

WILLIAM S. LEWIS

Position: Professor, Department of Philosophy

Address: Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, USA

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Social and Political Philosophy
- Pragmatism
- Marxism
- Philosophy of the Social Sciences

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
 - Professor & Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy, 2025, 2026-27
 - Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2023-present
 - Professor, Department of Philosophy & Director, Media and Film Studies, 2021-2023
 - Professor, Department of Philosophy, 2017-present
 - Professor & Chair, Department of Philosophy, 2016-17
 - Professor & Chair, Department of Philosophy & Religion, 2014-2016
 - Associate Professor & Director of Skidmore in Paris, 2013-2014
 - Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Philosophy & Religion, 2008-2013 & 2014-2015
 - Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, 2002-2008
 - Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, 2001-2002
 - Georgetown University, Washington, DC,
 - Adjunct Professor and Visiting Researcher, Department of Philosophy, 2000-2001
 - The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
 - Fellow, Lecturer, and Research Assistant, 1995-2001
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EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy, The Pennsylvania State University, 2001
- Auditeur, University of Paris-XII, Val-de-Marne, 1995
- Bachelor of Arts, Skidmore College, 1994, *cum laude*, honors in philosophy.
Major: Philosophy; Minor: Government
- Undergraduate, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1992-1993

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *W. A. Suchting Philosophical Papers I. 1953 – 1979*, Leiden: Brill.
- *Althusser's Vocabulary*. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2027 (co-editor and translation coordinator for *Vocabulário de Althusser*. *LavraPalavra*, 2025).
- Short Film: "*Islets of Equality and Prosperity: Fourier, Godin, and the Search for a Passional Economy*."
- "At Last, No More Crises of Marxism"

BOOKS

- *Concrete Critical Theory: Althusser's Marxism*. Leiden: Brill Verlag, 2021. [paperback: Haymarket, 2022]
- *Louis Althusser and the Traditions of French Marxism*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, October 2005.

ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Humanism, Dehumanization, and Antihumanism" under review,
- "The Distance Between Art and Ideology." Bly and Fardy (eds.) *Aesthetics after Althusser*. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2026.
- « Althusser e as ciências sociais » In *Vocabulário de Althusser*. Karczmarczyk and Naves, editores. São Paulo, Brazil: *LavraPalavra*, 2025 (Spanish, Italian and English editions and translations forthcoming).
- "Althusser's Materialisms: Dialectical, Historical, and Aleatory." John Symons and Charles Wolfe, editors. [Materialism and the History and Philosophy](#). London: Routledge, 2024
- "Dissecta membra : Althusser's aesthetics reconsidered" Co-written with Banu Bargu, *Filozofski Vestnik*. Vol. 41, no. 1 (2021): 7-59.
- "Note introductive à un document d'archive de Louis Althusser, 'Lettre au Comité central du PCF, 18 mars 1966.'" Anthony Crèzegut translator, *Décalages* 2, no. 3 (January 1, 2020). [Updated and revised version of *Historical Materialism* Vol. 15, No. 2 (2007): 133-152]
- "[An Easter Message](#)" translated by François Bordes as "Sur un voyage en Grèce" *Papiers Althusser 1918-2018*, Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine, (July 2018).
- "A New 'International of Decent Feelings'? Cosmopolitanism and the Erasure of Class." in *Cosmopolitanism and Place*. Wahman, Medina, and Stuhr, editors. Indiana University Press. August 2017: 264-79.
- "Althusser's Science and Aleatory Materialism." *Décalages*. Vol.2, No.1 (2016).

