

# JEFFREY A. LENOWITZ

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY • DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS • OLIN-SANG 206  
WALTHAM • MASSACHUSETTS, 02453 • (404) 822 7393 • LENOWITZ@BRANDEIS.EDU

---

## EMPLOYMENT

---

**Brandeis University, Department of Politics** Waltham, MA  
Meyer and W. Walter Jaffe Assistant Professor January 2014 - Present

**Nuffield College, University of Oxford** Oxford, UK  
Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow September 2012 – December 2013

---

## EDUCATION

---

**Columbia University, Department of Politics** New York, NY  
Ph.D (with distinction), Major: Political Theory, Minor: International Relations. February 2013  
Dissertation: *Why Ratification? Questioning the Unexamined Constitution-Making Procedure*  
Advisors: Jon Elster and Melissa Schwartzberg

**University of Virginia** Charlottesville, VA  
B.A., Political & Social Thought Honors Program, Philosophy (minor) May 2005

---

## PUBLICATIONS

---

“On the Empirical Measurement of Legitimacy.” *Political Legitimacy. NOMOS LVIII*. Edited by Jack Knight and Melissa Schwartzberg. New York: New York University Press, forthcoming.

“Insomnia and Other Constitutional Pathologies” (Review of Richard Tuck’s *The Sleeping Sovereign*). With Melissa Schwartzberg. *Modern Intellectual History*. 1-14. Doi:10.1017/S1479244317000361

“A Trust that cannot be Delegated’: The Invention of Ratification Referenda.” *American Political Science Review* 109, no. 4: 2015, 803-816.

“Review of *A Theory of Militant Democracy: The Politics of Combatting Political Extremism*, by Alexander Kirschner.” *Journal of Politics* 77, no. 4: 2015, e1-e2.

“Why Ratification? Constituent Power & the Unexamined Process.” *Le Pouvoir Constituant et l’Europe*, edited by Olivier Cayla and Pasquale Pasquino. Paris: Dalloz Press, 2011.

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Democratic theory; constitutional theory and design; legitimacy; history of political thought; punishment; jurisprudence; representation; obligation; global justice; decision-making procedures

---

**AWARDS & OTHER FELLOWSHIPS**


---

Research Circle on Democracy Grant	Spring 2018
Theodore and Norman Junior Faculty Research Leave	Fall 2017
Meyer and W. Walter Jaffe Assistant Professor of Politics	Spring 2017 - Present
Norman Award for Faculty Research, Brandeis University	Summer 2016, 2015, 2014, Fall 2014
Warden's Visiting Scholar, Nuffield College, University of Oxford	Summer 2014
MA Degree, University of Oxford	September 2014
Mellon Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellow, ISERP, Columbia University	Fall 2010 – Spring 2012
Edith C. Black Fellow, Columbia University	Fall 2010 – Spring 2012
Katerina Alevizaki Dracopoulos Summer Fellowship, Columbia University	Summer 2011
Teaching Fellow, Columbia University	Spring 2008 – Fall 2011
Faculty Fellow, Columbia University	Fall 2007 – Spring 2009

---

**BOOK MANUSCRIPT**


---

*Ratification without Reason: Exploring an Unexamined Constitution-making Procedure*

This book asks the question: Why should constitution-makers implement a ratification procedure? By ratification, I refer to the submission of a draft constitution to the people or their representatives for final approval in an up or down vote. This procedure is widespread and recommended, yet costly and entirely optional. Most importantly, it has never been seriously questioned. This book will be the first sustained study of the procedure.

---

**ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS**


---

"The People Cannot Choose a Constitution: Constituent Power's Inability to Justify Ratification Referendums." *Out for review.*

"Legitimate Constitutions and their Creation."

---

**WORKING PAPERS**


---

"Why Democratic Constitution-Making?"

"The People Say 'No': Understanding the Popular Rejection of U.S. State Constitutions."

"Condorcet and the 1780 Massachusetts' Constitutional Convention"

---

 INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS
 

---

<i>Too Uninformed to Speak: Ratification Referendum &amp; Constituent Power</i> Harvard Political Theory Workshop	Cambridge, MA January 19, 2018
<i>Too Uninformed to Speak: Ratification Referendum &amp; Constituent Power</i> Ashoka University Political Science Seminar Series	New Delhi, India September 27, 2017
<i>Political Legitimacy &amp; the Law</i> Meeting of the American Society for Political & Legal Philosophy	Kansas City, Missouri March 3, 2017
<i>Do the People Speak? Ratification Referenda and Constituent Power.</i> Political Theory Workshop at CIDE	Mexico City, Mexico October 17, 2016
<i>Do the People Speak? Ratification Referenda and Constituent Power.</i> University of Maryland Discussion Group on Constitutionalism	Baltimore, Maryland March 4, 2016
<i>Condorcet and the 1780 Massachusetts' Constitutional Convention</i> Nuffield College Conference in Honor of Iain McLean	Oxford, UK January 16, 2016
<i>Can We Operationalize Constituent Power?</i> Universität Hamburg Political Theory Colloquium	Hamburg, Germany June 22, 2015
<i>Creating Legitimate Constitutions: The Possible Role of Procedures</i> Facts & Norms in European Political Theory	Copenhagen, Denmark August 22, 2013
<i>Creating Legitimate Constitutions: The Possible Role of Procedures</i> Nuffield Political Theory Workshop	Oxford, UK January 28, 2013
<i>Justification from Representation</i> Columbia University Political Theory Workshop	New York, NY October 6, 2010
<i>Justifying Constitutional Ratification through Representation</i> Mellon Graduate Fellows Seminar, Columbia University	New York, NY December 3, 2010
<i>Trapped Within the Nation-State: Problems in the International Use of</i> <i>Jürgen Habermas' Conception of Human Rights</i> Recent Continental Theory Seminar, Columbia University	New York, NY April 8, 2010
<i>Why Let the People Speak Twice? Ratification and the Constituent Power</i> Le Pouvoir Constituant et l'Europe, Collège de France	Paris, France December 12, 2008

