

**Scott B. Ritner**

Tel: 347-243-2294

Email: [Scott.Ritner@temple.edu](mailto:Scott.Ritner@temple.edu) or [sritner@gmail.com](mailto:sritner@gmail.com)

**Professional Appointments**

Assistant Professor – Instructional of Political Science  
Temple University, Fall 2018-Present

Adjunct Instructor of Political Science  
Hunter College, City University of New York, Fall 2017- Spring 2018

Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics  
Clark University, Fall 2012-Fall 2013, Fall 2014

**Education**

The New School for Social Research: New York, NY  
Ph.D. in Politics, May 18, 2018  
M.Phil. in Politics, May, 2016  
M.A. in Politics, January, 2011

European University at St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg, Russia  
M.A. in Russian Studies, June 2006  
Concentration in Political Theory  
Thesis Title: "Is Democracy Enough? Tocqueville and the Case for Russia's Next Generation of Civil Society."

Clark University: Worcester, MA  
B.A. in Government and International Relations, 2005  
Concentration in Comparative Politics

**Courses Taught**

General Education Courses

- Honors Politics of Identity in America (Temple University, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)
- Politics of Identity in America (Temple University, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

Introductory Courses

- Foreign Governments (Temple University, Fall 2018)
- Honors Introduction to Political Philosophy (Temple University, Fall 2018)
- Introduction to Political Philosophy (Temple University, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020)
- Political Thought Since 1900 (Hunter College, Fall 2017)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (Clark University, Fall 2014)

#### Intermediate and Advanced Seminars

- Theory & Uses of Power (Temple University, Fall 2020)
- Marxism & Politics (Temple University, Spring 2019)
- Women's Political Thought (Hunter College, Spring 2018)
- Politics and Literature (Hunter College, Spring 2018 and Clark University, Fall, 2013)
- Critical Theory and Politics (Hunter College, Fall 2017)
- Introduction to Political Economy (Clark University, Spring 2013)
- Revolution & Political Violence (Clark University, Fall 2012)

#### Teaching Competencies

- Political Theory – Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary
- Critical Social Theory
- Identity Politics and Critiques of Identity Politics
- Women's Political Thought
- Politics of Race
- Marx, Engels, & Marxisms
- Jewish Political Thought
- Political Economy & Its Critique

#### Dissertation

Title: "The Critical Spirit, The Pessimistic Heterodoxy of Simone Weil"

#### Research Interests

- Simone Weil
- Pessimism
- Marx & Marxisms
- State Theory
- Decolonial Political Thought
- Labor
- Philosophy of History

## Book Chapters

“The Training of the Soul: Simone Weil’s Dialectical Disciplinary Paradigm, A Reading alongside Michel Foucault,” in A. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone ed. *Simone Weil and Continental Philosophy*, 195-212 (New York, NY; Rowman and Littlefield, 2017).

“Simone Weil’s heterodox Marxism: revolutionary pessimism and the politics of resistance,” in *Simone Weil, Beyond Ideology*, Sophie Bourgault and Julie Daigle eds. (New York; Palgrave MacMillan, Forthcoming: 2021).

## Review Articles

Simone Weil, *La personne et le sacré: collectivité, personne, impersonnel, droit, justice*. Paris: Éditions Allia, 2018. 80pp.€3.10 (pb). ISBN 979-10-304-0797-6. (H-France Review, Vol 20, August 2020).

## Interviews

“Interviews with Justus Rosenberg, January 2012 – July 2012” The Archives of The New School University.

## Book Manuscript

*Revolutionary Pessimism: Simone Weil on Politics*.

## Working Papers

“We’re All Pessimists Now: Aphorisms from the Hot Spring and Summer of 2020.”

“Ersatz Greatness: Simone Weil’s Contribution to the History of the Oppressed.”

“Finding Refuge in Rootedness: Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil on subjectivity in migration, borders, and boundaries.”

“Humiliation, the practice of precarious labor.”

“The Heuristic State: Simone Weil’s Vision for Post-War France.”

“Machiavelli’s Concept of Corruption, Or, What’s so Evil About Evil Anyway?”

## Invited Lectures

“Revolutionary Pessimism: On Political Action without Expectation”

Incite Seminars

December 7, 2019, Philadelphia, PA

“Re-rooting 'We Refugees': Lessons on the Condition of Displacement from Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil.”

The Ottawa Political Theory Network

April 2018, University of Ottawa

## Selected Conference Presentations

*Revolutionary Pessimism: Simone Weil on Politics*

Book Proposal Workshop

Association for Political Theory

October 2019, University of California Irvine.

“Simone Weil’s Inadvertent Feminism”

Association for Political Theory

October 2019, University of California Irvine

"Re-rooting 'We Refugees': Lessons on the Conditions of Displacement from Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil"

American Political Science Association

August 2019, Washington, D.C.

"Finding Refuge in Rootedness: Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil on subjectivity in migration, borders, and boundaries."

Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society

April 2019, Ramon Llul University, Barcelona, Spain

“Re-rooting 'We Refugees': Lessons on the Condition of Displacement from Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil.”

Sanctuary and Subjectivity: An International Workshop

October 2018, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

“Fearless Listening, Fearless Questioning: Simone Weil’s Compassionate Speech”

American Political Science Association

August 2018, Boston, MA.

“The Heuristic State: Simone Weil’s Moral Community in the Wake of Fascist

Terror”

Western Political Science Association  
March 2018, San Francisco, CA

“Disciplinary Dialectics: Simone Weil and Michel Foucault on Our Complicity in Our Own Domination”

Western Political Science Association  
March 2016, San Diego, CA

“Affliction, Alienation, and One-Dimensional Thinking: Simone Weil and Herbert Marcuse on the perpetuation of Capitalism”

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy  
October 2014, New Orleans, LA

“The God of Negation – Divine Intervention in the Thought of Walter Benjamin, Georges Bataille, and Simone Weil”

The Philosophy of Walter Benjamin  
December 2012, Goldsmiths College, London, UK

“Tragedy and History: Shakespeare’s Hamlet and its Competing Historical Records”

Historical Materialism  
May 2012, York University, Toronto, Ontario, CAN

“Jekyll’s desire, Hyde’s ecstasy: the thirst for self-annihilation in Robert Louis Stevenson’s famous allegory”

Desire: From Eros to Erotism  
November 2011, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

“The Concept of Corruption in Machiavelli’s Political Thought”

Western Political Science Association  
April 2011, San Antonio, TX

## **Awards**

Junior Weillienne Scholar’s Grant, Awarded by the American Weil Society (2017)

## **Professional Associations**

American Weil Society  
American Political Science Association  
Association for Political Theory

## References

Dr. Banu Bargu  
Associate Professor of History of Consciousness  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
1156 High St, HISC - Humanities 1  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
[BBargu@ucsc.edu](mailto:BBargu@ucsc.edu)  
831-502-7076

Dr. Robin Kolodny  
Professor of Political Science  
Temple University  
1115 Berks St.  
Gladfelter Hall, 409  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
[robin.kolodny@temple.edu](mailto:robin.kolodny@temple.edu)  
215-204-7796

Dr. Robyn Marasco  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Hunter College, CUNY  
695 Park Ave  
Hunter West 1724  
New York, NY 10065  
[rmarasco@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:rmarasco@hunter.cuny.edu)  
212-772-5000

Dr. Nancy Fraser  
Henry A. & Louise Loeb Professor of Political & Social Science  
The New School for Social Research  
6 East 16th Street, Room 711A  
New York, NY 10003  
[FraserN@earthlink.net](mailto:FraserN@earthlink.net)  
212-229-5747 ext. 3090