- "Is There Less Bullshit in *For Marx* than in *Reading Capital*?" *Crisis and Critique* Vol. 2, No. 2 (November 2015).
- "Althusser on Laws Natural and Juridical." In Laurent de Sutter ed. *Althusser and Law* (Nomikoi Critical Legal Thinkers Series). Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 2013: 33-48.
- "Evolutionary Psychology in the Service of Moral Psychology: A Possible Future for Ethics." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* Vol. 25, No. 1 (2011): 48-63.
- "Louis Althusser." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2009 Edition, revised and updated, 2014, 2018, 2022), Edward N. Zalta (ed.).
- "War, Manipulation of Consent, and Deliberative Democracy." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* Vol. 22: No. 4. (2009): 266-277.
- "Concrete Analysis and Pragmatic Social Theory (Notes Towards an Althusserian Critical Theory)." *International Studies in Philosophy* Vol. 39. No. 2 (Spring 2007): 97-116.
- "Editorial Introduction to Louis Althusser's 'Letter to the Central Committee of the PCF, 18 March, 1966'." *Historical Materialism* Vol. 15, No. 2 (2007): 133-152.
- "The Under-theorization of Overdetermination in *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*." *Borderlands e-journal* Vol. 4, No. 2 (Winter 2005). [substantially different version of SSPT article below]
- "Knowledge versus 'Knowledge': Louis Althusser on the Autonomy of Science and Philosophy from Ideology." *Rethinking Marxism*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (July 2005): 453-468.
- "The Under-theorization of Overdetermination in the Political Philosophy of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe." *Studies in Social and Political Thought*, Issue 11 (May 2005): 2-24.
- "Art or Propaganda? Dewey and Adorno on the Relationship between Politics and Art." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Volume 19, No. 1, (2005): 42-54.
- "Harry Smith's Filmwork and the Possibility of a Universal Symbolology." *The American Journal of Semiotics* Vol. 17, No. 3 (Fall 2001, published Fall 2002): 217-232.
- "Of Bonding and Bondage: On Cynthia Willet's *Maternal Ethics & Other Slave Moralities*." *International Studies In Philosophy* 30 (summer 1998): 109-116,
- "Ready, Set, Stutter, Consume: Newsweek Magazine and the Myth of Style." *Negations* 1 (Winter 1996): 85-101.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Translation of Pascale Gillot "Psychoanalysis" for *Althusser's Vocabulary* (Leiden: Brill, 2027).

- Translation (with Stefano Pippa) of Louis Althusser, "Why Theatre? (1964)" in Bly and Fardy (eds.) *Aesthetics after Althusser*. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2026
- "[Dialectical Method: Henri Lefebvre's Philosophy of Science](#)" *Verso Books Blog*. April 21, 2021.
- "[But Didn't He Kill His Wife?](#)" *Verso Books Blog*. May 29, 2019
- "[The Fall and Rise of Louis Althusser](#)." Interview with Richard Marshall for 3:AM Magazine, July 7, 2017
- Short Essay: "[Listening to Reading Capital](#)." *Viewpoint Magazine*, July 18 2016, url:
- Review: Nancy Cartwright and Eleonora Montuschi, eds., *Philosophy of Social Science: A New Introduction* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014); *Teaching Philosophy*. Vol. 39, No. 2 (June 2016): 239-243.
- Author's Reply to Review: Louis Althusser and the Traditions of French Marxism. *New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and Interdisciplinary Inquiry* [Online] 1:2 (Fall 2008).
- Translation of Louis Althusser, "Letter to the Central Committee of the PCF, March 18th, 1966." *Historical Materialism* Vol. 15, No. 2 (2007): 153-172.
- Review: *Jean-Paul Sartre & Simone de Beauvoir*. Directed by Max Capocardo with interviews by Madeleine Gobeil and Claude Lanzmann. Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, [2005] c1967. *The French Review*. Vol. 81, No. 3: 42-43.
- Review: Bersani, Leo and Ulysse Dutoit. *Forming Couples: Godard's Contempt* (Legenda Special Lecture Series. Oxford, UK: European Humanities and Research Center, 2003). *The French Review* Vol. 80, No. 5 (Spring 2007).
- Interview: "On the Subject of Theoretical Practice" with David McInerney for *Borderlands e-journal* Vol. 4, No. 2 (2006): 36.
- Entries on "Louis Althusser," *Parti Communiste Français*, "French Maoism (May 1968)," "Ideological State Apparatuses," "Interpellation," "Overdetermination," "Problematic," and "Uneven Development" in: Protevi, John (editor). *The Edinburgh Dictionary of Continental Philosophy*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, October 2005. Issued in the U.S.A. as *A Dictionary of Continental Philosophy*, New Haven: Yale University Press, January 2006
- Review: *Pierre Bourdieu: Sociology is a Martial Art (La Sociologie est un sport de combat)*, Directed by Pierre Carles, Produced by Annie Gonzalez & Véronique Frégosi. (Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, 2001). *The French Review*, Vol. 77, #3 (2004): 599-600.

