

# Yannik Thiem

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## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Feminist and Queer Theory, Religion and Politics, Critical Theory and Religion

## EDUCATION

### 1. Colleges and Universities attended

Eberhard–Karls–Universität, Tübingen, Germany  
Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
University of California, Berkeley, California

### 2. Degrees and years awarded

2009	Ph.D.	Rhetoric, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
2004	Dr. theol.	Catholic Theology, summa cum laude, <i>Eberhard–Karls–Universität, Tübingen, Germany</i>
2004	M.A.	Rhetoric, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>
2002	Diplom (M.A. equivalent)	Catholic Theology, with distinction <i>Eberhard–Karls–Universität, Tübingen, Germany</i>
1999	Vordiplom (B.A. equivalent)	Catholic Theology, with distinction <i>Eberhard–Karls–Universität, Tübingen, Germany</i>
1998	Zwischenprüfung (B.A. equivalent)	English Literature and Linguistics, with distinction <i>Eberhard–Karls–Universität, Tübingen, Germany</i>

## ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### 1. Employment

Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Columbia University, New York, New York (2019–present)  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania (2013–2019)  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania (2007–2013)

### 2. Visiting Positions

Academic Associate, Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies, School of Humanities, University of South Africa, Pretoria (2011–2018)  
Visiting Research Fellow, Digital Humanities Center, Columbia University, New York (2012–2013)  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, The New School of Social Research, New York (Spring 2012)  
Visiting Lecturer, Department of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, University of South Africa, Pretoria (September 2006)  
Visiting Lecturer, Department of New Testament, University of South Africa, Pretoria (August 2004)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### 1. Courses Taught

**Villanova University**, Villanova, Pennsylvania

#### Undergraduate Courses

Ethics 2050: Ethical Traditions and Contemporary Life  
Honors 4302: The Early Frankfurt School  
Honors 4302: Politics, Culture, Critique  
Philosophy 1000 / Honors PHI 1000: Knowledge, Reality, Self (Introduction to Philosophy)  
Philosophy 2190: Freedom  
Philosophy 2420: Philosophy of Women  
Philosophy 2760: Philosophy and Literature  
Philosophy 3720: Marx and Marxism  
Philosophy 5000: Philosophy of History as Critique  
Philosophy 5000: Religion, Politics, Philosophy  
Philosophy 5000: Political Theologies  
Philosophy 5000: Philosophy, Emotion, Society  
Political Science 4375: Political Transformation, History, Memory, and Critique

#### Graduate Courses

Philosophy 8710: Marx, Marxism, and the Critique of Political Economy  
Philosophy 8720: Psychoanalysis  
Philosophy 8720: Body Politics: Current Debates in Queer Theory  
Philosophy 8720: Politics of Affect  
Philosophy 8720: The Young Hegelians and Marx: Religion, Politics, Critique  
Philosophy 8720: Critical Theory: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Stakes  
Philosophy 8720: Adorno and Benjamin: *Erkenntniskritik* and Cultural Criticism  
Political Science 8000: Topics in Political Theory: Marx

**The New School of Social Research**, New York City, New York

Philosophy 6660 (Graduate): Politics of Affect

**University of California at Berkeley**, Berkeley, California

#### Undergraduate Courses

##### *Instructor*

Rhetoric R1A: "The Ethics of Ambiguity: Religion, Politics, Ethics"  
Rhetoric R1B: "Philosophical and Literary Critiques of Religion"  
Rhetoric R1A: "Public Discourse, Public Intellectuals, Public Intelligence"  
Rhetoric R1A: "The Ethics and Politics of Interpretation and Representation"

##### *Teaching Assistant*

Rhetoric 10: "Reason and Argument: Introduction to Rhetoric"  
Rhetoric 103B: "Origins of the Self, Language, and Social Life in Rousseau, Nietzsche, and Foucault"  
Rhetoric R1B: "Argument Beyond Truth and Lies"  
Rhetoric R1A: "The Public, the Private, and Privacy"

**Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen**, Tübingen, Germany

*Instructor* Proseminar Introduction to Ethics, Department of Catholic Theology

## 2. Experience as Thesis Sponsor or Reader

**Villanova University**, Villanova, Pennsylvania

### Dissertations

#### Director

5. Charles Strong, "Habit, *Habitus*, and Second Nature: From to Enculturation and Critical Theory" (defense December 2018)
4. Daniel Wood, "Epistemic Decolonization: A Critical Epistemography of the Anticolonial Politics of Knowledge" (defended April 2018)
3. Charles Prusik, "Negative Reason: Adorno and the Critique of Neoliberal Society" (defended February 2017)
2. Rachel Aumiller, "The Laughing Matter of Spirit: A Young Hegelian Comedy" (defended November 2016; postdoctoral fellow at Maimonides Center for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany)
1. John-Patrick Schultz, "A Theory of Revolutionary Temporality: Marx, Bloch, and Benjamin" (defended October 2014, non-tenure track continuing faculty at Pierce College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

