

**David Michael Kretz**

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**Academic Employment & Education**

2025-27	Yale University	Postdoctoral Associate, Humanities Program.
2025	University of Chicago	Ph.D., Committee on Social Thought & Germanic Studies.
2018	École Normale Supérieure, Paris	M.A., Philosophy.
2016	Bard College Berlin	B.A., Philosophy, literature, intellectual history.

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**Fellowships**

2026-7	Fellow	Whitney Humanities Center, Yale.
2023	Visiting Research Fellow	École Normale Supérieure, Paris.
2022	Digital Teaching Fellow	Brandeis University, Osher Institute.
2015	Erasmus Exchange Fellowship	Sciences Po, Paris.
2010-12	Studies in philosophy	University of Vienna.

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**Grants**

2023	John U. Nef Summer Travel Grant. <i>University of Chicago.</i>	\$1000.
2022	John U. Nef Summer Travel Grant. <i>University of Chicago.</i>	\$1600.
2021	For graduate conference organized at UChicago. <i>Graduate Council,</i>	\$900.
	<i>Committee on Social Thought,</i>	\$400.
2019	For international conference organized at UChicago. <i>Graduate Council,</i>	\$1500.
	<i>Committee on Social Thought,</i>	\$1500.
	<i>Franke Institute for the Humanities,</i>	\$1360.
	<i>Department of Germanic Studies,</i>	\$750.
2016	Julie J. Kidd Travel and Research Fellowship. <i>European Consortium of Liberal Arts and Sciences.</i>	\$1000.
2016	Transregional Center for Democratic Studies Summer Grant. <i>New School for Social Research.</i>	\$1000.
2014-15	Study Exchange Scholarship for Sciences Po, Paris. <i>Erasmus Program of the European Union.</i>	\$5400.
2012-15	BCB Student Conference Support Fund (four times). <i>Bard College Berlin.</i>	\$2000.
2012	Post Foundation Scholarship of 1742. <i>Bremer Post-Stiftung.</i>	\$750.

## Publications

### ————— Book-length

*Hegel and MacIntyre: Reason in History*. Edited with C. Bernacchio, A. Fattah, M. Lazarus.  
London: Routledge, forthcoming September, 2026.

### ————— Book-chapters & Articles

“Rilke’s Parentheses” in *The German Quarterly*, 99.2. 2026.

“Introduction” in *Hegel and MacIntyre: Reason in History*, ed. Kretz, Bernacchio, et al. London:  
Routledge, 2026.

“How to Theorize Translation from Its Practice, For Example, in Germany, 1750-1830” invited  
contribution for a special issue of the *Yearbook of Translational Hermeneutics*, 2026.

“Translation as a Category of Political Theory. Response to Étienne Balibar’s Mark Sachs Lecture”  
in *Meeting Balibar: A Discussion on Equaliberty and Differences*, ed. Soraya Nour Sckell. Lisbon,  
Edições Húmus, 2023.

“Rortys *Kontingenç, Ironie und Solidarität*“ in *Rorty-Handbuch*. Ed. Martin Müller. Berlin: Springer, 2022.

“Rortys *Essays on Heidegger and Others*” in *Rorty-Handbuch*. Ed. Martin Müller. Berlin: Springer, 2022.

“Progressive Education under Financial Pressure: The Case of Germany,” with D. Kontowski in *The  
University as a Critical institution?* Ed. R. Deem & H. Eggins. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2017.

“Thinkeries, Ancient and Modern: Democracy’s Challenges to Liberal Arts Education” with E.  
Atanassow, in *Back to the Core: Rethinking Core Texts in Liberal Arts and Science Education in Europe*.  
Ed. E. Cohen de Lara & H. Drop. Wilmington: Vernon Press, 2017.

### ————— Book reviews

“Recognition for Good Europeans. On Axel Honneth’s *Recognition*, with a response by the author.”  
*International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity*, Vol. 9/1-4. 2022.

“Community and Loyalty in American Philosophy: Royce, Sellars, Rorty” by Steven A. Miller.  
*Pragmata*, Vol. 2, 2019.

“Ethics in the Conflicts of Modernity” by Alasdair MacIntyre, with Grégory Lenne. *Raisons  
Politiques*, 69/1. 2018.

“Corporatism and Fascism,” ed. Antonio Costa Pinto. *Politics, Religion, and Ideology*. 2017.

