

Boris Litvin

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Reitemeyer Visiting Assistant Professor (August 2024 –)

Department of Political Science

Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

Visiting Instructor (August 2022 – June 2024)

Ancient Studies and General Education

Stetson University, Deland, FL

Visiting Assistant Professor (August 2020 – May 2022)

Adjunct Professor (August 2019 – May 2020)

Department of Political Science

University of California, Santa Cruz

Lecturer (Winter 2019)

Department of Politics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, June 2019

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Exam Fields: Political Theory (Strong Pass), Comparative Politics (Distinction)

Dissertation: “Spectators, Crowds, Citizens, Men in General, and *You*, Madame: Political Theory and the Politics of Audience”

Committee: Mary G. Dietz (Chair), James Farr, Dilip Gaonkar (Rhetoric and Public Culture), David Lay Williams (Political Science, DePaul University)

B.A. in Political Science (High Distinction), May 2011

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“‘This Hearing Should be Flipped’: Democratic Spectatorship, Social Media, and the Problem of Demagogic Candor,” *American Political Science Review* 117.1 (Feb 2023)

“Authoring Machiavelli: Barbara Salutati, *La Mandragola*, and the Performance of Political Theory,” in *The Wives of Western Philosophy: Gender Politics in Intellectual Labor*, ed. Jennifer Forestal and Menaka Philips (Routledge, 2021).

“Staging *Emile*: Audience and Genre in Collective Self-Legislation,” *The Review of Politics* 81.3 (Summer 2019).

“Mapping rule and subversion: Perspective and the democratic turn in Machiavelli scholarship,” *The European Journal of Political Theory* 18.1 (January 2019).

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Boris Litvin on Spectatorship, Memes, and Rousseau”
Virtual Sentiments Podcast episode with Kristen Collins (22 November 2023)

“What Jean-Jacques Rousseau can teach us about Twitter”
New Statesman (20 January 2020)

WORK IN PROGRESS

You the People: Political Theory and the Construction of Popular Audiences
Book Manuscript in Preparation

“The Flickering and often Weak Light of Biography: Arendt on Authority and Authorship”

“Judging Like a State: Facticity, Security, and Wit in Locke’s *Letter Concerning Toleration*”

“Demagogic Aesthetics: Problematizing ‘Claim-Making’ in Political Representation”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Intellectual History; Democracy; Spectatorship; Representation; Collective Action;
Political Authority; Inequality; Rhetoric; Media; Aesthetics; Textual Interpretation

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“On Demagogic Reason: Representation, Spectatorship, and Populist Rhetoric”
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Accepted for September 2024)

The Association for Political Theory Annual Conference
Blacksburg, VA (Accepted for November 2024)

- “Understanding the War in Gaza”
Political Science Panel Discussion at Eckerd College
Saint Petersburg, FL (November 2024)
- “You the People: Political Theory and the Construction of Popular Audiences”
Book Proposal Workshop
The Association for Political Theory Annual Conference
Schenectady, NY (October 2023)
- “Constructing without Convincing: Rousseau and Political Representation”
Midwest Political Science Association Conference
Chicago, Illinois (April 2023)
- “Machiavellian Democracy and the Appearance of Firsthand Experience”
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Seattle, Washington (September 2021)
- Monsters, Amazons, and Bodies Politic: New Work on Hobbes (Chair and Discussant)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Seattle, Washington (September 2021)
- “Authoring Machiavelli: Barbera Salutati and *La Mandragola*”
The Wives of Western Philosophy Book Talk (with Jennifer Forestal and Menaka Philips)
Political Science Department Women in Politics Group
Stetson University, Deland FL (March 2021)
- “Theorizing Empowered Spectatorship”
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Washington, DC (August 2019)
- The Association for Political Theory Annual Conference
Irvine, CA (October 2019)
- “Authoring Machiavelli: Barbara Salutati, *La Mandragola*, and Princely Autonomy”
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Boston, MA (September 2018)
- Author Meets Critics: Jennet Kirkpatrick's *The Virtues of Exit* (Discussant)
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference
Chicago, IL (April 2018)
- “Rereading *Emile*: Audience and Genre in Collective Self-Legislation”
Western Political Science Association Conference
San Francisco, CA (March 2018)

