

Ben Roth
curriculum vitae
ben_roth2@emerson.edu

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (tenure-track), Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies, Emerson College, fall 2023-present

Lecturer, Tufts University Department of Philosophy, spring 2021-spring 2023

Instructor of Philosophy, Harvard Extension School, fall 2017-spring 2023

Preceptor, Harvard College Writing Program, fall 2015-spring 2022

Lecturer, Boston University Department of Philosophy, fall 2014-spring 2015

Education

Boston University, Ph.D. in philosophy, September 2014

Dissertation: *Narrative, Understanding, and the Self: Heidegger and the Interpretation of Lived Experience*

Committee: Charles Griswold, Daniel Dahlstrom, Allen Speight

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Writing, July 2013

Middlebury College, German Language School, summers 2009, 2010

University of Cambridge, Dr. Herchel Smith Scholar, 2004-2005

Williams College, B.A. *cum laude* in Philosophy and English, June 2004

Advanced Studies in England (Bath), English and Education, 2001-2002

Areas of Specialization and Competence

AOS: Narrative

Philosophy and/of Art (especially Literature and Film), Aesthetics

19th- and 20th-century Continental Philosophy

AOC: History of Western Philosophy

Ethics

20th- and 21st-century Fiction

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

“Ideological Rug-Pulling: Race, Reds, and Red Herrings in Jordan Peele’s *Us*” forthcoming in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, special issue on The Art and Aesthetics of Capitalism.

“On Wittgenstein, Lydia Davis, and Other Uncanny Grammarians” in *Philosophy and Literature* 46.1, April 2022.

“*Tenet*, Climate Change, and the Misdirection of Interpretation: Or, Does Christopher Nolan Not Know Who the Bad Guys Are?” in *Film and Philosophy* 26, 2022.

“Reading from the Middle: Heidegger and the Narrative Self” in the *European Journal of Philosophy* 26.2, June 2018, pp. 746-762.

Other Articles (invited or emerging from conferences):

Section on Ben Marcus (3,000 words) added to reprint of “Uncanny Grammarians” in *Literature and Its Language: Philosophical Aspects*, ed. Garry L. Hagberg (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).

“Can Trees Care?: *The Overstory* and Rorty’s Ideal of Inspirational Literature” in *The Ethics of Richard Rorty*, eds. Susan Dieleman, David McClean, and Paul Showler (Routledge, 2022).

“The Abetment of Nihilism: Architectural Phenomenology’s Ethical Project” in *Log 42: Disorienting Phenomenology*, Winter/Spring 2018, pp. 127-135.

“How Sartre, Philosopher, Misreads Sartre, Novelist: *Nausea* and the Adventures of the Narrative Self” in *Narrative, Philosophy and Life*, ed. Allen Speight (Springer, 2015), pp. 81-102.

“Confessions, Excuses, and the Storytelling Self: Rereading Rousseau with Paul de Man” in *Re-thinking European Politics and History*, Vienna: IWM Junior Visiting Fellows' Conferences, Vol. 32 (2012).

Other Scholarly Work:

Commissioned review (4,000 words) of *The Proustian Mind*, edited by Anna Elsner and Thomas Stern (Routledge, 2023) in *MIND*.

“A Work of Art Outside the Age of Instagram: Visiting Walter De Maria’s *The Lightning Field*” in the *American Society for Aesthetics Newsletter* 40.1, Spring 2020.

Co-Editor of Conference Proceedings:

Agnieszka Pasięka, David Petrucci, and Ben Roth (eds.), *Re-thinking European Politics and History*, Vienna: IWM Junior Visiting Fellows' Conferences, Vol. 32 (2012).

Criticism:

“Concrete Reforms for Preceptors”: Letter to the Editor in *The Harvard Crimson*, April 2021. [Signed by over a dozen of my colleagues.]

“Harvard Does Not Care About Teaching – or Teachers” on *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 2021.

Review essay on *Antkind* by Charlie Kaufman on *Chicago Review*, September 2020.

