

Joan Braune

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
University of Kentucky
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Areas of Specialization: Social and Political Philosophy, Critical Theory, Western Marxism

Areas of Competence: History of Ethics, Catholic Social Thought, Aesthetics

Education:

Doctoral candidate, Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2012

M.A. (expected), Religious Studies, University of the Incarnate Word, 2013

M.A., Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2008

B.A., Philosophy and Mathematics, University of the Incarnate Word, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2006

Dissertation:

Recovering Prophetic Messianism: Erich Fromm's Critical Theory of the Future

Committee: Arnold Farr (Chair), Christopher Zurn, Ronald Bruzina, Theodor Schatzki, Richard Wolin

The dissertation focuses upon Erich Fromm's (1900-1980) "prophetic messianism." The dissertation also explores Fromm's contribution to the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research, and the wider context of dialogue and debate in which Fromm was engaged, including with Jewish scholars and revolutionaries in Germany from 1915-1930 and Marxist and Christian thinkers in the 1960s. Although he was marginalized in some canonical accounts of the history of the Frankfurt School, Fromm's work has made a comeback in Critical Theory circles, and research on his work has been undergoing a revival over the past two decades. Meanwhile, through the work of Jürgen Habermas, Jacques Derrida and others, the influence of Jewish messianism on Critical Theory and Marxism is also being rediscovered. However, this is first monograph focusing on Erich Fromm's messianism. I argue that Fromm presents a novel and defensible account of messianic hope.

Throughout his later work, Fromm defends "*prophetic messianism*," an active, paradoxical hope for immanent forces to transform society and create a utopian future. Prophetic messianism is not a form of historical determinism, but a confident hope for the future that is grounded in a "paradoxical certainty" that recognizes the possibility of failure. By contrast with prophetic messianism, Fromm criticizes "*catastrophic or apocalyptic messianism*," which holds that radical change can occur only through a total and destructive break from the present and from history. Catastrophic messianism looks to transcendent forces or authorities to intervene suddenly and unexpectedly, a *force majeure*, not to bring human potential to fulfillment but to dramatically wipe away the present. At its most benign, catastrophic or apocalyptic messianism is quietist – at its most dangerous, nihilistic.

Fromm believed that prophetic messianism was under threat in his times. Prior to World War I, Jewish thinkers in the Enlightenment tradition, like Hermann Cohen and Leo Baeck, had theorized Judaism in Kantian terms as the “religion of reason.” Cosmopolitan, humanist, socialist, and calmly rational, this messianism influenced a generation of German-Jewish intellectuals. This optimistic, ethical messianism had much in common with that of revolutionary theorists like Rosa Luxemburg and Gustav Landauer. But the hopeful messianism of Cohen and Baeck contrasts sharply with the later, cataclysmic, semi-Romantic messianism of some German-Jewish intellectuals of the 1920s (Gershom Scholem, Walter Benjamin, and others). Fromm stands, somewhat isolated, as a prominent Marxist theorist who continued to defend the pre-war messianism of Cohen and who saw it as true to Marx’s vision.

Employment:

Part-time Instructor, St. Catharine College, 2012

Part-time Instructor, South Texas College, 2009-2010

Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky, 2007-Present

Awards and Distinctions:

Presidential Fellowship, University of Kentucky (2010-11)

Women in Under-Represented Areas (WURA) Fellowship, University of Kentucky (2006-7)

Sr. Patricia Ann Kelley Scholarship, Pastoral Institute at University of the Incarnate Word (2006-2010)

Dr. Sean Burke “Philo-Sophia” Excellence in Philosophy Award, Incarnate Word (2006)

CCVI Student Spirit Award, Incarnate Word (2006)

(The CCVI Student Spirit Award honors a student at Incarnate Word who exemplifies the mission of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.)

Dr. Amy Freeman Lee Award, Incarnate Word (2006)

(The Dr. Amy Freeman Lee Award honors a student in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences for both academic achievement and community service.)

Distinguished Scholar Award (full-ride undergraduate scholarship) (2003-2006)

Publications:

Forthcoming, Book Chapter: “Hope and Catastrophe: Erich Fromm’s Prophetic Messianism and Herbert Marcuse’s Rupture and Refusal” in *Eros and Liberation: Herbert Marcuse's Vision for a New Era*. Edited by James Bloc, Mark Cobb, Arnold Farr. (Under review with University of Michigan Press)

Article: “Erich Fromm’s Socialist Program and Prophetic Messianism: Part II” in *Radical Philosophy Review* (Special Edition: Art, Praxis, and Social Transformation: Radical Dreams and Visions)

Article: “Erich Fromm and Thomas Merton: Biophilia, Necrophilia, and Messianism,” in *Fromm Forum*.

