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Yuval Eytan

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AOS: Value Theory, History of Philosophy, Ethics

AOC: Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Continental Philosophy

EDUCATION

2014–2022

PhD in Philosophy, Tel Aviv University

Dissertation title: “The Concept of Happiness and the Concept of Authenticity in Modern Thought from Thomas Hobbes to Friedrich Nietzsche” (accepted January 2022). Supervisor: Prof. José Brunner.

2012–2014

Associate Degree in Editing, Beit Berl College

2011–2013

MA in Philosophy, Tel Aviv University

Thesis title: “The Concept of Emancipation and History by Walter Benjamin and Ernst Bloch,” *cum laude*.

2007–2010

BA in Communication and Management, The College of Management Academic Studies

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

I wrote my doctoral dissertation in the School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies of Tel Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. José Brunner. It was approved in January 2022. In January 2024, I won the Fulbright Postdoctorate Program, and Prof. Axel Honneth currently hosts me in the Philosophy Department at Columbia University. I also serve as a visiting professor at Sarah Lawrence College. My book manuscript, *The Hidden Meaning of the Emergence of Uniqueness*, is under contract with Springer Nature (series: *Philosophy and Politics – Critical Explorations*).

DISSERTATION

The main argument of my dissertation is that the transition from the ideal of happiness to the ideal of authenticity represents a deep and broad transformation in Western philosophy concerning the concept of truth and involving a reappraisal of the nature of human freedom and purpose. While in the ideal of happiness freedom is conceived as a means of liberation from suffering, within the framework of the concept of authenticity, freedom is achieved as an open process of self-enrichment since the subject is understood in terms of striving not for satisfaction but rather for infinite processes of creative development.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2024–present Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, hosted by Prof. Axel Honneth
- 2022 Excellence in Hybrid Courses, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts
- 2022 Research Grant, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts
- 2021–2022 Research Grant, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College
- 2021 Excellence in Lecturing, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College
- 2020 Excellence in Teaching Grant, Reichman University
- 2016 Excellence in Teaching, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College
- 2013–2016 Research Fellowship, Tel Aviv University
- 2011 Excellence Scholarship Grants, Tel Aviv University
- 2010 Dean’s Award for Excellence, College of Management Academic Studies
- 2009 Excellence Scholarship Grants, College of Management Academic Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024–present Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University
- 2025–present Adjunct Professor, Philosophy & Religion Department, Kean University
- 2024–present Visiting Professor, Sarah Lawrence College, Philosophy
- Summer 2023 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Emory University
- 2020–present Lecturer, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College, School of Government and Society
- 2020–present Lecturer, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Art
- 2013–2019 Instructor, Tel Aviv University, Department of Philosophy and Faculty of Law
- 2015–2021 Instructor, Reichman University, Department of Communication

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Eytan, Y. (2023). Why Not Happiness? Marx’s Notion of the Free Life. *Rethinking Marxism* 35(2), 245–264, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08935696.2023.2183693>
- Eytan, Y. (2023). Rousseau: The Rejection of Happiness as the Foundation of Authenticity. *Symposion* 10(1), 81–104, <https://doi.org/10.5840/symposion20231013>
- Eytan, Y. (2023). Hobbes on Scientific Happiness. *Philosophical Papers*, 52(1), 1–32, <https://doi.org/10.1080/05568641.2023.2237695>
- Eytan, Y. (2024). A Constructive Critique of the Dialectical Aspect of Positive Psychology’s Second Wave. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, 45(4), 347–364, <https://doi.org/10.1037/teo0000276>
- Eytan, Y. (2024). Character Development Over Happiness: The Aesthetic Foundation of John Stuart Mill’s Philosophy of Education. *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, 59(2), 306–324, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopedu/qhae047>

Eytan, Y. On Education for Happiness: A Critique from a Hegelian Perspective. *Studies in Education: Journal for Study and Research in Education*, 26(1), 41–58, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27437064> [in Hebrew].

Eytan, Y. The Openness of the Meaning of Life in John Stuart Mill’s Philosophy. *Journal of Philosophy of Life* (accepted in January 2026).