“The Philosophical Comedy of Adam Ehrlich Sachs” on *AGNI Online*, November 2019.

Recommendation Flowchart for Philosophical Novels on *Daily Nous*, October 2019. [Featured on *Open Culture* and *Lit Hub* and shared thousands of times.]

“Harvard Fails the Humanities”: Op-Ed in *The Harvard Crimson*, October 2018.

“Buzzati in Every Bookstore” on *3:AM Magazine*, April 2018. Reprinted in *Short Stories for Students* 51 (Gale, 2021).

“Against Readability” on *The Millions*, February 2017. [One of the site’s most read essays of the year.]

“Poetry, Jarmusch Style” on *The Millions*, February 2017.

Review of Paul Auster's *The Brooklyn Follies* in *Redivider* 3.2, Spring 2006.

Fiction:

“Or Merely to Insulate” forthcoming on *Gargoyle Online* 9, Summer 2024.

“A Brief Excerpt from the History of Tobacco” forthcoming in *North Dakota Quarterly* 91.1/2, Spring 2024.

“The Lost Hand” in *Drunken Boat* 25, March 2024. [Previously a finalist in *Cutbank*’s flash contest.]

“And a Little Less” in *Blink-Ink* 55, March 2024.

“Meno’s Dream” in *Sci Phi Journal*, Autumn 2023.

“But Meaning” on *The Bookends Review*, September 2023.

“The Imperative of Protest” in *Quibble*, Issue 10, May 2023.

“So Many” on *Your Impossible Voice*, April 2023.

“An Inspection” in *Euphony*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Winter 2023.

“Oh Shit” on *Sensitive Skin*, November 2022.

“The Untranslated Section” on *Gambling the Aisle*, July 2022.

“Rebecca Rebecca” in *Bodega Magazine* 117, July 2022. [Nominated for a Pushcart Prize.]

“Roko’s Wager” in *Sci Phi Journal*, Summer 2022.

“The Great Dying” on *Nanoism*, February 2022.

“Haven’t Talked” on *Nanoism*, October 2021.

“Fade In” in *decomp journal*, Issue 3, September 2021.

“Veterinarians” on *101 Words*, August 2021.

“I Like Big Boats” and “A Truth Universally Acknowledged” on *Cuento Magazine*, July 2021.

Five Fictions on *Aesthetics for the Birds*, June 2021.

“The Minotaur’s Rebellion” in *Sci Phi Journal*, Spring 2021.

“The Three Lines Not Written” in *Blink-Ink* 43, March 2021.

“That Website” on *Nanoism*, December 2020.

“So Many Illusions” on *Nanoism*, August 2019.

“But I Do Not Know What” in *Flash: The International Short-Short Story Magazine* 11.1, April 2018.

“Maybe You Misunderstand” on *Nanoism*, April 2017.

“Concerning Wittgenstein’s 284th Philosophical Investigation” on *The Daily Ant*, April 2017.

Papers and Presentations

“Aesthetics, Non-Ideal Theory, and Philosophical Criticism,” BU Colloquium on Literature, Philosophy, and Aesthetics: Knowing, Perception, and Judgment in the Arts, October 2024 (invited, planned)

“Heideggerian Worlds and World-Blocking in Marlen Haushofer’s *The Wall* and Kay Dick’s *They*,” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, Montreal, March 2024

“The Hegemony of Accuracy in *The Philosophy of Memoir*,” American Society for Aesthetics annual meeting, Washington, DC, November 2023 (refereed paper)

“Aesthetics Needs Non-Ideal Theory,” American Society for Aesthetics annual meeting, Portland, Oregon, November 2022 (refereed paper)

“Fate and Freedom in Forking-Path Narratives,” American Society for Aesthetics annual meeting, Montreal, November 2021 (refereed paper)

“*Tenet*, Climate Change, and the Misdirection of Interpretation: Or, Does Christopher Nolan Not Know Who the Bad Guys Are?” *Film and Philosophy* Online Workshop, July 2021 (refereed abstract)

