

# Aaron Benanav

## Curriculum Vitae

310C Maxwell Hall  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Syracuse, NY 13244-1020

Email: [asbenana@syr.edu](mailto:asbenana@syr.edu)  
Website: [aaronbenanav.com](http://aaronbenanav.com)  
Updated: January, 2023

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Syracuse University, 2022-**

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology  
Senior Research Associate, Autonomous Systems Policy Institute  
Core Faculty Member, Political Philosophy  
Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs

### **Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 2020-2022**

Post-Doctoral Researcher  
Academic Coordinator of the Research Unit “Re-Allocation”  
for the Excellenzcluster “SCRIPTS: Contestations of the Liberal Script”

### **University of Chicago, 2016-2020**

Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts  
Collegiate Assistant Professor, Division of the Social Sciences  
Affiliate Faculty, Department of History

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, University of California, Los Angeles, Winter 2015

Thesis: “A Global History of Unemployment: Surplus Populations in the World Economy, 1949-2010.”

Committee: Robert Brenner (chair), Perry Anderson, Ivan Berend, Ching Kwan Lee.

M.A. in History, University of California, Los Angeles, Spring 2008

B.A. in History, University of Chicago, with honors, Spring 2005

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Books**

*Automation and the Future of Work* (Verso Books, 2020).

Translations

*La automatización y el futuro del trabajo* (Spanish, Traficantes, 2021).

*Automatisierung und die Zukunft der Arbeit* (German, Suhrkamp, 2021).

자동화와 노동의 미래 (Korean, Chaeksesang, 2022).  
后稀缺：自动化与未来工作 (Chinese, China Translation & Publishing House, 2022).  
*L'automatisation et le futur du travail* (French, Éditions Divergences, 2022).  
*Otomasyon Ve İşin Geleceği* (Turkish, Nota Bene, 2022).  
オートメーションと労働の未来 (Japanese, Horinouchi Publishing, 2022).  
*Automazione: Disuguaglianze, occupazione, povertà e la fine del lavoro come lo conosciamo* (Italian, Luiss University Press, 2022).

### **Journal Articles**

- “Socialist Investment, Dynamic Planning, and the Politics of Human Need,” *Rethinking Marxism*, 34, 2 (June 2022), pp. 193-204.
- “Service Work in the Pandemic Economy,” *International Labor and Working Class History* 99 (Spring 2021), pp. 66-74.
- “Automation and the Future of Work-II” *New Left Review* II/120 (Nov./Dec. 2019), pp. 117-146.
- “Automation and the Future of Work-I,” *New Left Review* II/119 (Sept./Oct. 2019), pp. 5-38.
- “Demography and Dispossession: Explaining the Growth of the Global Informal Workforce, 1950-2000,” *Social Science History*, 43, 4 (September 2019), pp. 679-703.
- “The Origins of Informality: The ILO at the Limit of the Concept of Unemployment,” *Journal of Global History* 14, 1 (February 2019), pp. 107-125.
- Translated in *Revista Brasileira de Economia Social e do Trabalho* as “As origens da informalidade: A OIT no limite do conceito de desemprego” (October 2021).
- “Can Dialectics Break BRICS?” (with Joshua Clover), *South Atlantic Quarterly* 113, 4, 743-759, 2014.

### **Special Issue Editor**

- “Workers and Obsolescence” (co-edited with Lori Flores), *International Labor and Working Class History*, forthcoming Spring 2023.

### **Articles in Edited Volumes**

- “Crisis and Immiseration: Critical Theory Today” (with John Clegg), in the *SAGE Handbook of Frankfurt School Critical Theory*, eds. Beverley Best, Werner Bonefeld, and Chris O’Kane, London: Sage Publications, 2018, pp. 1629-48.
- “Misery and Debt: On the Logic and History of Surplus Populations and Surplus Capital” (with John Clegg), in *Contemporary Marxist Theory: A Reader*, eds. Andrew Pendakis, et. al., New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014, pp. 585-608.

