

# JAMES S. PEARSON

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## EMPLOYMENT

### **Leiden University**

2026–present, Lecturer in Philosophy

2017–2019, Lecturer in Philosophy

2012–2017, PhD Candidate (fully funded by the Dutch Research Council)

### **University of Lisbon**

2022–2028 (expected), Junior Researcher

### **University of Amsterdam**

2023–2025, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow in Political Science

### **University of Tartu**

2019–2022, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Practical Philosophy

## EDUCATION

### **Leiden University,**

**PhD**, *cum laude*, Philosophy, defended February 2018

### **University of Warwick,**

**MA**, *with distinction*, Philosophy and Literature, August 2011

### **University of Dundee,**

**MA** (undergraduate), *with first-class honours*, Philosophy and English Literature, August 2010

## VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

**Stanford University**, Department of Political Science, Autumn 2024

**University of Oxford**, Department of Philosophy, Autumn 2013

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

**AOS:** Contemporary political theory, history of political philosophy, Nietzsche, philosophy of technology

**AOC:** Continental philosophy, ethics of immigration, Rawls, philosophy of creativity, aesthetics

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books**

2022. *Nietzsche on Conflict, Struggle and War* (Cambridge University Press).

### **Edited Books**

2018. *Conflict and Contest in Nietzsche's Philosophy* (Bloomsbury; co-edited with Herman Siemens).

### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

2026. "Nietzsche and the Limits of Genealogical Critique." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2026.2636302>

2025. "Ideology Critique in Times of Crisis." *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2025.2478727>

2025. "Democratic Alarmism: Coherent Notion or Contradiction in Terms." *Constellations*.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12808>

2024. "Defining Digital Authoritarianism." *Philosophy and Technology*, 37(73). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-024-00754-8>

2024. "Subjectivity and the Politics of Self-Cultivation: A Comparative Study of Fichte and Nietzsche." *Nietzsche-Studien*, 53(1). <https://doi.org/10.1515/nietzstu-2024-0011>

2023. "Warding off the Evil Eye: Peer Envy in Rawls's Just Society." *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 106 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/agph-2022-0048>

2022. "Realism in the Ethics of Immigration." *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 49(8). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01914537221079676> (This article was translated into Estonian for *Akadeemia*. <https://www.akad.ee/2023/02/16/akadeemia-nr-3-2023/>)
2021. "The Value of Malevolent Creativity." *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 55(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-020-09741-6>
2019. "United we Stand, Divided we Fall. The Early Nietzsche on the Struggle for Organisation." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 49(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00455091.2018.1475183>
2018. "Nietzsche on the Necessity of Repression." *Inquiry*, 66(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2018.1529618>
2018. "Nietzsche on the Sources of Agonal Moderation." *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, 49(1). <https://doi.org/10.5325/jnietstud.49.1.0102>
2016. "On Catharsis, Conflict and the Coherence of Nietzsche's Agonism." *Nietzsche-Studien*, 45(1). <https://doi.org/10.1515/nietzstu-2016-0104>
2016. "Wittgenstein and the Utility of Disagreement." *Social Theory and Practice*, 42(1). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24575773>
2015. "Language, Subjectivity and the Agon: A Comparative Study of Nietzsche and Lyotard." *Logoi*, 1(3): 76–101. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0HtEhq1uw44SjZPEk3QzBsYXM/view>
2013. "Total Narcissism and the Uncanny: A New Interpretation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's 'The Sandman.'" *Angelaki*, 18(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/0969725X.2013.804988>
2012. "Finding What Will Suffice: Stevens and the Post-Hegelian Evaluation of Art." *The Wallace Stevens Journal*, 36(2). <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/wsj.2012.0036>

### **Chapters in Edited Books**

2018. "Unity in Strife: Nietzsche, Heraclitus and Schopenhauer," in James S. Pearson and Herman Siemens (eds.), *Conflict and Contest in Nietzsche's Philosophy* (Bloomsbury).

