

Rebeca Castaneda Leffler

Department of Government
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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 political thought; American presidency; rhetoric and poetics; history of political thought; literature and politics

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Forthcoming. “Are We all Head and No Heart?: The Animal Welfare Movement in Mid-Twentieth Century America.” In *Movements and American Political Thought*, edited by Alex Zamalin and Max Burkey, SUNY Press.

Manuscripts in Review

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

Manuscripts in Preparation

American Epideictic Rhetoric: Ceremonial Rhetoric in War. Book manuscript.

“Competing Theories of Duty in Shakespeare’s *King Lear*”

“Renunciation and Denaturalization: Citizenship Loss in the Early American Republic”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

Jack Miller Center Summer Institute Fellowship, Jack Miller Center, June 2022
Bradley Graduate Fellowship, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, 2018 – 2021

Internal

Works-in-Progress Program Grant, Hamilton College, Spring 2023
Faculty Development Program Grant, Hamilton College, 2022 – 2023
Susan Solarzano Minority Student Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University, Fall 2018
Tuition Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University, 2016 – 2019

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dean's Competitive Conference Award, Claremont Graduate University, Spring 2022
Claremont Graduate University Scholar Award, Claremont Graduate University, 2018 – 2019
J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Statesmanship Award, Claremont Graduate University, 2017 – 2018
Dean's List, California State University, Los Angeles, Winter 2016

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

“Competing Theories of Duty in Shakespeare’s *King Lear*.” Western Political Science Association Conference, to be presented April 2025.
“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

“Popular Culture and Politics.” Western Political Science Association Conference, April 2025.

“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 AND WORKSHOPS

“A Strategic Framework: Latinas in Law and Higher Education.” Latinas in Law Student Club, Claremont McKenna College, to be presented March 2025.

“‘The Road Not Taken’: John F. Kennedy and the American Poet.” Government Colloquium, Hamilton College, April 2024.

“Epidictic Rhetoric and the *Polis*.” 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)

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

Public Policy Research Intern, Reason Foundation Spring 2018

SERVICE

To the Profession

Committee Member, Status of Women in the Profession, Western Political Science Association, 2025 – present

To the Department and College

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

To the Community

Mentor, Uncommon Good, 2017 – 2019

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Science, Political Science, and the American Regime, Jack Miller Center Summer Institute, June 2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

REFERENCES

Mark Blitz, Ph.D.
Fletcher Jones Professor of Political Philosophy
Claremont McKenna College
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James H. Nichols, Jr., Ph.D.
Dr. Jules L. Whitehill Emeritus Professor of Humanism and Ethics
Claremont McKenna College
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Peter Cannavò, Ph.D.
Professor of Government
Hamilton College
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