

**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.

**Books**

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

Chinese translation of *Leo Strauss, Max Weber, and the Scientific Study of Politics*, Hermes, 2010.

**Edited Volumes**

Leo Strauss, *Historicism and Modern Relativism*, edited with a Preface, Leo Strauss Center, forthcoming in electronic form and to be submitted to the University of Chicago Press for print publication.

## Articles

“John Locke’s Ambiguous attitude toward nature,” in *John Locke and the Dawn of Liberalism*, Mercer University Press, to be submitted.

“Review of *Leo Strauss on Political Philosophy*, in *Perspectives on Political Science*, 2020, vol.2.

“Liberalism and Christianity: Locke’s use of the Bible in the *Second Treatise*,” in *Civil Religion and Modern Political Philosophy*, edited by Steven Frankel and Martin Yaffe, Penn State University Press, 2020.

“Review of *Toward Natural Right and History*, in *Review of Politics*, Fall 2019.

“Review of *The Heart of the Declaration: The Founder’s Case for an Activist Government*,” in *Early American Literature*, 53:1, 230-33.

“Leo Strauss’s Decisive Reply to Alexandre Kojève,” in the *Strauss- Kojève Debate*, edited by Bryan-Paul Frost and Timothy Burns, SUNY, 2016.

“Leo Strauss’s Second Statement on Locke,” in *Principles and Prudence in the History of Western Political Thought*, edited by Christopher Lynch and Jonathan Marks, SUNY, 2016.

“Review of *The Religious Origins of American Freedom and Equality: a Response to John Rawls*,” in *Journal of Church and State*, Fall 2015.

“Leo Strauss, Carl Schmitt, and a return to Premodern Philosophy,” in *Reorientation: Leo Strauss’s Rediscoveries in 1930s*,” edited by Richard Ruderman and Martin Yaffe, Palgrave, 2014.

“Who is Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar?” In *Shakespeare and the Body Politic*, edited by Bernard Dobski and Dustin Gish, Lexington Press, 2013.

“Locke, Capitalism, and the Bible,” in *Enlightenment and Secularism*, edited by Christopher Nadon, Lexington Press, 2013.

“Reading *What is Political Philosophy?*” in *Leo Strauss’s Defense of the Philosophic Life: Reading What is Political Philosophy?*, edited by Rafe Major, University of Chicago Press, 2012.

“John Locke and the Sober Spirit of Capitalism,” *Society*, 1/ 2012.

Polish translation of “Brutus as Shakespeare’s Hero,” *Kronos* 3 (18) / 2011.

“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.

“The Political and Theological Psychology of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2002.

“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.

## **Awards**

“2013 Outstanding Academic Title,” *Choice Magazine*, given to *Defense of the Philosophic Life: Reading What is Political Philosophy?*

## **Work in Progress**

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

## **Grants**

Thomas W. Smith Foundation, 2020, a one year grant in support of Boston College’s John Marshall Program.

Thomas W. Smith Foundation, 2112-2114, a 3 year grant supporting graduate education.

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**

Director of the MA program, Department of Political Science, 2018-present.

Member of the Graduate Education Policy Committee.

Member of the Advisory Board, Islamic Civilization and Societies Major, Boston College.

Member of the Academic Integrity Committee, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston College.

Director of the Graduate Program, Department of Political Science, 2011- 2017.

University Core Development Committee, Boston College, 2011-2014.

Director of the MA program, Department of Political Science, Boston College, 2007-2010.

Placement Officer, Department of Political Science, Boston College, 2005-2010.

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

A. V. Elliot Conference on Great Books and Ideas, Mercer University, November 2020, “John Locke’s Ambiguous Attitude Toward Nature.”

Salvatori Center Program on Leo Strauss, Claremont McKenna, June 2020, led two sessions on Strauss’s *Natural Right and History*.

Salvatori Center Program on Leo Strauss, Claremont McKenna, Summer 2019, led two sessions on Strauss’s *Natural Right and History*.

Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2018, “The Testament of the State of Nature.”

Salvatori Center Program on Leo Strauss, Claremont McKenna, Summer 2018, led two sessions on Strauss’s *Natural Right and History*.

Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2016, “Locke on Aristotle, Hedonism, and the Good Life.”

American Political Science Association, September 2013, “On Bloom’s *The Closing of the American Mind*.”

Harvard University, September 2012, “On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Closing of the American Mind*.”

Concordia University, Montreal, November 2011, “Lessons from Locke’s State of Nature.”

Wellesley College, October 2011, “John Locke and the Sober Spirit of Capitalism.”

American Political Science Association, September 2011, “On the Reality of Locke’s State of Nature.”

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