### **Book Reviews**

2021. "Razvan, I., *The Body in Spinoza and Nietzsche*." *Global Intellectual History*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23801883.2021.1979770>
2013. "João Constâncio and Maria João Mayer Branco (eds.), *Nietzsche on Instinct and Language*." *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, 44(1). <https://doi.org/10.5325/jnietstud.44.1.0115>

### **Popular**

2025. "Hoe technokapitalisme autoritarisme voortbrengt." *Jacobin NL* 4(1): 49–52. <https://jacobin.nl/hoe-technokapitalisme-autoritarisme-voortbrengt/>
2025. "Expert Reaction: First Conference for Entirely AI-Authored Research Papers." Available from: <https://www.scimex.org/newsfeed/expert-reactionfirst-conference-for-entirely-ai-authored-research-papers> (co-authored with Marc Cheong and Matthew Dennis).
2016. "How to Win the War on War," *e-ir.com*. Available from: <http://www.e-ir.info/2015/06/02/how-to-win-the-war-on-war/> [24 November 2016].

### **In Progress or Under Review**

- "Why AI Poses A Fundamental Threat to Modern Politics" (co-authored with Janosch Prinz and Carlo Burelli).
- "Responsible Genealogy. Facing up to the Risks of Genealogical Critique." This paper considers the risks associated with the use of genealogy in contemporary political philosophy.
- "Creativity Reconsidered: Generative AI and the Problem of Intentional Agency" (co-authored with Matthew Dennis and Marc Cheong). Under review. Preprint available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2601.15797>
- Artificial Creativity* (monograph on the ethical and political implications of creative machines being co-authored with Matthew Dennis). Book proposal currently under review at Bristol University Press.

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship (187 624 EUR). University of Amsterdam (PI; two-year research position, commenced September 2023).

FCT Junior Researcher Grant (180 930 EUR). University of Lisbon (PI; six-year research position, commenced September 2022).

ERC Incentive Grant (internal; 10 000 EUR). University of Tartu.

Mobilitas Pluss Grant (85 500 EUR). University of Tartu (PI; two-year postdoctoral research position, commenced in September 2019).

Offer of place on the BPhil at the University of Oxford (2012; declined in favor of a PhD position at Leiden University).

NWO-funded PhD position at Leiden University (four-year position, commenced January 2012).

AHRC-funded PhD position at Royal Holloway, University of London (three-year position, offered in August 2011; declined in favor of a PhD position at Leiden University).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **University of Amsterdam**

Supervisor, MRes Thesis Project in the Department of Psychology (a priming experiment on anti-AI bias; co-supervised with Claire Stevenson). Spring Term 2026.

### **Leiden University**

Lecturer, *Nietzsche and Law*. Spring Term 2026. MA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *Subjectivity and Modern Philosophy* (Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and Kant). Spring Term 2019. MA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *MA Thesis Seminar* (academic writing skills). Spring Term 2019; Autumn Term 2018; Spring Term 2017. MA. Sole responsibility.

Coach, *Humanities Lab Capstone Project*. Spring Term 2019; Spring Term 2018. BA.

Lecturer, *Nietzsche's Politics*. Autumn Term 2018. BA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *The History of Political Philosophy* (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Mill). Spring Term 2018. BA (ca. 120 students). Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *History of Philosophy*. Autumn Term 2018; Autumn Term 2017. BA (ca. 40 students).

Lecturer, *Art and Morality* (Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Schiller, Brecht, Nietzsche, Nussbaum [i.a.]). Autumn Term 2017. MA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *Nietzsche, Freud and the Modern Subject*. Spring Term 2014. MA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *Nietzsche and Lyotard*. Spring Term 2013. BA. Sole responsibility.

Supervisor, multiple graduate and undergraduate theses in political philosophy.

### **University of Tartu**

Lecturer, *The Ethical and Social Aspects of Engineering*. Spring Term 2022. BA (online course given to engineering students).

Supervisor, *Individual Study on the Dangers of Political Conservatism*. Spring Term 2022. MA.

Lecturer, *The Ethics of Immigration*. Autumn Term 2021. MA (module consisting of three sessions). Sole Responsibility.

Lecturer, *Philosophy as a Way of Life* (from Socrates to Nietzsche). Autumn Term 2021. BA/MA. Co-designed and co-taught with Dr. Toomas Lott.

Lecturer, *Nietzsche's Gay Science*. Autumn Term 2020. MA. Sole responsibility.

