

# Stuart Gray

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## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2012  
M.A. Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007  
B.A. Political Science, University of California, Davis, 2002, *honors*

## Appointments

Associate Professor, Department of Politics, Washington and Lee University, 2021-  
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Washington and Lee University, 2015-21

- Affiliate Faculty, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program, Washington and Lee University

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2014-2015  
Charles & Amy Scharf Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2012-2014

## Publications

### Books

*The Political Theory of the Bhagavad-Gītā: Deep Ideology, Nationalism, and Democratic Life on the Indian Subcontinent* (De Gruyter, forthcoming 2025)

*A Defense of Rule: Origins of Political Thought in Greece and India* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

- Reviewed in: *Political Theory*, *The Review of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*

### Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters

“Decolonizing the Universal *Bhagavad-Gītā*: Reexamining Peter Brook and Transnational Orientalism,” *Journal of World Philosophies* 6, no. 2 (2021)

“The *Bhagavad Gītā* and Paradox of Death,” in eds. Erin Dolgoy, Bruce Peabody, and Kimberly Hurd Hale, *Political Theory on Death and Dying* (Routledge Press, 2021)

“History, the Hindu Right, and Subversion of Brahmanical-Hindu Political Thought,” in eds. L. Jenco, M. Idris, and M. Thomas, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

“Kautilya: Centrifugal Purism and the Expansion of Power,” in eds. R. Schuett and M. Hollingsworth, *The Edinburgh Companion to Political Realism* (Edinburgh University Press, 2018)

“Cross-Cultural Intelligibility and the Use of History: From Democracy and Liberalism to Indian Rajanikal Thought,” *The Review of Politics* 78, no. 2 (2016): 251-283.

“Gandhi’s Devotional Political Thought,” with Thomas Hughes, *Philosophy East and West* 65, no. 2 (2015): 375-400.

“Reexamining Kauṭilya and Machiavelli: Flexibility and the Problem of Legitimacy in Brahmanical and Secular Realism,” *Political Theory* 42, no. 6 (2014): 635-657.

“The State of Nature and Domesticated Differences in Ancient Indian Political Thought: A Historical-Comparative Approach,” in *The “State of Nature” in Comparative Political Thought: Western and Non-Western Perspectives*, eds. J.D. Carlson and R.A. Fox (Lexington Books, 2013)

“A Historical-Comparative Approach to Indian Political Thought: Locating and Examining Domesticated Differences,” *History of Political Thought* 31, no. 3 (2010): 383-406.

### **Public Scholarship**

“Secular Smokescreens and Liberal Democratic Politics,” invited news article, Institute of Art and Ideas (IAI.tv) (2023): [https://iai.tv/articles/avid-2597-avid-2597?\\_avid=2020](https://iai.tv/articles/avid-2597-avid-2597?_avid=2020)

### **Book Reviews**

“*After Law*, by Laurent de Sutter,” *Law, Culture and the Humanities*,” 18, no. 3 (2022): 798-801.

“*Elementary Aspects of the Political: Histories from the Global South*, by Prathama Banerjee,” *Perspectives on Politics* 19, no. 3 (2021): 973-74.

“*Indian Political Theory: Laying the Groundwork for Svaraj*, by Aakash Singh Rathore,” *Political Theory* 47, no. 4 (2019): 598-603.

### **Works in Progress**

“Poli-wood: *Rāmāyaṇa* and Cinematic Ideology” (article)

### **Honors, Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2022-23 | Lenfest Sabbatical Fellowship, Washington and Lee University  |
| 2016-24 | Lenfest Summer Research Grant, Washington and Lee University  |
| 2020    | Washington and Lee University’s nominee for the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia’s Outstanding Faculty “Rising Star” Award |
| 2016    | Artinian Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association   |
| 2012    | Outstanding Teaching Award, UCSB Academic Senate  |
| 2012    | Outstanding Teaching Award, <i>honorable mention</i> , UCSB Graduate Student Association  |
| 2011    | Prestage-Cook Travel Grant Award, Southern Political Science Association  |
| 2010-11 | Dean’s Fellowship, UCSB   |
| 2009    | Manzer-Wesson Award for Best Conference Paper, Department of Political Science, UCSB  |
| 2009    | Academic Senate Graduate Student Travel Grant, UCSB   |

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| 2008    | Departmental Summer Language Grant, UCSB. Used for Sanskrit study, South Asian Summer Language Institute, University of Wisconsin, Madison |
| 2008    | Manzer-Wesson Award for Best Dissertation Prospectus, Department of Political Science, UCSB  |
| 2007    | Outstanding Teaching Award, UCSB Residence Hall Association  |
| 2005-09 | Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, UCSB   |

### **Papers, Talks, and Conferences**

“The *Bhagavad-Gītā* as Political Ideology,” paper presented (virtual) at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2023

“*Deep Ideology: The Political Theory of the Bhagavad-Gītā*,” invited talk, University of Hawai’i, Center for South Asian Studies, February 2023

Invited Seminar Discussant, “The Republic in India: A Roundtable Discussion,” House of Lords, UK (virtual attendance), May 2022

“Arjuna in the *Bhagavad-Gītā*: The Self as Political Battlefield and Becoming an Ascetic Hero,” paper presented (virtual) at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2022

Panel Chair and Discussant, “Comparative Political Theory: Methods and Investigations,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2022

