

# CARMEN LEA DEGE

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## APPOINTMENTS

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**Assistant Professor at the Department of Ethics and Political Philosophy** at Radboud University, 1/2024-present

**Visiting Scholar** at the Remarque Institute at New York University, 7/2023-12/2023

**Visiting Scholar** at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University, 9/2022-6/2023

**Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow** at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 10/2019-8/2022

## EDUCATION

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**Yale University**, Ph.D. Political Science, 08/2011-12/2019

Dissertation: “The Ethos of Non-Indifference: Max Weber’s Challenge and Karl Jaspers’s Response”

Committee: Seyla Benhabib (chair), Karuna Mantena, Philip Gorski, Maeve Cooke (University College Dublin), External Reader: Giulia Oskian

Parental Leave: Spring/Summer 2014; Medical Leave: Fall 2014 – Summer 2015

**University of Chicago**, M.A. Social Sciences, 09/2009-08/2010

M.A. Thesis: “Zionism Reconsidered – Karl Marx and Emmanuel Levinas on Humanism and the Possibility of Ethics,” Advisor: Patchen Markell

**Freie Universität Berlin**, M.A. Political Science, 04/2003-06/2009

M.A. Thesis: “The Lie and the Political: Freedom and Security in a State of Prevention,”

Advisor: Gerhard Göhler

B.A. Thesis: “The Torture Scandals of Abu Ghraib – A Socio-Psychological Perspective”

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

2010 *Die Lüge und das Politische. Freiheit und Sicherheit in der Präventionsgesellschaft*, Gießen: Psychosozial-Verlag. [*The Lie and the Political. Freedom and Security in a State of Prevention*]

### Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

2025 “Toward a Theory of Myth Critique: Ideology, Ignorance, and the Conditions of Imaginative Success” (co-authored with Tae-Yeoun Keum), in *Constellations*, published online: May 12, 2025.

2025 “Another Cold War Liberalism? – Coming to Terms with Jaspers’s Political Thought,” book chapter in the *Anthem Companion to Karl Jaspers*, edited by Hans Joas and Matthias Bormuth, Anthem Press, 133-161.

2024 “Shades of Complaint: Towards a Feminist Political Theology of Anger,” contribution to the Special Issue “(How to Do) Political Theology without Men?”, *Political Theology*, published online: February 6, 2024.

2023 “Loss of World, not Certainty: *Amor Mundi* and the Moral Psychology of Seyla Benhabib,” in *Another Universalism: Seyla Benhabib and the Future of Critical Theory*, edited by Stefan Eich, Anna Jurkevics, Nishin Nathwani and Nica Siegel, Columbia University Press, 51-66.

- 2023 “Myth, Modernity, and the Legacy of the Axial Age: Charles Taylor, Jürgen Habermas, Jan Assmann, Karl Jaspers,” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 84(4), 2023, 743-773.
- 2023 “Editors’ Introduction: Political Myth in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” (co-authored with Tae-Yeoun Keum), *History of European Ideas*, 49(8), 1199-1203.
- 2023 “‘Standing behind your phrase’ – Arendt and Jaspers on the (Post-)Metaphysics of Evil,” *European Journal of Political Theory*, 22(2), 2022, 281-301.
- 2020 “Diversity in Unity in Disenchanted Times: Max Weber’s Challenge and Karl Jaspers’s Response,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, 46(6), 2020, 703-33.
- 2015 “Foucault and Humanism: Meditations on an Ethos of Limit,” *Journal of Political Thought*, 1(1), 2015, 18-36.
- 2011 “Der arabische Frühling in Ägypten und die Entstehung von Alternativen zum westlich-liberalen Demokratiekonzept,” *Psychologie & Gesellschaftskritik*, 35(4), 2011, 89-111. [“The Arab Spring in Egypt and the Emergence of Alternatives to Liberal Democracy”]