### **Other Print Publications**

- “American Unemployment: Past, Present, and Future” (review), *Labor* 18, 4 (December 2021), pp. 157-158.
- “Making a Living: The History of What We Call Work,” *Nation*, October 18, 2021, pp. 40-48.
- “Can Technology Create Shared Prosperity?” *Boston Review*, May 20, 2021, pp. 55-59.
- “How to Make a Pencil,” *Logic Magazine* 12, December 2020, pp. 195-214.

- “World Asymmetries,” *New Left Review* 125, September/October 2020, pp. 138-149.
- “A World without Work?,” *Dissent Magazine*, Fall 2020, pp. 45-52.
- “Why Uber’s Business Model is Doomed,” *The Guardian*, August 24, 2020.
- “Automation Isn’t Wiping out Jobs,” *The Guardian*, January 25, 2020.
- “Misery and Debt” (with John Clegg), *Endnotes* 2, April 2010, pp. 20-51.
- “Landscapes of Labour,” *New Left Review* 61, January 2010, pp. 222-232.
- “Critique in Crisis,” *Lana Turner Journal* 2, Fall 2009, pp. 212-223.
- “Kali’s Prophet,” *New Left Review* 48, November 2007, pp. 139-151.

### **Online Publications**

- “Automation and Economic Growth,” *SCRIPTS Blog* (online), June 29, 2021.
- “Cyberflâneur #46,” *The Syllabus* (online), April 22, 2021.
- “Crisis and Recovery,” *Phenomenal World* (online), April 3, 2020.
- “It’s Not about NAFTA,” *Verso Blog* (online), November 2016.
- “Precarity Rising,” *Viewpoint Magazine* (online), June 2015.

### **Interviews**

- “빅테크 기업의 시장 통제로 불평등 악화…국가가 노동자 보호해야,”  
*Kyunghyang Sinmun*, November 17, 2022.
- “Il malessere dei lavoratori non è colpa dei robot,” *Corriere della Sera*,  
November 6, 2022, p. 13.
- “Overcapacity and Post-Scarcity: An Interview with Aaron Benanav,”  
*3AM Magazine* (online), October 21, 2021.
- “Was wir brauchen ist kollektive Kontrolle über die Investitionen,”  
*Die Wochenzeitung*, September 30, 2021, Supplement “Zukunft,” pp. 4-5.
- “Die Roboter nehmen uns die Jobs nicht weg,” *Jacobin Deutschland* 5,  
Summer 2021, pp. 71-77.
- “Karl Marx ist ein Theoretiker der Deindustrialisierung,” *Jungleworld*,  
February 4, 2021, p. 17.
- “Automatiseringens gränser,” *Brand* (Sweden), January 2021, pp. 28-31.
- “Automação e Futuro do Trabalho,” *DigiLabour* (online), January 31, 2021.
- “The Social Movements of Our Time Are Explosive,” *New Statesman* 150/5601,  
January 8-14, 2021, pp. 16-17.
- “An Interview with Aaron Benanav,” *Believer Magazine* (online), December 9, 2020.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” *Notes from Below* (online), November 24, 2020.

### **Editorial Board**

Editorial Board Member, *International Labor and Working Class History*.

Editorial Board Member, *New Left Review*.

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

“Post-Scarcity: The Economy of the Future” (book manuscript in progress).

“Unemployment: A Global History, since 1940” (book manuscript in progress).

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2023-26	UChicago Neubauer Three-Year Grant Award, “Economic Planning and Democratic Politics: History, Theory, and Practice” (\$101,000)
2021-22	SCRIPTS Grant, “A Global History of Unemployment” (€18,000)
2021	SCRIPTS Grant, “The Essential Worker” (€5,000)
2017	University of Chicago Feminist Forum Professor Award
2016-20	University of Chicago Society of Fellows Harper-Schmidt Fellowship
2013-14	UCLA Graduate Division Dissertation Year Fellowship
2011-12	UCLA History Department Reill Fellow Pre-Dissertation Year Fellowship
2008	History Department Comprehensive Exams passed “with distinction”
2007/8	UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Summer Research Mentorship

