

# ALEX PRIOU

[www.alexpriou.com](http://www.alexpriou.com)  
[alexpriou@gmail.com](mailto:alexpriou@gmail.com)

## *ABOUT*

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., M.A., Philosophy, Tulane University (2014)  
M.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College (2007)  
B.A., Political Science, University of Connecticut (2005)

### APPOINTMENTS

2024–present Associate Professor of Political Theory, The University of Austin  
2020–24 Teaching Assistant Professor, Herbst Program for Engineering, Ethics, and Society,  
University of Colorado Boulder  
2019–21 Instructor, Herbst Program  
2013–19 Adjunct/Visiting Professor, Philosophy and Humanities, Sarah Lawrence College, Long  
Island University, Kutztown University, and Manhattanville College  
2009–13 Instructor, Tulane University

### GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Fellow, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, University of Colorado (2023–24)  
NPSA McWilliams Best Paper in Theory Award (2021)  
NPSA Pi Sigma Alpha Best Paper Award (2020)  
Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics and Public Affairs (2012–13)  
Tulane School of Liberal Arts Summer Merit Grant (2012)  
Exchange Fellowship at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany (2010–11)  
Tulane School of Liberal Arts Summer Merit Grant (2009)

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ancient Philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, Pre-Socratic Philosophy and Poetry; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy;  
Philosophy and Film, Philosophy and Literature

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

General History of Philosophy, emphasis on political philosophy (Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and  
Contemporary); Philosophy/Political Philosophy and Science/Tech

### LANGUAGES

Reading competence in Ancient Greek, German, and French

## *PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH*

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### BOOKS

1. *Defending Socrates: Political Philosophy Before the Tribunal of Science*. Mercer University Press, 2023.
2. *Musings on Plato's Symposium*. Toronto: Political Animal Press, 2023.
3. [Becoming Socrates: Political Philosophy in Plato's Parmenides](#). University of Rochester Press, 2018.  
Reviewed in [Ancient Philosophy, Interpretation, The Review of Politics](#), *POLIS, The International Journal of the Platonic Tradition*.

#### BOOKS EDITED

1. David Bolotin. *Lectures On Plato's Republic*. Edited with an introduction by Alex Priou and Paul Diduch, Foreword by Peter Hansen. Political Animal Press (forthcoming 2024–25).
2. Laurence Berns. *Politics, Nature and Piety*. Edited with an introduction by Alex Priou. Paul Dry, 2022.

#### REFEREED ARTICLES

1. [“The Myth of the Liar Poet,”](#) *Philosophy and Literature* (forthcoming 2024).
2. “The Plan of Zeus and the Plight of the Octopus,” *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics* 31.1 (2023), 29–39.
3. [“The Socratic Arc of Aristotle's Metaphysics 3,”](#) *The Review of Metaphysics* 72 (2019), 463–96.
4. [“Keaton's Yoke,”](#) *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics* 26.3 (2019), 111–28.
5. [“Plato's Minos and the Euthyphro,”](#) *POLIS: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought* 35.1 (2018), 145–63.
6. [“The Philosopher in Plato's Sophist,”](#) *Hermathena* 195 (2018), 5–29.
7. [“Parmenides on Reason and Revelation,”](#) *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* 22.2 (2018), 177–202.
8. [“On Two Socratic Questions,”](#) *The St. John's Review* 58.2 (2017), 77–91.
9. [“...Going Further On Down the Road...’: The Origin and Foundations of Milesian Thought,”](#) *The Review of Metaphysics* 70 (2016), 3–31.
10. [“Irony and Opinion: Plato's Theaetetus and the Absent Philosopher,”](#) *International Journal of the Platonic Tradition* 10 (2016), 151–67.
11. [“Hesiod: Man, Law and Cosmos,”](#) *POLIS: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought* 31 (2014), 233–60.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