### Book Reviews & Other Essays

- . “Storytelling as Critique,” as part of “Critical Exchange: Storytelling and Political Theory,” in *Contemporary Political Theory*, forthcoming.
- 2024 “Review of *The Shadow of Totalitarianism: Action, Judgment, and Evil in Politics*, by Javier Burdman,” *Contemporary Political Theory*, published online: January 19, 2024.
- 2023 “Theory at the Limits of Science and Politics: On the Challenges of Writing a Manifesto in Times of Climate Collapse,” Response to “Critical Naturalism: A Manifesto,” *Krisis, Journal for Contemporary Philosophy*, 43(1), 120-23.
- 2023 “On the Political and Normative Implications of Myth as Philosophical Discourse, Review of *Plato and the Mythic Tradition in Political Thought*, by Tae-Yeoun Keum,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, published online: August 19, 2023.
- 2022 “Rebels on the Edge of the Abyss: The Early Frankfurt School and the Normative Basis of Critique, Review of *Splinters in Your Eye: Frankfurt School Provocations*, by Martin Jay & *Migrants in the Profane: Critical Theory and the Question of Secularization*, by Peter E. Gordon,” *The Journal of Social and Political Philosophy*, 1.2, 2022, 223-233.
- 2020 “To Karl Jaspers, Uncertainty Is Not to Be Overcome but Understood,” *Aeon+Psyche*, September 9, 2020.
- 2020 “2020’s Existentialist Turn” *Boston Review*, August 24, 2020. Chinese Translation, *West Philosophy Wechat*; Spanish Translation, *La Maletta de Portbou*.
- 2019 “Bound by Disenchantment, Review of *This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom*, by Martin Hägglund,” *New Rambler Review*, September 18, 2019.

### Edited Works

- 2025 Special Issue 2025 “Myth, Politics, and Social Imaginaries” (co-edited with Tae-Yeoun Keum), in *Constellations*, published online: May 12, 2025.
- 2023 Special Issue “Political Myth in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” (co-edited with Tae-Yeoun Keum), *History of European Ideas*, 49(8), 1199-1301.
- 2010 *Können Marginalisierte (wi(e)der)sprechen? Zum politischen Potenzial der Sozialwissenschaften*, Gießen: Psychosozial-Verlag (co-edited with Martin Dege, Till Grallert, and Niklas Chimirri).
- 2008 *Ordnungen im Wandel: Globale und lokale Wirklichkeiten im Spiegel transdisziplinärer Analysen*, Berlin: Transcript (co-edited with Maximilian Mayer, Friedrich Arndt, Christian Ellerman, and Lisbeth Zimmermann).

## **TEACHING AREAS**

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History of Political Thought, Critical Theory; Democratic Theory; Ethics; Environmental Philosophy; Political Epistemology; Phenomenology; Political Theology; Existentialism.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS INSTRUCTOR**

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### **Radboud University**

“Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues,” 1<sup>st</sup> year BA Program Philosophy, Politics, and Society  
“Academic Writing Workshop,” 1<sup>st</sup> year BA Program Philosophy, Politics, and Society  
“Political Visions of Nature,” 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year BA Program Philosophy, Politics, and Society  
“BA Thesis Group: Climate Denial,” 3<sup>rd</sup> year BA Program Philosophy, Politics, and Society  
“Who Is the Demos?,” 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year BA Program Philosophy, Politics, and Society

### **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

“Resistance: Disobedience, Violence, Exit.” Advanced Undergraduate & Graduate Seminar (Spring 2022)

“State of Emergency, Plague, and White Gaze: What Existentialism Teaches Us About Crisis.” Advanced Undergraduate & Graduate Seminar (Spring 2021)

### **Summer Schools**

“Science, Politics, and Ignorance: Understanding Climate Denialism.” Undergraduate Seminar (August 2023)

“Religion, Difference and Democracy: Pluralism in Times of Populism and Identity Politics.” Undergraduate Seminar (March 2018)

“Google and the Shitting Duck: The History of Mechanization and Technology.” Undergraduate Seminar (August 2014)