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 “Automation and the Future of Work,” Indiana University Informatics Colloquium, Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, IU Bloomington, 12/2/22.
- “Automation and the Future of Work in the post-Covid Era” (keynote), Korean Critical Sociological Association Annual Conference, Seoul, South Korea, 11/5/22.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Korean Labor Institute, Seoul, South Korea, 11/4/22.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Department of Sociology, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, 11/3/22.
- “Markets, Planning, and the Politics of Human Need” (keynote), Marx22 Conference: Primitive Accumulation, Stockholm, Sweden, 10/29/22.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, 10/28/22.
- “Introducing Post-Scarcity Economics,” The Algorithmic Road to Socialism? A Workshop on Digital Technologies and Postcapitalist Imaginaries, English Department, Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel, Germany, 6/3/22.
- “New Directions in the Study of Work” (invited panelist), Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 4/8/22.
- “El futuro del trabajo: nuevas tecnologías, informalidad y reproducción social” (invited panelist), ¿Hacia dónde va el trabajo? Informalidad, digitalización y reproducción social

- en América Latina, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4/7/22.
- “Theory in Crisis Seminar – Post-scarcity economics: the Foundations of Life after Capitalism,” University of London Institute in Paris, France, 2/18/22.
- “Automation, the End of Work, and a New Tomorrow?” Critical Studies Programme, Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1/13-14/22.
- 2021 “Automation and the End of Work?” Bern University of the Arts, Switzerland, 12/1/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work in the Global Economy,” Past Futures of Work Conference, Working Futures, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany, 10/29/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work in the Pandemic Economy,” People, Organisations and Work Institute, De Montfort University, UK, 10/20/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work” (keynote), The Digitalization of the World of Work Conference, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, 10/13/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work in the Pandemic Economy,” Centre for Digital Cultures, Leuphana University, Germany, 6/8/21.
- “Automation and the End of Work?” Digital Futures at Work Research Centre, Sussex University, UK, 5/19/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Digitalization and Automation in Contemporary Capitalism Series, a joint project of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Federal University of Ceará, and the Unisinos University, Brazil, 4/30/21.
- “Post-scarcity economics,” Kolloquium Technologie, Gesellschaft, politische Ökonomie, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, 4/28/21.
- “Cambio tecnológico y derecho: automatización del trabajo e inteligencia artificial,” Law and Society Seminar, Colegio de Mexico, 4/21/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Rhodes Center, Brown University, 3/26/21.
- “Automation and the end of work? Labor market dynamics between innovation and Stagnation,” Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, 2/26/21.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Critical Theory Center, Humboldt University of Berlin, 1/20/21.
- “COVID-19 and Workplace Automation,” Globalization, Work and Production Research Group, Berlin Social Sciences Center, 1/13/21.
- 2020 “The History of Automation and the Future of Work,” Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, 9/28/20.
- “Automation and the Future of Work in the Global Pandemic Economy,” Fall Colloquium Series, University of Texas at Austin, 9/21/20.
- “Labor faces the Automation Question,” Political Science Colloquium, University of Delaware, 2/28/20.