Lecturer, *The Philosophy of Multiculturalism*. Spring Term 2020. MA. Sole responsibility.

### INVITED TALKS (SELECTION)

- “New Wine in New Bottles: Diagnosing Fascism in the Current Age.” Philosophy Against Fascism Lecture Series. Centre of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. October 2026.
- “The Importance of Being Earnest: AI and Artificial Authenticity.” English Department. University of Amsterdam. April 2026.
- “Nietzsche and the Limits of Genealogy.” Department of Philosophy. University of Liverpool. February 2026.
- “Redefining Creativity for the Age of AI.” Philosophy and Ethics Group. TU Eindhoven. February 2026. Guest lecture for MA course on AI creativity for Prof. Filippo Santoni de Sio and Matthew Dennis.
- “The Political Value of AI Creativity.” Department of Media and Communication. University of Amsterdam. February 2026. Guest lecture for a BA course on creativity led by Alice Fleerackers.
- “Generative AI and the Case for Redefining Creativity.” Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human and Machine Creativity. Max Planck Institute for Human Development. July 2025.
- “Genealogy within Constraints: Nietzsche and the Risks of Genealogical Critique.” Departmental Seminar. Department of Philosophy, Maastricht University. June 2025.
- “The Use and Abuse of Genealogy: Nietzsche and the Risks of Genealogical Critique.” Post-Kantian Seminar. Department of Philosophy, Yale University. April 2025.
- “Nietzsche and Schopenhauer on Creativity.” Two guest lectures for the course *Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art*. Department of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. March 2025.
- “Ideology Critique in Times of Crisis.” Realism Beyond Liberalism. Department of Philosophy, Wuhan University (via Zoom). May 2024.
- “Kant’s *Perpetual Peace*.” Guest lecture for Eric Schliesser’s BA course “History of Political Theory.” Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam. March 2024.
- “Ideology Critique in Times of Crisis.” Challenges Seminar. Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam. March 2024.
- “Nietzsche and Schopenhauer on Creativity.” Two guest lectures for the course *Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art*. Department of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. March 2024 (repeated in March 2025).
- “Defining Digital Authoritarianism.” Are we Living a Crisis? Some Aspects of Contemporary Transformations. University of Bari. October 2023.
- “Nietzsche on Conflict, Struggle and War (Book Presentation).” History of Philosophy Seminar. Centre of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. March 2023.
- “Nietzsche on Conflict, Struggle and War (Book Presentation).” Lisbon Nietzsche Seminar. NOVA University of Lisbon. March 2023.
- “In Defence of Democratic Alarmism.” Praxis Seminar. Centre of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. October 2022.
- “Schiller on Political Self-Determination.” Self-Determination Research Group (organized by Prof. Eva Piirimäe). University of Tartu. November 2021.
- “Emergency Politics and the Foundations of Political Legitimacy.” Freedom and Unfreedom in Critical Times. University of Tartu. October 2021.
- “Nietzsche on Conflict, Struggle and War (Book Presentation).” Nietzsche Research Seminar. Birkbeck College. June 2021.
- “Realistic Utopias: Rawls and the Limits of Ideal Theory.” Rawls at 100. University of Tartu. March 2021.
- “Nietzsche and Political Philosophy.” Guest lecture for Prof. Eva Piirimäe’s BA course “Classics of Political Theory,” University of Tartu. December 2020.
- “The Effect of Multicultural Disagreement on Well-Being? A Nietzschean View.” Disagreements: From Theory to Practice. University of Tartu. March 2020.
- “Nietzsche and the History of the Philosophy of Conflict.” Intellectual History Seminar, University of Tartu. December 2019.

- “Jung’s Philosophy of the Self.” The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle. Leiden University. May 2019.
- “The Limits of Self-Interpretation in Nietzsche and Fichte.” Art and Reason in Nietzsche, German Idealism and Romanticism. University of Lisbon. May 2019.
- “The Foundations of Creativity in Philosophical Writing.” OZSW Research Masters Winter School. Radboud University, Nijmegen. February 2019.
- “The Early Nietzsche on Organisational Struggle.” Nietzsche Research Group. Leiden University. November 2017.
- “The Use and Abuse of Philosophers’ Notebooks.” Uncommon Notions (OZSW workshop). Leiden University. October 2017.
- “Nietzsche on the Necessity of Repression.” Nietzsche Research Group. Leiden University. December 2016.
- “Nietzsche and Agonistic Democratic Theory.” Guest lecture for Glen Newey’s MA course “Contemporary Political Theory.” Leiden University. March 2016.
- “Wittgenstein, Disagreement and Democracy.” New Directions in Democratic Theory. Leiden University. June 2014 (invited speaker).