### **Freie Universität Berlin**

“The Politics of Obedience, Authority, and Violence.” Undergraduate Seminar (Summer 2011)

“Nationalism and State-Building in the Middle East.” Undergraduate Seminar (Winter 2010/11)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS ASSISTANT**

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### **Yale University**

“The Moral Foundations of Politics.” With Ian Shapiro: Spring 2019

“Legacies of Communism and Conflict in Europe.” With Andrea Aldrich: Fall 2018

“The New Europe.” With David Cameron: Spring 2018

“Introduction to International Law.” With Thania Sanchez: Fall 2015

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS**

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2026-27	NWO Open Competition-XS grant: “Vital Frontiers: Myth and the New Right in Silicon Valley”
2022-23	Walter-Benjamin-Grant of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
2020-21	Polonsky Academy Conference Grant
2019-22	Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellowship, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
2019	Yale Baden-Württemberg Exchange Program Research Grant
2018	German Literature Archive Dissertation Fellowship
2011-2019	Yale University Graduate Fellowship
2012-2016	Dissertation Fellowship of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
2012	Yale University European Studies Council Grant for Language Studies

2009-2010 University of Chicago Graduate Fellowship  
2009-2010 Hölderlin Grant of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

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### Selection of Presentations, Talks & Lectures (\*invited)

- 2026\* “Vital Frontiers: Myth, the Climate Crisis, and Peter Thiel,” presentations at the Doha Graduate Institute, February 2026.
- 2025\* “Beyond Ideology: Myth, Critique, and the Reflexivity of Opacity,” presentations at the Philosophy Colloquium of the University of Konstanz, June 2025, and the Philosophy Colloquium of the University of Amsterdam, September 2025.
- 2025 “Toward a Theory of Myth Critique: Ideology, Learned Ignorance, and the Conditions of Imaginative Success,” presentation at Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2025.
- 2024\* “Narrative, Ideology, and Social Criticism,” comments at the Author Meets Critics panel on Matthew Longo’s “The Picnic: A Dream of Freedom and the Collapse of the Iron Curtain,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2024.
- 2024\* “Rethinking Nature As and Through Myth,” presentation at the round table “(Re)thinking nature?” at the World Congress of Philosophy in Rome, August 2024.
- 2024\* “Myth Critique, not Ideology Critique: Social Criticism and the Conditions of Imaginative Success,” presentation at the Philosophy Colloquium at Maastricht University, April 2024.
- 2024\* “Loss of World, Not Certainty: *Amor Mundi* in Seyla Benhabib’s work,” presentations at Yale University and Columbia University celebrating the publication of *Another Universalism: Seyla Benhabib and the Future of Critical Theory*, April 2024.
- 2024\* “Towards an Ethics of Attunement: Practicing Aesthetic Unknowing with Kant at the End of the World,” paper presentation with Matthew Harvey (co-author) at the *What’s Left of Kant* Conference at the University of Chicago, March 2024.
- 2023\* “Questioning Origin Myths: Prehistory, Nature, and the Conditions of Imaginative Success,” panel on “Myth, Memory, and Imagination in Political Life” with Sophie Marcotte-Chénard, Stephen White, Linda Zerilli, Thomas Dodman, organized by the Remarque Institute, October 2023.
- 2023 “Acting As If We Could Trust: Democracy and Political Institutions under Conditions of Uncertainty” & “Politische Vorstellungskraft im Zeitalter der Ohnmacht,” presentation at the DVPW Conference “Political Theory in Times of Uncertainty,” in Bremen, September 2023.
- 2023 “Questioning Origin Myths: Indigenous Critiques of Property and the Conditions of Imaginative Success,” presentation at the Philosophy and Social Science Conference, Prague, May 2023.
- 2023\* “A Critical Theory of Myth? – Dispatches from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Political Thought,” virtual talk at the Department of Philosophy, Marmara University, Istanbul, January 2023.
- 2022 “Myth, Ignorance, and Political Vision in Democracy,” presentation at the Association for Political Theory Conference in Houston, Texas, October 2022.
- 2022\* “Complicating a Legacy: Max Weber and Karl Jaspers,” presentation at the Conference “Zur Rezeption von Max Weber in Heidelberg,” Heidelberg, October 2022.
- 2022\* “On the Meaning of Ignorance for the Production of Knowledge: A Political Theory Perspective,” presentation at “Rethinking the Anthropocene,” a symposium

