

Aaron Benanav

Curriculum Vitae

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EMPLOYMENT

Syracuse University, 2022-

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Senior Research Associate, Autonomous Systems Policy Institute
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

Book Projects

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

Translations

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

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

자동화와 노동의 미래 (Chaeksesang, 2022).

后稀缺：自动化与未来工作 (China Translation & Publishing House, 2022).

L'automatisation et le futur du travail (Éditions Divergences, 2022).

Forthcoming in Japanese, Italian, Turkish, and Russian.

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

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

Journal Articles

“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).

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.

Other Print Publications

“American Unemployment: Past, Present, and Future” (review), *Labor* 18, 4, 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

- “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*.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2021	SCRIPTS Grant, “A Global History of Unemployment” (€18,000)
	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 “Introducing Post-Scarcity Economics,” 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 “Automation and the Future of Work,” Culturitical, Hansa48 Social Center, 6/2/22.
- “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 *Wochenzeitung*, 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+I*, 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-
Sociological Theory (Fall 2022), 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

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Peer Reviews

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

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

German (reading)

Spanish (reading)

French (reading)