

Trevor Latimer

Curriculum Vitae

Dartmouth College
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APPOINTMENTS

- 2016- Postdoctoral Fellow, Dartmouth College
Department of Government & Political Economy Project
- 2015-16 Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Associate, University of Georgia
Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

- 2015 **PhD—Politics.** Princeton University.
Dissertation: *The Localist Tradition in America*
Committee: Melissa Lane, Stephen Macedo, Paul Frymer
- 2012 **MA—Politics.** Princeton University.
Exam Fields: Political Theory, American Politics, Ethics
Program in Political Philosophy
- 2011 **MA—Political Science.** UCLA.
Qualifying Paper: “The Illusion of Contract: Hobbes and the Necessity of Paternal Dominion.” Supervisor: Joshua Dienstag
- 2008 **BA—Economics and Political Science.** *Minor:* Philosophy. UCLA.
Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Against Subsidiarity.” *The Journal of Political Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- “Plural Voting and Political Equality: A Thought Experiment in Democratic Theory,”
European Journal of Political Theory (forthcoming),
doi: 10.1177/1474885115591344.
- “Vetoes in the Early Republic: A Defense of Norms,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*
(forthcoming, Dec. 2017), doi: 10.1111/psq.12382.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book Project

Localism: An American Tradition and Its Discontents

This book reconstructs and critiques the tradition of *localism* in the United States. Localism is the preference for, or in the disposition in favor of, what is near and small as opposed to what is distant and large in the political world. Part One introduces the subject matter and distinguishes localism from several closely related concepts such as federalism, decentralization, and devolution. I argue that localism has three distinct but related dimensions: dispositional, instrumental, and ideological. In Part Two, using this analysis, I construct and interpret a series of historical cases: Anti-Federalism in the 1780s, Stephen Douglas’s “doctrine of popular sovereignty” in the 1840s and 1850s, and the debate over school desegregation (especially busing) in the 1960s and 1970s. In Part Three, I use insights drawn from the case studies in Part Two to assess the desirability of localism in contemporary politics. First, I argue that localism, in its most plausible form, is not an independent value; it is better understood a proxy for other important interests and values that are conditionally, but not categorically, promoted by assigning political authority to lower-level units. Second, I argue that localism, in its ideological form, has pernicious effects in democratic politics.

Part One. Introduction and Concepts

Chapter 1: Localism in American Political Thought, Development, and Culture

Chapter 2: Isolating Localism Conceptually

Part Two. An American Tradition

Chapter 4: Localism in Anti-Federalist Political Thought

Chapter 5: Stephen Douglas, Localism, Popular Sovereignty, and Slavery in the Territories

Chapter 6: The Ideology of Local Control in American Education

Part Three. Its Discontents

Chapter 7: Is Localism an Ethical Mistake?

Chapter 8: Whither Localism?

Articles

“The Principle of Subsidiarity: A Democratic Interpretation” (revised and resubmitted, *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*)

“Stephen Douglas’s Self-Deception: Popular Sovereignty in the Territories” (draft complete)

“Aristocracy in America: Tocqueville’s Theory of White Privilege” (with Jennie Ikuta, University of Tulsa; draft complete)

“The Illusion of Contract: Hobbes and Paternal Dominion” (draft complete)

“Adam Smith, the Anti-Federalists, and the Circles of Sympathy”

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2018 International Adam Smith Society, January 12-13 (scheduled)
Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Viña del Mar, Chile
“Adam Smith, the Anti-Federalists, and the Circles of Sympathy”
- 2017 Association for Political Theory, Ann Arbor, Oct. 12-14 (scheduled)
“Aristocracy in America: Tocqueville’s Theory of White Privilege”
- 2017 American Political Science Association, San Francisco, Sep. 3
“Aristocracy in America: Caste, Whiteness, and Interracial Sympathy”
- 2017 Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, Apr. 14
“Aristocracy in America: Caste and the Failures of Interracial Sympathy”
- 2016 Political Economy Project, Dartmouth College, Oct. 17
“The American Revolution: No Better than Brexit?”
- 2016 American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Sep. 1
“Stephen Douglas’s Self-Deception: Popular Sovereignty in the Territories”
- 2016 Western Political Science Association, San Diego, Mar. 26
“Against Subsidiarity: Subsidiarity as Ideology”
- 2015 Department of Political Science, University of Georgia, Dec. 2
“Vetoes in the Early Republic: Changing Norms *and* Electoral Reform”
- 2015 American Political Science Association, San Francisco, Sep. 3
“The Ideology of Local Control in American Education Policy”
- 2015 London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Government
LSE-Princeton Political Theory Workshop, May 7
“The Ideology of Local Control in American Education Policy: A Normative Assessment”
- 2015 New England Political Science Association, New Haven, Apr. 24.
“Localism in Anti-Federalist Political Thought”
- 2015 Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, Apr. 4.
“Localism, Popular Sovereignty, and Slavery in the Territories, 1820-1861”
- 2010 Canadian Political Science Association, Montreal, Jun. 8
“The Illusion of Contract: Hobbes and the Necessity of Paternal Dominion”

Comments

- 2017 Dartmouth College, Workshop on Economic Justice, Aug. 3-4
Comments on Alex Gourevitch, “The Right to Strike”
- 2016 Western Political Science Association, Mar. 25
Chair and Discussant, Panel on “Democratic Reason and Decision Making”

- 2015 Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Comments on Rebecca Ploof, “The Automaton, the Actor, and the Sea Serpent: Leviathan and the Politics of Metaphor”
- 2012 Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Comments on Johann Frick, “What We Owe to the Hypocrites: Moral Contractualism and the Speaker-Relativity of Justification”
- 2011 Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Comments on Govind Persad, “Inclusive Institutions and Relational Equality”
- 2009 UCLA, Political Theory Workshop
Comments on Jerry Gaus, “Recognized Rights as Devices of Public Reason”

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2017 Nominated for the Best Dissertation Award in American Political Thought
American Political Science Association
- 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities
Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers
“Exploring American Democracy with Alexis de Tocqueville as Guide”
- 2016 American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Visiting Scholars Program
Finalist
- 2010-15 Princeton University, Graduate Fellowship
- 2015 Princeton University, Department of Politics
Stafford Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant
- 2015 Princeton University, University Center for Human Values
Political Philosophy Graduate Student Research and Travel Grant
- 2013-14 Princeton University, University Center for Human Values
Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship
- 2010 Princeton University, University Center for Human Values
Merit Prize
- 2008-10 UCLA, Chancellor’s Prize Fellowship
- 2008-09 UCLA, Regent’s Fellowship
- 2008 UCLA, Department of Economics
Certificate of Academic Excellence (GPA > 3.9 in major)

TEACHING

Courses

Instructor, Dartmouth College, Department of Government

- 2018 Localism in America

- 2017 American Political Thought (with Russell Muirhead)
- 2017 American Conservatism
- 2016 American Political Thought (with Russell Muirhead)

Instructor, University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

- 2016 Contemporary Political Thought
- 2015 Special Topics in Political Theory: Federalism and Its Critics

Assistant in Instruction, Princeton University, Department of Politics

- 2015 American Politics (with Paul Frymer)
- 2014 Modern Political Thought (with Charles Beitz)
- 2013 American Political Thought (with Alan Ryan)

Teaching Assistant, UCLA, Department of Political Science

- 2010 Game Theory and Formal Modeling (with Kathleen Bawn)
- 2010 Game Theory and Formal Modeling (with Barry O'Neill)
- 2009 Democratic Theory (with Carole Pateman)

Advising Experience

- 2013-15 Princeton University, University Center for Human Values
Undergraduate Certificate Program in Values and Public Life
Student Mentor

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Conference Organization

- 2011-15 Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Paper Referee
- 2013 Princeton University, Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Co-organizer

Invited Talks

- 2013 Princeton University, Department of Politics, Oct. 24
“Practical Advice on Preparing a Dissertation Prospectus”
Invited Speaker

Administrative Experience

- 2016 University of Georgia, American Founding Group
Coordinator

Reading Groups Organized

2016 Dartmouth College, Political Economy Project
Democracy for Realists, by Larry Bartels

2013-14 Princeton University
The Human Condition, by Hannah Arendt

Journal Referee

American Political Thought

Constellations

Croatian Journal of Philosophy

Political Research Quarterly

Public Choice

REFERENCES

Melissa Lane
Class of 1943 Professor of Politics & Director, University Center for Human Values
Princeton University
130 Corwin Hall
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Stephen Macedo
Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics & University Center for Human Values
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Professor of Political Science
University of Georgia
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Robert Clements Professor of Democracy and Politics and Professor of Government
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