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Abbreviated CV since 2012
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Major Projects

Propaganda

How Propaganda Works (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015; paperback 2016) synthesizes work in multiple disciplines, including sociology, linguistics, psychology, and political philosophy, to provide a theory of propaganda and its relation to ideology. The book has found a market both inside academia and outside academia. It has received extensive reviews and critical notices from both academic philosophy “general interest” journals, such as *Mind* and *Analysis*, and speciality academic journals in ethics and political theory, e.g. reviews in both *Ethics* and *Political Theory*. It has also been reviewed across multiple disciplines, from Psychology to Communications Studies. Unusually for an academic work, it has been widely reviewed in the mainstream press. Michiko Kakutani [reviewed it for the New York Times](#), and reviews have appeared in the pages of the mainstream press in several different countries, including Australia, United Arab Emirates, and India. It is currently being translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Turkish. It won the 2016 PROSE award for the subject area of Philosophy, as well as the 2016 *Global Discourse* book award.

How Propaganda Works seeks to define political propaganda and explain its efficacy. One of its goals was to establish the academic study of propaganda. I am currently at work on a book, The Politics of Language, under contract with Princeton University Press, and co-authored with the linguist David Beaver. In this work, we extend the analysis of linguistic propaganda in Chapter 4 of How Propaganda Works, using the tools of formal semantics and pragmatics. The Politics of Language mixes socio-linguistics, semantics and pragmatics, sociology, psychology, communication theory, and other disciplines to lay down the foundations of the study of political communication.

But the project of investigating and explaining political propaganda is not and cannot be simply an academic one. It is also an activist project, with the goal being to explain how various kinds of propaganda works in a way that protects ordinary citizens from its harmful consequences, by enabling them to recognize it. How Propaganda Works is the academic companion to the public media work I produce on this topic. I am currently writing a trade book, How Fascism Works, building on its central ideas.

My project on propaganda led me to an interest in how “emergency management” is used as a way to bypass democratic governance in the service of private interests, for example to purchase public goods such as water supplies. This is the subject of a paper of mine in a public policy

journal, “The Emergency Manager: Strategic Racism, Technocracy, and the Poisoning of Flint’s Children” (*The Good Society*, 2016), and will be the subject of a forthcoming book on this technique used to privatize public goods in the name of “efficiency”, provisionally entitled *The Emergency Manager*.

Skill

Skill, or *Techne*, was among the central topics of Ancient Philosophy; both Plato and Aristotle placed its analysis on the same level of importance as notions such as Virtue. However, despite the flourishing literature in philosophy on virtue, there is hardly any work on the nature of skill in the analytic tradition in philosophy, since Gilbert Ryle’s seminal 1949 book [The Concept of Mind](#). Beginning with my article with Timothy Williamson, “Knowing How” (*Journal of Philosophy* 2001, reprinted in *The Philosopher’s Annual* as one of the ten best philosophy papers of 2001), I have sought to return the topic of skill to its rightful place in the discipline, and in so doing close the disciplinary gap between continental and analytic philosophy. In this work, I defend “intellectualism” about skill, the view that skill is knowledge of facts. This has been of necessity an interdisciplinary project, as for example cognitive neuroscientists have placed a great deal of effort into arguing against intellectualism.

I spent years writing a book that delivers as it were a progress report on the topic; this is my book *Know How* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011; paperback 2013). In 2013, I published a paper, “Motor Skill Depends upon Knowledge of Facts”, with the neuroscientist John Krakauer, challenging the dominant neuroscientific paradigm. My latest paper on the topic, again with Timothy Williamson, entitled “Skill”, is forthcoming in *Nous*. I have written about this project and its significance in the mainstream press; two New York Times articles are [“The Practical and the Theoretical”](#) and [“Is the ‘Dumb Jock’ Really a Nerd?”](#) (again with John Krakauer). I have organized one large interdisciplinary conference, at Yale, on the topic of skill, and participated in many others. Two decades after I began this project, the topic of *Techne* has undergone a resurgence, and is a fruitful locus of interdisciplinary research, bringing together analytic philosophers, continental philosophers, historians of philosophy, psychologists, and neuroscientists.

