

Michael S. Kochin
Political Science, Tel Aviv University
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Born: London, Ontario, Canada, April 21, 1970

Citizenship: USA, Canada, Israel

Teaching and Research Positions:

- 2003- Senior Lecturer (with tenure)
Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University
- 2003-04 Visiting Associate Professor
Department of Political Science and Directed Studies in the Humanities, Yale University
- 2002-03 Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellow
University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- 1998-2003 Lecturer and Alon Fellow
Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University
- 1996-98 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Political Science, University of Toronto
- 1995-96 Instructor, Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Education:

- 1990-96 University of Chicago
Ph. D. in Political Science, 1996
Dissertation: "The Politics of Gender and the Psychology of Virtue: A Study in the Interpretation of Plato's *Republic* and *Laws*."
M.A. in Political Science, 1992
- 1989-90 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Wallenberg Scholar in Political Science
- 1986-89 Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
A.B. in Mathematics, magna cum laude, 1989
- 1985-86 University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Fields: Political Thought; Rhetoric; Comparative Analysis of Institutions; Politics, Literature, and Film

Work in Progress:

Democratic Leadership Between Inside and Outside. The challenge to democracy posed by public ignorance of foreign affairs, and the modes in which this challenge is met or mitigated.

The Fourfold Way of David Ben-Gurion. Four central aspects of Ben-Gurion's thought and action: his concept of politics and partisanship, his understanding of the relation between philosophy and politics, his turn to the Bible to refound Jewish political culture, and, finally, his understanding of Jewish identity, of the meaning of being Jewish.

The Death of Tragedy: Genre, Politics, and the Myth of Lucretia. The politics of rape in the Bible, Livy, Augustine, Machiavelli, Richardson, Rousseau, and J. M. Coetzee.

“The Richardsonian Republic” (with Katherine Philippakis). Revise and resubmit to *The Review of Politics*.

“Life as Literature: Wright Morris’s *Love Among the Cannibals*.”

“Prudence, Faith and Charity in Rossellini’s *Rome Open City*.”

“Ethosblog: Trust and Evidence on the Internet.”

“From Argument to Assertion.”

Books:

Five Chapters on Rhetoric: Character, Action, Things, Nothing, and Art is built around five fundamental concepts that illuminate the possibilities and limitations of persuasive communication. This study explores our path to things through our judgments of character and action. It shows how speech and writing are used to defend the fabric of social life from things or facts. Finally, it shows how the art of rhetoric aids us in clarifying things when we speak to communicate, and helps protect us from their terrible clarity when we speak to maintain our connections to others. Accepted for publication by Penn State University Press.

Gender and Rhetoric in Plato's Political Thought. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Articles:

“Literature and Salvation in *Elizabeth Costello*, or How to Refuse to be an Author in Eight or Nine Lessons.” To appear in *English in Africa*.

“Living with the Bible: Jean-Jacques Rousseau Reads Judges 19-21.” *Hebraic Political Studies* 2, No. 3 (Summer 2007):301-325.

“The Constitution of Nations.” *The Good Society* 14, No. 3 (2005):68-76.

“Postmetaphysical Literature: Reflections on J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*.” *Perspectives on Political Science* 33(2004):4-10.

“For Whom Nobel Tolls: A deserved prize for J.M. Coetzee.” *The Weekly Standard*, December 8, 2003.

“How Joseph de Maistre Read Plato’s *Laws*.” *Polis* 19(2002):29-43.

“Individual Narrative and Political Character.” *The Review of Metaphysics* 56(June 2002):691-709.

“Time and Judgment in Demosthenes' *De Corona*.” *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 35(2002):77-89.

“Morality, Nature, and Esotericism in Leo Strauss’s *Persecution and the Art of Writing*.” *The Review of Politics* 64 (Spring 2002):261-283. Revised and expanded version of “The Philosopher and the King.”

“The Philosopher and the King: On the Plan of Leo Strauss's *Persecution and the Art of Writing*” (in Hebrew). *Iyyun: The Jerusalem Philosophical Quarterly* 50(October 2001):373-386.

“War, Class, and Justice in Plato's Republic.” *The Review of Metaphysics* 53(December 1999):403-423.

“Weeds: Cultivating the Imagination in Medieval Arabic Political Philosophy.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 60(July 1999):399-416.

“Plato’s Eleatic and Athenian Sciences of Politics.” *The Review of Politics* 61(Winter 1999):1-28.

“When is Buying Votes Wrong?” (with Levis A. Kochin). *Public Choice* 97(December 1998):645-662.

“The Unity of Virtue and the Limitations of Magnesia.” *History of Political Thought* 19(Summer 1998): 125-141.

“Decollectivization of Agriculture and the Planned Economy.” *American Journal of Political Science* 40(August 1996):717-739.

Reviews:

“When Rawls was Right.” Review of Seyla Benhabib, *The Rights of Others*. *Azure* 24 (Spring 2006).

Review of David Roochnik, *Retrieving the Ancients: An Introduction to Greek Philosophy*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 2005.