“Ironic Life” by Richard Bernstein. *Kronos Quarterly*, Vol. 5. 2017.

### ————— Translations

Theodor W. Adorno, Seminar on W. Benjamin’s *The Origin of German Tragic Drama* (1932).

Ger.–Fr. with Jean Tain. *Revue Philosophie*, no. 160. Éditions de Minuit: Paris, Jan. 2024.

Angela Sanmann. “‘The Exercise of a Just Love of Humanity’: Sophie von La Roche as Female  
Cosmopolitan.” Ger.–Engl., with Lindsay Parkhowell. *Women’s Writing*, 2020.

Max Spielman and Sotirios Bahtsetzis, “Post-Industrial Design – Our Standpoint.”

Ger.–Engl., with Lindsay Parkhowell. Institut Hyperwerk, 2016.

Stefan Zweig, “To Friends in Foreign Land.”

Ger.–Engl. In *Asymptote Journal*. Oct 2016.

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**Teaching**

Instructor	German 101, 102, 103		U Chicago	'19-20
of record	Philosophy of History (in German)		U Chicago	2022
	Rilke's <i>Duino Elegies &amp; Sonnets to Orpheus</i>		Brandeis U	2022
	Goethe's <i>Faust</i>		Brandeis U	2022
	Franz Rosenzweig's <i>Hegel and the State</i>		36LM	2025
	Ancient Historical & Political Thought		Yale U	2025
Teaching	Thomas Mann's <i>Magic Mountain</i>	(David Wellbery)	U Chicago	2020
Assistant	Hegel's <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>	(Robert Pippin)	U Chicago	2022
	'Backwards' Course Design	(Avi Bernstein)	Brandeis U	2022

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**Selection of Conference Talks & Invited Lectures**

- 05/26 "Kant's Silent Dialogue with Robespierre on Religion, Law, Morality"  
*The French Revolution and the Sacred*. Sciences Po, Paris.
- 05/26 "The Concept of Modernity: A Phenomenological Approach"  
*International Network for the Theory of History*. Tallin, Estonia.
- 04/26 "Concepts of Translation: Why we Need Them, Where to Find Them"  
*TRANSIT Anniversary conference*, UC Berkeley.
- 02/26 "Modernity and Translational Mourning"  
Institute for Advanced Studies, U Virginia.
- 01/26 "Faust's translation, Goethe's *translatio*"  
*MLA conference*, Toronto.
- 10/25 "The Concept of Modernity: A Phenomenological Approach"  
Elm Institute, New Haven, CT.
- 03/25 "Modernity and Translational Mourning"  
*Committee on Social Thought Colloquium*, U Chicago.
- 11/24 "Translational Action as Creative Mourning"  
*De/limiting Translation*. German department, U Michigan.
- 09/24 "A Computational Analysis of German translator's prefaces, 1750-1830"  
Digital Hum. seminar, *German Studies Association*, annual conference, Atlanta.
- 01/24 "Concepts of Translation, Germany, ca. 1800."  
*Literature and Philosophy Workshop*, UChicago.
- 07/23 "Digitizing the *Messkataloge*: On Early Modern German Publishing and Translation."  
With Jeff Tharsen. *Digital Humanities 2023*. Graz, Austria.
- 06/23 "Genius as the Form of Historical Agency in Kant."  
*Kant on Intellectual Freedom*, LMU Munich.
- 03/23 "Rilkean Rigor."  
*American Comparative Literature Association*, annual conference, Chicago.
- 02/23 "Kant on the Forms of Historical Agency."  
*German Philosophy Workshop*, UChicago.