PAPERS DELIVERED

- "Moral Psychology or Ideology? Exploring the Limits of Dehumanization" *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME XIX)*, University of Colorado-Boulder, August 6-9 2026
- "Should we complete Althusser's Aesthetics?" *Lezione Aperta, Dipartimento di Scienze Umane per la Formazione "Riccardo Massa, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca*, May 7, 2026.
- *Islets of Equality and Prosperity: Fourier, Godin, and the Search for a Passional Economy*, (Documentary Film), *Upstate New York Workshop in Modern Philosophy*, Skidmore College, April 19, 2026
- "What would it take to complete Althusser's aesthetics?" *Union College, Hudson Valley Political Theory Workshop*, April 10, 2026.
- "Humanism, Dehumanization, and Antihumanism," *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 8, 2025.
- "Theoretical Humanism, Work and Labour" book launch for Samuel J.R. Mercer, *The Ideology of Work* (Brill 2025). *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 8, 2025.
- "Roundtable on Aristides Baltas' *After Objectivity, After Althusser*." *Historical Materialism*, Panteion University, Athens, Greece, April 25, 2025.
- "The 1963 seminars, or, Althusser versus the Social Sciences," *Historical Materialism*, Panteion University, Athens, Greece, April 26, 2025.
- "Is Populism Compatible with Marxist Strategy?" *Historical Materialism*, Panteion University, Athens, Greece, April 27, 2025.
- "Reconstructing Althusser's Aesthetic Theory." *Reading Althusser*, [LacanLink](#), Moscow/Zoom, November, 2, 2024
- ¡ Por fin, no mas crisis del marxismo ! V *Coloquio Internacional Louis Althusser*. U. de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia, May 17, 2024
- « Enfin plus des crises du marxisme ! » *La Grande Transition*, Université de Concordia, Montreal, QC, May 19, 2023.
- "The Distance Between Art and Ideology: Althusser's Aesthetic Theory. *Critical Social Theory* at McGill University, Montreal, QC, March 17, 2023
- "Was Althusser a Critical Theorist?" *Historical Materialism*, Online, November 6, 2021
- "What to Do When an American Utopia Fails" *American Philosophies Forum*, April 8-10, 2021. Online (originally Washington D.C.).

- "Althusserian Critical Social Theory" *III Colóquio Internacional Althusser: "Conjuntura, luta de classes e ideologia"* Novembro 27-29 2019, Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas (IFCH), Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brasil.
- "Trait-Norm Covariance and Class" *Feminist-Pragmatist Colloquium: Looking Back to Move Forward*, UNESCO World Philosophy Day, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, November 15, 2019
- "#BalancetonAlthusser?" *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 8, 2018.
- "Althusser, la loi, l'état, et la transformation révolutionnaire." *La Grande Transition* 17 May 2018, Université du Québec, Montréal.
- "At Last, the Crisis of Liberalism!" *John Dewey and Critical Philosophies for Critical Political Times*, October 19-20, 2017, Humanities Institute, University College, Dublin, Ireland
- "Editorial choices and the reception of Althusser's last philosophy: an arranged encounter." *Historical Materialism New York City*, April 21-23, 2017.
- "Class as Concrete and Normative, a new model for conceiving class and for winning class struggles" *Historical Materialism Conference-Beirut*, March 10-12, 2017.
- "Using Natural Law to Transform Positive Law: Althusser on Revolutionary Transformation." *The Politics of Difference and the Threshold of Law: A Conference in Law and the Humanities*, Liberal Studies Program, University at Albany & Albany Law School, March 31-April 1, 2017.
- "Althusser's Materialism: Historical or Aleatory?" *Association for Political Theory 2015 Annual Conference*, October 22-24, 2015, University of Colorado Boulder.
- "Is There Less Bullshit in *For Marx* than in *Reading Capital*?" *Historical Materialism Conference-New York*, April 25-26, 2015. New York University.
- "Materialism: Historical and Aleatory." *Marxism & Philosophy Society at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Meeting*, April 1, 2015, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- "Social Science and Emancipatory Public Policy." *Emancipation: Challenges at the Intersection of American and European Philosophy*, February 25-26, 2015 Fordham University, Manhattan Campus
- "La Loi et l'état : Louis Althusser sur la possibilité de transformation révolutionnaire." *Penser la transformation*, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, April 24-25, 2014.
- "Philosophical Cosmopolitanism and Class Politics" *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 10, 2013.