“Sartre on Moral Disagreement and the Source of Value” and “The Persistence of Existentialism in Later Literature,” two lectures for the e-series Revisiting Existentialism, Pondicherry University, India, August and September 2020 (invited)

“Can Trees Care?: *The Overstory* by Richard Powers and Rorty’s ‘The Inspirational Value of Great Works of Literature,’” Meeting of the Richard Rorty Society, Penn. State, November 2019 (refereed abstract)

“On Wittgenstein, Lydia Davis, and Other Uncanny Grammarians,” Robert Chodat’s After Wittgenstein Graduate Seminar, BU English Department, November 2019 (invited)

“Forking-Path Narratives and Heideggerian Projection,” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, “Thinking in Forms II” seminar, Georgetown University, March 2019 (refereed abstract)

“The Evasion of Nihilism in Architectural Phenomenology,” Department of Philosophy, University of the Andes, Colombia, August 2017

“Fate and Freedom in Forking-Path Films”

—Film Philosophy Conference, Nazareth College, March 2017 (invited)

—Philosophy Program, University of California at Merced, March 2017

“Reading from the Middle: Heidegger and the Narrative Self”

—Kilachand Honors College, Boston University, April 2015

—Liberal Arts Department, The Juilliard School, February 2015

“Heidegger and the Narrative Self: Thrown Projection and the Reading of Possibilities”

—Impression and Object: A Conference on Critical Theory, CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Comparative Literature, March 2014 (refereed abstract)

—From Aesthetica to Aesthetic Theory: German Aesthetic Theory Since 1700, Emory University Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2013 (refereed paper)

“Heidegger, Narrative, and the Self”

—Sociology Department, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, June 2012 (invited)

—Fellows' Seminar, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, March 2012 (invited)

“Confessions, Excuses, and the Storytelling Self: Rereading Rousseau with Paul de Man,” Junior Fellows' Conference, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, March 2012

“How Sartre, Philosopher, Misreads Sartre, Novelist: *Nausea* and the Narrative Self,” American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, “Literary Forms, Philosophical Uses” seminar, Harvard University, March 2009 (refereed abstract)

Invited Comments and Panel Discussions

Discussant, Professional development panel on moving into a tenure-track job, Harvard College Writing Program, January 2024

Comments on Theo Davis's “Cybernetic Somatics: An Attachment Perspective,” BU Colloquium on Literature, Philosophy, and Aesthetics: Embodiment and the Body, October 2023

Author-Meets-Critics Session on Helena De Bres's *Artful Truths: The Philosophy of Memoir*, American Philosophical Association Pacific meeting, San Francisco, April 2023

Comments on Emilio Sauri's “Materialism, Postcritique, and the Art of the Novel,” BU Colloquium on Literature, Philosophy, and Aesthetics: Art, Democracy, and Public Life, October 2021

Comments on Richard Kearney's “Paul Ricoeur and the Linguistic Imagination,” Boston Phenomenology Circle Symposium: Phenomenology and Aesthetics, April 2019

Discussant (with Juliet Floyd, Sandra Laugier, and Greg Chase), Panel on Robert Chodat's *The Matter of High Words: Naturalism, Normativity and the Post-War Sage*, BU, February 2019

Comments on Joseph Kassman-Tod's “Responsibility in Art Criticism,” American Society for Aesthetics Pacific meeting, Berkeley, March 2019

Comments on Oren Izenberg's “Dear Friend: Staying Oneself in the Presence of Another,” BU Colloquium on Literature, Philosophy, and Aesthetics: New Directions in Philosophy and Literature, October 2018

Discussant, Panel on the work of Karsten Harries and Alberto Pérez-Gómez, Architecture + Philosophy conference, BU, April 2011

Teaching Experience

Emerson College:

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies
Social Contract Theory and the Artworld, fall 2024 (two sections, planned)
Philosophy and Film on the Nature of Reality, spring 2024
Narrative Ethics, fall 2023, spring 2024
Heidegger, fall 2023

Tufts University:

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy, spring 2021-spring 2023 (multiple sections each semester)

Harvard University:

