

CURRICULUM VITAE

Max Pensky

Professor of Philosophy
Binghamton University
State University of New York
(Updated September 2024)

Permanent Professional Address Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

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Academic Employment

Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Binghamton University, The State University of New York, 1990 – present.

Co-Director, Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, 2016 – present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Kenyon College, 1988-1990.

Areas of Research Specialization

Genocide and Mass Atrocities; Political Theory; Philosophy of International Law and International Relations; Critical Theory; Transitional Justice; Continental Philosophy

Areas of Teaching Competence

Ethics; Philosophy of Law, Continental Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy

Fellowships and Visiting Positions

Visiting Professor, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Department of Political Science, Bogota Colombia, 2017

Academic Visitor, Cornell Law School, Fall 2015

Visiting Fellow, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, November 2015

Research Fellow, Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University, 2009.

Oliver Smithies Lecturer and Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford University, 2006-2007.

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Social Justice, Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University, 2006-2007.

Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2004-2005.

Research Fellow, Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University, 1999-2000.

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Germany, 1993-1994.

Fulbright Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Johann Wolfgang Goethe- Universität, Frankfurt, 1986-1987.

Degrees

Ph.D. Philosophy, Boston College, 1989.

MA Philosophy, Boston College, 1985.

AB, Magna cum laude with Highest Honors in History, Kenyon College, 1983.

Publications

Authored Books

Authoritarianism: Three Inquiries in Critical Theory (co-authored with Wendy Brown and Peter E. Gordon), University of Chicago Press, 2018.

The Ends of Solidarity: Discourse Theory in Contemporary Ethics and Politics. The State University of New York Press, 2008.

Melancholy Dialectics: Walter Benjamin and the Play of Mourning. University of Massachusetts Press, 1993. Second Edition, University of Massachusetts Press, 2001. Introduction reprinted in David M. Rasmussen and James Swindal, eds., Critical Theory, Sage Publications, 2003. Chapter 6 reprinted as “Los desechos de la historia,” in Adolfo Chaparro, editor, Los límites de la estética de la representación, Rosario 2006. [List of published reviews available on request]

Edited Books

Espen Hammer, Peter E. Gordon, and Max Pensky, editors, The Blackwell Handbook to Adorno, Blackwell, 2020.

Jürgen Habermas, Time of Transitions: Political Essays, edited, translated, and with an introduction by Ciaran Cronin and Max Pensky. Polity Press, 2006.

Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations after the Iraq War, edited by Daniel Levy, Max Pensky, and John Torpey. Verso, 2005. Translations into Turkish (2005), Japanese (2006), Spanish (2006) and Chinese (2007, 2009).

Globalizing Critical Theory, edited and with an introduction by Max Pensky. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

Jürgen Habermas, The Postnational Constellation. Political Essays. Edited, translated, with an introduction by Max Pensky. Polity Press, 2001.

The Actuality of Adorno. Critical Essays on Adorno and the Postmodern. Edited and with an introduction by Max Pensky. The State University of New York Press, 1997.

Jürgen Habermas, The Past as Future. Edited and translated by Max Pensky, Forward by Peter Uwe Hohendahl. University of Nebraska Press, 1994.

Articles and Book Chapters [= peer reviewed]*

61. “After Impunity: The Anti-Impunity Norm, The Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and the Future of International Criminal Law,” *Genocide Studies and Prevention*, forthcoming.*

60. “Benjamins *Über den Begriff der Geschichte*,” in Martin Saar, Robin Celikates, and Rahel Jaeggi, editors, Handbuck kritischer Theorie, Metzler Verlag, forthcoming.

