

# JOEL A. SCHLOSSER

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Political Science  
Duke University  
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## EDUCATION

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**DUKE UNIVERSITY** (Durham, NC)  
Ph.D. in Political Science (Expected December 2009)  
MA in Political Science (2007)  
Fields: Political Theory and International Relations

**IS LANGUAGE INSTITUTE** (Aix-en-Provence, France)  
Advanced study of French (Summer 2006)

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA** (Berkeley, CA)  
Intensive Latin Workshop (Summer 2005)  
Intensive Ancient Greek Workshop (Summer 2004)

**CARLETON COLLEGE** (Northfield, MN)  
BA, *magna cum laude* (2003)  
Department of Political Science

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**DUKE UNIVERSITY** (Durham, NC)  
Graduate Student Instructor, Fall 2009  
Thompson Writing Program

**CARLETON COLLEGE** (Northfield, MN)  
Visiting Instructor, Winter and Spring 2008  
Department of Political Science

**DUKE UNIVERSITY** (Durham, NC)  
Instructor, Summer 2007  
Department of Political Science

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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### ► HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS, DUKE UNIVERSITY

Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University (2008-2009)  
Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University (2008)  
Fellow, Preparing Future Faculty Program (2007-2008)  
Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University (2007-2008)  
Earhart Foundation Fellowship (2006-2007)  
Hallowell Endowment grant for study of French in Aix-en-Provence, France (2006)  
Earhart Foundation Fellowship (2005-2006)  
Earhart Fund for Intensive Latin Workshop in Berkeley, CA (2005)  
Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University (2004-2005)

### ► HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS, CARLETON COLLEGE

*Phi Beta Kappa*  
Honors in Senior Comprehensive Exercise  
Honors in Political Science  
Honors in Music Performance (piano)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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### DISSERTATION – “ENGAGING SOCRATES”

My dissertation thinks through the role of the critic in democratic political culture by engaging Socrates. Since Socrates so often stands as an exemplar for many different styles of critical activity, both in political rhetoric and in popular culture, I address the roots of these many figures of Socrates by examining the multiple aspects of Socrates as they appear in Plato’s dialogues. Starting from the different metaphors that Socrates uses to describe himself – the stingray, the master of erotics, the midwife, the practitioner of the true political art, and the gadfly – I parse these different strands of Socrates’ character and assess their coherence. While each of these descriptions captures a different angle of Socrates’ activity vis-à-vis Athenian democracy, I argue that together they also hold one essential aspect in common: Socrates’ strange relationship to Athens as both connected and disconnected, immanent in his criticism and yet radically so. As strange both in the context of Athens and in relation to his interpreters, I argue that the figure of Socrates suggests a kind of political activity committed to disturbance and displacement while also working across, with, and against conventional boundaries and languages. Moreover, I maintain that this Socrates suggests new forms of critical associations that take up his practice of philosophy in democratic culture today.

Committee: J. Peter Euben (chair), Michael A. Gillespie, Ruth W. Grant, Jill Frank  
(University of South Carolina, Columbia)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **THOMPSON WRITING PROGRAM, DUKE UNIVERSITY**

WRITING 20: Living Justly in an Unkind World (Academic Writing/Political Theory)

### **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, CARLETON COLLEGE**

POSC 160: Introduction to Political Philosophy

POSC 271: American Constitutional Law I

POSC 272: American Constitutional Law II

POSC 391: Tragedy and Politics (Independent Study)

POSC 391: Law, Pluralism, and Diversity (Independent Study)

### **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, DUKE UNIVERSITY**

GER 183D: The Existentialist Imagination (TA)

PPS 264S: Leadership and Public Values (TA)

POSC 150: Ancient Views, Individual and Society (TA)

POSC 123: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Instructor)

### **TEACHING DEVELOPMENT**

Fellow, *Preparing Future Faculty* (2007)

GS 301: Introduction to College Teaching

GS 302: Introduction to Instructional Technology

### **TEACHING INTERESTS**

Ancient political theory

Democratic theory

American political thought

Contemporary political theory

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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### **PAPERS PRESENTED AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

Paper presenter, “An Atopic Socrates: Engaging Socrates’ Strangeness,” Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (Toronto, 2009)

Panel Organizer, “Plato and Public Life,” Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (Toronto, 2009)

Paper presenter, “Questioning Socratic Irony: Plato, Strauss, and Ironic Democratic Practice,” Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, 2009)

Discussant, “Aesthetics and The Representations of Politics,” Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, 2009)

Paper presenter, “Black Socrates: James Baldwin and the Socratic Sting of Reality,” Annual Conference of the Western Political Science Association (Vancouver, B.C., 2009)

Panel Organizer, “Encountering James Baldwin,” Annual Conference of the Western Political Science Association (Vancouver, B.C., 2009)

Paper presenter, “Philosophy as a Way of Politics: Socrates Cafés, the care of the self, and the erotic Socrates,” Association for Political Theory Conference (Wesleyan University, 2008)

Paper presenter, “Midwifing Democracy: Reflections on the Democratic Promise of Socratic Maieusis,” Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (Boston, 2008)

Panel Organizer, “Engaging Socrates,” Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (Boston, 2008)

Paper presenter, “Questions of Socrates: Socratic Engagement in Plato’s *Apology*,” Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, 2008)

Discussant, “Aristocracy in Literature,” Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, 2008)

Invited presenter, “Questions of Socrates: Socratic Engagement in Plato’s *Apology*,” University of Minnesota Political Theory Colloquium (Minneapolis, 2008)

Discussant, “New Turns in Democratic Theory,” Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (Chicago, 2007)

Paper presenter, “More than a Mirror: Comedy and Political Theory,” Association for Political Theory Conference (Indiana University, Bloomington, 2006)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association  
Association for Political Theory  
Foundations of Political Thought

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Duke University Graduate and Professional Student Council (2005 – 2007)  
Duke University Young Trustee Selection Committee (2005 – 2007)

## **OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS**

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### **LANGUAGES**

German (speak, read, write)  
French (speak, read, write)  
Ancient Greek (read)  
Latin (read)

### **WRITING/EDITING**

Paralegal, *Cadwalader, Wickersham, and Taft* (New York, NY)  
Editorial Intern, *W.W. Norton and Co.* (New York, NY)  
Copy editor, *The Carletonian* (Northfield, MN)

### **MUSIC**

Winner, Concerto Competition at Carleton College (2003)  
Accompanist, *Carleton Singers* (2001-2003)  
Radio DJ, *Real Men Love Beethoven* (2000-2003)