

JEFFREY C. ISAAC

BORN: 5/20/1957

James H. Rudy Professor of Political Science, Indiana University

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Yale University Department of Political Science, December 1983 (Dissertation: "Power: A Realist View," under the supervision of Professor Robert A. Dahl).

M.A., Yale University Department of Political Science, November 1980.

B.A., Queens College, City University of New York, June 1979.

Doctoris Honoris Causa, National School of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania, June 2018

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Summer 1999-Present: James H. Rudy Professor of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Summer 2009-May 2017: Editor in Chief, *Perspectives on Politics* (a flagship journal of the American Political Science Association; in 2017 I received APSA's Frank Goodnow Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Profession for my work).

Fall 2003-Spring 2009: Department Chair, Political Science.

Summer 2005-Summer 2009: Book Review Editor, *Perspectives on Politics*

Summer 1994-Summer 1999: Professor of Political Science, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Jewish Studies and American Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Fall 1987-Spring 1994: Associate Professor of Political Science, Adjunct Associate Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Spring 1984-Spring 1987: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Social Science Division Fordham University, Lincoln Center.

Fall 1983-Spring 1984: Instructor of Political Science, Social Science Division, Fordham University, Lincoln Center.

Fall 1982-Spring 1982: Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Queens College, City University of New York. Spring 1981: Teaching Assistant, "Political Theory Since Hobbes," Department of Political Science, Yale University.

## **BOOKS**

*Power and Marxist Theory: A Realist View* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987).

*Arendt, Camus, and Modern Rebellion* (Yale University Press, 1992; paperback, 1994).

*Democracy in Dark Times* (Cornell University Press, 1998) [*Democratia in Vremuri Intunecate* (Bucharest: Polirom Press, 2000), Romanian edition of *Democracy in Dark Times*].

*The Poverty of Progressivism: The Decline of Liberalism and the Future of American Democracy* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).

*America Through European Eyes*, Co-edited with Aurelian Craiutu (Penn State University Press, 2009).

*The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, edited by Jeffrey C. Isaac (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012) [a new edition of the text with a major Editor Introduction and four critical essays, part of the Rethinking the Western Tradition series of Yale University Press].

*#AgainstTrump: Notes from Year One* (Public Seminar Books, 2018).

## **PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**

1. "On Benton's 'Objective Interests and the Sociology of Power': A Critique." Sociology vol. 16, no. 3 (August 1982), pp. 440-44.
2. "Realism and Social Scientific Theory." Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior vol. 13, no. 3 (October 1983), pp. 301-308.
3. "After Empiricism: The Realist Alternative," in Idioms of Inquiry: Critique and Renewal in Political Theory, Terence Ball, ed., (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987), pp. 187-205.
4. "On the Subject of Political Theory." Political Theory, vol. 15, no. 4 (November 1987), pp. 639- 45.
5. "Was John Locke a Bourgeois Theorist? A Critical Appraisal of Macpherson and Tully." Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory, vol. XI, no. 3 (Winter 1987), pp. 107-29.
6. "Beyond the Three Faces of Power: A Realist View." Polity, vol. XX, no. 1 (Fall 1987), pp. 4-31. (A revised version of this paper appears in Approaches to Power, Thomas Wartenberg, ed. [State University of New York Press, 1992.]).
7. "Republicanism vs. Liberalism? A Reconsideration." History of Political Thought, vol. IX, no. 2 (Summer 1988), pp. 349-77.
8. "Dilemmas of Democratic Theory," in Power, Inequality, and Democratic Theory: Essays in Honor of Robert Dahl, Ian Shapiro and Grant Reher, eds. (Boulder: Westview Press, 1988), pp. 132-47.
9. "Arendt, Camus, and the Politics of Postmodernism." Praxis International, vol. 9, no. 1/2 (April and July 1989), pp. 48-71.

