

Rebeca Castaneda Leffler, Ph.D.

Department of Government
Claremont McKenna College
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Claremont Graduate University December 2022
Fields: American Politics and Political Philosophy
M.A., Politics, Claremont Graduate University May 2018
B.A., English, California State University, Los Angeles June 2016
Minor: Political Science

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Assistant Professor, Claremont McKenna College 2024 – Present
Visiting Assistant Professor, Hamilton College 2022 – 2024
Lecturer, California State University, San Bernardino 2019 – 2022

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

American presidency, American political thought, American political development, rhetoric and poetics, literature and politics

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Passing the 1966 Laboratory Animal Welfare Act: The Animal Welfare Movement in Mid-Twentieth Century America.” In *Movements and American Political Thought*, edited by Alex Zamalin and Max Burkey, SUNY Press, Forthcoming.

Manuscripts Under Review

“‘The Road Not Taken’: John F. Kennedy’s American Poet.” Under review at *American Political Thought*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

“The Political Nature of Epideictic Rhetoric”
“Competing Theories of Love in Shakespeare’s *King Lear*”
American Epideictic Rhetoric. Book manuscript.

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| Works-in-Progress Award, Hamilton College | Spring 2023 |
| Faculty Development Project Award, Hamilton College | 2022 – 2023 |
| Dean’s Competitive Conference Award, Claremont Graduate University | Spring 2022 |
| Bradley Graduate Fellowship, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation | 2018 – 2021 |
| Claremont Graduate University Scholar Award, Claremont Graduate University | 2018 – 2019 |
| Susan Solarzano Minority Student Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University | Fall 2018 |
| J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Statesmanship Award, Claremont Graduate University | 2017 – 2018 |
| Tuition Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University | 2016 – 2019 |
| Dean’s List, California State University, Los Angeles | Spring 2015 |

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- “Political Implications of Epideictic Rhetoric.” Western Political Science Association Conference, March 2024.
- “Poetry and Power: John F. Kennedy on Robert Frost.” Western Political Science Association Conference, April 2023.
- “The Education of Epideictic Rhetoric.” Junior Scholar Symposium, Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, April 2022.
- “Rhetoric and Statesmanship: The Epideictic Rhetoric of John F. Kennedy.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, November 2021.
- “Reciprocity’s Relationship to Particular Justice: It’s Complicated.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, November 2019.
- “Education’s Role in Hindering the Development of *Amour-Propre*: Rousseau’s *Emile*.” Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2019.
- “Shaping the Animal Welfare Act of 1966: Deliberation in the Senate Committee on Commerce Hearings.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, November 2018.

Discussant

- “Race, Gender, Historical Representation.” Western Political Science Association Conference, April 2023.
- “Plato on Affect, Friendship, Identity, and Environment.” Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, April 2022.
- Junior Scholar Co-Discussant. “Creative and Affective Approaches to Aristotle.” Junior Scholar Symposium, Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, April 2022.

Chair

- “Theorizing With Literary Inspiration.” Western Political Science Association Conference, March 2024.
- “Plato on Affect, Friendship, Identity, and Environment.” Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, April 2022.

CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

“‘The Road Not Taken:’ John F. Kennedy and the American Poet.” Government Colloquium, Hamilton College, April 2024.
“Epideictic Rhetoric and the Regime.” Government Colloquium, Hamilton College, April 2023.
“Poetry and Power: John F. Kennedy on Robert Frost.” Works-in-Progress Group, Hamilton College, March 2023.

SELECT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Politics

American Government, Claremont McKenna College (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
American Political Process, Hamilton College (Fall 2022, Spring 2024)
Political Oratory, Hamilton College (Spring 2023)
The American Presidency, Hamilton College (Fall 2022)
The President and Congress, Stockton University (Fall 2021)
Political Parties, Stockton University (Fall 2021)
The Legislative Process, California State University, San Bernardino (Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

Political Philosophy

Introduction to Political Philosophy, Hamilton College (Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
Classical Political Thought, California State University, San Bernardino (Spring 2022)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dr. Jean Schroedel, Claremont Graduate University Summer 2019
Research Assistant, Dr. Christopher Krewson, Claremont Graduate University 2018 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Fall 2024
Reviewer, Government Department Essay Writing Contest, Hamilton College, Spring 2023
Independent Research Faculty Advisor, Kirkland Endowment, Hamilton College, Spring 2023
Mentor, Minority Mentor Program, Claremont Graduate University, 2017 – 2019
Mentor, Uncommon Good, 2017 – 2019

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Jeffersonian Seminar Series, Jack Miller Center, November 2021, January 2022, December 2022
Summer Institute, Jack Miller Center, June 2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Political Theory
Latino Caucus for the American Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Mark Blitz, Ph.D.
Fletcher Jones Professor of Political Philosophy
Claremont McKenna College
mark.blitz@claremontmckenna.edu

James H. Nichols, Jr., Ph.D.
Dr. Jules L. Whitehill Emeritus Professor of Humanism and Ethics
Claremont McKenna College
james.nichols@claremontmckenna.edu

Peter Cannavò, Ph.D.
Professor of Government
Hamilton College
pcannavo@hamilton.edu