59. "Adorno and the Future," in Henry Pickford and Martin Shuster, editors, The Oxford Handbook on Adorno, forthcoming.*
58. "Genocide and Jurisgenesis," in Anna Jurkevits, editor, In Search of the Concrete Universal: The Critical Theory of Seyla Benhabib, Columbia University Press, 2024.
57. "Angel of Mystery: The Tangled Story Behind a Famous Klee Painting" (review essay), *Commonweal*, July 2023.
56. "Critical Theory and War," in Anders Engberg-Pedersen, editor, War and Literature, Cambridge University Press, 2023.*
55. "Aesthetic Truth and Natural History in Adorno's *Aesthetic Theory*," *New German Critique* (2021) 48 (2 (143)): 23–41.*
54. "Jewishness and Jurisgenesis: On Seyla Benhabib's *Exile, Statelessness, and Migration*," (review essay) *Philosophy and Social Criticism* vol. 46, issue 1, 2020.*
53. "Of Humanitarians and Straw Men: On Rajan Menon's *The Conceit of Humanitarian Intervention* (review essay), *Journal of Genocide Research* 21.1, 2019.*
52. "Critique and Disappointment," in Espen Hammer, Peter E. Gordon, and Max Pensky, editors, The Blackwell Handbook to Adorno, Blackwell, 2020.
51. "Impunity: A Philosophical Analysis," in Morten Bergsmo, editor, Philosophical Foundations of International Criminal Law, vol. 2, CILRAP Publishing, 2019.*
50. "In Search of the Negative in Rahel Jaeggi's *Kritik von Lebensformen*," in Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta, editors, From Alienation to Forms of Life: The Critical Theory of Rahel Jaeggi, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018.
49. "Western Marxism: Revolutions in Theory," in Peter Gordon and Warren Breckman, Editors, The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought, 2019.*
48. "Toward a Critical Theory of Death: Adorno on Dying Today," *Journal of Adorno Studies* 1.1, Spring 2016.*
47. "Two Cheers for the Impunity Norm," Philosophy and Social Criticism, Winter-Spring 2016.*
46. *Jus Post Bellum* and Amnesties," in Larry May, ed., Jus Post Bellum, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

45. "Solidarity with the Past and the Work of Translation," (with a reply by Jürgen Habermas) in Craig C. Calhoun, Jonathan Van Antwerpen and Eduardo Mendieta, eds., Habermas and Religion, Polity Press, 2014.
44. "Anti-Dialectics: Arnold Gehlen and the Fate of Conservative Philosophical Anthropology in Germany," in Peter Hohendahl and Erhard Schuetz, eds., Konservative politische Kultur nach 1945 in Deutschland und in die USA, Peter Lang, 2012.
43. "Cosmopolitan Memory," in Gerard Delanty, ed., Routledge Handbook of Cosmopolitanism, Routledge, 2012.*
42. (with Mark Freeman) "The Amnesty Controversy in International Law," in Leigh Payne and Francesca Lessa, eds., Amnesty in the Age of Human Rights Accountability: Comparative and International Perspectives, Cambridge University Press, 2013. Portuguese translation in Marcello Torelly et. al., eds., A Anistia na Era da Responsabilização – o Brasil em perspectiva internacional e comparada, Ministry of Justice of Brazil, 2011.
41. "Three Kinds of Ruin: Heidegger, Benjamin, and Sebald," in Poligrafi, 2011.
40. "Habermas's Intellectual Contexts," in Barbara Fultner, ed., Habermas: Basic Concepts, Acumen, 2011.
39. "Critical Theory and World Politics," in D.S.A. Bell, editor, Ethics and World Politics, Oxford University Press, 2010, pp 35-55.*
38. "Social Solidarity and Intersubjective Recognition: Axel Honneth's Struggle for Recognition," in Danielle Petherbridge, ed., Axel Honneth: Critical Essays with a Reply by Axel Honneth, Brill, 2011, pp 125-154.*
37. "Contributions to a Theory of Storms: Historical Knowing and Historical Progress in Kant and Benjamin," The Philosophical Forum, vol. XLI, nos. 1 & 2, Spring/Summer 2010, pp 149-174.*
36. "Transition, Amnesty, and Social Trust: Lessons from South Africa," in Joseph Lewandowski, editor, Trust and Transitions: Social Capital in a Changing World, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009.
35. "Pragmatism and Solidarity with the Past: Mead, Benjamin and the Ends of Memory," in Chad Kautzer and Eduardo Mendieta, editors, Pragmatism, Nation, and Race: Community in the Age of Empire, University of Indiana Press, 2009.
34. "Critical Theory and the Politics of Memory," in Philosophy Today, Vol. 52, Fall 2008, 114-124.*