#### Committee member

4. Çetin Güler, "Prefigurative Heterotopias: Space-Time of Contemporary Square Movements" (defended April 2019)
3. Summer Renault-Steele, "Unravel the Girl, Unravel the World: Critical Theory, Gender and the Crisis of Modernity" (defended November 2016, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Le Moyne College)
2. Terry Maksymowych, "A Phenomenology of the Clinical Encounter and the Treatment of Intersex Conditions" (defended November 2015, non-university placement, science faculty at Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, Pennsylvania)
1. Christopher Ruth, "Locating the Human: Heidegger, Marx, and the Question of Alienation" (defended December 2012, non-tenure track continuing faculty at Ocean County College, Toms River, New Jersey)

### Senior Honors Theses

#### Director

2. Brandon Batchelor, "Ethical Subjectivities: Foucault and Butler" (Director; defended May 2012)
1. Andrew Moriarty, "Two Keyless Citizens: The Lessons of Failure in Joyce's *Ulysses*" (Co-Director; defended May 2010)

#### Committee member:

4. Abram Capone, "Walter Benjamin and the Fleeting Aura: Contemporary Music and Auratic Value" Reader; defended April 2016)
3. Bethany Wood, "The Language of Change: Translation's Potential as an Agent of New Global Attitudes" (Reader; defended April 2014)
2. Eric Guzzi, "Philosophy of History and Radical Critique in Reinhard Koselleck" (Reader; defended May 2013)
1. Francis Prior, "The Role of Progress and Political Revolution in Marx, Engels, Adorno, and Horkheimer" (Reader; defended May 2009)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Published Work

#### **Books**

1. *Unbecoming Subjects: Judith Butler, Moral Philosophy, and Critical Responsibility*. New York: Fordham UP, 2008.

#### **Chapters in Books**

5. "Transgender Quarrels and the Unspeakable Whiteness of Psychoanalysis." *Psychoanalysis, Gender and Sexuality*. Ed. Patricia Gherovici and Manya Steinkoller. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. Forthcoming.

4. "Benjamin's Messianic Metaphysics of Transience." *Walter Benjamin and Theology*. Ed. Colby Dickinson and Stéphane Symons. New York: Fordham UP, 2016. 21-55.
3. "Political Theology." *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought*. Ed. Michael Gibbons. Oxford: Blackwell, 2014. 2807–2822.
2. "Human Dignity and Gender Inequalities." *The Cambridge Handbook of Human Dignity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Eds. Marcus Düwell, Jens Baarvig, Roger Brownsword, and Dietmar Mieth. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2014. 498-504.
1. "Mit und gegen Marx: Politische Ansprüche der Gesellschaftskritik bei Arendt und Benjamin" ["With and Against Marx: Political Claims of Social Criticism in Arendt and Benjamin"]. *Hannah Arendt und die Frankfurter Schule*. Ed. Liliane Weissberg. Frankfurt: Campus, 2011. 137-175.

#### Articles

18. "Materialist Politics of Fetishism: Balibar's Critique of Transindividuality's Cryptonormativity" *Australasian Philosophical Review* 2:1 (2018): 39-46, DOI: 10.1080/24740500.2018.1518109
17. "Only Political Theology Can Save Us Now?" *Syndicate*. <https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/the-force-of-god/> (2018) (7,600 words)
16. "Method Woes: Listen, O Philosophy!" *Philosophy Today* 62:2 (2018): 695–705.
15. "Critical Theory in the Age of Knowledge Capitalism: Elusive Exploitation, Affects, and New Political Economies." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 31:3 (2017): 468–80.
14. "Walter Benjamin, Again; or, How Does a Scholarly Field Legitimate Itself?" *The Future of Benjamin* (December 11, 2015) (5,100 words), <https://importance-of-benjamin.cas2.lehigh.edu/content/walter-benjamin-again-or-how-does-scholarly-field-legitimate-itself>
13. "The Art of Queer Rejections: The Everyday Life of Biblical Discourse." *Neotestamentica* 48.1 (2014): 33–56.
12. "Beyond Bad Conscience: Marcuse and the Affects of Religion after Secularism." *Telos* 165 (2013): 23–48.
11. "Theological-Political Ruins: Walter Benjamin, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Skeletal Eschatology." *Law and Critique* 24:3 (2013): 295–315.
10. "Schmittian Shadows and Contemporary Theological-Political Constellations." *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 80.2 (2013): 1–32.
9. "Activist Theory: Feminist Philosophy and the Praxis of Critique." *Journal of Gender and Religion in Africa* 18.2 (2012): 7–23.
8. "Specters of Sin and Salvation: Hermann Cohen, Original Sin, and Rethinking the Critique of Religion." *Idealistic Studies* 40.1-2 (2010): 117–138.
7. "Adorno's Tears: Textures of Philosophical Emotionality." *MLN* 124.3 (2009): 592–613.
6. "Foucault and the Unfaithful Body: An Anti-Catechism." *Religion and Theology* 14.3-4 (2007): 330–346.
5. "Between Passion and Politics: Kierkegaard, Benjamin, and Religious Ethics." *International Studies in Philosophy* 39.2 (2007): 113–127.