10. "Rebellion and Revolution: Albert Camus' The Rebel Reconsidered." Dissent (Summer 1989), pp. 376-84.
11. "A Behavioral Theory of Social Structure: A Critique." Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior vol. 19, no. 1 (March 1989), pp. 131-40.
12. "Why Postmodernism Still Matters." Tikkun, vol. 4, no. 4 (July/August 1989), pp. 188-92.
13. "The Lion's Skin of Politics: Marx on Republicanism." Polity, vol. XXIII (Spring 1990), pp. 59- 85.
14. "At the Margins: Jewish Identity and Politics in the Thought of Hannah Arendt." Tikkun (January/February 1990), pp. 23-26, 86-92.
15. "Socialism and its Discontents." Tikkun (March/April, 1990), pp. 99-102.
16. "Realism and Reality: Some Realistic Reconsiderations." Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior, vol. 20, no. 1 (March 1990), pp. 1-31.
17. "Conceptions of Power," in Mary Hawkesworth and Maurice Kogan, eds., Routledge Encyclopaedia of Government and Politics (London: Routledge, Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1992).
18. "Modernity and Progress." Salmagundi, no. 93 (Winter 1992), pp. 82-97.
19. "Civil Society and the Spirit of Revolt." Dissent (Summer 1993), pp.356-361.
20. "Situating Hannah Arendt on Action and Politics." Political Theory, vol.21, no. 3 (August 1993), pp.534-40.
21. "Oases in the Desert: Hannah Arendt on Democratic Politics." American Political Science Review, vol. 88, no. 1 (March 1994), pp.156-68.
22. "Adam Michnik: Politics and the Church." Salmugundi, no. 103 (Summer 1994), pp. 198-212.
23. "The End of Power?" Transition, no. 64 (Winter, 1994), pp. 148-54.
24. "Going Local." Dissent (Spring, 1995), pp. 184-88.
25. "The Strange Silence of Political Theory." Political Theory, vol. 23, no. 4 (November 1995), pp. 636-52, 681-88 [the basis of a symposium]..
26. "A New Guarantee on Earth: Hannah Arendt on Human Rights." American Review, vol. 90, no.1 (March 1996), pp. 61-73.
27. "The Meanings of 1989." Social Research, vol. 63, no. 2 (Spring 1996), pp. 291-344,

reprinted in Vladimir Tismaneanu, ed. The Revolutions of 1989 (London: Routledge, 1999).

28. "The Poverty of Progressivism: Mildly Pessimistic Thoughts on the Future of Democracy in America." Dissent (Fall 1996), pp. 40-49.
29. "Political Theory Of and In America." Political Theory, vol. 25, no. 3 (June 1997), pp. 455-463.
30. "Toward a Politics of Democratic Ambivalence." Dissent (Winter 1998), pp. 83-86.
31. "Reclaiming the Wasteland: Thinking About Land Mines and Their Eradication." Dissent (Fall 1999).
32. "Hannah Arendt as Dissenting Intellectual," in Allen Hunter, ed., Rethinking the Cold War (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998).
33. "The Calculus of Consent: The Algebra Project and Democratic Politics." Dissent (Winter 1999).
34. "Post-Impeachment Blues." Dissent (Spring 1999).
35. "American Democracy and the New Christian Right: A Critique of Apolitical Liberalism," in Ian Shapiro and Casiano-Hacker Gordon, eds., Democracy's Edges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
36. "Is the Revival of Pragmatism Practical, Or What Are the Consequences of Pragmatism?" Constellations (forthcoming, December 1999); also appearing in John Pettegrew, ed., A Pragmatist's Progress: Richard Rorty and American Intellectual History (Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming 2000).
37. "Critics of Totalitarianism," in Terence Ball and Richard Bellamy, eds. The Cambridge History of Twentieth Century Political Thought (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2000).
38. "1989 and the Future of Democracy," in Vladimir Tismaneanu and Sorin Antohi, eds., Between Past and Future: The Struggle for Democracy in Eastern and Central Europe (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2000).
39. "Responding to Hate." Dissent (Winter 2000), pp. 9-11.
40. "Intellectuals, Marxism, and Politics." New Left Review 2 (March/April 2000), pp. 111-15.
41. "The Road (Not?) Taken: Anthony Giddens, The Third Way, and the Future of Social Democracy." Dissent (Spring 2001), pp. 57-66.

