

Brooklyn College  
Department of Philosophy  
**Sprague & Taylor Annual Lecture**

FEATURING...

JASON STANLEY  
*A Theory of Practice*

ABSTRACT

A desideratum of a theory of practice is thus that it not *rob the agency* of those who engage in it. I extend work I have done with John Krakauer on the nature of skill to the nature of practice. On the resulting account, which I contrast with Bourdieu's habitus, engaging in a practice manifests agency, the capacity to do otherwise. It elucidates the role of responsibility involved in complicity in a practice. Finally, it allows us to recognize the role that violence plays in the restriction of agency in practice.

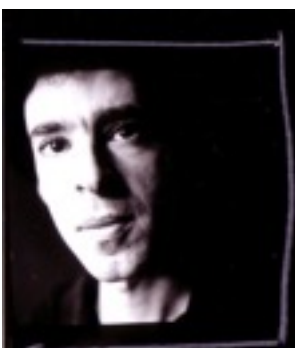
**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

**2:30-4:00pm**

Jefferson-Williams Auditorium, SUBO

**JASON STANLEY**

YALE UNIVERSITY



Jason Stanley is the Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. Before coming to Yale in 2013, he was Distinguished Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Rutgers University. He has also been a Professor at the University of Michigan (2000-4) and Cornell University (1995-2000). His PhD was earned in 1995 at the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at MIT (Robert Stalnaker, chair), and he received his BA from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1990.

Professor Stanley has published four books, two in epistemology, one in philosophy of language and semantics, and one in social and political philosophy. His first book is *Knowledge and Practical Interests* published in 2005 by Oxford University Press. It was the winner of the 2007 American Philosophical Association book prize. Professor Stanley's second book, *Language in Context*, also OUP, was published in 2007. This is a collection of his papers in semantics published between 2000 and 2007 on the topic of

linguistic communication and context. His third book, *Know How*, was published in 2011, also with OUP. Professor Stanley's fourth book, *How Propaganda Works*, was published by Princeton University Press in May, 2015. It was the winner of the 2016 PROSE award for the subject area of philosophy.