

## **MURRAY SKEES, PhD**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Humanities  
University of South Carolina Beaufort  
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### **EDUCATION**

- PhD 2006, University of Kentucky (Philosophy)
  - Dissertation Title: “The Dialectic of Digitality: Rationalization in the Era of Late Capitalism”  
(Awarded the University of Kentucky Dissertation Fellowship Award, Fall 2005-Spring 2006)
  - Dissertation Committee:
    - Ted Schatzki, University of Kentucky, Chair (Department of Philosophy)
    - Daniel Breazeale, University of Kentucky (Department of Philosophy)
    - Oliver Leaman, University of Kentucky (Department of Philosophy)
    - Nels “Jeff” Rogers, University of Kentucky (Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures, & Cultures)
- BA *cum laude*, 1999, Thomas More College (Philosophy and Psychology)

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of South Carolina Beaufort  
Fall 2015-Present
- Instructor of Critical Thinking & Philosophy, Savannah State University  
Fall 2013-Spring 2015
- NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers Participant  
Summer 2011
- Visiting Assistant Professor, University of North Florida  
Fall 2007-Spring 2013
- Instructor of Philosophy, Morgan State University  
Fall 2006-Spring 2007

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

- Philosophy of Culture
- Philosophy of Art
- Social and Political Philosophy

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

- History of Philosophy
- Ethics
- Critical Thinking & Logic

### **ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

“A ‘New’ Traditional Theory: Fetishizing Big Data Analytics,” *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory* (forthcoming)

“Grab Them by the Public: Trump, Twitter, and the Affective Politics of Our Fragmented Democracy,” *Telos* (Summer 2020): 11-32.

"*Aporia* and Wonder in the Age of Big Data," *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology*, 23, no. 3 (2019): 137-52.

“Memories Standing Outside of the Self: The Commodity, the Collector, and Walter Benjamin’s Theory of Experience,” *Consumer Culture Theory*, edited by Anastasia E. Thyroff, Jeff B. Murray, & Russell W. Belk, Research in Consumer Behavior Book Series (Emerald Publishing, 2015): 223-54.

“Walter Benjamin’s Materialist History, Giovanni Arrighi’s World-Systems Theory, and the Possibility of a Critical Philosophical Anthropology,” *Annals of Scholarship*, 21, nos.1 & 2 (2014): 65-88.

“Have I Been Understood? – Dionysus versus Ikea Boy,” *Fight Club*, edited by Tom Wartenberg, Philosophers on Film Series, (Routledge, 2012): 12-34.

“Kant, Adorno, and the *Work* of Art,” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 37, no. 8 (2011): 915-33.

“Digital Flânerie: Illustrative Seeing in the Digital Age,” *Critical Horizons*, 11, no. 2 (2010): 265-87.

“The Synecdoche of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and Frederic Jameson’s Theory of Postmodernism,” *Film and Philosophy*, Vol. 14 (2010): 81-98.

“The *Lex Permissiva* and the Source of Natural Right in Kant’s *Metaphysics of Morals* and Fichte’s *Foundations of Natural Right*,” *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 49, no. 3 (September 2009): 373-98.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

Review of Philip Pothen’s *Nietzsche and the Fate of Art*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, April 2004

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

“The Jargon of Industry: Identity Thinking in the Age of Big Data,” presented at the 2021 South Carolina Society for Philosophy Annual Conference, Virtual Conference, April 15-17, 2021

“Towards a Critical Theory of Datafication,” invited lecture at Harper College, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

“A 'New' Traditional Theory: Fetishizing Big Data Analytics,” presented at the 2019 South Carolina Society for Philosophy Annual Conference, Columbia, SC March 8-9, 2019

Commentary on Jason Byas’s “The Meaning of Mass Incarceration,” presented at the 2019 Georgia Philosophical Association’s Annual Conference, Macon, GA February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

“Predictive Analytics & the Social Function of Philosophy,” invited lecture at Appalachian State University, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

“Reflective Judgment for Civic Discourse and Global Engagement,” co-presented with Dr. Lisa Yount (Savannah State University) at the AACU’s 2018 Global Engagement and Spaces of Practice: Exploring Global Challenges across Disciplinary Boundaries, Seattle, WA October 11-13, 2018

“Using the Reflective Judgment Model to Enhance Civic Learning, Civic Discourse, and Civic Engagement,” co-presented with Dr. Lisa Yount (Savannah State University) at the 2018 Lilly Conference: College and University Teaching and Learning, Asheville, NC August 6-8, 2018

“What’s Happening: Trump, Twitter, and an Affectively-Driven Epistemology of Ignorance,” presented at the 2018 Joint Conference of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and the North Carolina Philosophical Society, Rock Hill, SC; March 23-24, 2018

“Grab Them By the Public: Trump, Sophistry, and Our Affective Politics,” presented at the Second International Conference on Communication and Media Studies, Vancouver, British Columbia; November 16-17, 2017

“Grab Them By the Public: Trump, Sophistry, and Our Affective Politics,” presented at the Florida Philosophical Association’s Annual Conference, Ocala, FL; November 3-4, 2017

“The Commodity Spectacle in World-Systems Theory: The Origins of Contemporary Mass-Marketing, Branding, and Advertising,” presented at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL; April 6-9, 2017