42. "Thinking About the Antisweatshop Movement." Dissent (Fall 2001), 100-108, 112.
43. "We're All in this Together." Herald-Times (Thursday, September 20, 2001), A11
44. "Thus Spake Noam" [an exchange with Noam Chomsky]. The American Prospect Online (October 16, 2001). <http://www.prospect.org/webfeatures/2001/10/isaac-j-10-16.html>.
45. "Supporting the War: Thoughts on Doing Things With Words." The American Prospect Online (November 28, 2001), <http://www.prospect.org/webfeatures/2001/11/isaac-j-11-26.html> [this essay was also published on opendemocracy, a European-based site, as "What We Do With Words." opendemocracy (December 6, 2001). [http://www.opendemocracy.net/forum/document\\_details.asp?CatID=109&DocID=858&DebateID=3](http://www.opendemocracy.net/forum/document_details.asp?CatID=109&DocID=858&DebateID=3)].
46. "Hypocrisy and the Limits of Debunking It." Polity , vo. XXXIV, no. 1 (Fall 2001), pp. 31-37.
47. "Thinking About Human Rights Interventionism." Dissent (Winter 2002), pp. 138-42.
48. "Ends, Means and Politics." Dissent (Spring 2002), pp. 32-37.
49. "Hannah Arendt on Human Rights and the Limits of Exposure, or Why Noam Chomsky is Wrong About the Meaning of Kosovo." Social Research , vol. 69, no. 2 (Summer 2002), pp. 263-95.
50. "Rethinking the Cultural Cold War." Dissent (Summer 2002), pp. 54-63
51. "The Road to Apostasy." East European Politics and Societies, vol. 16, no. 2 (Spring 2002), pp. 564-71.
52. "Critics of Totalitarianism," in Terence Ball and Richard Bellamy, eds., The Cambridge History of Twentieth Century Political Thought (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 181-201.
53. "Faith-Based Initiatives: A Civil Society Approach." The Good Society, vol. 12, no. 1 (2003), pp. 1-10.
54. "Right-Wing Patriotism: What William Bennett Doesn't Understand." Dissent (Spring 2003), pp. 64-70.
55. "A Place for Democracy: The State of Civil Society." Chronicle of Higher Education (fApril 11, 2003) B12-13.
56. "Social Science and Liberal Values in a Time of War." Perspectives on Politics,

vol. 2, no. 3 (September 2004), pp. 475-83.

57. “Rethinking the Legacy of Central European Dissidence.” Common Knowledge, vol. 10, no. 1 (Winter 2004; appeared in November 2003), pp. 119-130.

58. “The Camus-Sartre Controversy,” in David S. Sprintzen, ed., Sartre and Camus: A Historic Confrontation (Humanities Press, 2005)).

59. “Albert Camus on Tragedy and the Ambiguity of Politics,” in Simona Goi and Frederick M. Dolan, eds., Between Terror and Freedom: Politics, Philosophy, and Fiction Speak of Modernity (Lexington Books, 2006), pp. 71-86.

60. “What John Dewey Learned: Reflections on Intellectual Responsibility in Time of War.” Hedgehog Review, vol. 9, no. 1 (Spring, 2007), pp. 17-31.

61. “Rethinking the Political Scientifically,” in Vladimir Tismaneanu, ed., The Promises of 1968 (Central European University Press, 2011).

62. “Reflections on Scientific Inquiry, Academic Freedom, and Enlightenment.” Journal of Chinese Political Science, v. 16, no. 3 (June 2011), pp. 243-256.

63. “Conclusion: Shades of Gray: Revisiting the Meanings of 1989,” in Vladimir Tismaneanu and Bogdan Iacob, eds., *The End and the Beginning: The Revolutions of 1989 and the Resurgence of History* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2012).

64. “Political Science and Publicity.” *Political Studies Review* (May 2013).

65. “The Mirage of Neocommunist.” *Dissent* (Summer 2013).

66. “Restructuring the Social Sciences? A Reflection from the Editor of *Perspectives on Politics*.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2014).

67. “For a More Public Political Science.” *Perspectives on Politics*, vol. 13, no. 2 (June 2015), pp. 269-83 [Note: I wrote a substantial introduction to every issue of *Perspectives*, 32 pieces over the course of my term; but this piece was a 13,000 word essay. It was not peer reviewed! But it *was* an essay and it was published!]

