

Uğur Aytac

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EMPLOYMENT

Utrecht University

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2023-present
Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2022-2023

University of Amsterdam

Lecturer & Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, 2021-2022

EDUCATION

University of Amsterdam

PhD, Political Theory, 2017-2021

Thesis title: 'Alternatives to Moralism: Political Realist Essays on Power and Legitimation'

Supervisors: Enzo Rossi, Paul Raekstad.

University of York

Visiting PhD student, Philosophy, 2019

University of Bayreuth

MA, Philosophy & Economics, 2015-2017

Bogazici University

BA, Philosophy, 2011-2015

BA, Economics, 2010-2015

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Political theory (democracy, legitimacy, power & domination, Big Tech, ideology critique, political realism)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Moral philosophy, political economy, philosophy of the social sciences

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Big Tech, Algorithmic Power, and Democratic Control. *The Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.
- In Defense of Shirking in Capitalist Firms: Worker Resistance vs. Managerial Power. *Political Theory*, online first. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00905917231205624>
- Digital Domination: Social Media and Contestatory Democracy. *Political Studies*, online first. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00323217221096564>
- Ideology Critique without Morality: A Radical Realist Approach (with Enzo Rossi). *American Political Science Review*, 117(4), 2023, 1215-1227. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422001216>
- Global Political Legitimacy and the Structural Power of Capital. *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 54(4), 2023, 490-509. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/josp.12464>
- Political Realism and Epistemic Constraints. *Social Theory and Practice*, 48(1), 2022, pp. 1-27. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract2021129145>
- On the Limits of the Political: The Problem of Overly Permissive Pluralism in Mouffe's Agonism. *Constellations*, 28(3), 2021, pp. 417-431. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12525>

Book Reviews

- *A Philosopher Looks at Digital Communication*, Onora O'Neill. Cambridge University Press, 2021. *Metascience*, 32, 2023, pp. 219-222.
- *10% Less Democracy: Why You Should Trust Elites A Little More and the Masses A Little Less*, Garrett Jones. Stanford University Press, 2020. *Democratic Theory*, 8(1), 2021, pp. 128-132.
- *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It)*, Elizabeth Anderson. Princeton University Press, 2017. *International Dialogue: A Multidisciplinary Journal of World Affairs*, 8, 2018, pp. 77-84.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- April 2023, ECPR Joint Sessions, Toulouse.
Paper title: *Big Tech, Algorithmic Power, and Democratic Control*
- March 2023, Workshop on "Ethics and Politics of Technology", Delft University of Technology.
Paper title: *Big Tech, Algorithmic Power, and Democratic Control (Invited)*.
- December 2022, 3rd Annual Political Epistemology Conference, VU Amsterdam.
Paper Title: *Ideology Critique without Morality*.
- September 2021, MANCEPT Workshops, University of Manchester.
Paper Title: *Digital Domination: Social Media and Contestatory Democracy*.
- May 2021, Philosophy Colloquium, Bogazici University.
Paper Title: *Ideology Critique without Moralism (Invited)*.
- December 2020, Workshop on "Political Normativity", Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest.
Paper Title: *Ideology Critique without Moralism (Invited)*.
- June 2020, RANT Workshop, VU Amsterdam.
Paper Title: *Global Political Legitimacy and Structural Power (Invited)*.
- September 2019, MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, University of Manchester.
Paper Title: *Global Political Legitimacy and Structural Power*.
- September 2019, ECPR General Conference, Wrocław.
Paper Title: *Bernard Williams' Realism and Epistemic Constraints*.
- April 2019, Workshop on "Populism and Democratic Theory", University of Vienna.
Paper Title: *Depoliticization, Good and Bad*.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Utrecht University

As Co-Instructor

Institutions and the Rise of Capitalism, BSc in PPE (Autumn 2023)

As Supervisor

Eight BSc theses in PPE (Spring 2024), one MA thesis in Philosophy (Spring 2024)

University of Amsterdam

As Lead Instructor (including course design)

The Ethics and Politics of Markets, MSc (Spring 2022)

Democracy & Digitalization: How Social Media Transforms the Public Sphere, MSc (Autumn 2021)