Presentations:

“Air from Other Planets: Herbert Marcuse and Apocalyptic Messianism”
International Herbert Marcuse Society, University of Pennsylvania, October 2011

“Erich Fromm on Three Escapes from Freedom”
Radical Philosophy Association, University of Oregon, November 2010

“Erich Fromm and Thomas Merton: Biophilia, Necrophilia, and Messianism”
International Erich Fromm Society, Ravenna, Italy, June 2010

“Erich Fromm’s ‘Prophetic Messianism’ in Historical Context”
Rethinking Marxism (New Marxian Times), University of Massachusetts Amherst, November 2009

“Hope and Catastrophe: Erich Fromm’s Prophetic Messianism and Herbert Marcuse’s Rupture and Refusal”
International Herbert Marcuse Society, York University, October 2009

“Erich Fromm, Georg Lukacs, and Socialist Humanism”
Radical Philosophy Association, University of San Francisco, November 2008

“Reflections on the Confluence of Educational and Punitive Practices”
Society for the Philosophical Study of Education, National-Louis University, November 2007

“Kozol, Freire, and Ethnomathematics”
Radical Philosophy Association, Creighton University, November 2006

“Question for Max Weber: Are We Trapped in the Iron Cage of Bureaucracy?”
Loyola Graduate Student Conference (Discourse, Democracy, Justice), Loyola University, March 2006

Teaching:

* = upcoming

Three (3) Social and Political Philosophy (PHI 335: Individual and Society) courses
University of Kentucky

Ten (10) Introductory Logic courses
University of Kentucky, South Texas College, *St. Catharine College

Two (2) Ethics courses
University of Kentucky, *St. Catharine College

Introduction to Philosophy
*St. Catharine College (at Washington County High School)

Teaching Assistant for three (3) sections of Introductory Logic
University of Kentucky

Tutor in Logic, Algebra, Calculus, and Writing
South Texas College, Texas State Technical College, Pensacola Junior College

Professional Service:

Reader, International Herbert Marcuse Society Marcuse Prize

Co-chair, Eleventh Annual University of Kentucky Philosophy Graduate Student Conference:
 “Thinking Justice/Doing Justice: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” University of
 Kentucky, March 2008.

Representative, University of Kentucky Graduate Student Congress, 2009-2010.

Leadership:

Diocese of Lexington Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team member, 2011-2012

President and Co-founder, University of Kentucky Socialist Student Union, 2008-2011

President and Co-founder, University of Kentucky Society for the Study of the Catholic Intellectual
 Tradition (SSCIT), 2010-2011

Board member, Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 2008-2011

Intern, Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, 2006

President, Amnesty International chapter, University of the Incarnate Word, 2003-2006

Coursework:

Graduate Philosophy courses, University of Kentucky:

The Frankfurt School (C. Zurn)
 Ethical Theory (A. Superson)
 Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (B. Look)
 Social and Political Philosophy (C. Zurn)
 Kant's Second and Third *Critiques* & Fichte's *Wissenschaftslehre* [Audit] (D. Breazeale)
 Topics in Medieval Philosophy: Neoplatonism Then and Now (R. Bruzina)
 Aristotle's *Metaphysics* (D. Bradshaw)
 Aesthetics (A. Perreiah)
 Phenomenology: Living Being in the Nature-Spirit Dichotomy (R. Bruzina)
 Ancient Metaphysics and Epistemology (E. Sanday)
 Contemporary Philosophy: Phenomenological Directions (R. Bruzina)
 Critical Social Thought (A. Farr)
 Jürgen Habermas' Recent Political Philosophy (C. Zurn)
 Symbolic Logic II (B. Look)
 German Political Theory: Morality and Justice from Kant to Hegel (D. Breazeale)
 Research in Philosophy: Western Marxism (A. Farr)
 Marx and History of Western Marxism (A. Farr)

Other courses at University of Kentucky:

Seminar: Augustine's *City of God* (D. Hunter, Chair of Catholic Studies) [Audit]
 Mathematical Problem Solving for Teachers
 German for Reading Knowledge

Elementary German II
Intermediate German I

Graduate Courses in Religious Studies (*University of the Incarnate Word*):

Themes of the Hebrew Scriptures (J. Alfaro)
Christian Sacraments (G. Ambrose)
Theology of Church and Ministry [Ecclesiology] (W. Cavalier)
Apocalyptic Literature (D. Jonaitis and E. Ryan)
Justice, World, and Church [Catholic Social Teaching] (W. Cavalier)
Theology of Grace (J. Markey)

Professional Organizations:

International Erich Fromm Society
Radical Philosophy Association
American Catholic Philosophical Association
American [Simone] Weil Society
American Cusanus Society
American Philosophical Association

References:

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- Christopher Zurn, Associate Professor of Philosophy
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