- “The End of Unemployment? Economic Indicators and the Search for Social Stability” BGIE Unit, Harvard Business School, 1/30/20.
- 2019 “The Global History of Unemployment: Adventures of an Economic Concept,” Center for Liberal Arts, Webster Vienna Private University, Austria, 3/25/19.
- 2017 “A Critical History of Unemployment: From Marx to Modern Times,” Hispanic and Portuguese Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania, 11/17/17.
- “A Global History of Unemployment: The Historical Adventures of an Economic Concept,” Critical Social Theory at McGill, McGill University, Canada, 11/6/17.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Radical Futures Series, International Institute for Research and Education, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 9/7/17.
- “Demography and Dispossession: Explaining the Growth of the Global Informal Proletariat,” International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 9/5/17.
- “The End of Unemployment? The ILO Confronts the Global Jobs Deficit, 1945-1995,” Grass Humanities Institute, Johns Hopkins University, 4/26/17.
- 2016 “Too Many People or Too Few Jobs: A Critique of Political Demography after 1950,” Institute for Humanities Research, UC Santa Cruz, 2/17/16.
- “A World without Work: The Global Jobs Crisis in Historical Perspective,” Global Studies Department, UC Santa Barbara, 1/19/16.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “The Meddlers: Jamie Martin in conversation with Aaron Benanav and Adom Getachew,” *Phenomenal World*, 11/21/22.
- “Sta finendo il lavoro così come lo abbiamo conosciuto? Aaron Benanav in conversation with Greta Sclaunich,” Milano Digital Week, Milan, Italy, 11/13/22.
- “Automazione e futuro del lavoro: Aaron Benanav in conversation with Antonio Casilli,” Biennale Tecnologia, Turin, Italy, 11/12/22.
- “Strategic Responses to Digital Transformation” (panel discussion), Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, Seoul, South Korea, 11/4/22.
- “Political Economy of Digital Technology” (panel discussion), Inspiration Forum, Prague, Czechia, 10/27/22.
- “Automation and the End of Work?” Digital Discourses: Science/Fiction, Goethe-Institut Indonesien, Center for Digital Society, Jakarta, Indonesia, 10/27/22.
- “Socialist Investment, Dynamic Planning, and the Politics of Human Need,” Socialism: Rationality and Distribution Workshop, Freie Universität Berlin, 7/1/22.
- “Automation and the Future of Work,” Culturitical, Hansa48 Social Center, 6/2/22.
- “Socialist Investment, Dynamic Planning, and the Politics of Human Need,” Socialist Futures, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, 5/26/22.

- “Roundtable: Keynes and Keynesianism Reconsidered,” University of Chicago Paris Center, France, 5/7/22.
- “Unemployment, Automation, and Post-Scarcity Economics,” Work, Economy and Social Policy Club, Hertie School, Berlin, 2/10/22.
- “Covid-19 and Its Afterlives: The Future of Work,” with Aaron Benanav and Grace Blakely, NYU Skirball Center in collaboration with *n+1* and Verso, 1/13/22.
- 2021 “Automatisierung und die Zukunft der Arbeit,” Die Vierte Sache, Volksbühne Roter Salon, with the support of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, 12/17/21.
- “Geht Uns die Arbeit Aus?” Kosmopolitics hosted by *Wochezeitung*, Zürich, 11/29/21.
- “Futuring the Liberal Script #4: Automation and the Future of Work” (book launch event for the German translation), SCRIPTS Berlin, 10/18/21.
- “Automation, the End of Work, and a New Tomorrow?”  
Unsound Festival 2021: Deep Authentic, Krakow, Poland, 10/15/21.
- “Automation, the End of Work, and a New Tomorrow?”  
Terrestrial Forum: Horizons of Change, Ministry of Space, Belgrade, Serbia, 8/26/21.
- “Open Topics: The Making of the Global” (session presider), Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association, 8/8/21.
- “Post-Scarcity Economics,” Transmediale Summer Camp: For Refusal, Germany, 7/7/21.
- “Beyond the Future of Work” (keynote panel), Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, University of Texas at Austin, 5/24/21.
- “Reimagining Futures of Work” (keynote panel), sponsored by Nordic Talks, Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland, 4/28/21.
- “Technology, Automation, and Socialist Strategy” (panel discussion),  
Online Speaker Series, *Science & Society*, 4/3/21.
- 2020 “The Pandemic Economy & the Future of Work,” Covid Capitalism Series, School of Labor and Urban Studies, City University of New York, 11/19/20.
- “A discussion about Automation and the Future of Work,”  
with Katrina Forrester and Tim Barker, *n+1*, 10/15/20.
- “Welfare, Labor, Re-Allocation,” SCRIPTS: Contestations of the Liberal Script, Opening Conference, Freie Universität, Berlin, 2/8/20.
- 2019 “The Green New Deal and the Future of Work in America,”  
Center for Work and Democracy, Arizona State University, 11/1/19.
- “Abundance is a Social Relation,” Speculative Design: Post-Petroleum Utopias, 3CT, University of Chicago, 5/31/19.
- “In What Sense is the End of Work a New Beginning?” Capitalism and Social Theory: A Conference in Memory of Moishe Postone, University of Chicago, 4/12/19.
- 2018 “The History of Automation and the Future of Work,”  
History of Capitalism Workshop, University of Chicago, 11/15/18.

