

Wesley Dan Nishiyama, Ph.D.

Education

State University of New York at Albany

Ph.D. in Political Science

First Field: Political Theory, Second Field: American Politics

Dissertation: The Structure of Narratives in Political Theories

Chair: Morton Schoolman, Ph.D.

University of California at Davis (with Some Graduate Work at UC Berkeley)

Master of Arts in Political Science

First Field: Ancient and Modern Political Theory, Second Fields: American Politics & Social Theory

Master's Thesis: Elshstain, Augustine, and Liberalism, Chair: Larry Peterman, Ph.D.

California State University at Long Beach

Master of Arts in Philosophy

Concentration: Political Philosophy, Continental Philosophy and Phenomenology

Master's Thesis: Locke, Nozick, the Descriptive Model of Rights, and the Limits of Private Property

Chair: Daniel Guerrier, Ph.D.

California State University at Hayward (CSU East Bay)

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

University of California at Irvine

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Advisor: David Estlund, Ph.D.

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, New York State Assembly – December 2014 to Present

Lecturer at SUNY Albany

- Courses Taught: “Introduction to Political Theory,” “Democratic Thought,” “American Political Theory,” “Introduction to American Government,” “Special Topics: Liberty, Equality, and Rights,” and “Comparative Political Theory”

Adjunct Professor at Sage College of Albany

- Courses Taught: “The Theory and Practice of Citizenship,” “The Theory and Practice of Public Service,” “International Human Rights,” “State Government in the United States,” “Elections, Parties and Campaigns,” “Civil Rights and Civil Liberties” and “Introduction to Public Policy Making”

Adjunct Professor at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC)

- Courses Taught: “Introduction to Philosophy, Ancient and Medieval” “Introduction to Political Science,” and “American National Government”

On-line Course Development and Teaching at Sage College

- Developed an on-line course for autistic students in “The Theory and Practice of Citizenship”
- Developed and taught an on-line course titled “Introduction to Public Policy”

Instructor at Empire State College SUNY (Online)

- Courses Taught: “American Founding Ideas” and “Global Perspectives on Political Theory”

Supplemental Instructor at California State University, Long Beach

- Course Taught: “Formal Logic”

On-line Course Development for The Department of Political Science, SUNY Albany

- Developed an on-line course “Introduction to Political Theory”
- Attended Summer Training on developing an on-line course

Publication

- Nishiyama, Wesley (2008). *Voting Rights for the Homeless*. *Dis|kurs* Vol. 2, 22 – 35
Argues that the single member district representation in the United States at the federal level leads to the disenfranchisement of many of the homeless; solutions are offered

Conference Presentations

- “A Heterogeneous Treatment of Condorcet Jury Theorem
in Rousseau’s Democratic Theory” NPSA 2014
- “The Unnecessary Complexities of *Amour-Propre*” (in Rousseau) NYSPSA 2014
- “The Electoral College as a Mechanism of Consensus” MPSA 2014
- “Between Nature and Society: The Fictitious and the Ideal in Rousseau” NPSA 2013
- “Rousseau, Government, and Agenda-setting” MPSA 2012
- “The Electoral College, Popular Vote, and Consensus” NPSA 2011
- “The Contraposition between Two Works of Tocqueville” NYSPSA 2011
- “The Mathematics in Rousseau’s Social Contract” MPSA 2010
- “Ontological Assumptions of Narratives in Political Theory” NYSPSA 2010
- “The Electoral College and Winner-take-all” NPSA 2009
- “The Right Not to Own Property and Still Vote” NYSPSA 2008
- “Madison’s Contribution to Modern and Postmodern Democratic Theory” NPSA 2007
- “Group Theory as Applied to Affirmative Action” SPSA 2002
- “The Marketplace of Culture: A Liberal Defense of Multiculturalism” SPSA 2001

Poster Presentation

- “Two Normative Arguments Concerning the Electoral College” APSA 2008

Research Interest

- Plato, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Alexis de Tocqueville, Electoral Systems, Social Choice Theory, Democratic Theory, Political Culture, Methodology

Research Experience**Researcher – The Center for Women in Government and Civil Society** 2012 to 2013

- Summer 2013 – Collecting and analyzing data regarding women in non-traditional trades
- Fall 2012 – Collecting and analyzing data regarding women serving on boards of trustees
- Summer 2012 – Coding of interviews of High School Teachers and Counselors regarding STEM

Researcher for Dr. José Cruz and Dr. Sally Friedman 2008 to 2009

- Processed state election data to determine the participation of the Latino electorate, which was published in *Nylarnet* (The New York Latino Research and Resources Network)

Research Assistant for Dr. Patricia Strach – Spring 2005

- Researched family farms regarding federal agriculture policy, the results were published in Patricia Strach's book, All in the Family: The Private Roots of American Public Policy, 2007
- Conducted an analysis of public opinion and newspaper articles concerning opinions regarding family farms

Languages

- Knowledge of French
 - University of Montreal - Intensive French Program, Summer 2004
 - Parisian Institute of French Language and Civilization - Intensive French language program in Paris, France 1996
- Knowledge of Portuguese
 - Portuguese spoken at home, cumulated time spend in Brazil more than three years

Awards and Honors

- Outstanding Adjunct Instructor, May 2009 – SUNY Albany
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant, May 2006 – SUNY Albany
- The International Philosophy Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau, November 1996
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, April 1995
- Eagle Scout

Professional Experience

- **New York State Assembly Intern Committee** – December 2014 to Present
- **University in High School Liaison**, SUNY Albany, Dept. of Political Science – 2019 to Present
- **Member of the Speaker's Tuition Reimbursement Committee** –2016 to Present
- **Campaign Public Opinion Consultant** (Paid Position) – NYS Assembly Primary, Fall 2012
- **United States Senate – Summer/Fall – Internship/Staff**

Public Service

The Changing World of Work – Deliberation on the Future of Higher Education – May 2018
American Commonwealth Partnership, American Democracy Project and HVCC

- Served as a discussion facilitator

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution – Law and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association

- Served as a judge in statewide high school competitions – 2016 and 2017

City Summit, Troy NY – Served as a facilitator in a city summit to gather ideas, desires and concerns, from residents of Troy regarding the revitalization of their city, presented to local officials – Spring 2015

The Kettering Foundation: Community Democracy Project

- Served as a Discussion Facilitator for the forum “Shaping Our Future: How Should Higher Education Help Us Create the Society We Want?” Spring 2013 and Spring 2014
- This nationwide project fosters democratic discussion among residents, business leaders, and local government officials

Association Membership

- **SAPA** – State Academy for Public Administration Fellow – 2018 to Present