Instructor, Harvard Extension School
Introduction to Ethics, spring semesters 2022-2023 (online)
Introduction to Philosophy, fall 2017 (on campus), fall 2018 and fall 2019 (online option), fall semesters 2020-2022 (online)
Preceptor, Harvard College Writing Program
Civil and Uncivil Disobedience, fall 2021-spring 2022
Philosophical Films, fall 2019-spring 2021
Existentialism, fall 2017-spring 2019 (two sections each semester)
The Narrative Self, fall 2015-spring 2017 (two sections each semester)

Boston University:

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy
Introduction to Ethics, spring 2015
History of Ancient Philosophy, fall 2014 (two sections), spring 2015
Great Philosophers, fall 2014
Instructor, Writing Program
Narrative, Authenticity, and the Self, fall 2012-spring 2013
Teaching Fellow, Department of Philosophy, fall 2008-spring 2010

Williams College:

Course Assistant, Department of Philosophy, 2002-2004
Writing Tutor, Writing Workshop, 2000-2004

Awards and Grants

Pushcart Prize:

“Rebecca Rebecca” nominated by the editors of *Bodega Magazine*, 2022

American Society for Aesthetics:

Irene H. Chayes Travel Grants, fall 2021, fall 2022

Harvard University:

Certificate of Excellence in Teaching (for online teaching), fall 2020
Certificate of Excellence in Teaching (for in-person teaching), fall 2019
Fuerbringer Summer Faculty Grants, 2016-2019

Cutbank Literary Journal:

Finalist, *Big Sky*, *Small Prose* Flash Fiction Contest, 2020

Earhart Foundation:

H. B. Earhart Fellowship, 2013-2014

Boston University:

Travel Grants, April 2013, May 2014

Graduate Writing Fellowship, Writing Program, 2012-2013

Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award, Center for the Humanities, May 2012

Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize, Center for the Humanities, May 2012

Presidential Fellowship, 2007-2011

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen/Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna:

Junior Visiting Fellowship, 2011-2012

Middlebury College:

Middlebury Grant, summer 2010

University of Cambridge:

Dr. Herchel Smith Fellowship, 2004-2005

Williams College:

John W. Miller Prize in Philosophy, June 2004

Laszlo G. Versenyi Memorial Prize in Philosophy, June 2004

Service

Professional:

Organizer, Literature and Early Existentialism panel, American Society for Aesthetics annual meeting, Chicago, fall 2024 (proposed)

Organizer, Philosophical Resonance seminar, American Comparative Literature Association annual meeting, Montreal, spring 2024

Refereed article for *AM Journal of Art and Media Studies*, winter 2024

Refereed book proposal for Palgrave MacMillan, winter 2024

Refereed article for *Simone de Beauvoir Studies*, winter 2024

Panel Chair, American Society for Aesthetics annual meeting, DC, fall 2023

Refereed article for the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, summer 2023

Refereed article for *Simone de Beauvoir Studies*, summer 2023

Refereed article for the *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, summer 2023

Panel Chair, Heidegger Circle, BU, spring 2023

Panel Chair, BU Colloquium on Wittgenstein and Literary Studies, fall 2019

Refereed book proposal for Bloomsbury Academic, summer 2019

Panel Chair, “Particular, Possible, Universal: Reflections on History, Literature, and Philosophy”
Conference at BU, spring 2017

Previously:

Work with Harvard Writing Project, Bok Center, and Philosophy Department Writing Fellow creating “bridge” documents from expository writing to philosophy classes, spring and summer 2018

Ad-Hoc Disciplinary Committee, BU Department of Philosophy, spring 2014

Editorial assistance on Allen Speight’s *Narrative, Philosophy and Life*, Daniel Dahlstrom’s *Interpreting Heidegger*, and some of Charles Griswold’s work following the publication of *Forgiveness*

Paper referee, BU Architecture + Philosophy conference, spring 2011, fall 2012

Organizer, BU philosophy and literature reading group, fall 2010

Senior Advisor, Department of Philosophy, Williams College, 2003-2004