BENJAMIN RANDOLPH

PhilPeople Profile
Personal Website

Blodgett Hall 120, Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY

EDUCATION

April 2023	PhD, Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University Dissertation: *Adorno's Secularization of Hope* Committee: Amy Allen (director); Uygar Abaci, John Christman, Eduardo Mendieta, Daniel Purdy (ext.)
Sept. 2016	MA, Philosophy, Pathway in Critical Social Theory, University of Essex
June 2015	A.B., Comparative Literature and Philosophy, Dartmouth College, *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

19th- and 20th-Century European Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Race, Kant

CURRENT POSITIONS

Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Vassar College (September 2025-)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Lecturer, Philosophy, Holy Family University (2025)

Lecturer, Philosophy, Penn State University (2023-2025)

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Arcadia University (2023-2024)

Series Editor of "Ethical Issues in Public Philosophy," *Blog of the APA* (2023-2024)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Refereed Journals

"*Waiting for Godot*: The Fragmentation of Hope," *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 30, no. 5 (2025): 116-138.

"'When will the wickedness of men have an end?' The Problem of Divine Providence in Cugoano's *Thoughts and Sentiments*." *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 85, no. 5 (2024): 227-243.

"Tragic Genealogies: Adorno's Genealogical Method," *Radical Philosophy Review* 26, no. 2 (2023): 275-309.

Book Chapters

"From Eclecticism to the Reconstruction of Communicative Reason: Habermas in the United States," Co-authored with Eduardo Mendieta. In *Habermas Global: Wirkungsgeschichte eines Werks*, ed. Stefan Müller-Doohm (Frankfurt a.M.: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2019).

Book Reviews

Verovsek, Peter. *Jürgen Habermas: Public Intellectual and Engaged Critical Theorist*. New York: Columbia UP, 2026. Review to be published in *Constellations: An International Journal of Democratic and Critical Theory*.

Public Philosophy

"6th Sunday of Ordinary Time: Hope without Spiritual Bypassing"
The Just Word. Feb. 2025.

"The Feast of the Holy Family: Marxist and Christian Critiques of the Family"
The Just Word. Dec. 2024.

"26th Sunday of Ordinary Time: MacIntyre, Capitalism, and Community"
The Just Word. Sept. 2024.

"Kierkegaard, Public Philosophy, and 'The Present Age'"
Blog of the APA. April 2024.

"Nature's Revenge? Ecological Catastrophe and Metz's Negative Theology"
Political Theology Network: Catholic Re-Visions. Sept. 2023.

"(Re)introducing the Ethical Dilemmas in Public Philosophy Series"
Blog of the APA. May 2023.

Work in Progress

"Finding Freedom in Necessity? On *Dialectic of Enlightenment*'s Historical Necessitarianism" (journal article, shorter version submitted to APA Eastern 2027)

"Towards a New Mastery, or a New Master? Once More on the Analogy Between Critique and Psychoanalysis" (journal article, shorter version submitted to SPEP 2026)

"Critique as an Experimental Craft Practice" (journal article, shorter version presented at 2025 Critical Theory Roundtable)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Jan. 2026	Comments on Maria Gallego-Ortiz's "Imagination and Moral Vision in Iris Murdoch's Philosophy" APA Eastern Division 2026 (Baltimore, MD)
Sep. 2023	"Nature's Revenge? Metz's Political Theology of Climate Catastrophe" Political Theology Network Conference

June 2023 "Adorno's non-identical concept of hope"
Critical Theory Colloquium (University of Essex)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 2025 "An Adornian Program of Social Research?"
Critical Theory Roundtable, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Feb. 2024 "The Problem of Divine Providence in Cugoano's *Thoughts and Sentiments*"
APA Central, Colloquium Presentation, New Orleans

April 2023 "Adorno's secularization of hope"
The Rock Ethics Institute (Penn State)

November 2022 "The Fragmentation of Natural Metaphor: Beckett's *Molloy*"
7th International Annual Conference of The Samuel Beckett Society: Beckett & Poetry / Beckett & la poesía, Buenos Aires 2022

October 2022 "*Waiting for Godot* and the Fate of Hope"
SPEP 60th Annual Meeting, Texas A&M University

June 2022 "Marcuse's Utopianism"
Berlin Critical Theory Summer School on "Needs," Humboldt Universität

March 2022 "The Utopian Consciousness from Kant to Adorno"
The Concept of Utopia and its Function, Vytautas Magnus University

September 2021 "A Marxist return to religion? Adorno reads Marx"
The Penn State Humanities Institute

October 2018 "The 'Pseudo-Problem' of Free Will and Determinism: Adorno on the Third Antinomy"
SPEP 57th Annual Meeting, Penn State University
Honorable Mention: Best Submission by a Graduate Student

April 2018 "The Critical Theory of Ideology: Adorno on Narcissism"
Resistance: Psychoanalysis and Critical Theories," Villanova University

March 2018 "Contradiction as real repression and the *Weltalter'*s theory of the unconscious"
Co-presented with Tano Posteraro at "Schelling's *Ages of the World*," Penn State University

Jan. 2018 "'The Actuality of Revolution': Fanon's Relation to Lenin"
"The New Frantz Fanon," Penn State University

July 2017 "Adorno's Critique of Universal History"
Berlin Critical Theory Summer School on "Progress," Humboldt Universität

