

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**STEVEN B. BRENCÉ**

Senior Instructor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Oregon

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**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Oregon, June 2001  
M.A., Philosophy, University of Oregon, 1993  
B.S., Philosophy and Political Science, University of Oregon, 1989

**EMPLOYMENT:**

2015-Present	Senior Instructor, University of Oregon
2005-2015	Instructor, University of Oregon
1997-2012	Instructor, Oregon State University
1992-1997	Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Classical American Philosophy, Philosophy of Film

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE:**

Critical Theory, History of Modern Philosophy, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Logic, Environmental Philosophy

**PUBLICATIONS:**

"The Unbearable Lightness of *Casablanca*: In Defense of a Committed Cosmopolitanism",  
*The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol. 28, No. 4, 2014, pp. 422-437.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

"Becoming Analog Avatars of Digital Persons: Some Observations/Speculations on Subjectivity and Agency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", *American Philosophies Forum Conference*, April 2017, Atlanta, GA

"Film Noir and the 'Lost Individual': A Mid-Century American Assemblage in Dialogue with Mid-Century American Social Theory", *American Philosophies Forum Conference*, April 2016, Key West, FLA

“Toward a Pragmatist Reconstruction of Human Dignity”, *American Philosophies Forum Conference*, April 2015, Savannah, GA.

"The Unbearable Lightness of *Casablanca*: In Defense of a Committed Cosmopolitanism", *American Philosophies Forum Conference*, April 2014, New York, N.Y.

"'Truth is the Good in the way of Belief': A Pragmatist Account of Knowing", invited lecture, *Maitripa College Buddhism & Science Symposium, Maitripa College*, October 2013, Portland, OR

"The Eclipsed Individual: John Dewey and *Film Noir*" keynote address *University of Oregon Undergraduate Philosophy Conference*, May 2013, Eugene, OR

"Agency and One-Dimensional Society: Marcuse and Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*", invited lecture at *Emory University*, April 2013, Atlanta, GA

"On the Value of Philosophy to Film", invited lecture at *Emory University*, April, 2010, Atlanta, GA

“A Commentary on Jim Garrison and James Good concerning Hegel and Dewey on Causality” presented at the *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting*, Michigan State University, March 15, 2008.

“A Commentary on David Reidy on ‘Rawls on Peoples, Persons, and Human Rights,’” presented at Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2003.

“Fanon’s Refusal and World (Re)construction”, Group Meeting of the *Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism* at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, New York, N.Y., December 28, 2000.

“George Santayana and John Dewey on Naturalism and Religion,” presented at the *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting*, University of Oregon, February, 1999.

“The Philosophical Bases of Multiculturalism,” presented for the *Confluences Lecture Series* in the *Program for Ethics, Science and the Environment, Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University*, November, 1997, Corvallis, OR

“What is Multiculturalism?,” Invited lecture at *The University of Oregon Multicultural Center*, February, 1996.

“A Commentary on Georgia Warnke and Joseph Orosco on ‘An Integrated Society’” presented at *Philosophical Collaborations: A Conference for Faculty and Graduate Student Interaction*, University of Oregon, February, 1997.

“How Can We Learn from the Holocaust?” Invited lecture at University of Oregon Hillel House *Lehrhaus* (free university) in conjunction with *Ethics After the Holocaust Conference*, University of Oregon, May, 1996.

“Multiculturalism and the Refusal of Recognition: Masters and Slaves in a Post-Colonial Context,” presented at *The Oregon Humanities Forum*, University of Oregon, May, 1995.

“A Commentary on Maxine Sheets-Johnstone's ‘Does Philosophy Begin (and End) in Wonder? or What is the Nature of a Philosophical Act?’,” presented at *The Northwest Conference on Philosophy*, Reed College, November, 1994.

“Redefining Fascism: Recognizing Systematic Oppression in Contemporary Western Societies,” presented at *Fascism(s): roots/ extensions/ replays Interdisciplinary Conference*, University of Oregon, April, 1992.

### **PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY:**

Founder and Editor, *filmtank.org*, a web-based institution devoted to the philosophical development of cinema and other popular screen culture, 2010-present

*filmtank.org Film Development Podcast*, six episodes, 2015-present

“Gangsters, Goons, Femmes Fatale, and Losers: The Leading Role of a *Noir* Supporting Cast,” Invited Lecture for National Endowment of the Arts supported “Big Read” program, Eugene Public Library, Eugene Oregon, March 11, 2017

“On *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man*, *Double Indemnity*, and *The Maltese Falcon*: The Social Meaning of *Film Noir*”, Invited Speaker, Bijou Art Cinemas, March 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2017.