- "Trace, Testimony, Verity: Representing Reality in Documentary Film." *Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture Series*, University of Roehampton, London, October 15, 2013.
- "Law, The State, and Revolutionary Change." University of Colorado Denver, Colorado. May 6, 2013.
- "The Social Sciences and Philosophy." Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, March 22, 2013.
- "Althusser on Laws Natural and Juridical." *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 9, 2012.
- "Pragmatism & Historical Materialism: A New Rapprochement?," New York Pragmatist Forum, Fordham University-Lincoln Center, New York, December 9, 2011.
- "A New 'International of Decent Feelings'? Cosmopolitanism and the Erasure of Class." *American Philosophies Forum: 2011*, Symposium on Cosmopolitanism and Place, Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid. June 2-4, 2011.
- "Is there a Tension between Althusser's Aleatory Materialism and his Scientism?" *European Philosophy after the Epistemological Break*. University of Szczecin, Poland, September 16-20, 2010.
- "Evolutionary Psychology in the Service of Moral Philosophy, A Possible Future for Ethics?" *American Philosophies Forum: The 2010 Symposium*, Emory University, April 8-10, 2010
- "Reading Henri Lefebvre's *Méthodologies des Sciences* In and Out of Context." *Historical Materialism*. CUNY Graduate Center, January 15, 2010.
- "What Makes Social Theory Critical: Historical Materialist Assumptions in Social Scientific Research." *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 27, 2009
- "The Social Sciences and Philosophy: Allies, Rivals, or Enemies?" Bennington College, Bennington, VT, November 15, 2008.
- "The Role of Ideology and Social Scientific Knowledge in Effective Democratic Deliberation." *Association for Political Theory*, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, October 11, 2008.
- "War, Manipulation of Consent, and (Deliberative) Democracy." *American Philosophies Forum: The 2008 Symposium*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, April 3-5, 2008.
- "Towards an Althusserian Critical Theory." *Historical Materialism*, University of London, SOAS, November 9, 2007.

- "How We Know Race: The Limits and Promise of Scientific and Critical Theoretical Accounts of Race." *Society for the Social Study of Science*. Montreal, QC, October 13, 2007.
- "Anti-humanism as Political Strategy: An Analysis of Althusser's (unsent) Letter to the Central Committee of the French Communist Party." *Rethinking Marxism*, Amherst, MA, October 28, 2006.
- "Concrete Analysis and Democratic Decision Making." *Society for Social and Political Philosophy*. Philadelphia, PA, October 12, 2006.
- "Althusser, Concrete Analysis and Pragmatic Social Theory." *Association for Political Theory*, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO, October 21, 2005.
- "Separating Racist Science from Racial Science, a Methodological Proposal." *The California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race*, California State University, Northridge, September 23, 2005.
- "Art or Propaganda: Philosophical Reflections on the Tang-Wolfsonian Weapons of Mass Dissemination Exhibit" Invited paper, Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, July 17, 2005.
- "Stalinism and the French Intellectual or: How to Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Short Course." Invited paper, Rice University, Houston TX, April 5th, 2005.
- "The Two Sciences Revisited or 'Why Revive a Marxist-Leninist Critique of Scientific Knowledge?'" *Marxism and the World Stage (Rethinking Marxism)*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, November 6, 2003.
- "Cultivating the Arts of Inquiry, Interpretation and Criticism in the Philosophy of C.S. Peirce," Commentary. Invited paper, *Eighth Biennial International Network for Philosophers of Education Conference*, Oslo, Norway. August 8-11, 2002.
- "A Pragmatic Hermeneutics: the role of interpretation in Dewey's Philosophy." Commentary. *The 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, March 9, 2002. Portland, Maine.
- "Harry Smith and the Possibility of a Universal Symbolology." *The Semiotic Society of America: 23rd Annual Meeting*, Victoria College, University of Toronto, October 1998.
- "Of Bonding and Bondage, a reader responds to Cynthia Willet's *Maternal Ethics & Other Slave Moralities*." *Authors Meets Readers Series*, The Pennsylvania State University, October 1996.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Philosophy
Dewey & the History of Philosophy
Disciplinary Epistemologies
Ethics & Social Issues
Environmental Philosophy
Introduction to American Studies
Marx & Marxisms
Liberalism & Its Alternatives
Materialism
Political Economy and Poverty
French Political Philosophy
Contemporary Political Philosophy
Ideology

Introduction to Liberal Studies
Introduction to Philosophy
Moral Values
Philosophy, Art, & Film
Philosophy of Race & Gender
Social & Political Philosophy
Film, Truth & Value
Philosophy of the Social Sciences
19th Century Philosophy
May '68, Philosophy & Culture
Climate Change & Philosophy
Language and Harm

Other Teaching Experience

Director of Independent Studies and Honors Theses at graduate and undergraduate levels in Environmental Ethics, Philosophy and Technology, Philosophy of Education, Machiavelli, Distributive Justice, Pragmatic Literary Theory, Classical Political Philosophy, Contemporary French Political Philosophy, Pragmatic Ethics, Critical Theory, Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, John Dewey, Immigration and Political Philosophy, Relational Universals, Philosophy of Sport.

REFERENCES (available on request)