- 12/22 “Rilke, Heidegger, Historical Crisis.”  
*Literature and Philosophy Workshop*, UChicago.
- 06/22 “Rilke’s Work of Mourning and the Unity of the Elegies.”  
Christoph König’s seminar. Osnabrück, Germany.
- 05/22 “The Habermas-Gadamer debate.”  
Antoine Pageau-St. Hilaire’s seminar. U Chicago.
- 06/21 “Thomas Mann: Irony & Engagement.”  
Panel with Mark Lilla, Esquil Elling. Northwestern U. Online.
- 12/20 Panel with Glenn Most, Aaron Tugendhaft, Ewa Atanassow on *The Idols of ISIS*.  
Berlin/Chicago. Online.
- 11/20 “Translational Action at the End of a World.”  
*Anthropological Association of Ireland*. Online.
- 11/20 “Aristophanes’ *Clouds* & Liberal Education Today.”  
Guest lecture. Bard College Berlin. Online.
- 03/20 “A Liberal Arts Experience: from Berlin to Chicago.”  
Guest lecture. U Tyumen, Russia. Online.
- 03/20 “‘Translation’ as a Concept of Political Thought. Response to Balibar.”  
Nova Law School, Portugal. Online.
- 11/19 “Poets and Translators at the End of a World.”  
*UToronto Philosophy Grad Conference*.
- 05/19 “Rorty’s *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity* as Bildungsroman.”  
*Rorty-Tagung*, Tutzing, Germany.
- 02/19 “Troeltsch and/or/against Gadamer.”  
*UNotre Dame & UChicago Graduate Conference*, UChicago.
- 06/18 “Translational Action for a Pragmatist Enlightenment.”  
*3rd European Pragmatism Conference*. Helsinki U.
- 09/16 “Translational Action at the End of a World.”  
*Conceptual Change in History*. Helsinki U.
- 09/16 “Progressive Education Under Financial Pressure – The Liberal Arts in Germany.”  
*29th Consortium on Higher Ed Research Conference*. Cambridge U.
- 05/16 “Translational Action at the End of a World.”  
*10th Annual Conference of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry*.  
Wroclaw U.
- 09/15 “Thinkeries, Ancient and Modern: Aristophanic Challenges to Liberal Arts  
Education” with Prof. Ewa Atanassow.  
*Liberal Arts and Sciences Education and Core Texts in the European Context*.  
Amsterdam University College.
- 01/14 “Against Moral Eliminativism.”  
*6th Conference of the Dutch Flemish Association for Analytic Philosophy*.  
U Groningen, Netherlands.

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### Conferences Organized

- 10/22 *Hegel and MacIntyre. A Philosophy Conference on Reason in History.*  
With Caleb Bernacchio, Ahmed Fattah, and Michael Lazarus. Online.  
Featuring: Rahel Jaeggi, Jennifer Herdt, Robert Pippin & others.
- 05/21 *Heidegger: Politics, History, Modernity. An International Grad Student Conference.*  
With Mat Messerschmidt & Antoine Pageau St. Hilaire. Online.  
Keynotes: Judith Wolfe & Ryan Coyne.
- 04/19 One-day workshop on Geoff Lehman's & Michael Weinman,  
*Plato, the Parthenon, and Liberal Education.*  
Co-organizers: Ena M. Gojak and Xinyue Zhang. University of Chicago.
- 05/14 „Pioneering 15 Years of Liberal Education in Germany.”  
Panel presenting research on the history of ECLA/ BCB.  
With Lucian Cosinschi, Aya Ibrahim, Irina Stelea, Michael Weinman.  
Bard College Berlin.

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### Lecture Series & Academic Events Organized

- 2023-24 *Committee on Social Thought colloquium.* Coordinated with Xinyue Zhang. UChicago.
- 2020-21 *Literature and Philosophy Workshop.* Coordinated with Xinyue Zhang. Online.
- 01/21 Guest lecture by Hannes Bajohr at UChicago, *Poetry and Poetics Workshop.* Online.
- 05/19 American premiere of *Hans Blumenberg—Der unsichtbare Philosoph,*  
with talks by Robert Pippin and David Wellbery. U Chicago.
- 2015 Two guest lectures by Adrian Piper. Initiated & organized. Bard College Berlin.
- 2015 Guest lecture by Norman Manea. Organized, moderated. Bard College Berlin.

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### Selection of Masterclasses & Summer Programs