“A Decolonial Paradox and the *Bhagavad-Gītā*: Reexamining Huxley, Brook, and Transnational Orientalism,” paper presented (virtual) at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2021

“Plato’s *Apology* and Democratic Education,” talk given for undergraduate course, “Democracy and Education,” Washington and Lee University, October 2020

“A Decolonial Paradox and the *Bhagavad-Gītā*: Reexamining Huxley, Brook, and Transnational Orientalism,” paper accepted at Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, April 2020 (conference canceled due to COVID)

“Re-Turning to the *Mahābhārata*: Peter Brook and Political Theory,” paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2019

“Teaching Black Mirror,” talk presented for the Teaching with Film Faculty Cohort, Washington and Lee University, Fall 2019

“India’s *Mahābhārata*: Political Integration and Federation in an Age of Strife,” invited paper presented at conference, “Unions and Federations in Imperial and Anti-Imperial Political Thought,” Columbia University, New York City, NY, April 2018

*A Defense of Rule*, New Books in Environmental Political Theory roundtable, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 2018

“Rule as Stewardship in Ancient Indian Thought,” invited lecture, January 2018, presented at:

- Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Delhi University

- Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

“Indian Epic and Political Philosophy,” invited talk and roundtable, Daulat Ram College, Delhi University, January 2018

“Subverting Brahmanical-Hindu Political Thought,” paper presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 2017

“History, the Hindu Right, and Subversion of Brahmanical-Hindu Political Thought,” paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., April 2017

“Kauṭilyan Realism: Expansion of a Complex Body Politic,” paper presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016

“Healthy Hubris: A Greek Lesson in Turning Subjects into Democratic Citizens,” paper presented at Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2016

Panel Chair and Discussant, “Aristotle,” Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2016

“Present Desires, Past Realities: Democracy, Liberalism, and Contemporary Indian Political Theory,” paper to be presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 2014

“Overcoming Anxieties, Shifting Categories: From Democracy and Liberalism to Indian Rājānical Thought,” paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, April 2014

Discussant, Naturalism: East and West, Association for Political Theory Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, October 2013

“An Indian Path to Ruling as Stewardship: Polycentrism, Polyarchy, and Response-ability,” paper presented at Political Science Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, April 2013

“An Indian Path to Ruling as Stewardship,” paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

Commentator, *Cosmopolitan Political Thought: Method, Practice, Discipline*, by Farah Godrej, Author Meets Critics, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

Chair, Socialism and Utopianism, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

“Ruling in Ancient Greece and India,” invited lecture, South Asian Religion and Cultures Research Focus Group, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2012

“Homer Versus Hesiod on Ruling: Distinction and Its Critic,” paper presented at Western

Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, March 2012

“Ancient India and Early Greece: A Historical-Comparative Approach to Political Thought and the Concept of Ruling,” invited lecture, Ancient Studies Colloquia, Borderlands Research Group, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2011

“Global History of Political Thought: Gandhi as a Lesson on Cross-Cultural Ingenuity and Hybridity,” with Thomas Hughes, paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, April 2011

“Kingly Rule as Distinction in Homeric Political Thought,” paper presented at Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2011

“A Historical-Comparative Approach to Indian Political Thought: Locating and Examining Domesticated Differences,” paper presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2009

“Domesticating Differences: A Comparative Perspective on India’s Ancient Political Thought,” paper presented at Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, March 2009

### **Teaching**

Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

- Introduction to Political Philosophy
- Classical Political Philosophy
- Modern Political Philosophy
- Contemporary Political Philosophy
- Freedom
- Gandhi and His Critics
- Indian Epic and Political Philosophy
- Black Mirror
- Poli-Wood: Indian Epics, Myth, and Cinema as Political Philosophy

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

- Freedom
- Non-Western Political Thought
- Comparative Political Philosophy
- Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy

### **Research and Teaching Interests**

History of political thought (western and non-western), global-comparative political theory, ancient and medieval political thought, modern political philosophy, South Asian political thought, politics and religion, environmental political theory

### **Research Languages**

- Ancient Greek (reading)
- Sanskrit (reading)

**Manuscript Referee**

*Political Theory, Contemporary Political Theory, The Review of Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Politics, The Acorn: Philosophical Studies in Pacifism and Nonviolence*

**Academic Service**

***Washington and Lee University***

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2024-29      | Public Functions Committee  |
| 2023-25      | Williams School Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees   |
| 2021         | Chair, Glynn Family Scholarship Committee   |
| 2020-25      | Member, Intellectual Property Review Committee  |
| 2019-23      | Member, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee   |
| 2019         | Member, Values Committee, Williams School   |
| 2019-2020    | Member (alternate), Faculty Affairs Committee   |
| 2018-2019    | Member, Planning Committee for Science, Society, and the Arts<br>Multidisciplinary Conference   |
| 2017-present | Affiliate Faculty, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program   |
| 2017- 2020   | Member, University Library Committee & Diversity and Cultural<br>Awareness Committee  |
| 2017         | Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for Faculty Sufficiency and<br>Deployment for Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics |
| 2016-18      | Member, Williams School Strategic Planning Committee on Facilities  |
| 2015         | Member, Mudd Faculty Fellows, Roger Mudd Center for Ethics  |
| 2015-17      | Member, Middle East-South Asia Studies, Faculty Cohort  |

**Professional Memberships**

American Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory

**References**

Available upon request