Epistemic Relativism

Knowledge and Practical Interests (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2005; paperback 2007) introduces a novel version of epistemic relativism into philosophy, the view that the epistemic and the practical are intertwined (and hence epistemic facts are relative to interests). The goal of the book was to argue that no epistemological notions were “pure”, in the sense of independent of human interests. [Knowledge and Practical Interests](#) won the 2007 American Philosophical Association Book Prize for the best book published by a younger scholar in any area of philosophy for the years 2005 and 2006. The project is continued in many subsequent papers, including “Knowledge and Action”, with John Hawthorne (*Journal of Philosophy*, 2008), “Empirical Tests of Interest-Relative Invariantism”, with Chandra Spripada (*Episteme*, 2012), and most recently, “Is Epistemology tainted?” (*Disputatio*, 2016).

Context Dependence

From the mid 1990s until around 2007, I developed a large project on the interface between syntax and semantics. The goal was to show that many intuitive effects of extra-linguistic context on conversation have a grammatical interface. Most of the papers I have written in this project have been collected into a book with Oxford University Press, **Language in Context: Selected Essays** (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2007 hardcover and paperback), to which I contributed a lengthy introduction and a post-script. One can see my current work on propaganda, specifically the work forthcoming in my book The Politics of Language, as related to this work, in that the effects of speech practices on communication are treated by assimilating them to the more standard machinery of context-dependence.

Modality and Content

In philosophical logic, in the theory of rationality, and in formal semantics, breakthroughs in formalization have been made by assuming that the objects of judgment (typically, propositions) divide the space of possibilities into ones in which the judgment is true and ones in which it is false. This has allowed theorists to represent these objects as sets (of possibilities), and to be able to subject the contents of judgment to formal rigor. But what if this assumption is false? “Rigidity and Content” (1997), “Names and Rigid Designation” (1997), “Modality and What is Said” (2002), “Constructing Meanings” (2016), “‘Assertion’ and Intentionality” (2010) challenge this link between possibility and content. The view explored in these papers is that there are “two dimensions” of meaning (“assertoric content” and “ingredient sense”, as Michael Dummett called them). In recent years, thanks to the work of many scholars, two-dimensional semantics has enjoyed steadily growing influence and interest.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 2012

Books

- Forthcoming, The Politics of Language (with David Beaver), under contract with Princeton University Press.
- 2015: How Propaganda Works (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2015; paperback 2016)
 - Chinese translation, forthcoming, Gehzi Press (Shanghai)
 - Japanese translation, forthcoming, Seidosha Press
 - Turkish translation, forthcoming, The Kitap (AABir Basim)

Selection of Reviews of *How Propaganda Works*

- Academic presses: *Mind* (critical notice), *Ethics*, *Analysis*, *Political Theory*, *Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *The Good Society*, *Journalism & Mass Communication*, *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, *Marx and Philosophy*, *Voegelinview*, *PsychCritiques*, *International Journal of Communication*
 - Popular press: *Bookforum*, *The National*, *The New Rambler*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Spinwatch*, *Huffington Post*, *The Australian*, *Australian Book Review*, *The New York Times*
 - Special Issues of Journals: *Theoria*
 - Symposia in Journals: *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Disputatio*, *Manuscrito*, *Global Discourse*
- 2013 (pbk): Know How (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 2011; paperback 2013)

Journal articles

- forthcoming, “Skill”, with Timothy Williamson, *Nous*.
- forthcoming, “Precis of How Propaganda Works” and “Replies to Kristie Dotson, Rachel MacKinnon, and Charles Mills”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* Book Symposium on How Propaganda Works
- forthcoming, “Reply to critics of How Propaganda Works”, *Global Discourse* Book Symposium on How Propaganda Work
- 2017: “Precis of How Propaganda Works”, *Theoria* Special Issue on How Propaganda Works
- 2016: “The Emergency Manager: Strategic Racism, Technocracy, and the Poisoning of Flint’s Children”, *The Good Society* **25.1**: 1-44
- 2016: “Is Epistemology Tainted?”, *Disputatio* **VIII.42**: 1-36
- 2016: with Ben Justice, “Teaching in a Time of Trump”, *Social Education* **80.1**: 36-41.

- 2016: “On a Case for Truth-Relativism”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* **90.1**: 179-88.
- 2015: “Knowledge, Habit, Practice, Skill”, *Journal of Philosophical Research* **40**: 315-323.
- 2014: “Constructing Meanings”, *Analysis* **74.4**: 662-676.
- 2013: with John Krakauer, “Motor Skill Depends on Knowledge of Facts”, with John Krakauer, *Frontiers of Human Neuroscience* **7**.
- 2012: with Chandra Sripada, “Empirical Tests of Interest-Relative Invariantism”, *Episteme* **9.1**: 3-26.
- 2012: Precis of *Know How*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* **85.3**: 696-99 and “Replies to Imogen Dickie, Mark Schroeder, and Robert Stalnaker”: 725-741.