33. "Amnesty on Trial: Impunity, Accountability, and the Norms of International Law," in Ethics and Global Politics 1:1-2, June 2008.*
32. "Two Cheers for Cosmopolitanism: Cosmopolitan Solidarity as Second-Order Inclusion," in Journal of Social Philosophy Volume XXXVIII Number 1, Spring 2007, 165-185.*
31. "*Geheimmittel*: Dialectical and Advertising Images in Benjamin's Arcades Project", in Andrew Benjamin and Beatrice Hanssen, eds., Walter Benjamin Studies Vol. II: The Arcades Project, Continuum Press, 2007.*
30. "El pasado es otro pueblo. Un argumento a favor de los derechos postumos como limitaciones normativas a las amnistias," Wilson Herrera, trans., in Camila de Gamboa Tapias, editor, Justicia Transicional: Teoría y Praxis, Rosario 2006.
29. "Solidarity as Fact or Norm?" in Philosophy and Social Criticism 32:7, Fall 2006.*
28. (With John Torpey and David Levy) Editors' Introduction to Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations After the Iraq War, edited by Daniel Levy, Max Pensky, and John Torpey. Verso, 2005.
27. "Dreamtime, Memory, Destruction: Walter Benjamin's Urban Renewal," in Cities Spring-Summer 2005.*
26. Habermas's Political Profile: A Review and Critique of Matustik," in Radical Philosophy Review, Spring-Summer 2005. (long review essay)
25. "Natural History: the Life and Afterlife of a Concept in Adorno," in Critical Horizons, Vol. 2:5, 2005.* Reprinted in Danielle Petherbridge, editor, Contemporary Perspectives in Critical Social Philosophy, Brill 2005.
24. "Is Critical Theory a Theory of Globalization? Is Globalization Theory Critical?" in Max Pensky, editor, Globalizing Critical Theory, Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.
23. "Benhabib's Claims: Multicultural Democracy and Critical Social Theory" in Constellations 11:4, June 2004, pp. 258-265.*
22. "Method and Time: Walter Benjamin's Dialectical Images," in David Ferris, editor, The Cambridge Companion to Walter Benjamin, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 177-198.

21. "The Relevance of the Past: Between Construction and Debt," in Intertexts, volume 7 number 2, Fall 2003, pp 131-143.*

20. "Beyond the Message in a Bottle: The Other Critical Theory," (review essay), in Constellations 10:1, March 2003, pp. 135-144.

19. "Between Rights and Hospitality: Cosmopolitan Democracy, Nation, and Cultural Identity," in Peter Uwe Hohendahl and Jaimey Fischer, eds., Critical Theory: Current State and Future Prospects, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2001, pp. 175-204.

18. Editor's introduction to Jürgen Habermas, The Postnational Constellation. Political Essays, Polity, 2001, pp. vii-xviii.

17. "Habermas and Power," in Alan Scott and Kate Nash, editors, The Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, Oxford: Blackwell, 2001, pp. 49-60.*

16. "Cosmopolitanism and the Solidarity Problem: Habermas on National and Cultural Identities," Constellations, Spring 2000.* Reprinted in David M. Rasmussen and James Swindal, eds., Critical Theory (NY: Sage Publications, 2003).

15. "Truth and Interest: On Habermas's 'Afterword' to Nietzsche's Theory of Knowledge," in Babette E. Babich, editor, Nietzsche's Epistemological Writings and the Philosophy of Science. Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Kluwer, 1999, pp. 265-273. Reprinted in Babette E. Babich, editor, Habermas, Nietzsche, and Critical Theory (Amherst, NY: Humanities Books, 2004), pp 69-80.

14. "Minimal Adorno. On Hohendahl's Anti-systematic Reading." (Review essay) In New German Critique, Winter/Spring 1998-99.

13. "Jürgen Habermas and the Antinomies of the Intellectual." In Peter Dews, ed., Habermas: A Critical Reader. Basil Blackwell, 1999, pp. 211-240.

12. "Walter Benjamin." Article-length encyclopedia entry. In Michael Kelly, general ed., The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 254-258; second revised edition 2013.

11. "Third Generation Critical Theory." Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy. Basil Blackwell, 1998.

10. "Schmitt and Anti-Schmitt." German Society and Politics, (review essay) Winter/Spring 1997-1998.