Review of Randall Baldwin Clark, *The Law Most Beautiful and Best: Medical Argument and Magical Rhetoric in Plato's Laws*, and Albert Keith Whitaker, *Journey Into Platonic Politics: Plato's Laws*. *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (June 2005):350-352.

“Walzer’s Wars.” Review of Michael Walzer, *Arguing About War*. *Azure* 20 (Spring 2005):134-139. Hebrew translation in *Tchelet* 21(Summer 2005).

“A Cure for Whining.” Review of Steven B. Smith, *Spinoza's Book of Life*. *The Review of Politics* 66 (Fall 2004).

Review of John von Heyking, *Augustine and Politics as Longing in the World*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, September 2002.

Review of Charles Blattberg, *From Pluralist to Patriotic Politics: Putting Practice First*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 55(September 2001):618.

Review of John R. Wallach, *The Platonic Political Art: A Study of Critical Reason and Democracy*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, August 2001.

“Spinoza our Contemporary.” Review of Etienne Balibar, *Spinoza and Politics*, and Warren Montag, *Body, Masses, Power: Spinoza and His Contemporaries*. *The Review of Politics* 63(Winter 2001):203-206.

Review of Steven B. Smith, *Spinoza, Liberalism, and the Question of Jewish Identity*. *The Review of Politics* 60(Summer 1998):582-84.

Review of M. Lane, *Method and Politics in Plato's "Statesman"*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 1998.

“Response: Kochin on Roberts on Kochin on McManus.” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, November 1997.

Review of Barbara F. McManus, *Classics and Feminism: Gendering the Classics*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*,

September 1997.

Review of Robert Wardy, *The Birth of Rhetoric: Gorgias, Plato, and their Successors*. *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 1997.

Selected Presentations and Papers:

“Ethosblog: Trust and Evidence on the Internet.” Invited lecture at Labcom, Universidade da Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal, December 6, 2007.

“Democratic Leadership between Inside and Outside: Meditations on Herodotus and Thucydides.” Delivered to the Jerusalem Seminar in the History of Political Thought, Hebrew University, June 20, 2007.

“Literature and Salvation in *Elizabeth Costello*, or How to Refuse to be an Author in Eight or Nine Lessons.” Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 5, 2004; nominated for PSA Award for Best Paper.

“The Rhetoric of Moshe Dayan.” Public lecture to Young Israel of New Haven, Connecticut, April 3, 2004.

“Things: A Study in the Phenomenology of Rhetoric.” Delivered to the Political Theory Workshop, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, November 4, 2003.

“Political Virtue and the Choice of a Public Life.” Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 29, 2003.

“Academic Politics between Democracy and Aristocracy.” Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 30, 2001.

“The Richardsonian Republic” (with Katherine Philippakis). Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 31, 2000. Awarded Best Paper in Politics and Literature, 2000.

“The Death of Tragedy: Genre, Politics, and the Myth of Lucretia.” Delivered at the John M. Olin Center for the Study of the Theory and Practice of Democracy, University of Chicago, March 10, 1999.

“Messianism and Security in the 1996 Israeli Election Campaign.” Public lecture to Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, Seattle, Washington, September 3, 1996.

Recent Professional Activities:

Editor (with Yoav Peled), *The Public Sphere: Tel Aviv Journal of Political Science*, 2005-

Organized conference (with Ruth Amossy, Roselyne Koren, and Galia Yanoshevsky) “Perelman and Beyond: From the Rhetorical Tradition to Argumentation Studies,” Tel Aviv University, January 7-9, 2008.

Convener of the Tel Aviv Seminar in Political Philosophy, 1999-2002, 2004-6.

Organized Panel on “Immigration, Multiculturalism, and Internal Nationalisms” for 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Scholarships and Awards:

Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellowship, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2002
Dan David Prize Research Scholarship, 2002
Best Paper in Politics and Literature (joint with Katherine Philippakis), APSA, 2000.
Alon Fellow, Council for Higher Education (Israel), 1998
Metcalf Fellow, Victoria University, 1997
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow, 1996.
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, 1991
Claude R. Lambe Fellow, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992
John M. Olin Junior Fellow, 1991
Humane Studies Foundation Summer Fellow, 1991
Jacob Javits Fellow, 1990
University of Chicago Century Fellow, 1990
Wallenberg Scholar, 1989
Phi Beta Kappa, 1989
Robert Fletcher Rogers First Prize in Mathematics, 1989
John Harvard Scholar, 1989
Harvard College Scholar, 1987, 1988
National Merit Scholar, 1986

Languages: Ancient Greek (reading), German (reading), French (reading), Hebrew (fluent).

References: Josiah Ober, Political Science, Stanford University, 650-724-0868, jober@stanford.edu
Nathan Tarcov, Social Thought, Univ. of Chicago, 312-939-1461, nst1@midway.uchicago.edu
Jean Bethke Elshtain, Divinity School, Univ. of Chicago, 773-643-5146, jbelshta@midway.uchicago.edu