“On the Meaning of Homelessness,” Invited Speaker and Participant, *The Homelessness Project*, Roosevelt Middle School, Eugene, Oregon, May 19, 2016.

### **AWARDS:**

*Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching*, University of Oregon, 2017

### **TEACHING:**

Senior Instructor, University of Oregon, Department of Philosophy (Fall, 2005 – Present)

*Courses Taught:* PHIL 463/563, Dewey  
 PHIL 453/553, Schopenhauer/Kierkegaard  
 PHIL 433/553, Hobbes/Locke  
 PHIL 350, Metaphysics  
 PHIL 344, Philosophy of Law  
 PHIL 340, Environmental Philosophy  
 PHIL 332, Philosophy of Film  
 PHIL 325, Logic, Inquiry, Argument

PHIL 323, Moral Theory  
 PHIL 320, Philosophy of Religion  
 PHIL 308, Social and Political Philosophy II  
 PHIL 307, Social and Political Philosophy I  
 PHIL 199, Philosophy and Science Fiction in Film  
 PHIL 130, Philosophy of Popular Culture  
 PHIL 120, Ethics of Enterprise and Exchange  
 PHIL 102, Ethics

Instructor, Oregon State University, Department of Philosophy (Fall, 1997- Spring 2012)

*Courses Taught:* Phil 405, Pragmatism  
 Phil 444, Bio-Medical Ethics  
 Phil 443/543, World Views and Environmental Values  
 Phil 440, Environmental Ethics  
 Phil 405, Critical Theory  
 Phil 350, Philosophy of Film  
 Phil 342, Contemporary Ethics  
 Phil 301, History of Philosophy (Ancient)  
 Phil 205, Ethics  
 Phil 150, Great Ideas in Philosophy: Theories of the Good Life  
 Phil 121, Reasoning and Writing

Instructor, University of Oregon, Department of Sociology (Spring, 1998)

*Courses Taught:* SOC 410, Sociology of Anti-Semitism

Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon (Winter, 1992 - Summer 1997)

*Courses Taught:* PHIL 308, Social and Political Philosophy  
 PHIL 199, Philosophy and the Holocaust  
 PHIL 103, Introduction to Critical Reasoning  
 PHIL 102, Ethics

### **UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS SUPERVISION:**

Director:

2016-17: Andrew Dunn, "Marx, Dewey, and Rawles on the Public/Private Distinction within Classical Liberalism"

2015-16: Sara Carey, "'Only The Dead Will Be Innocent': Interpreting Colonialism and Violence through Contemporary French Films on the Algerian War", Supported by University of Oregon Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Awarded "Pass with Distinction" Honors from the Clarke Honors College

2014-15: Tianjiao Li, "A Reconstruction of Legal Pragmatism: An Inquiry of Legal Philosophy and its Relations with the War of Drugs and the Problem of Mass Incarceration"

## Second Reader:

2016-17: Robert Stanton, "On the Function of Privacy within Democratic Culture" (in process)

2009-10: Curt August Ries, "On Recognition of the Other as Love"

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Chair, Department Head Nominating Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, October, 2016.

Faculty Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-Present.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2017-Present.

Policy Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-2016.

Faculty Advisor, "Justice Matters" First-Year Interest Group, University of Oregon, Fall 2013-2016.

Faculty Advisor, "Thinking Images" Freshman Interest Group, University of Oregon, Fall 2009-2012.

Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Oregon State University, 1999-2000.

Member Organization Committee to establish *Peace, Conflict and Community* Interdisciplinary Masters Degree Program in Conflict Resolution, University of Oregon/Portland State University, Spring, 1995.

Co-organizer and Co-chair, *Practicing Postmodernisms* Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Oregon, May, 1993.

Chair of Graduate Committee for *Ethics After The Holocaust* International Conference, University of Oregon, Spring, 1996.

Organizer, *Consequences of the Holocaust* Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion, University of Oregon, Winter, 1993.

Chair, *Philosophy Club*, University of Oregon, 1992 - 1993, 1994 - 1996.

Organizer, *Faculty Lecture Series*, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 1993 - 1994.

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

American Philosophies Forum  
American Philosophical Association  
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy  
Society for Phenomenology and Existentialist Philosophy  
Radical Philosophy Association  
Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism