

NASSER BEHNEGAR
Boston College
Department of Political Science
Chestnut Hill, MA

Academic Positions

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, June 2003.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 1996-2003.

St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Tutor, Graduate Institute, 1996 (part-time).

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 1994-1995.

Carthage Post-Doctoral Fellow in The Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy, 1993-1994.

Education

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Ph.D., Committee on Social Thought, December 1993.

Dissertation: "Leo Strauss's Critique of Historicism."

M.A., Economics (concentration in Industrial Organization), June 1985.

B.A., Economics, with general honors, June 1985.

Publications

"Locke, Capitalism, and the Bible," in *Enlightenment and Secularism*, edited by Christopher Nadon, under review at Columbia University Press.

"Max Weber," *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by George T. Kurian, CQ Press, 2010.

"Historicism," *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by George T. Kurian, CQ Press, 2010.

"Reading *What is Political Philosophy?*" *Perspectives on Political Science*, April-June 2010.

"Leo Strauss and Social Science," *Cambridge Companion to Leo Strauss*, edited by Steven Smith, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

“Leo Strauss,” In *New Makers of Modern Culture*, edited by Justin Wintle, Routledge, 2007 .

“Review of Relativism and the Foundations of Liberalism,” in *Perspectives on Politics*, 2005.

“Review of *Architects of Annihilation: Auschwitz and the Logic of Destruction*,” *Claremont Review of Books*, February 2005.

Leo Strauss, Max Weber, and the Scientific Study of Politics, The University of Chicago Press, 2003.

“The Political and Theological Psychology of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*.

“The Intellectual Legacy of Leo Strauss (1899-1973),” *The Annual Review of Political Science*, 1998.

“Leo Strauss's Confrontation with Max Weber: A Search for a Genuine Social Science,” *The Review of Politics*, Winter 1997. Reprinted in *Max Weber*, edited by Peter Lassman, Ashgate, 2006.

“The Liberal Politics of Leo Strauss,” in *Political Philosophy and the Human Soul*, edited by Michael Palmer and Thomas Pangle, Rowman & Littlefield, 1995.

Work in Progress

Tough Liberals: Freedom in a Hostile World, a book length study.

“Who is Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*?”, completed in November 2010.

Research Grants

Earhart Foundation, 2010-2011, 20% supplement for a sabbatical leave.

Earhart Foundation, 2000 Spring semester, full funding for a leave of absence.

John M. Olin Foundation, 1998-99, John M. Olin Fellow, full funding for a leave of absence.

Research Interests

The Philosophical Foundations of Liberalism: 17th and 18th Century English Political Philosophy; Shakespeare's Political Thought; the Crisis of Modern Social Science; Islamic Political Philosophy

Service

Chair, the Political Science Department's Steering Committee.

Director of the MA program, Department of Political Science, Boston College.

Placement Officer, Department of Political Science, Boston College.

Member of the Committee for Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, Boston College.

Member of the Advisory Board, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Minor, Boston College.

Member of a panel reviewing applications for Collaborative Research grants, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2009.

Acting Director of the graduate program, 2004-2005, Department of Political Science, Boston College.

New England Political Science Association. Program Chair, 2001 Annual Meeting.

Executive Council, New England Political Science Association, 2001-2004.

Co-director of the Honors Program, Department of Political Science, Boston College, 1997-1998, 1999-2003.

Conferences and Presentations

Boston College, October 2010, co-organizer with Robert Faulkner of "a Rousseau Fest," a symposium in honor of the completion of Rousseau's *Collected Writings*, edited by Christopher Kelly and Roger Masters.

American Political Science Association, September 2010, discussant on a panel the idea of growth in classical political philosophy.

Earhart Foundation, March 2010, Conference on Traditions of Political Economy.

Boston College, Bradley Lecture series, April 2010, respondent to Wayne Ambler's paper on Aristophanes' *Birds*.

Claremont McKenna College, December 2009, Conference on Leo Strauss's *Natural Right and History*.

Assumption College, October 2009, Conference on Love and Honor in Shakespeare, presented "Brutus as Shakespeare's Hero."

Claremont McKenna College, June 2008, Conference on the Enlightenment and Secularism, presented "John Locke's teaching on Property."

Boston College, May 2008, Panel on the State of Political Theory

Boston College, Bradley Lecture series, September 2007. A response to David Bolotin's Introduction to Plato's *Sophist*.

American Political Science Association, September 2007. "Epistemology and Freedom."

New England Political Science Convention, May 2007. Roundtable on Thomas Pangle's *Leo Strauss: An Introduction to his Thought and Legacy*.

Boston College, Department of Philosophy's Workshop on Themes in Modern Philosophy, April 2006, presented "Epistemology and Freedom of Mind."

St. John's College, Santa Fe, September 2005, presented "Faith and Knowledge: The Problem of Causality in David Hume and Al-Ghazali."

Southern Political Science Convention, January 2005, presented "The Project of the Enlightenment in Arabian Nights."

Boston College, Bradley Lecture series, "What is Enlightened Muslim Thought?" A response to Abdou Filali Ansari.

Harvard University, Department of Government's Political Theory Colloquium, April 2002, presented "Political Science in the Age of Relativism."

University of Chicago, May 2001, participant in a conference on "*Natural Right and History*: Contexts and Subtexts."

New England Political Science Association, May 2001, chair and discussant on a panel on "Philosophy and Political Science."

Michigan State University, April 2001, presented "On the place of Strauss's Discussion of Weber in *Natural Right and History*" in a conference on "Leo Strauss's *Natural*

Right and History: A Reassessment.”

Boston College, April 2000, discussant in a symposium on religion and politics sponsored by the political science department.

American Political Science Association, September 2000, presented “Leo Strauss and Friedrich Nietzsche” on a panel on “Leo Strauss and German Thought.”

St. John's College, November 1999, presented “The Challenge of Modern Social Science To Strauss’s Return to Classical Political Philosophy” in a conference on “The Obstacles to Strauss’s Attempt to Return to Classical Political Philosophy.”

American Political Science Association, September 1999, presented “On the Meaning of Strauss’s Polemic Against the Scientific Study of Politics” on a panel on “Leo Strauss and the Study of Politics.”

Northeastern Political Science Association, November 1998, chair and discussant on a panel on "Morality in Different Lights."

New England Political Science Association, May 1998, discussant on a panel on Adam Smith.

American Political Science Association, September 1997, discussant on a panel on Machiavelli.

New England Political Science Association, May 1997, discussant on a panel on “Allan Bloom's *Love and Friendship*.”

New England Political Science Association, May 1996, presented "What Can We Learn from Max Weber's Relativism?" on a panel on “The Problem of Twentieth Century Relativism.”

Languages

Persian

German, reading knowledge.

Classical Greek

Latin