Political Economy, BSc (Autumn 2021)

Political Theory & Economic Institutions, BSc (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

As Co-Instructor

Introduction to Political Theory: Utopia & Dystopia, BSc (Autumn 2021)

As Thesis Supervisor

Two BSc theses in Political Science (Spring 2021), five MSc theses in Political Science (Spring 2022)

TRAINING IN TEACHING

- Two-day course on active teaching methods at the University of Amsterdam (Spring 2020)
- Two-day course on feedback methods at the University of Amsterdam (Spring 2020)
- Three-day course on teaching skills for PhD candidates and junior lecturers at the University of Amsterdam (Autumn 2018)

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Postdoctoral grant by the Foundation of Science and Technology in Portugal (Declined, approximate value: €150,000) (2022)
- University of Amsterdam travel grant (€550) (2019)
- Fully funded PhD position within the NWO Project “Legitimacy Beyond Consent” (2017)
- DAAD doctoral scholarship (Declined) (2017)
- DAAD scholarship for graduate students (€10,500) (2015)
- High Honours Degree, Bogazici University (2015)
- Turkish Education Foundation merit scholarship for high-achieving students (Approximate value with exchange rates at that time: €19,000) (2010)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing Experience

American Political Science Review (x2), *European Journal of Political Theory* (x2), *Constellations* (x2), *Political Studies*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Social Philosophy and Policy*, *Philosophy & Technology*, *Inquiry*, *Bristol University Press*, *Moral Philosophy & Politics*, *Philosophia*, *Res Publica*, *Democratic Theory*, *Philosophy and Public Issues*

Organizational Experience (Selection)

- Co-convenor, Conference Section at the ECPR General Conference: *The Political Theory of the Digital Public Sphere* (2023)
- Co-convenor, Workshop at Utrecht University: *The Business Corporation Between Nature and Value* (2023)
- Co-convenor, OZSW Workshop at Utrecht University: *New Directions in Democratic Theory* (2023)
- Co-convenor, Workshop at Utrecht University: *Order, Legitimacy, and Domination: Realist and Republican Perspectives*. (2022)
- Co-convenor, Conference at the University of Amsterdam: *Global Capital as the Leviathan of the 21st Century?* (2022)
- Convenor, Short Intensive Course at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research on *Experts, Science, and Politics* with Zeynep Pamuk (2020)
- Co-convenor, Workshop at the University of Amsterdam: *Should States Do It Alone? New Perspectives on the Legitimacy of Multilateral and Bilateral Power Structures*. (2019)
- Co-convenor & Co-initiator, *Amsterdam Graduate Conference in Political Theory*. (2019)
- Organizing Committee Member, *Petition Campaign and Formal Proposal for Curriculum Reform in Economics*. (partially accepted by the Department of Economics at Bogazici University) (2013-2014)

Administrative Roles

- Member, Board of Examiners, PPE BSc program, Utrecht University, 2023-present.
- Co-coordinator, Study Group in Political Philosophy at the Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW), 2023-present.

DEI Activities

- Member, Minorities and Philosophy working group at Utrecht University, 2022-2023.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Lecture

Should citizens govern Big Tech algorithms? *Utrecht Day of Philosophy*, 2023.

Podcast (in Turkish)

Organizer & Host, 'Political Philosophy Interviews' in collaboration with *Öncül Analytic Philosophy Magazine* (5 episodes, 2020-2021)

Opinion Pieces (in Turkish)

- 'What does the coronavirus have to do with neoliberalism?' *Gazete Duvar*, 2020.
- 'Drifting away from the centre: Radicalism or Populism?' *Gazete Duvar*, 2019.

AFFILIATIONS

- ECPR Standing Group on Political Theory (2022-present)
- ECPR Standing Group on Politics and Technology (2022-present)
- Association for Social and Political Philosophy (2019-present)
- Amsterdam Centre for Political Thought (2018-2020)
- OZSW Peer-Review Circle in Practical Philosophy (2018-2020)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native), English (fluent), Dutch (beginner)

REFERENCES

Enzo Rossi, Associate Professor of Political Theory, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam.
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Alan Thomas, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of York. Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK
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