---

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


---

<i>Legitimizing Constitutions through Design</i> American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Boston, MA August 30, 2018
<i>Do the People Speak? Justifying Ratification Referendum</i> American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Philadelphia, PA September 2, 2016
<i>Procedural Legitimacy and Constitution-making</i> Association for Political Theory 2014 Conference	Madison, Wisconsin October 16-17, 2014
<i>Creating Legitimate Constitutions: The Possible Role of Procedures</i> Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy IV	Braga, Portugal May 21, 2013
<i>The Domain of Constituent Power: The Berkshire Constitutionalists Explain Ratification</i> Association for Political Theory 2011 Conference	Notre Dame, IN October 14, 2011
<i>The Domain of Constituent Power: The Berkshire Constitutionalists Explain Ratification</i> American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Seattle, WA September 3, 2011
<i>Rejected by the People: U.S. State Constitutional Conventions in the 1960s &amp; 1970s</i> Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting	Vancouver, BC March 2009
<i>Rejected by the People: U.S. State Constitutional Conventions in the 1960s &amp; 1970s</i> Political Science Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University	New York, NY April 2008
<i>Obedience at the Time of Necessity: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Theory of Resistance</i> Western Political Science Association	San Diego, CA March 2008

---

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**


---

**Brandeis University**

Introduction to Political Theory (undergraduate)	Spring 2014, 2015, 2017
Democratic Theory (undergraduate/graduate)	Spring 2016, 2017, Fall 2018
Civil Liberties in America (undergraduate)	Fall 2015, Fall 2016, 2018
Legal Theory Seminar (undergraduate/graduate)	Spring 2015, Fall 2016
Global Justice Seminar (undergraduate/graduate)	Fall 2014, Spring 2016
Constitutional Theory & Design Seminar (undergraduate/graduate)	Spring 2014, Fall 2015
The Supreme Court Colloquium (undergraduate)	Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

**Columbia University**

Judicial Politics, T.A. for Professor Jeffrey Lax	Fall 2011
Modern Political Thought, T.A. for Professor Melissa Schwartzberg	Spring 2010

Global Justice & Democracy, T.A. for Professor Jean Cohen	Fall 2009
Problems in Democratic Theory, T.A. for Professor Melissa Schwartzberg	Spring 2009
History of Human Rights, T.A. for Professor Itai Sneh	Summer 2009
Introduction to Human Rights, T.A. for Professor Andrew Nathan	Spring 2008, Fall 2008
Constitutional Law (Summer Program), Instructor	Summer 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

---

#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

---

**Reviewer for:**

Journal of Politics; Polity; Political Research Quarterly; Political Science Quarterly; Constitutional Studies; American Politics Research; and Res Publica

**APA Eastern Division Conference**

Chair, *Author Meets Critics: "Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination"* Savannah, GA  
January 6, 2018

**APSA Annual Conference**

Chair, *Law's Transfixing Categories* Various Locations  
October 2018  
Discussant, *Comparative Constitutionalism* September 2016  
Discussant, *Constitutions, Elections, and the Legitimacy of Non-Democratic Regimes* August 31, 2014

**Brandeis University**

*Advising & Other Politics Department Activities* Waltham, MA  
Undergraduate Honors Program Director Fall 2016, Present  
Graduate Co-Supervisor (Jeremy Cynamon) Present  
Dissertation Committee Member (Yasser Kureshi) Present  
Honors Thesis Advisor Fall 2016-Present  
Kay Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee Member Spring 2015  
Dissertation Committee Member (Jinmin Lee) April 2014

*Other*

History of Ideas Program, Board Member Fall 2014 - Present  
Panel Member, "Rule of Law, Politics, Equality, and the Law." March 9, 2017  
Panel Member, "What to Expect from the Trump Presidency" January 25, 2017  
Panel Member, "America in the Election Mirror" October 27, 2017  
Discussant, "Law and Forgiveness," Luncheon Seminar for Martha Minow February 25, 2016  
Conference Organizer, *Threats, Free Speech, & Law in the Internet Age: Elonis V. US* December 2, 2014

**Nuffield College, University of Oxford**

Oxford, UK  
Deputy Dean of Degrees Michaelmas 2013  
Personnel & Domestic Committee, Member Michaelmas 2013

**Columbia University Political Theory Workshop**

New York, NY  
Graduate Student Coordinator Spring 2011-Spring 2012

**Zuckerman Conference at the Mellon Biennial, ISERP**  
Discussant, *Panel 5: What Constitutes Work? Social and Individual Welfare*

New York, NY  
April 8, 2010

**"Varieties of Majority Rule," Maison Français, Columbia University**  
Graduate Student Conference Coordinator

New York, NY  
November 7 - 8, 2008

**Melissa Schwartzberg, Columbia University**  
Research Assistant

New York, NY  
June 2007 - September 2007

---

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

---

American Political Science Association; American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy; American Philosophical Association; Association for Political Theory; International Conference for the Study of Political Thought