68. “Is There Illiberal Democracy? A Problem with No Semantic Solution.” *Eurozine* (August 9, 2017).

69. “Does Liberalism Still Have a Future?” *Los Angeles Review of Books* (November 22, 2017).

70. “Putting Liberal Democracy First.” *Dissent* (Spring 2018).

71. “Truce Time.” *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas* (Summer 2018).

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

1. "Was John Locke a Bourgeois Theorist? The Macpherson Thesis and its Critics," presented at the Annual CUNY Political Science Conference, New York, December 1981.
2. "Realism and the History of Political Thought," (jointly with Ian Shapiro), presented at the American Philosophical Association, Philadelphia, December, 1981.
3. "America Today: The New Politics of Inequality," College-at-Sixty Lecture, Fordham University, Lincoln Center, October 1984.
4. "Nicaragua: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," Baruch College, CUNY, November 1984.
5. "Republicanism vs. Liberalism? A Reinterpretation," presented at the History of Political Thought Section of the American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans, August, 1985.
6. "Arendt, Camus, and the Politics of Postmodernism," presented at Stanford University, February 1987.
7. "Who Governs Revisited," presented at Process and Outcome in Democratic Theory: A Conference in Honor of Robert A. Dahl, Yale University, March 1987.
8. "The Lion's Skin of Politics: Marx on Republicanism," presented at the History of Political Thought Section of the American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, September 1987.
9. "One Step Sideways, One Step Backwards: Postmarxism and its Critics," presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, April 1988.
10. "Realism and Reality: Some Realistic Reconsiderations," presented at the Colloquium on the Philosophy of Social Science, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, May 1989.
11. "Revolt and Revolution: Albert Camus and Postmarxism," presented at the Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, May 1989.
12. "W(h)ither Totalitarianism?" presented at the Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, February 1990.
13. "The Prison of His Crimes: Albert Camus on Modern Humanism." American Political Science Association Meetings, San Francisco, 1990.

14. "Hannah Arendt as Dissenting Intellectual," Conference on Rethinking the Cold War, University of Wisconsin at Madison, October 1991.
15. "Democracy and Civil Society," Conference on Liberalism and the Preconditions of Democracy, Gorbachev Foundation, Moscow, May 23-30, 1992.
16. "Oases in the Desert: Hannah Arendt and Democratic Politics," presented at C.W. Post College, Department of Philosophy and The Michael Harrington Center, Queens College, CUNY, December 1992.
17. "Multiculturalism and the Jews," Jewish Studies Colloquium, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 1993.
18. "The Strange Silence of Political Theory," Political Theory Colloquium, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, October 1994.
19. "The Meanings of 1989," Political Theory Colloquium, Department of Politics, Princeton University, November 1994, and the Woodrow Wilson Center, April 1995.
20. "Hannah Arendt, Modernity, and Democratic Politics," American Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 1996.
21. "American Democracy and the New Christian Right: A Critique of Political Liberalism," Rethinking Democracy, a conference held at Yale University, April 1997.
22. "Is the Revival of Pragmatism Practical?" Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings. Chicago, April 1998.
23. "The Calculus of Consent: The Algebra Project and Democratic Politics." American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Boston, September 1998.
24. "1989 and the Future of Democracy," a paper written for "Between Past and Future: The Struggle for Democracy in Eastern and Central Europe," held at the Central European University in Budapest, March 27-31.
25. "Hannah Arendt, Constitutionalism, and Democracy," a paper presented at the Political Science Department of the Central European University in Budapest in March, 1999: this paper was written in the Spring of 1999.
26. "1989 Ten Years Later: The Leninist Aftermath and the Future of Liberalism," Roundtable discussion held at the American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, Ga., September 1999.

\*[I stopped recording my invited papers and panel participations after 1999]

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

APSA 2017 Frank Goodnow Award for Distinguished Service to Political Science.



