAP10: The 10th Triennial Congress of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP),  
 Universität zu Köln (Germany), September 2018  
 17th Annual Conference of the International Social Theory Consortium, Chicago, May 2018
- “Local Polities with Global Reach: Self-Determination, Immigration, and Foreign Land  
 Acquisitions”  
 Liberal Arts International Conference 2018 at Texas A&M University at Qatar, February 2018
- “Peoples, Communities, Borders”  
*Who’s Got the Power? Philosophical Critique of Social and Political Structures*, University of  
 Iceland, October 2017
- “Power, Collective Acceptance, and Ontological Complicity”  
*Complicity and the Politics of Representation*, Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), June  
 2017
- “Power as an Expressive Concept”  
 Central States Philosophical Association, Lincoln, NE, October 2016
- “Making Uncanny: The Normative Effect of Telling a Genealogy”  
 Southwestern Philosophical Society, Corpus Christi, November 2016  
 American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, San Francisco, April 2016
- “Violence and the ‘Fiction of Power’ ”  
*Re-engaging Elaine Scarry’s The Body in Pain*, University of Brighton (UK), December 2015
- “Violence and the Materiality of Power”  
 Hannah Arendt Circle, West Chester University, March 2016  
 Political Violence Workshop, University of Connecticut, December 2015
- “A Problem for Theories of Power”  
 American Philosophical Association Central Division, St. Louis, February 2015
- “Hobbes and the Fiction of Sovereign Power”  
 American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Philadelphia, December 2014  
 31th International Social Philosophy Conference, Ashland, Oregon, July 2014  
*Power and Representation*, KU Leuven, June 2014  
 North Carolina Philosophical Society Meeting, Chapel Hill, February 2014
- “Die Fiktion der Macht. Eine Analyse alltäglicher Machtzuschreibungen”  
*Perspektivierungen der Macht*, Hochschule für Politik, München (Germany), October 2013
- “A Regress Problem for Theories of Power”  
 MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, University of Manchester, September 2013  
 30th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, Quinnipiac University, July 2013
- “A Deflationary Conception of Social Power”  
 Studies in Social and Political Thought Annual Conference, University of Sussex (UK), June  
 2012

“Foucault, Power, and Norms”

Villanova University Annual Philosophy Conference, Villanova University, March 2012

## **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED**

January 2024 *Organized Workshop*: “Territories, Peoples, Nations: Decolonial Approaches to Foundational Concepts in Political Theory”, Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar

Sept. 2023 *Organized Workshop*: “Decolonial Conceptions of Territory, Sovereignty, and Self-determination”, MANCEPT Workshops, Manchester University

April 2014 *Organized One-Day Conference*: Georgetown University Philosophy Conference: Emotions and Emotionality

April 2013 *Organized One-Day Conference*: Georgetown University Philosophy Conference: Reasons and Reasoning

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Introduction to Philosophy

Northwestern: Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; University of Arkansas: Fall 2016  
Marymount University: Fall 2015

Introduction to Political Philosophy (“Justice”)

Northwestern: Fall 2017, 2019; Georgetown: Spring 2012, 2013, Summer 2013  
Georgetown (Online): Summer 2014, 2015, 2016

Ethics and Politics of Immigration

Northwestern: Fall 2018, Spring 2020, 2023

Language and Power

Northwestern: Spring 2019, Fall 2023

Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Social Construction (Race, Gender, Disability)

Northwestern: Spring 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024

Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Postcolonial Political Theory

Northwestern: Spring 2018, 2020, 2023

Ways of Knowing (interdisciplinary Liberal Arts course)

Northwestern: Fall 2020, 2021, 2022

Introduction to Ethics

Northwestern: Spring 2019, 2024, University of Arkansas: Spring 2017

Philosophy of Race

University of Arkansas: Fall 2016; Georgetown: Spring 2016

Philosophical Genealogies (Senior Capstone Seminar)

University of Arkansas: Spring 2017

Bioethics

Georgetown: Spring 2016

Theory of Knowledge

Georgetown: Fall 2015  
Relationships (Philosophy of Love, Sex, and Sexuality)  
Georgetown: Fall 2013, 2014  
Moral Skepticism (Metaethics)  
Georgetown: Summer 2011, Fall 2011  
Introduction to Logic  
Georgetown: Summer 2012

*Teaching Certificates:*

Apprenticeship in Teaching Certificate, Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship,  
2015, Georgetown University

**HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

NU-Q Faculty Research Fellowship, 2022  
APA Graduate Student Travel Stipends, 2014 (Eastern), 2015 (Central)  
Graduate Fellowship, Georgetown University, 2008-2015  
Engelhard Teaching Fellow, Georgetown University, 2012–2015  
Graduate Fellow in Bioethics, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, 2010–2011  
Political and Social Thought Fellowship, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service,  
Georgetown University, 2010 – 2011

**SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Reviewer for *Social Epistemology*, *Theoria*, *Arendt Studies*, *Contexto International*, *European Journal of Social Theory*  
Academic Integrity Committee, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2019-present  
Curriculum Committee, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2018-2019, 2022-present  
Faculty Advisor, NU-Q Debate Club, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2018-2020  
Teaching and Pedagogy Committee, Northwestern University in Qatar, 2017-2020  
Faculty Organizer, Social And Political Philosophy Discussion Group, University of Arkansas,  
2016-2017  
Research Associate, MLA/Mellon Connected Academics Grant, 2015-2016  
Member, Minorities and Philosophy (Georgetown Chapter), 2014-2015  
Member, Georgetown Diversifying Syllabi Reading Group, 2014-2015  
Organizing Committee, Georgetown University Philosophy Conference, 2013, 2014  
President, GradPride (Georgetown LGBTQ Graduate Student Group), 2011–2013  
Member, Georgetown 20th Century European Philosophy Workshop, 2010–2015  
Treasurer, Georgetown Graduate Student Philosophy Club, 2010–2012  
Organizer, Kennedy Institute of Ethics Bioethics Speaker Series, 2010–2011  
Associate Editor, *Eudaemonia* (Georgetown Undergraduate Philosophy Journal), 2010

**LANGUAGES**

German (native speaker)

English (fluent)

French (reading)

Russian (reading)

Italian (reading)

## **REFERENCES**

Quill R. Kukla, Dept. of Philosophy, Georgetown University, rk75@georgetown.edu

Joseph Rouse, Philosophy Dept., Wesleyan University, jrouse@wesleyan.edu

Terry Pinkard, Dept. Philosophy, Georgetown University, pinkard1@georgetown.edu

Mark Lance, Dept. of Philosophy, Georgetown University, lancem@georgetown.edu

Sami Hermez, Liberal Arts, Northwestern University in Qatar, sami.hermez@northwestern.edu