

Ariel Helfer

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Employment History

Wayne State University, Assistant Professor (beginning Fall 2017)
Michigan State University, Assistant Professor–Fixed Term (2015-2017)
The University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Instructor (2013-2015)

Education

University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D. in Government, 2015
University of Texas at Austin, M.A. in Government, 2013
Kenyon College, B.A. in Political Science and Physics, *Magna cum Laude* and with Highest Honors and Distinction in Political Science, 2008

Areas of Specialization

Ancient Political Theory

Platonic Political Philosophy
Political Ambition in the Greek Polis

Statistical Methodology

Measurement of Learning in Informative
Political Processes
Mathematical Foundations of Econometric
Methods

Areas of Competence

American Constitutional Principles
(Ratification Debates, Tocqueville)
Foundations of Liberal Constitutionalism
(Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu)
History of African American Political
Thought (Douglass, DuBois, Baldwin)
Late Modern Critiques of Enlightenment
Thought (Rousseau, Nietzsche)

Event Count Distributions

Books

Socrates and Alcibiades: Plato's Drama of Political Ambition and Philosophy
Forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press (Spring 2017).

Plato's Letters: The Political Challenges of the Philosophic Life
In preparation. (Full translation of and commentary on Plato's *Letters*).

Articles Under Review

“Socrates’ Political Legacy: Xenophon’s Socratic Characters in *Hellenica* I and II.” *Revise and Resubmit (American Journal of Political Science)*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, November 12-14, 2015.

“The Corruption of a Love of Democracy: What Alcibiades Learned from Socrates.” *Revise and Resubmit (Leadership and the Humanities)*. Presented MPSA 2013, Chicago, IL.

Articles in Preparation

- “The Apology of Plato: Approaching the Platonic *Letters* as an Epistolary Novel.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016.
- “The Philosophic Defense of ‘Virtue’: Socrates’ Adventures in Athenian Quicksand in *Cleitophon* and *Republic*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association, Boston, MA, November 10-12, 2016.
- “Measuring Learning in Informative Processes,” with Robert C. Luskin and Gaurav Sood. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 7-10, 2016.

Other Conference Presentations

- “Ambition Corrupted and Intoxicated: Alcibiades’ Retrospective Speech in Plato’s *Symposium*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014.
- “Event Count Analysis vs. Item Response Theory: A Comparative Investigation,” with Tse-Min Lin, Etsuhiro Nakamura, and Dorothy Morgan. Presented at the Asian Political Methodology Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, January 6-7, 2014.
- “Journey to the Paradox of the Noble: the Philosophic Core of Plato’s *Alcibiades*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 12-15, 2012.
- “Variations on the Extended Beta Binomial Distribution” with Tse-Min Lin and Dorothy Morgan. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, Washington, September 1-4, 2011.
- “Socratic Beginnings: An Interpretation of the Socratic Biography in Plato’s *Phaedo*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Antonio, TX, April 21-23, 2011.
- “Diotima as Socratic Piety.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, March 31 - April 3, 2011.

Teaching Experience

Michigan State University (Visiting Assistant Professor), 2015-17

Political Ambition in Plato (Graduate Seminar), Quantitative Techniques in Public Policy and Political Science I (Graduate Seminar), Classical Political Philosophy, American Political Theory, Introduction to Political Philosophy

University of Texas (Instructor), 2013-15

Classical Quest for Justice, American Constitutional Principles, Core Texts in American History and African American Political Thought

Intro to Mathematics for Pol. Scientists (Organizer, Instructor), 2010-14 (UT), 2015-16 (MSU)

1-2 week summer “Math Camp” workshop in algebra, functions, calculus, linear algebra, and statistical inference for incoming graduate students, with additional sessions for advanced graduate students

Invited Speaking Engagements

“Ancient Philosophy vs. Modern Science: Why I Chose Plato over Physics” delivered to students and faculty of the Concourse program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA on November 10th, 2016.

Honors and Awards

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2014
Earhart Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2012-2013
Jefferson Center Graduate Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2010-2012
Malcolm Macdonald Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2009-2010
John Chestnut Memorial Prize (Political Science), Kenyon College, 2008
Summer Science Scholarship, Kenyon College, 2006
Elbe H. Johnson Prize (Physics), Kenyon College, 2005
James P. Storer Scholarship, Kenyon College, 2005-2008
Distinguished Academic Scholarship, Kenyon College, 2004-2008

Foreign Languages

French: Spoken (fluent), written (good)
Ancient Greek: Excellent reading knowledge
German: Studied at Goethe Institute, Berlin, Summer 2011

References

Political Theory

Thomas Pangle, Professor, Joe R. Long Chair in Democratic Studies, UT Austin
Email: tpangle@austin.utexas.edu, Phone: (512) 232 1529

Devin Stauffer, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin
Email: dstauffer@austin.utexas.edu, Phone: (512) 232 1462

Arthur Melzer, Professor, Michigan State University
Email: melzer@msu.edu, Phone: (517) 355 6597

Methodology

Robert Luskin, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin
Email: rcluskin@austin.utexas.edu, Phone: (512) 232 7230

Charles W. Ostrom Jr., Professor, Department Chair, Michigan State University
Email: ostromc@msu.edu, Phone: (517) 355 6602