

# Asaf Bar-Tura

## EDUCATION

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### Ph.D. (With Distinction)

Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago

Thesis Title: "Habermas and Public Reason in the Digital Age: Technology and Deliberative Democracy"

Dissertation Director: David Ingram

### M.A. (With Distinction)

Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago

Thesis Title: "The Digital Transformation of the Public Sphere: On the Dialectic of Technology and Discourse"

### B.A. (Summa Cum Laude)

Philosophy & Political Science, Ben-Gurion University, Israel

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- Best Paper at the Loyola University Chicago Graduate School Research Symposium, in Category: Interdisciplinary Methods (2014)
- Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship (2013-2014)
- Inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu – the Jesuit Honor Society (2013)
- Research Mentoring Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago (2013)
- *Loyola University Chicago President's Medallion* "honoring outstanding scholarship, leadership and service" - One recipient from the Graduate School annually (2012-2013)
- Graduate Assistantship Award, Loyola University Chicago (2008 – 2013)
- Loyola Graduate Student Travel Award (Spring '09; Fall '09; Spring '10; Fall '10; Spring '11)
- Dean's Prize for Outstanding Students, Ben Gurion University (2005)
- Philosophy Department Chair Prize for Outstanding Students, Ben Gurion University (2004)
- Zolotowsky Prize for Outstanding Students, Ben Gurion University (2004)
- Zolotowsky Prize for Promising Incoming Students, Ben Gurion University (2003)

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS)

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7. (with David B. Ingram) – "The Public Sphere as Site of Emancipation and Enlightenment: A Discourse Theoretic Critique of Digital Communication," in *Re-Imagining Public Space: The Frankfurt School in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Edited by James Glass and Diana Boros. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

6. (with Irene Lehrer Sandalow) – "Don't Sell Them Short: From Understanding Injustice to Activism," *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*, Vol. 87, No. 1-2 (Fall-Spring 2012), pp. 146-156.

5. "Between Virtual Reality and the Real: Cyber Subjectivity and Ideology Critique," *Humanities and Technology Review*, Vol. 30 (Fall 2011), pp. 25-56.

4. "The Coffee House as a Public Sphere: Brewing Social Change." In *Coffee and Philosophy*, Edited by Parker, Scott F. and Mike Austin. Malden, MA: Wiley Publishing, 2011 (pp. 89-99).

3. "Economic Policy and World Organization," *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*, (2011) Vol. 10 (1), pp. 194-212.

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2. "Wall-to-Wall or Face-to-Face." In *Facebook and Philosophy: What's on Your Mind?*, Edited by Dylan Wittkower. Chicago: Open Court Publishing, 2010 (pp. 231-240).

1. "Arendt, Habermas and Facebook: Participation and Discourse in Cyber Public Spheres," *Humanities and Technology Review*, Vol. 29 (Fall 2010), pp. 1-25.

## **SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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16. "Is the Internet Bad for Social Justice and Democracy?" – Presented at: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social Media Conference, York University, Toronto, CA. May 2014.

15. "Is the Internet Bad for Social Justice and Democracy?" – Presented at: Graduate School Research Symposium, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL. April 2014.

14. "A Habermasian Approach to the Democratization of Technology." Presented at: *Practical Philosophy Workshop*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. January 2014.

13. Invited Panelist, "Theory and Solidarity." Presented at: *2013 Ministry Conference*. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. November, 2013.

12. (With David Ingram) "The Public Sphere as Site of Emancipation and Enlightenment: A Discourse Theoretic Critique of Digital Communication." Presented at: *2013 Critical Theory Roundtable*. St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. October, 2013.

11. "The Meaning of Political Action in the Digital Age." Presented at: "Crisis of Democracy in America" – *Conference of the Human Rights Institute of the IPWF Center for Applied Ethics*. Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN. April 2012.

10. (With Bryan Kibbe) "Between Coercion and Empowerment: Technology and the Alleviation of Poverty." Presented at: *Poverty, Coercion and Human Rights* (A National Conference Organized by the Endowed Chair in Social Ethics), Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL. April 2012.

9. "Democratizing Technology: A Discourse-Ethical Approach." Presented at: *PhiloSTEM 2 (The 2<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Workshop in Philosophy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)*, Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN. November 2011.