4. "No Gendered Bodies without Queer Desires: Judith Butler and Biblical Gender Trouble." *Old Testament Essays* 20.2 (2007): 456–470.
3. "Normalizing Desires and Desiring Normality—Bodies, Desires and Kinship in Scientific, Political and Religious Discourse." *Scriptura* 90 (2005): 779–788.
2. "The Question of Justice and Women's Rights." *Thirdspace: A Journal of Feminist Theory and Culture* 1 (2001): 73-90 (available at <http://journals.sfu.ca/thirdspace/index.php/journal/article/viewArticle/thiem/5>).
1. "Freier Wille bei Calvin und Cochläus" [Free Will in Calvin and Cochläus]. *Archiv für schlesische Kirchengeschichte* 57 (1999): 101–144.

### Reviews

3. *Religion and the Constitution: Volume 1: Free Exercise and Fairness*. By Kent Greenawalt. *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 3.3 (2007): 500–502.
2. *Kritik der ethischen Gewalt*. By Judith Butler. *Die Philosophin: Forum für feministische Theorie und Philosophie* 28 (2004): 105–110.
1. *Continental Philosophy in Feminist Perspective: Re-Reading the Canon in German*. Ed. Herta Nagl-Docekal and Cornelia Klinger. *Philosophy in Review*, 22.1 (2002): 57–59.  
Re-published in German in *Die Philosophin: Forum für feministische Theorie und Philosophie* 25 (2002): 125–128.

### Translations

2. Translation of Jackie Leach Scully. "Humangenetik aus der Perspektive von Betroffenen." *Humane Genetik?: Edition Ethik Kontrovers*. Ed. Julia Dietrich, Hille Haker, and Sigrid Graumann. Jahrespublikation der Zeitschrift Ethik und Unterricht 10. Frankfurt am Main: Diesterweg. 2002. 31–35.
1. Discussion Summaries in *The Ethics of Genetics in Human Procreation*. Ed. Hille Haker and Deryck Beyleveld. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000. 309–328.

### Other Publications

6. "Just Ideas? The Status and Future of Publication Ethics in Philosophy" (White Paper, lead author, co-authors Kris F. Sealey, Amy E. Ferrer, Adriel M. Trott, and Rebecca Kennison). <http://publication-ethics.org/white-paper/> October 2019.
5. "The Reality of a Trumped Up World" Interview by Jana Jacobs. *finweek* (South African weekly business magazine). 19 January 2017. 38–39.
4. "Fascism in America: Donald Trump, America's Hitler of the 21st Century?" Blog post at *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*. October 20, 2016.  
<http://blog.apaonline.org/2016/10/20/fascism-in-america-donald-trump-americas-hitler-of-the-21st-century/>
3. "Queer." *Dictionary of the Possible. Shifter* 22. Ed. Avi Alpert and Sreshta Rit Premnath. N.p.: Shifter, 2016. 144-146.
2. "Queering Philosophy—How Can Queer Theory Inform and Transform the Practice of Philosophy?" Blog Post at *The Philosopher's Eye*. June 11, 2015.  
<http://thephilosopherseye.com/2015/06/11/queering-philosophy-how-can-queer-theory-inform-and-transform-the-practice-of-philosophy/>

1. "Occupy Philosophy." Panel on Occupy Wall Street at the 2011 Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meeting in Washington D.C. Text downloadable at <http://www.possible-futures.org/2012/01/25/occupy-philosophy/> (<http://jennifer.uleman.blogs.purchase.edu/files/2012/01/Theim-OCCUPY-ACADEMY.pdf>)