Referee for international peer-reviewed journals, including *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, and *Hobbes Studies*.

UNDER REVIEW

Eytan, Y. *Kant on Happiness from a Natural-Historical Perspective*.

Eytan, Y. *Against Hobbes: The Purpose of Locke’s Moral Philosophy—Revealing the Harmony*.

IN PROCESS

Eytan, Y. *The Hidden Meaning of the Emergence of Uniqueness* (book manuscript under contract with Springer Nature, series: *Philosophy and Politics – Critical Explorations*).

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATION

Eytan, Y. *My Class Was Full of Pro-Palestinian Students. They Were Curious, Not Hostile*, *Haaretz* (Weekend Supplement), June 25, 2025 [in Hebrew].

COURSES TAUGHT

Philosophy

Decolonial Theory: Philosophical Foundations and Perspectives

A Political Perspective on the Elusive Nature of Happiness

Introduction to Philosophy.

Introduction to the Philosophy of Education

Guided Reading in Philosophy of Education

Happiness and Authenticity: Two Purposes for Education

Happiness from a Political Point of View

Rousseau and the Fractures of Authenticity

Introduction to Aesthetic Theory and Practice

Between Politics and Ethics: Aristotle and Machiavelli

Guided Reading in Descartes

Communication and Sociology

Introduction to Mass Communication

Introduction to Political Communication

Introduction to Mass Communication and New Media
Classical Sociological Theory

Skills and Language

Critical Thinking
Qualitative Research Methods
Basic Hebrew / Advanced Hebrew

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

2025–present Research Collaborator, with Dr. Noa Lavie and Dr. Roni Eyal-Lubling, *Generational Consciousness in Times of War: Examining the October 7th Massacre and Iron Swords War as Formative Events for Emerging Adults in Israel*

2018–2022 Planned and created a massive open online course (MOOC) titled Introduction to Philosophy of Education for CampusIL (with Prof. Nimrod Aloni)

2018–2020 Planning the Preparatory Program for Arab Young Adults, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College (with Hana David)

2015–2016 Research Assistant for Dr. Graciela Trajtenberg, *Art criticism Project*

2014–2015 Research Assistant for Dr. Noa Lavie, *Report for the Second Authority for Television and Radio: On the Legitimacy of Reality Television in Israel*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Open Nature of Life's Meaning as the Source of Mill's Rejection of Happiness. The Seventh International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life. Carleton University, Ottawa, June 2025.

The Meaning of Kant's Idea of Happiness as Progress toward Contentment. The Significance of the Philosophy of Enlightenment in the European Culture. Institute of Philosophy, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, December 2024.

The Meaning of Hegel's Rejection of Kant's Conception of Happiness. Colloquium 300 Years of Immanuel Kant. The Philosophy School and Department at the Faculty of Humanities of the National University Federico Villarreal, September 2024.

On the meaning of Openness in Mill's Educational and Democratic Conception. Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts, October 2023.

The Purpose of Life within the Framework of Truth: Hegel's Example. Perspectives About Truth. Politehnica University of Bucharest, September 2023.

Happiness, Hobbes, and Science. GWP. 2022. Technische Universität Berlin, August 2022.

Marx's Dialectical Negation of Misery. Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy. Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, October 2021.

Hobbes on Scientific Happiness. XIV International Ontology Congress: Natural Determinism and Free Will. University of the Basque Country, San Sebastian, September 2021.

Why Not Happiness? Marx's Notion of Free Life. 4th Rome International Conference on Social Science & Humanities. University of Washington, Rome, September 2021.

Hobbes on Happiness. Knowledge-Power-Action, Congress of the Swiss Philosophical Society. University of Lugano, August 2021.

The Problematic Ideal of Happiness: Marx's Dialectical Negation of Misery. 8th International Conference on Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences. Stockholm, July 2021.

Hobbes on Scientific Happiness. International Conference on Social Sciences – VI. Paris, July 2021.

Hobbes and Locke on Happiness, Morality, and God. International European Conference on Social Sciences, Kyiv, June 2021.

LANGUAGES

Hebrew (Native); English (Advanced); German (Upper-Intermediate)