8. "Between Politics, Jurisprudence and Poetry: (Why) Did Plato Banish the Poets?" Presented at: "Freedom, Action, Politics" – *Loyola Graduate Student Conference*, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL. September 2011.

7. "Perspectives of Jewish Refugees: What we can Learn from Arendt and Levinas about Power, Justice and Common Action." Presented at: *The National Conference on Faith, Justice & Civic Learning*, DePaul University, Chicago, IL. June 2011.

6. "Technology, Resistance and Discourse Ethics: Rethinking the Democratization of Technology." Presented at: *17th International Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology*, University of North Texas, Denton, TX, May 2011.

5. "Between Virtual Reality and the Real: A Contribution to a Theory of Cyber Subjectivity and Ideology Critique." Presented at: "Ipseity & Alterity: Dialectics and Distances between Self and Other" – *4<sup>th</sup> Annual USF Graduate Philosophy Conference*, University of South Florida, Tampa, FA. March, 2011.

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4. "Ethics, Technology, and Development: An Argument for a Participatory Approach to Environmental Challenges." Presented at: "Technology and Development: The Human Benefits and Burdens" – Annual Conference of the *Humanities and Technology Association*, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD. October, 2010.
3. "The Economic Crisis and World Organization: The Case for Robust Global Governance." Presented at: "The Global Crisis and Beyond" – *Annual Conference of the Global Studies Association of North America*, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL. May, 2010.
2. "Arendt, Habermas and Facebook: A Consideration of Cyber Public Spheres." Presented at: "Technology, Democracy and Citizenship" – Annual Conference of the *Humanities and Technology Association*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. September, 2009.
1. "Arendt, Habermas and Facebook: An Analysis of Cyber Public Spheres." Presented at: "Re-visioning the Future: Modernity between Utopia and Dystopia" – Annual Conference of the *International Social Theory Consortium*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. May, 2009.

## **DISSERTATION ABSTRACT**

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"Habermas and Public Reason in the Digital Age: Technology and Deliberative Democracy"

Scholars defending the deliberative model of democracy have focused much of their attention on argumentation and criteria for offering public reasons in deliberative processes, but have paid little attention to the ways in which digital technologies mediate such deliberations. Conversely, critical theorists of technology have emphasized the socially determined nature of technology, but have lacked a theory of democracy through which to normatively assess technologies that mediate public discourse. Through a reworking of Jürgen Habermas's discourse-based theory of democracy, this dissertation provides a new understanding of the flows of political communication and power in the democratic public sphere and the implications of digital technologies for democratic participation.

## **TEACHING**

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- 2012-2013**      **Instructor (Full Course Responsibility), Loyola University Chicago**
- PHIL 182: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (Summer 2013)  
PHIL 130: Philosophy and Persons (Spring 2013)  
PHIL 181: Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2012)
- 2008-2012**      **Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, Loyola University Chicago**
- PHIL 182: Social and Political Philosophy (9 semesters)  
PHIL 309: Classical Modern Philosophy (1 semester)  
PHIL 399: Integrative Seminar: Faith, Reason and Politics (1 semester)
- 2009-2012**      **Guest Lectures (Undergraduate Level), Loyola University Chicago**
- "Introduction to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason"
  - "John Rawls's Theory of Justice"
  - "Religious Diversity and Social Theory" (twice)
  - "Pogge on Global Poverty and Human Rights" (three times)
  - "Hobbes and Locke on the Social Contract"
  - "Philosophical Perspectives on Immigration" (twice)

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## **Additional Trainings in Teaching Excellence:**

- Fellow, Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program, Loyola University Chicago (Summer '13)
- Year-long Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Loyola University Chicago (2011-2012)
- Philosophy Department Teaching Seminar, Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2011)
- Instructor at Lachman SAT prep school, an Israeli subsidiary of Kaplan Inc. (2005-2006)

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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- Editorial Assistant, *The Owl of Minerva* (Journal of the Hegel Society of North America), 2010-2012.
- Board Member, *Humanities and Technology Association*, 2009-2011.
- Committee Member, *2011 Loyola University Chicago Philosophy Graduate Conference*.
- Committee Member, *2010 Loyola University Chicago Philosophy Graduate Conference*.

## **ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS**

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- Member, American Philosophical Association, 2010-2014.

## **ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES**

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- Hebrew, Fluent