Media contributions

New York Times

- [Who is a ‘Criminal’?](#). May 1, 2017
- [Beyond Lying: Donald Trump’s Authoritarian Reality](#), November 4, 2016
- [My Parent’s Mixed Messages on the Holocaust](#). Sunday Review, August 20, 2016
-reprinted in *Modern Ethics in 77 argument: A Stone Reader*
- [Democracy and the Demagogue](#). October 12, 2015
- [A Postcard from Paris](#). January 8, 2015
- [Detroit’s Drought of Democracy](#). July 29, 2014
- [Is the United States a ‘Racial Democracy’?](#) (with Vesla Weaver), January 12, 2014
-reprinted in *The Stone Reader: Modern Philosophy in 133 Arguments*, edited by Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley (New York: Liveright, 2016): 663-69.
- [Is the ‘Dumb Jock’ Really a Nerd?](#) (with John Krakauer), October 27, 2013
- reprinted in *The Stone Reader: Modern Philosophy in 133 Arguments*, edited by Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley (New York: Liveright, 2016): 337-41
- [Philosopher Kings and Fiscal Cliffs](#). January 31, 2013
- [Speech, Lies, and Apathy](#). August 30, 2012
- [The Practical and the Theoretical](#), May 6, 2012
-reprinted in *The Stone Reader: Modern Philosophy in 133 Arguments*, edited by Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley (New York: Liveright, 2016): 220-3.

The Washington Post

- [Unlike All Previous Presidents, Donald Trump Almost Never Mentions Democratic Ideals](#) (with David Beaver), February 7, 2017
- [On Chess and Democracy](#), December 14, 2016

Die Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

- [An die Berliner Demonstranten](#), August 4, 2014

The New York Daily News

- [Real and Fake News and Why it Matters](#), August 11, 2017

Boston Review

- [On Becoming the Enemy](#), February 2, 2017
- [When Protesting Israel Becomes Hating Jews](#), August 6, 2014

The Chronicle of Higher Education

- [The War on Thugs](#), June 10, 2015
- [When Free Speech Becomes a Political Weapon](#), November 13, 2015
- [The Free Speech Fallacy](#), February 26, 2016

Il Manifesto

- [Debito, una parola che nasconde molte insidie](#)

Aeon Magazine

- [How Free Market Ideology Perverts the Language of Democracy](#)

Representative Radio Appearances

[National Public Radio, Here and Now](#)

[Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Ideas with Paul Kennedy](#)

[Newsworks, NPR, Debate on Free Speech](#)

I have appeared numerous times on radio throughout the United States, and several times on television on Al Jazeera English.

Representative Interviews

- [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
- [Il Sole 24 ore](#)
- [Der Standard](#)
- [Die Zeit](#)
- [Boston Globe](#)
- [Irish Times](#)

Endowed lectures and keynote addresses since 2012

- The Ryle Lectures, Trent University (2017)
- Ethics, Politics, and Society Annual Lecture, Rice University (2017)
- Indiana Philosophical Association, Prindle Center for Ethics (2016)
- Wayne State Humanities Center, Keynote of annual Symposium (2016)
- The Sprague and Taylor Lecture, Brooklyn College (2016)
- Paul and Gwen Leonard Ethics and Politics Lecture, University of Nevada at Reno (2016)
- The David Norton Memorial Lecture in Ethics and Public Life, University of Delaware (2015)
- The David Hume Lecture, University of New England (2015)
- The Disputatio Lecture, ENFA 6 (The University of the Azores)
- Irish Philosophical Club (2015)
- *The Foundations of Social Control*, Three Lectures at Ecole Normale Superior, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris (2015)
- Dominating Speech, University of Connecticut Law School (2014) Semantics in Europe 7, Humboldt University (2014)
- The Gail Stine Lecture, Wayne State University (2014)
- The Fritz Marti Lecture, Southern Illinois University (2014)
- Phling, University of Maryland Graduate Conference in Philosophy and Linguistics (2014)
- Symposium Speaker, Current Trends in Epistemology, XXIII World Congress of Philosophy, Athens, Greece (2013)
- Second Annual Hebrew University Graduate Conference (2013)