- “Production and Profit in an Overcrowded World Economy,”  
Social Science History Conference, Phoenix, AZ, 11/10/18.
- “The Logic of Gender: Social Reproduction in the Global Economy,”  
Tong Saam Social Center, Hong Kong, 10/26/18.
- “The Construction of a Globally Operational Concept of Unemployment UN,”  
International History Workshop, Columbia University, 9/26/18.
- 2017 “Demography and Dispossession: Explaining the Growth of the Global Informal  
Proletariat,” Social Science History Conference, Montreal, CA, 11/4/17.
- “Unemployment on the World-Scale: The ILO and the Limits of Unemployment,”  
History of Capitalism Workshop, University of Chicago, 10/10/17.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, Syracuse University, 2022-**

Automation and the Future of Work (Spring 2023), instructor of record.

Sociological Theory (Fall 2022, Spring 2023), instructor of record.

### **Collegiate Assistant Professor, Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2016-2020**

The Global History of Unemployment (Spring 2018), instructor of record.

Power, Identity, Resistance (Fall 2016-2020), instructor of record.

### **Lecturer, History Department, University of California, Los Angeles, 2016**

World History since 1760 (Spring 2016), instructor of record.

### **Lecturer, College Nine, UC Santa Cruz, 2011-2015**

International and Global Issues (Fall 2011-Fall 2015), instructor of record.

### **Teaching Fellow, History Department, UCLA, 2008-2009**

Psychoanalysis and Social Theory (Spring 2009), instructor of record.

History of Modern Thought (Fall 2008 & Winter 2009), teaching assistant.

### **Teaching Assistant, History Department, UCLA, 2007-2008**

Social Knowledge and Social Power (Winter 2008).

Introduction to Western Civilization, Ancient Civilizations to A.D. 843 (Fall 2007).

### **Teaching Assistant, German Department, UCLA, 2007-2008**

Figures who Changed the World (Winter 2007 & Spring 2008).

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association

Social Science History Association

Working Futures Research Network (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)



New Directions in the Study of Work (Humboldt Universität / University of Toronto)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Academic Coordinator, Research Unit “(Re)-Allocation, Exzellenzcluster “SCRIPTS: Contestations of the Liberal Script,” Humboldt Universität, 2020-22

Resident Head, Stony Island House, The University of Chicago, 2019-2020

Co-Chair, Society of Fellows, The University of Chicago, 2017-18

Faculty Advisor, Social Theory Workshop, The University of Chicago, 2017-18

Administrator, UCLA Center for Social Theory and Comparative History, 2015-16

Member, Committee to Revise Core Curriculum, UC Santa Cruz, College Nine, 2015

## **Theses Supervised**

Lukas Müller-Wünsch, Freie Universität, “The Economic Calculation Problem in the Age of Climate Crisis,” MA Thesis Advisor, 2022

Christian Montagu, Freie Universität, “On the Political Prospects of UBI - A Sociological Approach,” MA Thesis Advisor, 2022

Dr. Patrick Madden, UC Santa Cruz, “The Concept of Population in Anglo-Scottish Political Economic Thought: Origins, Ideology, and Critique,” Committee Member, 2020

Keaton Boyle, UChicago MAPSS Program, “Selling Privacy: Competing Digital Privacy Concepts in Big Tech,” MA Thesis Advisor, 2019

## **Peer Reviews**

Reviews conducted for *Journal of Global History*, *International Review of Social History*, *International Labor and Working Class History*, *Futures*, *Critical Historical Studies*, *European Sociological Review*, *Historical Materialism*

## **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

English (fluent)

German (reading)

Spanish (reading)

French (reading)