June 2017 "Deleuze on the Timelessness of the Unconscious: Freud and Lacan in *Difference and Repetition*"
Deleuze Studies Conference 2017, Toronto, ON

TEACHING

At Vassar College:
- Philosophy 102: History of Western Philosophy: Modern (Spring 26)
- Philosophy 106: Philosophy and Contemporary Issues: Authoritarianism (Fall 25, Sp 26)
- Philosophy 205: 19th-Century Philosophy (Spring 26)
- Philosophy 215: Phenomenology and Existentialism (Fall 25)

At Holy Family University:
- Philosophy 101: Philosophy and the Good Life (Spring 25, x2)

At Arcadia University:
- Philosophy 150: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 285A: European Philosophy: A Critical and Selective Survey (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 350: Social Justice (Fall 23)
- Philosophy 180: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Spring 24)
- Philosophy 240: Philosophy in Literature (Spring 24)

At Penn State:
- Philosophy 002: Philosophy, Politics, and Social Theory (Spring 18)
- Philosophy 009: Philosophy, Race, and Diversity (Fall 18)
- Philosophy 010: Critical Thinking (Summer 19, Spring 24)
- Philosophy 103 and 103W: Introduction to Ethics (Summer 20, Summer 22, Fall 22 x2)
- Philosophy 105: Introduction to Philosophy of Law (Spring 25, x2)
- Philosophy 108: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (Fall 20)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022	Philosophy Department Nominee: Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Pennsylvania State University
2022-2023	Rock Ethics Institute, Center and Institute Fellow, Pennsylvania State University
2021	Pennsylvania State University Humanities Institute Summer Residency
2015-2021	Beinecke Scholarship
2018	Honorable Mention: Best Submission by a Graduate Student Paper title: "The 'Pseudo-Problem' of Free Will and Determinism: Adorno on the Third Antinomy" SPEP 57th Annual Meeting, Penn State University
2017	Max Kade Institute Travel and Research Award (Penn State German Department)
2015	Essex School for Philosophy and Art History (SPAH) Masters Scholarship
2015	James B. Reynolds Scholarship for Foreign Study, Dartmouth College

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division)
Society for Phenomenology and Existentialism

Adorno Studies Association

SERVICE

Oct. 2025	Moderator, Book Panel on Lambert Zuidervaart's *Adorno, Heidegger, and The Politics of Truth* SPEP 2025 (Online)
April – Sept. 2023	UK Awards Nominations Committee, Pennsylvania State University Select, interview, and mentor Penn State candidates for the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Churchill scholarships.
2021-2022	Awards Committee, Philosophy Department, Pennsylvania State University
Sep. 2021 – May 2022	Political Education Coordinator, Democratic Socialists of America, Centre County Chapter Lead and organize reading groups and discussions on theoretical and political texts for the Centre County chapter of the DSA.
2017-2018	Secretary and Collegiate Workshop Series Organizer Penn State Philosophy Graduate Student Organization
2017-2018	Editorial Assistant *The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon* (Eds. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta)
Summer 2018	Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University Amy Allen, *Critique on the Couch*. New York: Columbia UP, 2020.
May 2018	Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University Christopher Moore, *Calling Philosophers Names: On the Origin of a Discipline*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2019.
Spring 2017	Research Assistant in Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University Allesandro Stavru and Christopher Moore (eds.), *Socrates and the Socratic Dialogue*. Brill, 2017.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading, writing, speaking), German (reading), French (reading)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

At Penn State:

PHIL 555: Theories of Freedom in Modern Philosophy (Abaci) Fall 21 (audit)
PHIL 539: The Critical Philosophy of Race: Genealogies of Racism (Bernasconi) Fall 19
PHIL 589: German Philosophical Translation (Vogsburg) Summer 18
PHIL 596: Kant's Practical Philosophy (Abaci) Spring 18
PHIL 508: Social and Political Philosophy: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Christman) Spring 18
PHIL 479: Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School (Allen) Spring 18
PHIL 596 T.W. Adorno, Freedom, and Psychoanalysis (Allen) Fall 17
PHIL 564: Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception* (Toadvine) Fall 17
PHIL 562: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Abaci) Fall 17
PHIL 539: Critical Philosophy of Race: Frantz Fanon (Bernasconi) Spring 17
PHIL 563: German Idealism (Bowman) Spring 17
PHIL 597: Psychoanalysis and Social Criticism (Allen) Spring 17

ENGL 583: Theories of Desire and the Social (Colebrook) Spring 17 (audit)
PHIL 508: Soc. and Pol. Philosophy: The Social Conception of the Self (Christman) Fall 16
PHIL 564: Deleuze's *Difference and Repetition* (Lawlor) Fall 16
PHIL 553: Ancient Philosophy: Socrates (Moore) Fall 16

At Essex:

PY938: Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Subjectivity, Language and the Other (Dews) Spring 16
PY946: Kierkegaard (Watts) Spring 16
PY953: Autonomy and Mental Health (Martin) Spring 16
PY952: The Frankfurt School: Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* (Jütten) Fall 15
PY954: Philosophy and Aesthetics: Aesthetics and Politics (Schaub) Fall 15
PY951: MA Writing Workshop: Insight and Self-Knowledge (Martin) Fall 15
German Philosophical Translation (Walker) Fall 15-Spring 16
German A1-2, Fall 15-Spring 16