

Washington, DC Political Theory Colloquium
Alan Levine, Founder and President
Speakers List for 2011 – 2012

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

John Tomasi on "Free Market Fairness: A Libertarian Argument for Social Justice"

John Tomasi is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Brown University. He is the founding director of the Political Theory Project, a research center at Brown University. He received his B.A. from Colby College, his M.A. from the University of Arizona, and his B. Phil., D. Phil. from Oxford University. He has had previous appointments at Princeton, Stanford, and Harvard Universities. A specialist in political thought, he has twice been awarded University prizes for excellence in undergraduate teaching. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, Tomasi is author of *Liberalism Beyond Justice: Citizens, Society and the Boundaries of Political Theory* (Princeton University Press, 2001) and *Free Market Fairness* (Princeton University Press, 2012). Based on his forthcoming book, his talk will draw simultaneously on moral insights from defenders of economic liberty such as F. A. Hayek and advocates of social justice such as John Rawls to present a new theory of liberal justice. This theory, free market fairness, is committed to both limited government and the material betterment of the poor.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Michael Davis on "The Soul of the Law: On Plato's Minos"

Michael Davis is Professor of Philosophy at Sarah Lawrence College, where he has taught since 1977, and has taught at Dickinson College, Alfred University, Wesleyan University, The Graduate Faculty of the New School University, and Fordham University. He is the author of *Ancient Tragedy and the Origins of Modern Science* (1988), *The Poetry of Philosophy: On Aristotle's Poetics* (1992), *The Politics of Philosophy: A Commentary on Aristotle's Politics* (1996), *The Autobiography of Philosophy: Rousseau's The Reveries of the Solitary Walker* (1999), *Wonderlust: Ruminations on Liberal Education* (2006). He is the translator, with Seth Benardete, of Aristotle's *On Poetics* (2002) and has written on a variety of philosophers from Plato to Heidegger, and of literary figures ranging from Homer and the Greek tragedians to Saul Bellow and Tom Stoppard. His most recent book is *The Soul of the Greeks: An Inquiry* (2011).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH (CANCELLED)

Gary McDowell on John Marshall, Joseph Story, and the Moral Foundations of Republican Constitutionalism (Cancelled)

Gary McDowell is a professor of Political Science and Law at the University of Richmond.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

Matthew Holbreich on "Montesquieu's Philosophy of Freedom"

Matthew Holbreich is the Political Theory Institute's inaugural postdoctoral fellow. He earned his Ph.D. in 2011 from the Department of Political Science at Notre Dame University. His dissertation, "Tocqueville and the French Tradition of Political Liberty," provides a novel reading of liberty and sovereignty in Rousseau, Constant, Guizot, and Tocqueville. Holbreich has a masters degree from the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris, 2006) and a B.A. from Tufts University (2005). As an undergraduate, he spent a semester each at Karls-Eberhart Universität (Tübingen, Germany, Spring, 2004) and at the Université de Paris, Sorbonne I and IV (Fall, 2003). Holbreich has been awarded a Lilly Presidential Scholarship from Notre Dame (2006-11), an Institute for Humane Studies Scholarship (2010-11), and a Tufts University Class of 1942 Prize (2005), granted to the three students most likely to become outstanding university professors. He has also won two national essay contests: the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society Penniman Scholarship (2004), awarded to four students nationwide, and the ISI Weaver Fellowship for best essay on education and a free society (2011). Since 2005 he has presented papers at twelve professional conferences, and in 2010-11 he worked as an editorial intern for the Review of Politics. In addition to revising his dissertation, Matthew is currently completing a two article series on the political and religious thought of Abraham Lincoln. In Fall 2011, he is teaching "American Political Thought," and in Spring 2012 he will lead a seminar (GOVT 496/696) entitled "Freedom."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Lise van Boxel on "Nietzsche's Science of Souls"

Lise van Boxel is a tenured Tutor in the interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Program at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. Professor van Boxel is the author of two essays on Nietzsche in *Prefaces for Unwritten Works* (St. Augustine's Press, 2005), and contributed "Nietzsche in Eden" to *The Pious Sex* (Lexington Books, 2010). She is currently finishing a manuscript, entitled *Nietzsche, Nihilism, and The Good*, in which she offers a new, comprehensive interpretation of Nietzsche's philosophy that aims to demonstrate—contrary to mainstream Nietzsche scholarship—that Nietzsche does think there is such a thing as a supreme good that is trans-historical and trans-political. This manuscript focuses on three of Nietzsche's books: *Beyond Good and Evil*, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Dr. van Boxel has received two fellowships from the Jack Miller Center. Her B.A. is from The University of Toronto, her M.A. in Political Theory from Boston College, and her PhD in Political Theory from The University of Toronto.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Desmond Jagmohan on "Between Liberation and Freedom: Booker T. Washington and the Struggle to Complete the Work of Emancipation"

Desmond Jagmohan is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Theory in the Department of Government at Cornell University. He works in the areas of American, African-American, and modern political thought, with a primary interest in the historical relationship between race and the liberal and republican traditions in America. He is currently writing a dissertation that reconstructs and reinterprets the political thought of Booker T. Washington and his place in American political thought. Desmond has presented several papers on African-American and American political thought at national conferences and has delivered public lectures on Booker T. Washington. Prior to graduate school, Desmond served eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve with several stints on active duty. Currently, Desmond is a Graduate Fellow at Cornell in Washington, where he is completing his dissertation and researching at the Library of Congress. During the Spring 2012 semester he is teaching a class, "Political Theory and Race," at AU.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Philip B. Lyons on "Statesmanship in Reconstruction: What the Moderate Republicans Were For"