1. [“Nature, Education, and Freedom,”](#) for a volume on freedom and liberal education (forthcoming).
2. “Leo Strauss on Plato's *Symposium*,” in *Leo Strauss on Religion*, edited by Svetozar Minkov and Rasoul Namazi. State University of New York Press (forthcoming).
3. [“Leo Strauss and the Academy,”](#) for *Research Handbook in the History of Political Thought*. Edward Elgar (forthcoming).
4. [“Olympus as Hades: Plato and the Homeric Parmenides,”](#) in *Inquiring into Being: Essays on Parmenides*, edited by Colin Smith (forthcoming).
5. [“The Beautiful and the False: An Introduction to Plato's Hippias,”](#) in Ian Dagg (ed.), *Education and Regime: A Study in the History of Political Philosophy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2023), 44–62.
6. [“The Socratic Turn to Alcibiades,”](#) in Charlie Thomas (ed.), *Liberty, Democracy, and the Temptations of Tyranny in the Dialogues of Plato*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press (2021).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

1. [“Beyond Law and Poetry: On Two Recent \*Festschriften\*.”](#) Review Essay of *Nature Law and the Sacred*, ed. by Evanthia Speliotis, and *Writing the Poetic Soul of Philosophy*, ed. by Denise Schaeffer. *POLIS* 39 (2022), 391-407.
2. [Review of \*The Socratic Individual\*](#), by Ann Ward. *Review of Politics* 84 (2022), 487–89.
3. [Review of \*The Music of Reason\*](#), by Michael Davis. *POLIS* 38 (2021), 162–66.
4. [“Approaching Seth Benardete: On \*The Eccentric Core\*.”](#) Review Essay of *The Eccentric Core*, ed. by Ronna Burger and Patrick Goodin. *Interpretation* 45.2 (2019), 249–67.
5. [Review of \*Logos and Psyche in Plato’s Phaedo\*](#), by Jesse I. Bailey. *POLIS* 36 (2019), 375–79.
6. [Review of \*Sophistry and Political Philosophy: Protagoras’ Challenge to Socrates\*](#), by Robert C. Bartlett. *The Review of Metaphysics* (2017).

#### **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

1. Co-host of [“The New Thinkery: A Political Philosophy Podcast,”](#) with new episodes weekly and roughly 10,000 downloads/month. Over 150 episodes so far, many of them interviews with scholars about their work.
2. “Love and Politics” with Travis Rodgers, *Philosophy Chatter* podcast, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
3. Interview on *Musings on Plato’s Symposium*, Anya Leonard, *Classical Wisdom* podcast, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
4. Interview on *Musings on Plato’s Symposium*, Spencer Klavan of *Young Heretics*, Episode of August 25, 2023.
5. “Progress and Modernity,” *Narratives* podcast, Episode 145, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
6. *Doomer Optimism* Podcast, Episode 137, April 26, 2023.
7. “Leo Strauss and the Possibility of Political Wisdom,” *Public Discourse*, “Who’s Who Series”, March 23, 2023.
8. “Leo Strauss and the Three Waves of Modernity,” *ex.haust* podcast Episode 93, November 26, 2022.
9. “Plato’s *Republic*,” *The Free Mind* podcast Season 4, Episode 4, October 11, 2022.
10. “Tragedy and Comedy,” Sue Rose Summer Institute for Teachers at the Dallas Institute, July 7–11, 2022. Week of instruction on Aristophanes, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, including a lecture (see below, under “Invited Talks”).
11. “Plato’s Symposium (part 2),” *Ancient Greece Revisited* podcast Episode 18, July 18, 2022.
12. “Plato’s Symposium (part 1),” *Ancient Greece Revisited* podcast Episode 17, June 30, 2022.
13. “The Knights-Errant of the Culture War,” a response to David Bolotin, in *Academic Questions*, Winter 2021.
14. [“Biden’s Legitimacy Problem: A Machiavellian Analysis”](#) in *The Constitutionalist*, December 28, 2021.
15. Interviewed for documentary on Buster Keaton’s *Sherlock Jr.* (1924) for the International Buster Keaton Society’s 2021 meeting.
16. “Struggle to Understand” Podcast, episode on political philosophy and liberal education, February 29, 2021.
17. [“How Political is Philosophy? A Response to Michael Millerman”](#) in *Athwart*, August 14, 2020.
18. “Phronesis” Podcast, [Episode 7: Seth Benardete, “Strauss on Plato”](#), July 27, 2020.
19. [“Plato at a Glance”](#) in *Athwart*, June 26, 2020,
20. [“What is One?”](#) in *The American Mind*, February 7, 2020.