9. "The Limits of Solidarity. Habermas, Levinas, and the Moral Point of View," in Amos Nascimento, ed., A Matter of Discourse: Community and Communication in Contemporary Philosophies. Avebury Press, 1998, pp. 129-150.
8. "Adorno's Actuality," editor's introduction to The Actuality of Adorno. Critical Essays on Adorno and the Postmodern. The State University of New York Press, 1997.
7. "Ghost Stories. Remembrance and Justice in Derrida and Habermas," in Lenore Langsdorf and Stephen Watson, eds., Phenomenology, Interpretation and Community. Selected Studies in Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy 19. The State University of New York Press, 1996, pp. 237-251.*
6. "Tactics of Remembrance. Proust, Surrealism, and the Origin of the *Passagenwerk*," in Michael Steinberg, ed., Walter Benjamin and the Demands of History. Cornell University Press, 1996, pp. 164-189.
5. "Universalism and the Situated Critic," in Stephen K. White, ed., The Cambridge Companion to Habermas. Cambridge University Press, 1995, pp. 67 – 94.
4. "Choosing Your Mask: On Adorno's Aesthetic Theory." New German Critique 63, Fall 1994, pp. 161 – 179.*
3. Review essay of John McCole, Walter Benjamin and the Antinomies of Tradition. German Society and Politics No. 30, Fall 1993, pp. 104 – 108.
2. "The Use and Abuse of Memory. Habermas, 'Anamnestic Solidarity' and the *Historikerstreit*." Philosophy and Social Criticism vol. 15, no. 4, 1990, pp. 351 – 380. Reprinted in David M. Rasmussen and James Swindal, eds., Habermas (NY: Sage Publications, 2001).*
1. "Habermas's *Schadensabwicklung*." German Society and Politics no. 13, Spring 1988, pp. 45 – 50.

Public-Facing Activities

"What is Genocide, and Who is Committing It Now in the Middle East?" *The Hill*, October 17, 2023.

Panelist, "Crisis in Tigray," Alliance for Peacebuilding Podcast, December 2021

Panelist, "Justice for All" Podcast, May 20, 2020

"Why is the UN's Response to Myanmar's Rohingya Persecution So Powerless?" *The Globe*

Post, July 11, 2019.

Panelist, "Impunity in Myanmar," *Global Journalist*, NPR, October 15, 2018.

"United Nations Report Documents Genocide Against the Rohingya: Now What?",
The Conversation, September 5, 2018.

Preventing Crimes Against Humanity in the U.S." *The Conversation*, June 22, 2018. (with Nadia Rubaii)

"Warning Signs of Mass Violence – in the U.S.?" *The Conversation*, August 21, 2017. (with Nadia Rubaii)

"Are State Department Cutbacks a Major Setback for Genocide Prevention?" *The Conversation*, July 31, 2017. (with Nadia Rubaii)

Book Reviews: Over 30 (complete list available on request)

Service to the Profession: complete list available on request

Professional Papers and Presentations: Over 150 (complete list available on request)

University and Departmental Service (abridged)

- Founding Co-Director, Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, 2016-present
- Member, All-University Personnel Committee 2017-2018.
- Chair, Department of Philosophy, 2009—2015.
- Organizer and Faculty Advisor, TEDxBinghamton, 2010 - 2017.
- Member, Graduate Council, 2008—2015.
- Director, Program in Social, Political, Ethical and Legal Philosophy, 2000 - 2006.
- Organizer, Binghamton-Cornell-Syracuse Philosophy Triangle, 2001.
- Member, undergraduate program in Philosophy, Politics and Law, 1998--.
- Faculty Director, Philosophy Politics and Law UEA Overseas Program, 1998.
- Faculty Associate, Translation Research Instruction Program and Center for Research in Translation, 1994—present.
- Member, Faculty Senate, 2001 -7.
- Member, Harpur College Council, 1991- 1993, 2012-2014.
- Member, Harpur College Educational Policies and Planning Committee, 2000 - 2002.
- Philosophy Department Library Liaison, 1991 - 1993, 1994 – 1998.

- Member, Innovative Projects Board, 1992- 1993.
- Member and Chair, Faculty Senate Evaluation Coordinating Committee, 2004-6.
- Member, Graduate Student Excellence Awards Evaluating Committee, 2004.