

Khachaturian

Rafael Khachaturian

University of Pennsylvania
Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy
133 S. 36th St., Room 340, Philadelphia, PA 19104

rafkhach@sas.upenn.edu
(917) 518-5411
www.rafaelkhachaturian.com

EDUCATION

2017 **Indiana University**, Ph.D. Political Science.

Dissertation: *Discipline, Knowledge, and Critique: Marxist Theory and the Revival of the State in American Political Science, 1968-1989*

Committee: Jeffrey C. Isaac (Chair); William E. Scheuerman, Russell L. Hanson, William Rasch.

Stephen Eric Bronner Dissertation Award, 2018. American Political Science Association. Organized Section: New Political Science.

2009 **The New School**, M.A. Politics.

2008 **The New School**. B.A. Philosophy, Social and Historical Inquiry.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018-2019 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy
University of Pennsylvania

2017-2018 Research Associate, University Center for International Studies
University of Pittsburgh

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2018 “Bringing What State Back In? Neo-Marxism and the Origin of the Committee on States and Social Structures” *Political Research Quarterly* (forthcoming)

2018 “Statist Political Science and American Marxism: A Historical Encounter” *Contemporary Political Theory* 17: 28-48

2015 “Uncertain Knowledge and Democratic Transitions: Revisiting O’Donnell and Schmitter’s *Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*” *Polity* 47: 114-139.

Review Essays

- 2014 [“Symbols of Failure? Radical Democracy Between Past and Future.”](#) Review of Warren Breckman, *Adventures of the Symbolic: Post-Marxism and Radical Democracy*. *Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture*.
- 2013 [“Liberal Ideology and the Modern World System.”](#) Review of Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System IV: Centrist Liberalism Triumphant*. *Historical Materialism* 21: 273-288.

Book Reviews

- 2018 [“Marx as Flawed, Manic, and One of Us: A Review of Jason Barker’s *Marx Returns*.](#) *Politics/Letters*. Republished in *Jacobin*.
- 2013 [Alejandro Portes](#), *Economic Sociology: A Systematic Inquiry*. *Science and Society* 77: 275-278.
- 2009 [George Hartley](#), *The Abyss of Representation: Marxism and the Postmodern Sublime*. *Science and Society* 73: 576-578.

Translations

- 2019 Ernesto Laclau, “Marxist Theories of the State: Debates and Perspectives.” *Viewpoint*. Forthcoming.
- 2017 [“The Loss of Nicos Poulantzas: The Elusive Answer.”](#) *Legal Form*. Dec. 7.

TEACHING*University of Pennsylvania*

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Spring 2019 | Can the People Rule? Seminar in Democratic Theory |
| Fall 2018, Spring 2019 | Mitchell Center Undergraduate Seminar |

Brooklyn Institute for Social Research

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Fall 2018 | Introduction to Democratic Theory |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|

Indiana University

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Fall 2015 | Foundations of American Political Thought |
| Summer 2015 | Modern Political Thought |
| Spring 2015 | Business and Politics |
| Fall 2014 | Introduction to American Politics (Associate Instructor) |

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *The Rediscovery of the State: Postwar Liberalism and the Promise of Critical Social Science*, book manuscript in progress
 - Book Proposal Workshop, Association for Political Theory, October 20, 2018
- “Equaliberty and the Limits of the Democratic State” (article in preparation)
- “Which Dictatorship, Whose Democracy? Gene Sharp and the Politics of Nonviolent Resistance” (article in preparation)
- “Demystifying the Deep State: Toward a New Theory of a Problematic Concept” (article in preparation)
- “The Political against the State: Laclau, Poulantzas, and Radical Democracy” (article in preparation)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern and contemporary political thought; Marxism and critical theory; democratic theory; theories of the state; sovereignty and authority; history of the social sciences; democratization.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2018 “Neoliberalism, Crisis, and the Notion of the Public.” Northeastern Political Science Association. Montreal. November 8-10.
- “Equaliberty and the Limits of the Democratic State.” Association for Political Theory. Haverford and Bryn Mawr, PA. October 18-20.
- “Which Dictatorship, Whose Democracy? Gene Sharp and the Politics of Nonviolent Resistance.” American Political Science Association. Boston, MA. August 30-September 2.
- “Equaliberty and the Limits of the Democratic State.” Conference Philosophy and Social Science. Czech Academy of Sciences. Prague, CR. May 16-20.
- 2017 “Demystifying the Deep State: Toward a New Theory of a Problematic Concept.” Northeastern Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. November 9-11.
- “Between Marx and Weber: The Return to the State in American Political Science.” Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA. January 12-14.
- 2016 “Between Marx and Weber: The Return to the State in American Political Science.” Association for Political Theory. Columbus, OH. October 20-22.

- “The Political Theory and Practice of Syriza.” Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 7-10.
- “The Political Theory and Practice of Syriza.” Western Political Science Association. San Diego, CA. March 24-26.
- 2015 “The Political against the State: Laclau, Poulantzas and Radical Democracy.” American Political Science Association (Poster). San Francisco, CA. September 3-6.
- “The Political against the State: Laclau, Poulantzas and Radical Democracy.” Conference Philosophy and Social Science. Czech Academy of Sciences. Prague, CR. May 20-24.
- “Marxism and the Origins of American Political Science: A Silent Debate about the State.” Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 16-19.
- 2014 “Marxism and the Origins of American Political Science: A Silent Debate about the State.” Northwestern University Graduate Conference in Political Theory. Evanston, IL. November 7.
- “The Materiality of the State: Revisiting State Autonomy and the Base-Superstructure Problem,” Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 3-6.
- 2012 “Back to the Structure: Mobilization and Institution Formation in Developing Societies.” With Vasabjit Banerjee. Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 12-15.
- 2010 “Reconsidering the Power Debate.” Boston College Graduate Philosophy Conference. Boston, MA. March 19-20.
- 2009 “Federalism and Popular Sovereignty in the Origins of the American Republic.” Northeastern Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. November 19-21.
- “The Discourse of Universality: Cosmopolitanism, Nationalism, and the Enlightenment.” New York State Political Science Association. New York, NY.
- 2008 “Sovereignty, Violence, and the State.” Northeastern Political Science Association. Boston, MA. November 13-15.