## TALKS & CONFERENCES

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### INVITED TALKS

1. “The Conservatism of Leo Strauss.” *Coming Home: Exploring the Work of Ted McAllister*, Pepperdine University, March 16, 2024.
2. “The Problem of Socrates in Leo Strauss’s *Natural Right and History*.” Leo Strauss Program, University of Austin, January 4, 2024.
3. “The Thucydidean Backdrop to Plato’s *Symposium*.” Core Conversations, *ACTC*, January 27, 2023.
4. “Reflections on Shakespeare’s Manner of Writing, With Particular Attention to the Case of *Macbeth*.” Sue Rose Summer Institute for Teachers, Dallas Institute, July 10, 2022.
5. “Reading Plato’s *Republic* in America Today.” Yeshiva University. February 14, 2022.
6. “The Look of Man: On Plato’s *Alcibiades*.” Mercer University. March, 2019.
7. “Plato at a Glance.” Kutztown University. April 27, 2017.
8. “Divine Providence or Natural Right in Homer’s *Iliad*?” The Institute for the Study of Democracy and Liberalism, Long Island University, Post Campus. March 3, 2015.

### CONFERENCES

1. “Second Sailings: A Virtual Conference on the Thought of Seth Benardete,” The Benardete Archive, March 9, 2024 (co-organizer and co-moderator).
2. Panel: Leo Strauss on Tocqueville and Nietzsche, The LeFrak Forum, Michigan State University, March 7, 2024.
3. “Reading Plato’s *Republic* and *Symposium* in light of Thucydides,” APA Central, 2024.
4. AEI Faculty Summit, January 2024.
5. Leo Strauss Program, University of Austin, January 2024.
6. “Plato’s *Symposium* on Empire and the Ends of Eros,” NPSA, 2023.
7. Participant in “Jerusalem and Athens in New Orleans,” Conference in honor of Ronna Burger and Richard Velkley, Tulane University, 2023.
8. “Reading Plato alongside Thucydides’ *History*,” APA Central, 2023.
9. “Reading Plato’s *Republic* with Thucydides,” Front Range Ancient Philosophy Workshop, 2023.
10. “Nature, Education, and Freedom.” Conference on liberal education at Villanova University 2022.
11. “Thucydides and Plato’s *Republic*.” APA Pacific 2022.
12. Participant, Jack Miller Center Summer Institute 2021. Theme: “Civic Education and the American Republic.”
13. “Olympus as Hades: Plato and the Homeric Parmenides.” NPSA 2021.
14. “Olympus as Hades: Plato and the Homeric Parmenides.” Eleatica 2021.
15. “The Plan of Zeus and the Plight of the Octopus.” *Non-Human Animals in Ancient Greek Philosophy and Religion*, The Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, University of South Florida, May 2021.
16. “The History of Wisdom: On Xenophanes.” APSA, 2020.
17. Chair, “The Drama of Philosophy and the Education of Philosophers.” NEPSA 2020.
18. “Nietzsche’s New Socrates.” NPSA, 2019.
19. Discussant, “Aristotle on Guiding Humans Well.” NPSA 2019.
20. “The Socratic Turn to Alcibiades.” Panel on “Justice, Education, and Human Flourishing in Plato and Aristotle.” APSA, 2019.
21. “The Place of the *Statesman* in Plato’s Trilogy.” Panel on “The Question of Being and the Gods in Ancient Thought.” APA Eastern, 2019.