“The Flickering and often Dim Light of Biography: Arendt on Action and Authorship”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

San Francisco, CA (September 2017)

“To keep Persuading without Convincing: Rousseau’s Lawgiver and Democratic Theory”

The Association for Political Theory Annual Conference

Columbus, OH (October 2016)

“To keep Persuading without Convincing: Rousseau’s Lawgiver and Democratic Theory”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA (September 2016)

“Between Subject and Magistrate: Judgment, Wit, and Locke’s *Letter Concerning Toleration*”

Western Political Science Association Conference

San Diego, CA (March 2016)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Instructor

Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

Spring 2023/24: Ancient Greek History and Political Thought (AS 231H)

Spring 2023: Assembling “the People” (First Year Seminar)

Fall 2022/23: Human Experience (First Year General Education)

Fall 2022: Imagining Justice (Senior Year General Education)

Autumn 2022/23: Machiavelli: Power, Deception, and Self-Rule (First Year Seminar)

Visiting Assistant Professor

Stetson University, Deland, FL

Fall 2021: Democrats and Republicans (Poli 190)

Spring 2021/Spring '22: Democracy and Political Participation (Poli 427V)

Spring 2020/Fall '20/Spring '21/Fall '21/Spring '22: Intro to Pol Theory (Poli 290)

Fall 2020: Senior Research (Poli 499)

Fall 2020/Fall 2021: Western Political Thought: Classical (Poli 323V/Phil 307V)

Fall 2019/Spring '21: Western Political Thought: Modern (Poli 324V)

Fall 2019/Spring '20/Fall '20/Spring '21/Spring '22: Am. National Gov't (Poli 101)

Political Science Lecturer

University of California, Santa Cruz

Winter 2019: Ancient Political Thought

Political Science Instructor

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Summer 2018: Introduction to Political Theory

Philosophy Instructor

The Odyssey Project at Illinois Humanities, Chicago, IL

Spring 2017: Introduction to Political Philosophy

Spring 2016: Machiavelli's Political Thought

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Writing Fellowship (Cook Family Writing Program)

Northwestern University (2016-2017)

Catalyst Grant (The Graduate School)

To organize the graduate conference "The Crisis of Collectivity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Political Theory"

Northwestern University (November 2016)

Event Co-sponsorship (Buffett Institute; Kaplan Institute for the Humanities)

To organize the graduate conference "The Crisis of Collectivity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Political Theory"

Northwestern University (November 2016)

Minar Memorial Summer Award (Department of Political Science)

To organize the graduate reading group "Republicanism"

Northwestern University (May 2015)

Distinction (Department of Political Science)

Second Year Paper: "Mapping Rule and Subversion: Perspective and the

Democratic Turn in Machiavelli Scholarship" (readers: Mary G. Dietz, Lars Tønder)

Northwestern University (March 2014)

Department Summer Funding Grant (Department of Political Science)

To organize the graduate reading groups "Hobbes" and "Language and Politics"

Northwestern University (May 2013; May 2014)

Rhetoric and Public Culture Cluster Fellow

Northwestern University (October 2012)

University Fellowship

Northwestern University (2012 – 2013; 2016-2017)

SERVICE AND CERTIFICATES

Co-chair, “Political Thought: Historical Approaches” Section

Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (March 2022)

Co-organizer, Northwestern University Graduate Student Conference

“The Crisis of Collectivity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Political Theory,” featuring Jason Frank as Keynote Speaker (November 2016)

Co-chair, Northwestern Political Theory Graduate Student Workshop (2015-2017)

Co-organizer, Northwestern Political Theory “Up the Street” Speaker Series (2016-2017)

Guest speakers included David Lay Williams (DePaul University), John McCormick (University of Chicago), Charles Mills (Northwestern University), Jennifer Nash (Northwestern University), and Demetra Kasimis (University of Chicago)

Organizer, Northwestern Political Theory Graduate Summer Reading Groups

“Republicanism” (2015); “Hobbes” (2014); “Language and Politics” (2013)

Teaching Certificate, Northwestern Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching (2016)

LANGUAGES

English and Russian (bilingual fluency), French (proficient), Italian (beginning)