### OTHER TALKS (SELECTION)

- “Generative AI & the Case for Redefining Creativity.” GenAI & Creative Practices Past, Present and Future, University of Amsterdam. December 2025. Co-presented with Matthew Dennis.
- “Genealogy within Constraints.” MANCEPT Annual Conference. University of Manchester. September 2025.
- “Democratic Alarmism: Coherent Notion or Contradiction in Terms?” Work in Progress Seminar. Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam. November 2023.
- “Realistic Dystopias.” Practical Philosophy Colloquium. University of Tartu. May 2022.
- “Political Realism in the Ethics of Immigration.” Multicultural Representation: An Interdisciplinary Conference. University of Tartu. May 2021.
- “The Value of Malevolent Creativity.” Practical Philosophy Colloquium. University of Tartu. February 2020.
- “Kripke and Tully on Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*.” Annual OZSW Conference. Radboud University, Nijmegen. November 2014.
- “Heraclitus, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche on Conflictual Unity.” Annual Friedrich Nietzsche Society Conference. University of Birmingham. September 2014.
- “*Leben and Kampf in Zarathustra*.” Annual Friedrich Nietzsche Society Conference. University College Cork. September 2013.
- “Nietzsche and Freud on the Limits of Agonal Sublimation.” Conflict and Agonism in Nietzsche and Beyond. Leiden University. March 2013.

### ORGANIZATION

- Two-day Workshop, “The Social Value of Artificial Creativity,” Centre of Philosophy, University of Lisbon. May 2026.
- One-day event: “The Philosophy & Ethics of Creative AI: Seed Funding Event for Early Career Researchers,” Institute for Advanced Study, University of Amsterdam. December 2025. Co-organized with Matthew Dennis. <https://ias.uva.nl/content/events/2025/12/the-philosophy--ethics-of-creative-ai-seed-funding-event-for-early-career-researchers.html?origin=PRy12xnsQemXLkKbh0An2g>
- Fortnightly Work-in-Progress Seminar in Political Theory, University of Amsterdam. 2023–2024. Sole organizer.
- Three-day conference, “Representing Multiculturalism: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” University of Tartu. June 2021. Co-organized with Catherine Gibson.
- Fortnightly Practical Philosophy Colloquium, University of Tartu. 2019–2022. Sole organizer.
- Three-day conference, “Conflict and Agonism in Nietzsche and Beyond,” Leiden University. May 2013. Co-organized with Herman Siemens.

## REFEREEING

Cambridge University Press (full monograph reviews); *American Political Science Review*; *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*; *Philosophical Psychology*; *Constellations*; *Philosophy and Technology*; *European Journal of Political Theory*; *Philosophy and Social Criticism*; *Southern Journal of Philosophy*; *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*; *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*.

## LANGUAGES

English (native); Dutch (B1.2); German (fluent); French (fluent).

## REFEREES

### **Prof. Eric Schliesser (preferred referee)**

Department of Political Science  
University of Amsterdam  
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166  
1001NB Amsterdam  
Netherlands  
e.s.schliesser@uva.nl

### **Dr. Alison McQueen**

Department of Political Science  
Stanford University  
616 Jane Stanford Way  
Stanford  
USA  
amcqueen@stanford.edu

### **Dr. Enzo Rossi**

#### **(preferred referee)**

Department of Political Science  
University of Amsterdam  
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166  
1001NB Amsterdam  
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### **Dr. Herman Siemens**

Institute for Philosophy  
Leiden University  
Reuvensplaats 3–4  
2311 BE Leiden  
Netherlands  
hwsiemens@hotmail.com

### **Prof. Kadri Simm**

#### **(preferred referee)**

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University of Tartu  
Jakobi 2  
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### **Prof. Beatrix Himmelmann**

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