### **Work in Progress**

#### **Books**

1. *Ripples of Redemption: The Ethics and Politics of Temporality in Hermann Cohen and Walter Benjamin* (under contract and review with Fordham UP)
2. *Queer Nuisances: Race, Religion, Sex, and Other Monsters* (new book project)

#### **Articles**

1. "No Place for Ugly Bodies: The Sacralization of Queerness Under Neoliberal Capitalism"
2. "Weaponizing Gender: Transphobia Meets Homonationalist Islamophobia"
3. "Polemical Politics after Political Theology: Benjamin and Kraus v. Schmitt"
4. "*Exsurgete Omnes Gentes*: Clericalism, Gender Panics, and Long Histories of Sexual Violence"

### **GRANTS**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Co-PI on "Conduct Unbecoming: Toward a Code of Publication Ethics in Philosophy" (February 2018) (\$75,000)

### **HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **Fellowships**

Fulbright Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts (2000–2001)

Cusanus Merit Foundation Fellowship (declined) (1999)

Deutsche Studienstiftung (German Merit Foundation) Honors Society Fellowship (1998–2002)

Bavarian State Honors Fellowship for University Study (1996–2002)

#### **Academic Awards**

Society for Women in Philosophy Graduate Student Paper Award (April 2002)

#### **Teaching Awards**

Honorable Mention Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Villanova University (May 2012)

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley (May 2007)

### **SERVICE**

#### **1. University Service**

**Villanova University**, Villanova, Pennsylvania

Department of Philosophy

Director of Graduate Studies (July 2014–December 2018)

Placement Officer (2011–2013)

Examiner for the German Translation Exam (2007–2014)

Organizer of German Translation Group for Graduate Students (2009–2011)

Faculty Advisor to Phi Sigma Tau Chapter at Villanova University (2008–2011)

Committee of Graduate Studies (2008–2019)

Committee of Undergraduate Studies (2007–2013)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Advisory Committee on Digital Research Infrastructure (2009–2011)  
Honors Program Council Member (2007–2009)

Villanova University

Institute for Catholic Social Thought Committee (2014–2016)  
Taskforce on the Impending Carnegie Reclassification as Doctoral Institution (September 2015–April 2016)  
Subcommittee on Research, University Internationalization Leadership Committee (2012–2013)

2. Service to the Discipline

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Member, Program Committee (2019–present)  
American Philosophical Association, Member, Committee on the Future of the Profession (2018–2021)  
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Committee Chair, LGBTQ Advocacy Committee (2018–2019)  
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Member, LGBTQ Advocacy Committee (2016–2018)  
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Member, Advisory Book Selection Committee (2014–2016)  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Member, Advisory Committee to the Program Committee (2014–2017)

Task Force Co-Chair, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2017–2019)  
Website Administrator, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* ([hypatiaphilosophy.org](http://hypatiaphilosophy.org)) (2018–2019)

Co-Director (with Jennifer Ponce de Leon and Gabriel Rockhill), *Reinventing Critical Theory*, Rowman Littlefield International (2017–2019)  
Co-Director (with Gabriel Rockhill), *Reinventing Critical Theory*, Rowman Littlefield International (2014–2017)

Editorial Board Member, *Walter Benjamin Studies*, Continuum Press (2013–present)  
Editorial Board Member, *Religion and Theology* (Taylor and Francis Journal) (2012–2016)  
Editorial Board Member, *Queen: A Journal of Rhetoric & Power* (E-Journal of the Centre for Rhetorics and Hermeneutics) (2008–2012)

International Advisory Board Member, *Religion and Theology* (Taylor and Francis Journal) (2016–present)  
International Advisory Board Member, *Committee on Gender of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa* (2010–2018)  
International Advisory Board Member, *Myth & Symbol* (Taylor and Francis Journal) (2007–present)

Local Advisory Board Member, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2013–2017)

Book Manuscript Reviewer for *Fordham University Press* (2010–present)  
Reviewer for *Epoché* (2019–present)  
Reviewer for the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (2019–present)  
Reviewer for *Feminist Philosophical Quarterly* (2018–present)  
Reviewer for *Critical Research on Religion* (2014–present)  
Reviewer for *Philosophy Compass* (2013–present)  
Reviewer for *Constellations* (2012–present)  
Reviewer for *Polity* (2009–present)  
Reviewer for *Philosophy & Rhetoric* (2007–present)  
Reviewer for *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (2004–present)

3. Public Outreach

Co-Organizer with Dr. Johannes Vorster (University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa) of The Gender Network in South Africa (facilitating collaborations between academics and religious community leaders; 2012–2018)