Workshops and Invited Talks

- 2018 “Demystifying the Deep State: Toward a New Theory of a Problematic Concept.” Tri-Co Political Theory Workshop. Haverford College. Haverford, PA. December 13.
- “Marx and Neoliberalism: Continuities and Disjunctures.” Symposium on Marx and the Humanities. Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA. May 30.

“Equaliberty and the Limits of the Democratic State.” Political Theory Workshop. University of Pittsburgh. May 25.

Respondent to: Artemy Magun, “The State of the State, with Constant Reference to Lenin.” Russian History and Culture Workshop. University of Pennsylvania. April 23.

2016 “Miliband, Poulantzas, and the Problem of the Capitalist State.” Political Theory Colloquium. Indiana University. February 19.

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 American Political Science Association Travel Award.
- 2017 Indiana University Russian Studies Workshop Course Development Fellowship; American Political Science Association Travel Award; Indiana University Center on American Politics Travel Award; Southern Political Science Association Prestage-Cook Travel Award.
- 2016-2017 Dissertation Year Research Fellowship, Indiana University, College of Arts and Sciences; Indiana University College Arts and Humanities Institute Graduate Conference Travel Award; Indiana University Department of Political Science Graduate Conference Travel Award.
- 2015-2016 Indiana University Department of Political Science Graduate Conference Travel Award.
- 2014-2015 Indiana University Department of Political Science Graduate Conference Travel Award.
- 2011-2012 Graduate Leadership Award, Indiana University, Department of Political Science.
- 2011-2015 Indiana University Department of Political Science Graduate Fellowship
- 2010-2011 Max Kade Fellowship. Indiana University, Department of Germanic Studies.
- 2009 Outstanding M.A. Graduate Award. The New School, Department of Politics.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Ongoing Referee: *Constellations*; *Perspectives on Politics*.
- 2017-2018 Program Committee, Association for Political Theory.
- 2018 Panel Discussant, American Political Science Association: “Populism, Liberalism, and Democracy.”
- Panel Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association: “Analyzing Social and

Economic Power”; “Empire, State, and Resistance.”

2017 Panel Convener, Northeastern Political Science Association: “Confronting the State: Democratic Theory and Political Practice in Uncertain Times.”

Panel Chair, Northeastern Political Science Association: “Political Theory: Questions of Method.”

Panel Chair, Southern Political Science Association: “Who Rules? Structure and Inequality.”

AFFILIATIONS

Member: American Political Science Association; Association for Political Theory; Foundations of Political Theory; International Conference for the Study of Political Thought; New Political Science; Northeastern Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP and MEDIA APPEARANCES

2018 Symposium Editor, “[Democracy in Trouble?](#)” *Public Seminar*, Oct. 2.

“[Class, Identity, and a New Hegemony.](#)” *Legal Form*, Sep. 16.

“[Constitutionalism Against Revolution.](#)” *Legal Form*, Mar. 15.

Podcast interview: The Public Sphere: What is Reactionary Neoliberalism? Feb. 2.

2017 “[Poulantzas and the Juridical Constitution of the Subject.](#)” *Legal Form*, Oct. 29.

“[Normalizing the State of Emergency: France’s Recent Anti-Terror Legislation.](#)” *Public Seminar*, Oct. 12.

Podcast interview: The Dead Pundits Society: [Make State Theory Great Again.](#) Oct. 11.

Radio interview: WIUX Philosophy Hour: [Discussing the Communist Manifesto.](#)

Radio interview: KGNU Hemispheres: [Trump and the Deep State.](#) Feb. 28.

“[Ditching the Deep State.](#)” *Jacobin*, Feb. 20.

“[How to Bring Down a Dictator: Reading Gene Sharp in Trump’s America.](#)” With Jeffrey Isaac). *Dissent*, Feb. 4.

2016 “[Trump and the Anti-Establishment Fantasy.](#)” *Public Seminar*, Dec. 14.

“[On Thinking With and Against the State.](#)” *Logos*.

- 2014 “[How \(Not\) to Kill a Philosopher: On Louis Althusser.](#)” *Dissent*. Mar. 11.
“[Social Criticism and the Academy.](#)” *Contrivers’ Review*.
- 2012 “[Managing Democracy in Russia.](#)” *Dissent*. May 2.
- 2011 “[To Krakow and Back.](#)” *Dissent* 58: 53-55.
- 2010 “[State of Disorder: Russia’s Ultrnationalist Problem.](#)” *Dissent*. Dec. 27.
“[Some Remarks on Isaiah Berlin.](#)” *Dissent*. Aug. 12.
- 2009 “[The Specter of Russian Nationalism.](#)” *Dissent* 56: 19-24.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Ongoing Associate Faculty, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research
- 2011-2017 Editorial Assistant, *Perspectives on Politics*
- 2010 Editorial Assistant, Verso
- 2010 Editorial Assistant, *Constellations*
- 2008 Participant, “Democracy and Diversity Institute,” Krakow, Poland; New School for Social Research
- 2007-2008 Editorial Assistant, *Dissent*

LANGUAGES

- Russian: Native
- Spanish: Basic reading
- German: Basic reading