Symposia or Conferences on my work since 2012

- Author meets Critics on How Propaganda Works, open public session at San Francisco Public Library, Pacific Division APA (2016) (Robert Gooding-Williams, Ishani Maitra, Allen Wood)
- Author meets Critics on How Propaganda Works, Central Division American Philosophical Association (2016) (Gaile Pohlhaus, Susanna Siegel, Amia Srinivasan)
- Author Meets Critics Session on How Propaganda Works, American Political Science Association Meeting (2015) (Eric Beerbohm, Jeffrey Friedman, Helene Landemore, Charles Mills)
- XXIV SIUCC 2015, Knowledge, Language, and Ideology: Themes from the philosophy of Jason Stanley, University of Valladolid, Spain, (2015) (this was a conference on my work, with a dozen papers given by different philosophers on aspects of my work)
- Book Symposium on Know How, Ruhr University, Bochum (Hanjo Glock, Eva-Maria Jung, David Lowenstein, and Albert Newen, speakers) (2013)
- Invited symposium on Know How, Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association (2012)

- Author Meets Critics Session on Know How, Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (2012) (Imogen Dickie, Sean Kelly, Seth Yalcin, critics)

Invited lectures and colloquium presentations since 2012

- University of British Columbia (2017)
- Vanderbilt University (2017)
- University of Alabama, Program on Race and Gender (2017)
- New School (2016)
- University of Nevada at Reno (2016)
- University of Nevada Las Vegas (2016)
- University of Memphis (2015)
- University of Vienna (2015)
- University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (2015)
- Chicago Law School, Colloquium in Law and Philosophy (2015)
- Fordham University, Epistemology and Ethics (2015)
- University College, Dublin (2015)
- Jowett Society, Oxford (2015)
- Sciences Po, Political Theory (2015)
- Amsterdam Political Theory (2015)
- Columbia University (2014)
- Stanford University Political Theory (2014)
- University of Nebraska (2014)
- Yale University Law School, Legal Theory Colloquium (2014)
- Humboldt Universität Practical Philosophy Colloquium (2014)
- Freie Universität Practical Philosophy Colloquium (2014)
- John Jay College (2014)
- Stanford University (2013)
- CUNY Graduate Center (2013)
- Yale University (2013)
- University of California, San Diego (2012)
- Ash Center Democracy Series, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2012)
- University of Connecticut (2012)
- SUNY Buffalo (2012)

Other lectures since 2012 (Conferences, Workshops, Public Venues)

- University of British Columbia (public lecture, 2017)
- Public Diplomacy in a Post-Truth Society, Hoover Institute, Stanford (2017)
- Casa Italia, NYU Political Rhetoric (2016)
- Memory and Skill (2016), Duke University
- Conference in Honor of Robert Stalnaker (2016), Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Science and Society Symposium, the Science of Belief (2016), Duke University
- Ethics and Elections: The Future of Democracy, University of Massachusetts at Amherst (2016)
- University Forum Lecture, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2016)
- Meaning Sciences II, conference in philosophy of language and semantics at the University of California, Berkeley (2016)
- Christian Brothers University Public Lecture, sponsored by CBU and Rhodes College (Africana Studies) (2015)
- Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst, Vienna (2015)
- Brooklyn Public Philosophers, Brooklyn Public Library (2015)
- Society of Women in Philosophy – Ireland, “The Difference Philosophy Makes” (2015)
- Rome Festival of Science (2014)
- New Work on Speech Acts, Columbia University (2013)
- Rutgers-Lund Philosophy Conference, University of Lund, Sweden (2012)
- Jason Stanley on Knowledge, Northwestern University Workshop (2012)

Conference and workshop organizing since 2012

- Philosophy and Mass Incarceration, Yale University, April 2017 (large conference on philosophical issues pertaining to the US crisis of mass incarceration, three days 20+ speakers)
- Ideology, Yale University, April 2016 (large conference on ideology, three days, 20+ speakers)
- Skill, Yale University, February 2014 (ten speakers in multiple disciplines)

Recognition, honors awards since 2012

- Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, Binghamton University, 2015
- L’Ecole Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Invited Professorship, Paris (2015)
- 2016 PROSE Award for Philosophy from the American Association of Publishers (for How Propaganda Works)
- 2016 *Global Discourse* Book Award (for How Propaganda Works)

Editorial Boards

- *Manuscripta*, 2011-
- *Philosopher’s Imprint*, 2000-
- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Subject Editor, Philosophy of Language, 2002-
- *Nous*, Associate Editor, 2004-
- *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 2007-
- *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 2008-
- *Journal of Semantics*, 2009-