- following the publication of Jürgen Renn's *The Evolution of Knowledge in the Anthropocene*, Tel Aviv University/Minerva Center, May 2022.
- 2022\* "Science, Politics, and Myth: How to Respond to Corona Protests," plenary lecture at the Philosophy and Social Science Conference, University College Dublin, May 2022.
- 2022\* "Shades of Complaint: Towards a Feminist Political Theology of Anger," Article Development Workshop in the context of the Special Issue "(How to Do) Political Theology without Men?" at *Political Theology*, Humboldt University, Berlin, May 2022.
- 2021\* "To Deny, Downplay or Disinform about Covid-19: Studying the Workings and Breakdowns of the Fact-Value Dichotomy," lecture series "Politische Falschheiten. Diagnosen und Konzepte," Goethe University of Frankfurt, June 2021.
- 2021 "Jaspers in the Anthropocene: Meditations on the (Post)Human," Karl Jaspers Society of North America Conference, The Cyborg and Existential Becoming: Exploring Posthumanism with Jaspers, April 2021.
- 2021 "'Standing behind your phrase': Arendt and Jaspers on the (Post-)Metaphysics of Evil," Hannah Arendt Workshop Leiden, Netherlands, March 2021.
- 2020\* "The Dialectic of Enlightenment: Critical Theory and the Myth of the Axial Age," Lecture Series in Political Thought and Intellectual History, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, November 2020.
- 2019 "Resentment, Anger, and Guilt: Karl Jaspers's Reflections on Wounded Attachments and Post-Truth Politics," Association for Political Theory Conference, Irvine, CA, October 2019.
- 2019 "The Groundlessness of Liberalism: Weber and Truth in Politics," American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, August 2019.
- 2019 "Reason After It's Eclipse: The Turn to Communicative Action Revisited," Philosophy and Social Science Colloquium, Prague, Czech Republic, May 2019.
- 2018\* "Populism in Secular Times," Yale Macmillan Center Initiative on Religion, Politics & Society, Populism and Pluralism Conference, New Haven, CT, May 2018.
- 2018 "Between Immanence and Transcendence: Charles Taylor and Karl Jaspers on the Axial Age," Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, March 2018.
- 2016\* "Im Freiheits-Gleichheits-Oxymoron: Motivation und das Streben nach Differenz," Interdisciplinary Workshop "The Problem with the Problems," Technical University of Dresden, Germany, October 2016.
- 2015\* "The Variety of Spiritual Experience: Meditations on Ludwig Wittgenstein, William James, and Albert Camus," talk at Sunday Assembly Berlin, September 2015.
- 2013 "Emmanuel Levinas's Ethics as First Philosophy," Transcendence and Political Philosophy Workshop, University College Dublin, Ireland, November 2013.
- 2013 "The Child as an Other and the Problem of Autonomy," Psychology and the Other Annual Conference, Boston, MA, October 2013.
- 2013 "Situating the Other: The Ethical Turn Reconsidered," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2013.

### **Organized Conferences**

- 2021 "Force of Myth: Authority, Illusion, and Critique in Modern Imaginaries," Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, June 2021. Co-organized with Tae-Yeoun Keum and Jacob Abolafia.
- 2015 "23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Critical Theory Roundtable," Yale University, October 2015. Co-organized with Anna Jurkevics, Umur Basdas, and Stefan Eich.
- 2012 "Rawls Festtage," Yale University, November 2012. Co-organized with Thomas Pogge, Shmuel Nili, Daniel Putnam, Matthew Lindauer, Robert Lepenies, Daniele Botti, and Rachel Payne.

