

# Seth N. Jaffe, PhD

Associate Professor (Research) of the History of Political Thought

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LUISS -- Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli

Department of Political Science

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## Academic Appointments

LUISS Guido Carli University

Associate Professor (Research) of the History of Political Thought (Feb '24)

John Cabot University

Chair, Department of Political Science and International Affairs (Sept '21-Aug '23)

Associate Professor of Political Science and Classics (Jan '22)

Assistant Professor of Political Science (Jan '17; tenure Jan '19)

Freie Universität Berlin

Associate Researcher, Berlin Thucydides Center; member, “Bewegung als Prinzip – Dynamik und Transformation als politische Impulse (Jan '17 – Dec '18 )

Postdoctoral Fellow, “Bewegung als Prinzip” (Jan 2016 – Dec 2016)

Bowdoin College

Visiting Assistant Professor of Government & Legal Studies (Spring 2015)

Visiting Instructor of Government & Legal Studies (2010-2012)

University of Toronto

Bloom Memorial Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Classical Thought (2012-2014)

Instructor in Political Science (2007)

## Education

University of Toronto

Ph.D. in Political Science (Nov 2012)

Dissertation: “Thucydides on the Outbreak of War”

The American School for Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA)

Student Associate Member (2008-2010)

The London School of Economics and Political Science

M.Sc. in Political Theory (2003)

Thesis (distinction): “Reason within the Limits of Language Alone”

Bowdoin College

A.B. in Comparative Politics (high honors), second major Philosophy (2000)

## Research Interests

Threats to liberal democracy; Classical thought, Greek and Roman; ancient and modern republicanism; International Relations; the history of international political thought; American foreign policy.

## Publications

### Books

2017 *Thucydides on the Outbreak of War: Character and Contest*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reviewed: *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*; *The Claremont Review of Books*; *E-International Relations*; *Eirene*, *Studia Graeca et Latina*; *Greece and Rome*; *Interpretation: a Journal of Political Philosophy*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Security Studies*; *Polis: the Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought*; *The Review of Politics*.

### Edited Volumes

2023 "The Crowd in the History of Political Thought". 2 vol. special issue of *The Review of Politics*, guest co-editor with Guillermo Graíño Ferrer.

### Under Contract

2022 "Polybius", *Brill Research Perspectives in Ancient History*. Leiden: Brill. (Manuscript due late Jan 2024.)

### Articles/Chapters

2023 "The Crowd in the History of Political Thought – Visions of the People", *The Review of Politics*, 1-7. doi:10.1017/S0034670523000347 (forthcoming)

2023 "The Crowd in the History of Political Thought – A Conversation in a Socratic Spirit", *The Review of Politics*, 85 (2), 145-151. doi:10.1017/S003467052200122X

2023 "Vast Personal Forces: Thucydides, Populism, and the Liberty of the Ancients", *The Review of Politics*, 85 (2), 152-169. doi:10.1017/S0034670522001231

2022 "Walls of Wood and Walls of Stone: Themistocles as Architect of Empire." In *Thucydides, the Athenian*, eds. Nanno Marinatos and Robert K. Pitt. Athens: College Year in Athens Papers, 19-46.

2017 "The Regime (*politeia*) in Thucydides." in *The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides*, eds. R. Balot, S. Forsdyke, and E. Foster. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 391-408.

2015 "Reflections on the Humanity (and Inhumanity) of Thucydides" in *In Search of Humanity: Essays in Honor of Clifford Orwin*, ed. Andrea Radasanu. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 51-64.

- 2015 “The Straussian Thucydides” in *A Handbook to the Reception of Thucydides*, eds. Christine Lee and Neville Morley. London: Wiley - Blackwell, 278-295.

### Journalism

- 2020 Interview with S.N. Jaffe. Alessandro Russo. *Sud e Futuri*, October 20, 2020: <https://www.sudefuturi-magazine.it/2020/10/30/trappola-di-tucidide-usa-cina/>
- 2020 "Destined for Conflict? Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and the Thucydides Trap" (quoted), *South China Morning Post*, May 21, 2020.
- 2017 “The Risks and Rewards of Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War*.” *War on the Rocks*. July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017: <https://warontherocks.com/2017/07/the-risks-and-rewards-of-thucydides-history-of-the-peloponnesian-war/>
- 2015 “America vs. China: Is War Simply Inevitable?” *The National Interest* (online), October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015: <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-vs-china-war-simply-inevitable-14114>

### In Preparation

#### *Close to Review*

- 2023 “Peloponnesian Warnings? Reformulating the Thucydides Trap” (article)
- 2023 “The Art of Politics: Promethean Utilitarianism in Plato’s *Protagoras*” (article)

#### *In Process*

- “Democratic Deconsolidation? An Ancient Reflection on a Modern Problem” (article)
- “Thucydides for Citizens, Soldiers, and Statesmen” (article)
- “Note on Thucydides’ 1.62.3 – a Proposed Correction to the Manuscript” (article)

### Book Reviews

- 2023 Ludwig, Paul, *Rediscovering Political Friendship: Aristotle’s Theory and Modern Identity, Community, and Equality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. Forthcoming *Interpretation*.
- 2020 Mara, Gerald M., *Between Spectres of War and Visions of Peace: Dialogic Political Theory and the Challenges of Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. *Review of Politics* 83.1 (2020): 131-133.
- 2019 Rubel, Alexander, *Fear and Loathing in Ancient Athens: Religion and Politics during the Peloponnesian War*. Durham: Acumen Publishing, 2014. *Classics Ireland* 25 (2018): 146-150.

- 2018 Rhodes, P.J. *Thucydides. Ancients in Action*. London; New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015. *Classics Ireland* 23-24 (2016-2017): 176-178.
- 2018 Areshidze, Giorgi. *Democratic Religion from Locke to Obama: Faith and the Civic Life of Democracy*. Lawrence, KA: University of Kansas Press, 2016. *Perspectives on Political Science* 47:2 (2018): 115-120.
- 2017 Schlosser, Joel Alden. *What Would Socrates Do? Self-Examination, Civic Engagement, and the Politics of Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. *Perspectives on Politics* 15:3 (2017): 873-875.
- 2014 Teegarden, David. *Death to Tyrants! Ancient Greek Democracy and the Struggle Against Tyranny*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013. *New England Classical Journal* 41:3 (Aug): 226-228.

### Invited Presentations

- 2023 "On the 'Realism' of the Melian Dialogue", to be delivered at "Thucydides's Work and its Implications in the Modern Era," Hellenic Army Academy, Athens, Greece (Oct)
- 2022 "Ancient Wars and Contemporary IR: A Case Study of the Peloponnesian and Punic Wars", five hour lectures delivered to grad students in joint MA in European Security of LUISS Guido Carli and the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (May)
- 2022 "Thucydides and Polybius. Between Political Philosophy and Ancient Historiography." Six lectures (12hrs) delivered to grad students at the Fondazione Collegio San Carlo in Modena (May).
- 2022 "Machiavelli at the End of History? Old Modes and Disorders and the War for Ukraine," Yeshiva University, Jack Miller Foundation Lecture Series (April)
- 2022 "Does Fortune have Favorites? Polybius on the Purpose/s of *Pragmatikē Historia*", Department of Classics & Ancient History and the Centre for Hellenistic and Romano-Greek Culture and Society, the University of Exeter (March)
- 2022 "Soulcraft and Institutional Design: Greek Visions of Political Decay", delivered at, 'The Politics of Decadence: Classical Antiquity to the Renaissance', roundtable sponsored by the Department of Classics & Ancient History, University of Exeter (Jan)
- 2021 "A Cycle of Regimes? Ancient Visions of Constitutional Change and Why They Matter," delivered to grad students at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Dec)
- 2021 "Is Conflict with China Inevitable? What Thucydides can Teach Us." SUNY Geneseo, Forum on Constitutionalism and Democracy (April).
- 2021 "Vast Personal Forces: Thucydides, Populism, and the Liberty of the Ancients," Yeshiva University, Jack Miller Foundation Lecture Series (Feb).

- 2019 “Thinking about the Regime: Thucydides and Aristotle,” Bowdoin College (Oct).
- 2019 “American Foreign Policy and the Ancient Historian: the Case of Thucydides,” The University of Maine, Sponsored by the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series (Oct).
- 2019 “Classical Reflections on the ‘Nature’ of the City,” workshop delivered at La filosofía política de la ciudad, Proyecto del Plan Estatal de Fomento de la Investigación, Madrid, Spain (May).
- 2019 “Revising the Thucydides Trap,” delivered at the University of Macedonia, the Institute of International, European and Defense Analyses, Thessaloniki, Greece (March).
- 2018 Roundtable participant, “The Analogy Trap,” the University of Exeter. An interdisciplinary panel discussing the use/abuse of ancient thought (April).
- 2017 “Peloponnesian Warnings? Thucydides and American Foreign Policy,” delivered at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, sponsored by the Donovan Lecture series (Nov).
- 2017 “Thucydides for Citizens, Soldiers, and Statesmen,” director’s research workshop, delivered at Harvard University’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government (Nov).
- 2017 Roundtable on my book, *Thucydides on the Outbreak of War: Character and Contest*, Freie Universität Berlin (Nov). Participants: Prof. Ryan Balot (U-Toronto), Prof. Christian Wendt (FU Berlin), Prof. Mark Fisher (Georgetown), Dr. Hans Kopp (FU Berlin), Dr. Ben Earley (FU Berlin).
- 2017 “Motion, Rest, and Unsocial Sociability? Thucydides’ Archaeology and Protagoras’ Great Speech,” delivered at the *Kínēsis* Workshop, Freie Universität Berlin (Nov).
- 2017 “Trump, Xi, and the Thucydides Trap,” delivered at Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid (May).
- 2017 “Trump and Asia: from Competition to Confrontation.” Panel presenter. The Guarini Institute for Public Affairs, John Cabot University (Feb).
- 2016 “Thucydidean Reflections on Democratic Imperialism,” delivered to the University of Toronto Political Theory Research Workshop (Nov).
- 2016 “A Thucydides Trap? On the ‘Inevitability’ of U.S.-China Conflict,” delivered to the Departments of Political Science, Classics, and History, Western University, London, Ontario (Nov).
- 2015 “Were the Sophists Constructivists?”, delivered at a workshop on The *Nomos-Physis* Distinction and Constructivism in Ancient Historiography, Freie Universität Berlin (Nov).
- 2015 “Thucydides on the Psychology of Democracy,” delivered at the Freie Universität Berlin in the THOUKYDIDEA lecture series (July).

- 2013 “The Straussian Reading of Thucydides,” delivered at Thucydides: Reception, Reinterpretation, and Influence, a colloquium of the Bristol Thucydides Project, Bristol University (Nov).
- 2010 “Thucydides’ Truest *Prophasis* for War and the Arc of the *History’s* First Book,” delivered to political theory graduate students, Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University (Nov).

### Conference Participation

- 2023 Liberty Fund Conference, "The Sicilian Expedition and Imperial Overreach," Athens, Greece (March).
- 2022 Roundtable participant, "Teaching Ancient Political Thought to (Post)Modern Students," American Political Science Association Meeting (Sept)
- 2018 “Democratic Deconsolidation? An Ancient Reflection on a Modern Problem,” delivered at the American Political Science Association Meeting (late Aug/early Sept).
- 2017 “Man, the Measurer: Promethean Utilitarianism in Plato’s *Protagoras*,” delivered at the American Political Science Association Meeting (late Aug/early Sept).
- 2015 “Reflections on the Humanity (and Inhumanity) of Thucydides,” delivered at the American Political Science Association Meeting (Sept).
- 2013 “Thucydides and Aristotle on Political Collapse,” delivered at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April).
- 2012 “Rhetoric in Extremity: Thucydides on Political Breakdown,” delivered at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April).
- 2011 Roundtable Participant on J. Zumbrennen, *Silence and Democracy: Athenian Politics in Thucydides’ History* (2008) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April).
- 2011 “From Self Rule to Ruling Others—Thucydides on Democracy and Empire,” delivered at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April). Nominated for best IR paper award.
- 2010 “Character and Contest—Thucydides on the Outbreak of War,” delivered at the Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Nov).
- 2009 “Thucydides’ View of Pericles—The Role of the Statesman in the Work of the Historian,” delivered at the American School for Classical Studies at Athens (March).
- 2009 “Is Thucydides’ a ‘Historian’?—Reflections on the Thucydidean Archaeology (1.1-23),” delivered at the Canadian Institute in Greece (Feb).

## **Courses Taught**

Intro to Political Theory (Spring '23, Fall '22, Fall '21, Fall '19, Fall '18, Fall '17, Fall '10)  
Greek and Roman Political Thought (Fall '22, Fall '21, Fall '20)  
Might and Right Among Nations (Spring '17, '15, '13-14, '12-13, Fall '11, Spring '11, Fall '07)  
Modern Political Thought (Spring '20, Spring '19, Spring '18)  
Liberalism and its Critics (Fall '10)  
American Political Thought (Spring '15, Spring '11)\  
Intro to IR (Fall; 22; Fall '21; Spring '21, Fall '20, Fall '19, Fall '18, Fall '17, Spring '17)  
U.S. Foreign Policy (Spring '21, Spring '19, Spring '18, Spring '17, Spring '12)  
PL470 IA Capstone Seminar (Spring '21, Fall '20; Spring '19, Fall '18, Spring '18)

## **Professional Experience/Institutional Service**

2021 - 2023 Chair, Department of Political Science and International Affairs  
2020-22 (June) Co-President John Cabot University (JCU) Faculty Senate  
2020-present Member JCU Strategic Planning Committee; Chair Lib Arts subcommittee ('21)  
2018-present Co-coordinator, JCU's Rome Political Theory Colloquium  
2018-19 Faculty Senate Rep, Strategic Planning Committee (JCU)  
2018 Member, English Writing Task Force (JCU)  
2018—present Faculty advisor, International Relations Society (JCU)  
2009 Institute for Advanced Study, Visitor in Interdisciplinary Studies (Princeton)  
2008 Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press  
2004-2005 Coordinator, "America and the World after 9/11" lecture series (University of Toronto)  
2005 Coordinator, "EOS II: Brown University—University of Toronto Political Theory Conference" (May 14-15)  
2000-2002 Research Assistant for Graham Allison, Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, JFK School of Government, Harvard University

## **Honors, Fellowships, Associations**

2015 TOPOI Fellowship, FU Berlin (July - September)  
2015 Bowdoin College Faculty Develop Award (June)  
2013 Earhart Foundation Fellowship for research in Athens, Greece (Summer)  
2013 Dissertation nominated for APSA Strauss Prize by University of Toronto  
2009-2010 IKY, Greek State Scholarship for Doctoral Research  
2007-2008 Jason M. Hanson Fellowship, University of Toronto.  
2008-2010 Member, the American School for Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA)  
2008-2010 Member, the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG)  
2004-2008 University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship  
2002-2003 Guy Charles Howard Scholar, Bowdoin College award for Graduate Study

## **Languages**

Ancient Greek: advanced reading  
Italian: intermediate spoken/reading  
Modern Greek: conversational  
French: reading  
German: reading

## References

1. Professor Clifford Orwin ([clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca](mailto:clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca))  
Department of Political Science, Classics, Jewish Studies, University of Toronto
2. Professor Graham Allison ([Graham\\_allison@harvard.edu](mailto:Graham_allison@harvard.edu))  
Douglas Dillon Professor of Government, JFK School of Government, Harvard University.
3. Professor Arlene Saxonhouse ([awsaxon@umich.edu](mailto:awsaxon@umich.edu))  
Caroline Robbins Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies  
University of Michigan
4. Professor Neville Morley ([n.d.g.morley@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:n.d.g.morley@exeter.ac.uk))  
Classics and Ancient History, Exeter University
5. Professor Ryan Balot ([ryan.balot@utoronto.ca](mailto:ryan.balot@utoronto.ca))  
Department of Political Science/Classics, University of Toronto
6. Professor Paul Ludwig ([paul.ludwig@sjc.edu](mailto:paul.ludwig@sjc.edu))  
Tutor, St. John's College