“*Aporia* and Wonder in the Age of Big Data,” presented at the 2017 Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society, Wilmington, NC; February 24-25, 2017

“The Commodity Spectacle: Walter Benjamin’s Discovery of the Ur-Phenomenon of Contemporary Mass-Marketing, Branding, and Advertising,” presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Image, Berkeley, CA; October 29-30, 2015

“Memories Standing Outside of the Self: The Commodity, the Collector, and Walter Benjamin’s Theory of Experience,” presented at the Consumer Culture Theory Conference 2015, Fayetteville, AK; June 18-21, 2015

“Critical Humanities: Overcoming Moral Hazard through Practical Wisdom,” co-presented with Dr. Lisa Yount at The IAFOR North American Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Providence, RI; September 18-21, 2014

“Walter Benjamin’s Materialist History, Giovanni Arrighi’s World-Systems Theory, and the Possibility of a Critical Philosophical Anthropology,” presented at the Walter Benjamin: Critical Speculations Conference, SUNY Albany, NY; September 28-29, 2012

“Euripides, Truly the Most Tragic of the Poets,” presented at the 2011 American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL; October 26-29, 2011

“Digital Flânerie: Illustrative Seeing in the Digital Age,” presented at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Humanities and Technology Association Conference, Bowie, MD; October 13-15, 2011

“The Commodity and the Collector: Arousing Kitsch to Assembly,” presented at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, “Walter Benjamin’s Later Writings: *The Arcades Project*, Commodity Culture, and Historiography,” Irvine, CA; June 20-July 22, 2011

“Kant, Adorno, and the *Work of Art*,” presented at the 2009 American Society of Aesthetics Annual Conference, Denver, CO; October 22-25, 2009

“Reification and Patriarchy: Towards a Unified Critical Theory” (co-authored with Dr. Lisa Yount, Savannah State University), presented at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL; April 2-5, 2009

“Digitality at a Standstill: The Dialectics of Digital Culture,” presented at the Radical Philosophy Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA; November 6-9, 2008

“The World ought to be Otherwise: Theodor Adorno’s Theory of Aesthetic Autonomy and a New Categorical Imperative,” presented at the 2008 APA Pacific Division Annual Meeting, Pasadena, CA; March 18-23, 2008

“Schlegel’s Argument for Women’s Equality and the State,” presented at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL; April 12-15, 2007

“The Relation between Legality and Morality in the Social Contracts of Kant and Fichte,” presented at the 2006 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL; April 20-23, 2006

“An I for an I: Fichte’s Notion of Intersubjectivity,” presented at the Loyola University Graduate Student Conference on “Encounters with the Other,” Chicago, IL; March 18-20, 2005

“Adorno on Natural Beauty,” presented at the Kentucky Philosophical Association Bi-annual Meeting, Kentucky State University; November 6, 2004

“Marcuse’s Conception of Autonomous Art and its Relation to the Culture Industry,” presented at the Sixth Annual Conference on Aesthetics and Politics, University of Essex, England; September 9-11, 2003

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Philosophical Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- American Society for Aesthetics

#### **UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT**

*Undergraduate Course*

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Critical Thinking & Communication
- Individual and Community Ethics
- Ethical Theory
- Journalism & the Philosophy of Truth
- Contemporary Ethical Issues (honors)
- Introduction to Logic I
- Introduction to Logic II
- History of Ancient Philosophy
- History of Modern Philosophy
- History of Social & Political Philosophy
- 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy
- Philosophy of Art
- Philosophy of Film
- Philosophy of Media Culture
- Professional Ethics
- Philosophy of Human Nature
- Bioethics

#### *Graduate Courses*

- Aesthetics
- Philosophy of Film
- Existentialism
- The Realm of Values in Management (Business Ethics for MBA Students)

#### **UNIVERSITY/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Faculty Development Coordinator, Quality Enhancement Plan Committee, University of South Carolina Beaufort (2019-Present)
- Member Strategic Plan Implementation Subcommittee (2018-Present)
- Member, Health Center Task Force (2018-Present)
- Member, Honors College Subcommittee of the Academic Steering Committee, University of South Carolina Beaufort (2016-Present)
- Member, Quality Enhancement Plan Committee, University of South Carolina Beaufort (2016-2019)
- Chair, Faculty Welfare Committee, University of South Carolina Beaufort (2016-2019)
- Member, Assistant Professor of Spanish Search Committee, University of South Carolina Beaufort (2015-2016)
- Member, Institutional Review Board, Savannah State University (2013-2015)
- Humanities Coordinator, Savannah State University (2013-2015)
- Organizer, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Annual Conference, Savannah State University (2013-2015)
- Chair, General Education Committee, Savannah State University (2014-2015)
- Member, Academic Excellence Subcommittee, Savannah State University (2014-2015)
- Masters Thesis Committee Member, Lorivie Abapo, "Authenticity and the Self: How Advertising Affects the Self and Others," University of North Florida (2012)
- Reviewer, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (2012)
- Masters Thesis Committee Member, Meghan Orman, "Restoring Sanity to Schools: Democracy, Education, and Individuality," University of North Florida (2011)