22. "The Place of the *Statesman* in Plato's Trilogy." NPSA, 2018.
23. "Plato's Living Epistemology." Panel on "Perspectives on Socratic Political Science." APSA, 2018.
24. "The Two Theaetetus." Panel on "One and Two." ACTC, 2018
25. "The Socratic Arc of Aristotle's *Metaphysics B*." APA Central, 2018.
26. "Plato at a Glance." Panel on "The Theoretical Presuppositions of Political Science." NPSA, 2017.
27. Chair and Discussant for panel on Thucydides and Demosthenes. NPSA, 2017.
28. "Who Would Read Plato's *Cleitophon*?" Panel on "Platonic Educations" (also the organizer). ACTC, 2017.
29. "On Plato's *Minos*." Panel on "Natural Law and Divine Law." APA Eastern, 2017.
30. "The Philosopher in Plato's *Sophist*." Panel on "Law in Ancient Political Thought." NPSA, 2016.
31. Chair and Discussant for Panel on "Politics, Religion, and the Question of the Good Life in Plato and Aristotle." NPSA, 2016.
32. "On Two Socratic Questions." Panel on "Speech and the Search for Truth in Classical Thought." ACTC, 2016.
33. "From Hesiod, To Heraclitus." Panel on "From Hesiod to Plato." APA Eastern, 2016.
34. "Parmenides on Reason and Revelation." Panel on "War, Politics, and Strife in Greek Political Thought." NPSA, 2015.
35. Discussant for panel on "Plato on Statesmen, Laws & Love." NPSA, 2015.
36. "The Problem of Providence in Homer's *Iliad*." Panel on "Divine Providence and Beginnings." APA Western, 2015.
37. "The Problem of Thought in the Twilight of the Idols." Panel on "Political Thought across Marx, Mill, and Nietzsche." Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA), 2015.
38. Chair and discussant for panel on "From the Renaissance to Early Modernity." MPSA, 2015.
39. "Hesiod: Man, Law and Cosmos." Panel on "Lessons from Antiquity: Poetry, Sophistry, and Philosophy on the Good Life." MPSA, 2014.
40. "The Goddess of Parmenides' Refutation." Panel on "Perspectives on the Platonic Socrates." APA Eastern, 2013.
41. "Irony and Opinion: the *Theaetetus* as the Absent *Philosopher*." Panel on "Plato, Tragedy and Comedy." APA Central, 2013.
42. Discussant for panel on "Platonic Education." MPSA, 2012.
43. "Philosophy after Socrates: A Look at the Intention of the *Parmenides*." Panel on "Plato on the City, the Soul, and the Divine." APA Eastern, 2011.

## TEACHING

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### COURSES TAUGHT

2023–24

- "Plato's *Republic*" (five sections)
- "Advanced Humanities for Engineers" (two sections)
- "First Year Seminar" (two sections)
- Independent Study: "Modern Political Philosophy"

2022–23

- "Plato's *Symposium*" (three sections)
- "Advanced Humanities for Engineers" (two sections)
- Independent Study: "The Roots of Illiberalism"

- On Leave Spring 2023
- 2021–22
- “Ancient Philosophy”
  - “Plato’s *Republic*” (four sections)
  - “Plato’s *Symposium*”
  - “Advanced Humanities for Engineers” (three sections)
- 2020–21
- “Plato’s *Republic*” (three sections)
  - “The Hero and the Philosopher” (two sections)
  - “Advanced Humanities for Engineers” (three sections)
  - “The Origins of Modern Science”
- 2019–20
- “The Origins of Modern Science”
  - “Civilization and Barbarism” (three sections)
  - “Science and Self-Knowledge: Plato and Descartes”
  - “Advanced Humanities for Engineers” (three sections)
- 2018–19
- “Plato”
  - “The Birth of Philosophy in the Ancient World”
  - “Justice”
  - “Ethics in Sport” (two sections)
- 2017–18
- “Philosophy and Film” (two sections)
  - “Dreams and the Philosophy of the Unconscious”
  - “Business Ethics” (two sections, one writing intensive)
  - “Ethics and Society”
  - “Herodotus’ *Histories*” (short lecture series)
  - “Rousseau’s Political Thought” (short lecture series)
  - “Nietzsche and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Thought” (short lecture series)
- 2016–17
- “Ancient Philosophy”
  - “Introduction to Philosophy” (three sections)
  - “Honors Ancient Philosophy”
  - “Ethics and Society”
  - “Plato’s Shorter Dialogues I–III” (three short lecture series)
- 2015–16
- “The Problem of Socrates”
  - “Sophocles’ Theban Plays”
- 2014–15
- “The Discovery of Being in Pre-Socratic Philosophy”
  - “The Recovery of Being in Nietzsche and Heidegger”
  - “What is Virtue? An Introduction to Philosophy” (year-long course)
- 2013–14
- “20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy”
  - “Special Topic: Origins of Western Philosophy”
  - “Special Topic: Film and Philosophy”
  - “Introduction to Philosophy”

