

# Alex Levitov

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### **Stanford University**

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Center for Ethics in Society, 2013-Present

## EDUCATION

### **Princeton University**

Ph.D. in Politics, 2013

Dissertation: *Legitimacy as Self-Determination*

Committee: Charles R. Beitz (chair), Alan Patten, Stephen J. Macedo, Anna Stilz

M.A. in Politics, 2009

Examination Fields: Political Theory, Public Law, and Moral Philosophy

### **Wesleyan University**

B.A. in Social Studies (High Honors, *Phi Beta Kappa*), 2007

## RESEARCH

### **Book Project**

*Sovereignty and Self-Determination: A Theory of International Legitimacy*

Abstract: This book develops an interpretation and defense of the ideal of collective self-determination that departs from the prevailing voluntarist and nationalist accounts. After articulating the reasons we have to value self-determination, I consider the relative strength of these considerations alongside other, potentially competing reasons for action, such as those given by violations of human rights and shortfalls from social justice. The central claim of the book is that reasons of self-determination are of sufficient weight to ground certain familiar rights of national sovereignty, even on the part of some states that fail to meet the full demands of global political morality. While my proposal would accord self-determining societies a significant degree of autonomy over their internal political affairs, I show that this ideal is nevertheless consistent with, and may in fact require, a substantial role for global governance institutions in a number of key domains.

## **Publications**

“Human Rights, Self-Determination, and External Legitimacy” (forthcoming in *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*)

“Human Rights, Membership, and Moral Responsibility in an Unjust World: The Case of Immigration Restrictions” (co-authored with Stephen J. Macedo; forthcoming, with a reply by Seyla Benhabib, in *Human Rights: Moral or Political?* ed. Adam Etinson, Oxford University Press)

## **Working Papers**

“A Morality Internal to Politics: Toward a Realist Theory of Legitimacy” (under review)

“The Justice-Based Theory of Legitimacy: A Realist Critique” (in preparation)

“Justice and Beneficence in Non-Ideal Theory: A Statist Approach” (in preparation)

## **Conference Presentations**

“Justice, Beneficence, and the Problem of Immigration Restrictions”

Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, April 2014

Discussant, Panel on “Elections and Popular Control”

Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, April 2014

“Human Rights, Self-Determination, and External Legitimacy”

Stanford Political Theory Workshop (invited presentation), March 2014

“Toward a Realist Theory of Legitimacy”

Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, April 2013

“Human Rights, Collective Autonomy, and Foreign Intervention”

American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2012 (canceled)

“Human Rights, Collective Autonomy, and Foreign Intervention”

Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, April 2012

“Political Legitimacy and Respect for Agency”

Harvard University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, October 2011

“Legitimacy beyond Consent: State Justification in Context”

Canadian Political Science Association annual meeting, June 2010

## **Research Experience and Other Professional Service**

Referee, *Political Theory*, 2014-Present

Editorial Assistant, *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 2011-2013

Interim Program Coordinator, Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2013

Research Assistant, Corey L. Brettschneider (Department of Political Science, Brown University), 2011

Committee Co-Chair, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2010-2011

Panel Chair, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2008-2011  
Referee, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2008-2012  
Member, American Political Science Association, 2007-2014

## TEACHING

### **Courses Taught**

As Primary Instructor:

*Global Justice* (co-taught with Patrick Taylor Smith), Stanford University, Spring 2014

As Teaching Assistant:

*Justice*, Professor Joshua Cohen, Stanford University, Fall 2013

*Politics in Africa*, Professor Jennifer Widner, Princeton University, Fall 2012

*Ethics and Public Policy*, Professor Stephen Macedo, Princeton University, Spring 2012

*Democratic Theory*, Professor Philip Pettit, Princeton University, Spring 2010

*Introduction to Political Theory (Plato to Mill)*, Professor Rahul Sagar, Princeton University, Fall 2009

*The Emergence of Modern Europe (1789-1945)*, Professor Erik Grimmer-Solem, Wesleyan University, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

### **Additional Teaching Experience**

Course Consultant, *Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy*, Professor Eric Roberts, Stanford University, Winter 2014

Graduate Student Mentor, Undergraduate Certificate Program in Values and Public Life, Princeton University, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Writing Mentor, *Modern Social Theory (Hobbes to Freud)*, Professor Cecilia Miller, Wesleyan University, Fall 2005

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2012-2013

Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2010-2011

Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University, 2007-2010, 2011-2012

Merit Prize, Princeton University Center for Human Values, Fall 2007

High Honors, College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007

*Phi Beta Kappa*, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007

David Morgan Prize, Wesleyan University, Spring 2007

Frederick and Edith Davenport Study Grant, Summer 2006

Student Fellow, University of Chicago/Max Planck Institute Conference on the History of the Human Sciences, October 2006

## REFERENCES

Charles R. Beitz (chair)  
Edward S. Sanford Professor of Politics  
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