Doctoris Honoris Causa, National School of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania, June 2018

Open Society Institute Individual Project Fellowship (1998-99).  
Harry and Lynde Bradley Foundation Fellowship (1998-99).  
Golden Key Teaching Award, January 1995.  
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship, 1990.  
Indiana University Outstanding Young Faculty Award, 1990.  
Indiana University Competitive Research and Graduate School Summer Faculty Fellowships: 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998.  
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (September 1979-1982).  
Phi Beta Kappa.  
Valedictorian, Queens College, 1979.  
Summa Cum Laude, graduated Queens College, 1979.  
Charlotte R. Garfinkel Memorial Award, Queens College, 1979.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Classical Political Thought  
Modern Political Thought  
Twentieth Century Political Thought  
Introduction to Political Science (graduate seminar)  
Approaches and Issues in Political Philosophy (graduate seminar)  
Democracy and Civil Society (graduate seminar)  
Classics of Democratic Theory (graduate seminar)  
Contemporary Political Theory (graduate seminar)  
Political Theory After 9-11 (graduate seminar)  
Contemporary Western Marxism (graduate seminar)  
Critical Theory and its Discontents (graduate seminar)  
The Political Thought of Karl Marx (graduate seminar)  
Rethinking the Communist Manifesto (graduate seminar)  
The Political Science of Democratization (graduate seminar)  
Reflections on Violence  
Camus, Orwell, and Postmodern Politics  
Democracy and its Critics  
Making Democracy Work  
Civility and Democratic Politics  
Declarations of Independence  
The Political Thought of Hannah Arendt (undergraduate seminar)  
Albert Camus as Artist and Political Thinker (undergraduate seminar)  
The Literature of Revolt in Eastern Europe  
Politics and Power  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Soviet Politics and Government  
The Geopolitics of Central America and the Caribbean  
Introduction to American Politics  
Radicalism and American History

Politics and Religion in the United States  
Introduction to the Social Sciences: Theories of Political Change  
Principles of Political Science

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

Summer 2009-May 2017: Editor in Chief, *Perspectives on Politics*

Summer 2005-Summer 2009: Book Review Editor, *Perspectives on Politics*

Editorial Board/Contributing Editor, *Dissent*

Contributing Editor, *Public Seminar*

Editorial Board, Contemporary Political Theory (Book Series, Cambridge University Press).

Editorial Associate, *Constellations*.

Member, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association.

Chair, 1995 Best First Book Award Committee, Foundations of Political Theory Section.

Chair, "Rights and Socialism," panel at the American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, September 1987.

Chair, "Marx and Modern Theory," panel at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, April 1988.

Organizer, Chair and Discussant, "Theme Panel: The State of Political Theory," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, April 1989.

Chair and Discussant, "Politics and Rhetoric" and "Work, Property Rights, and Distributive Justice" panels, American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, September 1989.

Discussant, "Realism and Political Theory" panel, American Political Science Association Meetings, San Francisco, 1990.

Participant, Working Conference of the Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, February 1991.

Chair and Discussant, "The Politics of Empowerment," APSA Meetings, Washington, D.C., August 1993.

Discussant, "Global spaces, participatory action: The Political Thought of Hannah Arendt," APSA Meetings, New York City, August 1994.

Chair and Discussant, AHannah Arendt After Twenty Years. Midwest Political Science Association

Meetings, April 1995, and American Political Science Association Meetings, August 1995.

Manuscript Reviewer for Yale University Press, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, University of Chicago Press, Princeton University Press, Kansas University Press, Stanford University Press, Columbia University Press, University of Michigan Press, University Press of Virginia, Penn State University Press, Polity, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Western Political Quarterly, Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior, Journal of Politics, American Political Science Review, Political Theory.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*The Promise of American Political Science?* (a short book on what the title says).

*Illiberal Democracy in Dark Times* (an edited volume in progress at *Public Seminar*).

*Marx, Marxism, Politics* (an edited volume in progress).

## **REFERENCES**

Prof. Michael Walzer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Prof. Ira Katznelson, Columbia University

Prof. Peter J. Katzenstein, Professor of Government, Cornell University

Prof. Jane Mansbridge, Professor of Government, Harvard University

Prof. Vladimir Tismaneanu, Department of Political Science and Center for the study of Postcommunism, University of Maryland