2012–13

Fellowship at Murphy Institute's Center Ethics and Public Affairs

2011–12

“Plato,” including an honors version

“History of Ancient Philosophy”

2009–10

“Introduction to Philosophy” (two sections)

2008–09

TA for “Contemporary European Philosophy”

TA for “Elementary Symbolic Logic”

### PROJECTS GUIDED (AT SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE)

NB: Listed alphabetically by author and text, with any interdisciplinary materials given thereafter.

1. Alienation in Psychology and Philosophy (including Freud, Foucault, Marx, and Nietzsche)
2. Aristophanes' *Birds*
3. Aristotle's *Metaphysics Z*
4. Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections)
5. Aristotle's *On Poetics* and Alexander Scriabin's piano works (selections)
6. Aristotle's *On Poetics* (twice)
7. Aristotle and Bacon on causality
8. Bacon's *New Organon* (selections)
9. The Book of Judges
10. Buster Keaton's *Sherlock Jr.* and *College*
11. Critiques of Metaphysics (Wittgenstein and Nietzsche)
12. Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*
13. Euclidean and Non-Euclidean Geometry (Euclid's *Elements* I, Lobachevsky's *Geometrical Investigations on the Theory of Parallels*, Khayyam on the fifth postulate, and Einstein's *Relativity: The General and Special Theory* [selections])
14. Foucault's *History of Sexuality* (selections)
15. Heidegger's *Being and Time*, sections on temporality
16. Heidegger (and Fink) on Heraclitus
17. Hesiod's *Theogony*
18. Homer's *Iliad*
19. Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment*
20. Locke and Arendt on Violence and Politics
21. Marx' *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*
22. Memory and thought (various readings)
23. Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy* (three times)
24. Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morality* (twice)
25. Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, “Prologue,” and Nicholas Ray's *Bigger than Life*
26. Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* and Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*
27. Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (twice)
28. Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols* (twice)
29. Nietzsche on liberal democracy
30. Nietzsche on strong vs. weak types
31. Nietzsche and Freud (twice)
32. Plato's *Apology of Socrates* and *Meno*

33. Plato's *Euthyphro*
34. Plato's *Theages, Meno, and Apology of Socrates*
35. Plato's *Hippias Major* and Dialectical Behavior Therapy
36. Plato's *Hippias Major*
37. Plato's *Parmenides*
38. Plato's *Statesman*
39. Plato's *Symposium* (twice)
40. Rousseau's *Of the Social Contract* (twice)
41. Rousseau's *Reveries of a Solitary Walker*
42. Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments*
43. Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Book of Exodus* (with selections from Rousseau)
44. Wittgenstein's *Blue Book* (twice)
45. Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* (selections)
46. Woody Allen on love and mortality

## ***PROFESSIONAL SERVICE***

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### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Philosophical Association  
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy  
Ancient Philosophy Society  
Association for Core Texts and Courses  
American Political Science Association  
Northeastern Political Science Association

### **MANUSCRIPT REVIEW**

Books:

*State University of New York Press*  
*Vernon Press*

Articles:

*Apeiron: A Journal for Ancient Philosophy and Science*  
*Classical Journal*  
*Comparative Literature and Culture*  
*Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy*  
*History of Philosophy Quarterly*  
*Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*  
*Philosophy of Humor Yearbook*  
*POLIS: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought*  
*Political Research Quarterly*

### **DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER SERVICE**

Changes often—available upon request.

## ***REFERENCES***

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Available upon request.