

Alex P. Levitov

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Politics, Princeton University (in progress, expected Spring 2012)

Dissertation: *Legitimacy as Self-Determination*

Advisors: Charles R. Beitz, Alan Patten, Stephen J. Macedo

M.A. in Politics, Princeton University, 2009

Examination Fields: Political Theory; Public Law; Moral Philosophy

GPA: 3.9/4.0

B.A. in Social Studies (High Honors, *Phi Beta Kappa*), Wesleyan University, 2007

GPA: 3.95/4.0

Thesis: "Political Legitimacy in Pluralistic Societies"

Readers: J. Donald Moon (advisor), Brian Fay, John E. Finn

RESEARCH

Dissertation

Legitimacy as Self-Determination

Abstract: My dissertation develops a novel approach to the question of legitimate political authority in the global context of moral and religious pluralism. I argue that states' internal authority to rule over their own citizens, and their claim against external interference from the international political order, derive largely from a single normative source: the value of collective self-determination. While drawing on recent developments in the philosophy of human rights, my project defends an account of self-determination that departs from the conventional understanding of that idea in international law and practice. What results is a context-sensitive theory of political legitimacy that can simultaneously guide action for those subject to a particular regime, as well as define the limits of international toleration for other states and the emergent system of global governance.

Working Papers (*abstracts and drafts available upon request*)

"Political Legitimacy and Respect for Agency"

“On the Presumption against Humanitarian Intervention”

“Practices and Predispositions in Consequentialist Ethics”

“Who Interprets? Who Constructs? Notes on Balkin’s Originalism”

Research and Professional Experience

Editorial Assistant, *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 2011-Present; manage submissions database; compile and analyze submissions and turnaround statistics for annual publication; edit page proofs prior to publication

Research Assistant, Professor Corey L. Brettschneider (Brown University and Lawrence Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellow, Princeton University Center for Human Values), 2011; edited and fact-checked manuscript of undergraduate constitutional law casebook

Research Interests

Political legitimacy and authority; democratic theory; constitutional theory and philosophy of law; American constitutional development; modern social and political thought; critical theory; liberalism and its critics; theories of property; normative ethics and moral psychology; and international political theory

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Assistant-In-Instruction (3 sections), “Democratic Theory,” Professor Philip Pettit, Princeton University, 2010; delivered guest lecture synthesizing historical and contemporary readings

Assistant-in-Instruction (3 sections), “Introduction to Political Theory (Plato to Mill),” Professor Rahul Sagar, Princeton University, 2009

Preceptor (3 sections), “The Emergence of Modern Europe (1789-1945),” Professor Erik Grimmer-Solem, Wesleyan University, 2006-2007

Additional Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Mentor, Undergraduate Certificate Program in Values and Public Life, Princeton University, 2010-2011

Writing Mentor, “Modern Social Theory (Hobbes to Freud),” Professor Cecilia Miller, Wesleyan University, 2005

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2010-2011
Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University, 2007-2011
Merit Prize, Princeton University Center for Human Values, Fall 2007
High Honors, College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007
Phi Beta Kappa, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007
David Morgan Prize, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007
Frederick and Edith Davenport Study Grant, Summer 2006
Student Fellow, University of Chicago/Max Planck Institute Conference on the History of the Human Sciences, October 2006
High Distinction, Departmental Written and Oral Comprehensive Exams, College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University, Spring 2005

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Paper Presenter, "Consent and Contract" Panel, Canadian Political Science Association, June 2010
Committee Co-Chair, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2010-2011
Panel Chair, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2008-2011
Referee, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2008-2011
Member, American Political Science Association, 2007-2011

LANGUAGES

English
French (basic reading proficiency)

REFERENCES

Charles Beitz
Edward S. Sanford Professor of Politics
Princeton University
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Alan Patten
Professor of Politics
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Stephen Macedo

Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and the University Center for Human Values

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Philip Pettit

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Donald Moon

Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Professor in the College of Social Studies and Professor of Government

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