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| 10/24 | University of Chicago             | Miguel Abensour on utopia. <i>Martin Breugh &amp; Paul Mazzocchi.</i>                                       |
| 10/24 | University of Chicago             | Theory of religion after Hegel & Nietzsche. <i>Hans Joas.</i>   |
| 08/23 | UBC & Kuaijishan Acad.            | Buddhist philosophy. <i>K. Crosby, R. Sharf, B. ter Haar.</i>   |
| 09/23 | University of Chicago             | What comes after the secularization thesis? <i>Hans Joas</i>  |
| 06/22 | Sorbonne I, Paris.                | Mourning, melancholia, politics. <i>A. Ricciardi &amp; I. Alfandary.</i>                                    |
| 11/21 | University of Chicago             | Computational text-analysis. <i>Brooke Luetgert.</i>  |
| 08/21 | Fondation Rilke                   | Rilke's Duino Elegies. <i>Christoph König.</i>  |
| 07/19 | University of Bonn                | Hermeneutics. <i>Michael Forster &amp; Markus Gabriel.</i>  |
| 07/18 | UChicago Centre Paris             | Levinas' political philosophy. <i>Richard A. Cohen.</i>   |
| 07/17 | University of Tübingen            | Political ecology. <i>Bruno Latour.</i>   |
| 03/17 | Catholic Academy Bavaria          | Pragmatism. <i>Richard J. Bernstein.</i>  |
| 02/17 | University of Tübingen            | Phenomenology and the Myth of the Given. <i>Ray Brassier.</i>   |
| 07/16 | New School for<br>Social Research | Social epistemology. <i>Alice Crary.</i><br>Memory, trauma, history. <i>Carol and Richard J. Bernstein.</i> |
| 05/16 | Princeton & Humboldt U.           | The state of exception. <i>Jan-Werner Müller.</i>   |
| 07/15 | Viadrina European U.              | Rule of law: Kant, Hegel, Habermas. <i>G. Lohmann, R. Adolph.</i>   |
| 03/13 | Bard College Berlin               | Poetry Translation. <i>Peter Filkins.</i>   |

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## Languages

German (native), English (near native), French (fluent), Latin & Ancient Greek (reading), Mandarin Chinese (beginner).

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## Service to Institution and Profession

- 2022-23 Initiated “Committee on the Committee,”  
to gather student input on strategic directions for the  
Committee on Social Thought in a moment of institutional transition.
- 2021 Book reviewer for Emerald Publishing.
- 2019-24 Graduate Student Union steward for the German Department.
- 2019-20 Representative to Dean’s Student Advisory Board.
- 2016-17 Student Representative for philosophy M.A. students at ENS.
- 2014-16 Co-initiated the BCB History Taskforce.  
Following the name change from European College of Liberal Arts  
to Bard College Berlin,  
it brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni and:
- conducted 50+ hours of oral history research interviews,
  - curated an on-campus museum,
  - researched and re-opened the institutional archives,
  - improved online presentation of the college’s history.
- 2012-16 Student representative to the BCB Academic Senate (‘13-16),  
Member of the Studies Committee (‘12/13),  
Student Life Committee (*ex officio*, ‘13/14).
- 2014-15 External Reviewer for international undergraduate philosophy journal *Stance*.  
([stance.iweb.bsu.edu](http://stance.iweb.bsu.edu))

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## Public-Facing Writing

- 2019-23 Poetry Staff, *Chicago Review*
- 2019-22 Contributing Editor, *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*

Various contributions to public-facing venues like *The Point Magazine*, *Libération*, *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*, *Public Seminar*, *Tocqueville21*, *Die Bärliner*, and *Opium Philosophie*.

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## Relevant Work Experience

- 2016-18 Freelance translator (e.g., for Institute HyperWerk, [versus.com](http://versus.com)). Part-time.
- 2017 Gakko Project ([gakko.org](http://gakko.org)). Instructor at international summer camps.  
Romania and Indonesia. Teaching philosophy & poetry translation.
- 2015-16 Program Assistant to BCB German language & culture study-abroad programs.
- 2011 Diakonie ‘Eine Welt’ ([einewelt.diakonie.at](http://einewelt.diakonie.at)). In lieu of military service,  
administrative & translation work at pro-bono legal counseling center for  
refugees. Full-time.

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## References

Prof. Florian Klingler,  
Associate Professor,  
Germanic Studies & the College,  
University of Chicago,  
[klinger@uchicago.edu](mailto:klinger@uchicago.edu)

Prof. Timothy Harrison,  
Associate Professor,  
English, Committee on Social Thought, Divinity,  
University of Chicago,  
[harrisont@uchicago.edu](mailto:harrisont@uchicago.edu)

Prof. Haun Saussy,  
University Professor,  
Committee on Social Thought &  
East Asian Languages and Civilizations,  
University of Chicago,  
[hsaussy@uchicago.edu](mailto:hsaussy@uchicago.edu)

Dr. Michael Weinman,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Political Science & Jewish Studies,  
University of Indiana, Bloomington,  
[mweinma@iu.edu](mailto:mweinma@iu.edu)

### *Teaching Reference:*

Dr. Maeve Hooper,  
Director of the German Language Program,  
Department of Germanic Studies,  
University of Chicago,  
[hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu)