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Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. candidate, Politics Department

Exam Fields: Political Theory, Formal and Quantitative Methods, Public Law

University of Notre Dame, B.A. English, *summa cum laude* 2009

Dissertation

Voting Matters: A Critical Examination and Defense of Democracy's Central Practice

How should we evaluate and reform contemporary democracies' flawed electoral systems? Given the limitations of electoral democracy, can we really defend a duty to vote? To address these questions, democratic theory needs a clear understanding of voting's role in modern democracy. In my dissertation, I develop an original account of voting that is grounded in widely shared beliefs about the importance of voting, but also attentive to the particular advantages and limitations of voting as a form of participation. I draw on public discourse and empirical research about political attitudes to develop a constructive interpretation of contemporary voting practices. This interpretation locates the value of voting in its distinctiveness as a form of mass participation in which *all* citizens are expected to take part. Elections punctuate the ordinary business of government with extraordinary moments of collective decision-making and underscore the equal political authority of all citizens in a democracy. This account of voting provides grounds for the duty to vote. It also offers a framework for intervening in debates about the merits of compulsory voting, direct democracy, and electoral administration

Thesis Committee: Philip Pettit, Stephen Macedo, Anna Stilz, Christopher Achen

Works in Progress

"There is a duty to vote: Grounds for the 'Folk Theory of Voting Ethics' "

"The Distinctive Value of Elections and the Case for Compulsory Voting"

Teaching Experience

Democratic Theory, Fall 2014, Head Preceptor
Spring 2012, Assistant in Instruction
Princeton University, Department of Politics

Ethics and Public Policy, Fall 2012, Assistant in Instruction
Princeton University, Department of Politics and Woodrow Wilson School

Introduction to Political Theory, Fall 2011, Assistant in Instruction
Princeton University, Department of Politics

Advising Experience

Graduate Student Mentor, 2013-2014
Princeton University Undergraduate Certificate Program in Values and Public Life

Senior Thesis Writing Workshop Leader, 2013-2014
Princeton University, Politics Department

Presentations

"The Efficacy of Voting: A Joint Intentions Approach"
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2014

"Voting as Collective Action? The Impact of Electoral Institutions on Joint Intention Among Voters"
Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2013

Awards and Fellowships

Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, 2013 - 2014
Princeton University Center for Human Values

Phi Beta Kappa, 2009

Professional Service

Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Princeton University
Paper Discussant, 2012, 2013; Referee, 2011-2014

References

Philip Pettit, Princeton Politics Department
Dissertation supervisor, primary instructor for Democratic Theory
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Stephen Macedo, Princeton Politics Department
Committee member, primary instructor for Ethics and Public Policy
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Anna Stilz, Princeton Politics Department
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