2012 “Walls and Fences: The Ethics and Politics of Border Barriers,” Yale University, 2012. Co-organized with Paulina Ochoa and Anna Jurkevics.

### **Organized Workshops & Panels**

2025 “Not Knowing: The Democratic Power of Oblivion, Ignorance, and Silence,” panel at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, April 2025. Participants: Kennan Ferguson, Shalini Satkunanandan, Adriana Alfaro, Patrick Giamario, Lowry Pressly, Carmen Dege.

2022 “The Ethics and Politics of Uncertainty,” panel at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montréal, September 2022. Participants: Davide Panagia, Javier Burdman, Carmen Dege, Roni Hirsch, Lorenzo Zucca, Adriana Alfaro.

2020 “(Re)Turning to Myth: The Ambiguity and Force of an Unlikely Concept in Modern Democracy,” panel at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Virtual, August 2020. Participants: Shalini Satkunanandan, Adriana Alfaro, Carmen Dege, Kevin Duong, Tae-Yeoun Keum, Alexander Livingston.

2020 “Polonsky Salon with Bernard E. Harcourt discussing *Critique & Praxis: A Critical Philosophy of Illusions, Values, and Action*,” March 2021.

2020 “Cipher, Myth, and Symbol in Karl Jaspers’s Philosophy,” Online Workshop with Maeve Cooke, March 2021.

2019 “Leading the People: On the Centennial of Max Weber’s ‘Politics as a Vocation,’” Roundtable at American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, August 2019. Participants: Joshua Cherniss, Carmen Dege, Stefan Eich, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, David Owen, Shalini Satkunanandan.

2016 “The Challenge of the Other: European Identity and the Refugee Crisis,” Roundtable at American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016. Presenters: Seyla Benhabib, Carmen Dege, Ayten Gundogdu, Anna Jurkevics, Paul Linden-Retek and Peter Verovšek.

2016 “European Identity – Religion and Secularism,” European Student Conference, Yale University, February 2016.

### **SERVICE TO ACADEMIC LIFE & OUTREACH**

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2026 “Climate and Emotions,” a conversation with Carmen Dege, Lisa Doeland and Alphée Mpassi at the Denkwerk Festival in Nijmegen, March 2026.

2024-present Coordinator of the Radboud Center for Philosophy and Society

2024 “Conspiracy Cultures and American Politics,” public talk at the Nijmegen City Theater, US election night event organized by Radboud Reflects and the Stadsschouwburg Nijmegen, November 5, 2024.

2022-present Volunteer on the Program Committee, Association for Political Theory Conference

2021 Radio Interview for the radio show “What to do with those who think differently about Covid-19? A conversation with social scientists,” produced by David von Westphalen, Bayerischer Rundfunk 2, Kulturjournal, January 10, 2021

2020-present (Co-)Founder and organizer of virtual reading groups: “Philosophy Reading Group,” active since August 2020; “Critical Theory Reading Group,” active since April 2021

2013-2019 Member of the Women’s Research and Writing Colloquium at the Political Science Department at Yale University

2013 Graduate Student Coordinator of the Religion and Politics Workshop, Yale Macmillan Center Initiative on Religion, Politics & Society

2011-2013 (Co-)Founder and organizer of Yale University reading groups: “The Politics of Time and Value: Religion, Ideology, and Metaphysics,” 2012-2013; “Emmanuel Levinas: Metaphysics and Politics,” 2011

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *Global Intellectual History*, *History of the Human Sciences*, *History & Memory*, *Human Arenas*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Political Theology*, *Political Theory*.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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Association for Political Theory  
American Political Science Association  
Ernst-Reuter-Gesellschaft der Freien Universität Berlin e.V.

## **LANGUAGES**

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German (native), English (near native), Dutch (intermediate), French (intermediate), Arabic (elementary)