Phillip B. Lyons taught at several universities and worked on the Hill before serving on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is the author of "Arthur Jenson, IQ, and Intellectual Desire," *The Political Science Reviewer* (1994) and "An Agency with a Mind of Its Own: The EEOC Guidelines and Employment Testing," *New Perspectives* (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1984), as well as several U.S. Government reports, including "The Origins and Early Development of Affirmative Action" (1986); "The Origin of Protected Groups" (1986); and "The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Intent of the Framers of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" (1984). He is currently writing a book, *Statesmanship in Reconstruction: What the Moderate Republicans Were For?*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH

Wilfred McClay on "Tocqueville's Moment and Ours"

Wilfred M. McClay is SunTrust Bank Chair of Excellence in Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga since 1999. He is a Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, and Senior Fellow of the Trinity Forum, and has been, since 2002, a member of the National Council for the Humanities, the advisory board of the National Endowment for the Humanities. His books include *The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America* (North Carolina, 1994), which won the 1995 Merle Curti Award of the Organization of American Historians for the best book in American intellectual history; *The Student's Guide to U.S. History* (ISI Books, 2001), and *Religion Returns to the Public Square: Faith and Policy in America* (Johns Hopkins, 2003) and *Figures in the Carpet: Finding the Human Person in the American Past* (Eerdmans, 2006).

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

PTI hosted a one-day conference: "Whither American Education?" Speakers included:

John Agresto, President emeritus of St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM;
Richard Barth, CEO of the KIPP schools;
Chester Finn, Fordham Foundation and former Assistant US Secretary of Education;
G. Borden Flanagan, American University;
William Galston, Brookings Institution;
Paul Hill, University of Washington & Founding Director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education;
Meira Levinson, Harvard University;
Bob Nardo, founding Chief Operations Officer at the Tennessee Achievement School District;
Andy Rotherham, Education Sector and EduWonk.

MONDAY, APRIL 9TH

Clifford Orwin on "Compassion and the Promise of Democracy: Some Reflections on Rousseau and Tocqueville."

Clifford Orwin is a Professor of Political Science, Fellow of St. Michael's College, and the Director of the Program in Political Philosophy and International Affairs at the University of Toronto. He has also taught as a visitor at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Michigan State University as well as at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Lisbon. He teaches the history of political thought, with emphasis on classical, early modern, and Jewish political thought. Orwin is author of *The Humanity of Thucydides* (Princeton, 1994) and co-editor (with Nathan Tarcov) of *The Legacy of Rousseau* (University of Chicago Press, 1997). He has published dozens of articles and chapters on a wide variety of topics in ancient and modern political thought as well as on current political issues such as humanitarianism and the role of religion in politics. He has also published as a journalist in a variety of newspapers and periodicals. His work has been translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, and Hebrew. Current projects include articles on Herodotus, Montesquieu, Churchill, the Book of Esther, and the Jewish Hellenist Flavius Josephus, and a book for the general public on the role of compassion in modern political life and thought. Orwin received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University and his B.A. from Cornell University. He is the recipient of three NEH Fellowships, a Faculty of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, and a St. Michael's College Teacher of the Year Award.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

David Brooks, *New York Times* Op-Ed Columnist, on "Human Beings as Social Animals: The Natural Basis of Sympathy, Culture, and Character"

Each day's news brings new findings from the world of brain research, behavioral economics, psychology and the study of the human mind. But what do all these findings add up to? They add up to a new view of human nature and a new vision of how people succeed. For most of the past century, we have seen ourselves as homo sapiens-as thinking creatures separated from other animals by our ability to use logic and reason. In fact, we are primarily social animals, separated from the other animals by our sophisticated abilities to form relationships. Deep below the level of awareness, there are

vast, powerful regions of the mind that enable us to bond, sympathize, detect patterns in society and build cultures and character.

David Brooks became an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* in September 2003. he has been a senior editor at *The Weekly Standard*, a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and the *Atlantic Monthly*, and he is currently a commentator on "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer." He is the author of *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There* and *On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense*, both published by Simon & Schuster. In March of 2011, he came out with his third book, *The Social Animals: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*, published by Random House. Mr. Brooks joined *The Weekly Standard* at its inception in September 1995, having worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for the previous nine years. His last post at the *Journal* was as op-ed editor. Prior to that, he was posted in Brussels, covering Russia, the Middle East, South Africa and European affairs. His first post the *Journal* was as editor of the book review section, and he filled in for five months as the *Journal's* movie critic. His distinguished history of contributions to publications include: *The New York*, *the Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *The Public Interest*, *the TLS*, *the New Republic* and *Commentary* among others. He is also a frequent commentator on National Public Radio, CNN's Late Edition and the "Diane Rehm Show." Mr. Brooks is the editor of the 1996 anthology *Backward and Upward: the New Conservative Writing*. Born on August 11, 1961 in Toronto, Canada, Mr. Brooks graduated with a bachelor of history from the University of Chicago in 1983. Immediately afterwards, he became a police reporter for the City News Bureau, a wire service owned jointly by the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun Times*.