

ELISABETH ANKER

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George Washington University
Department of American Studies
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

George Washington University

Department of American Studies and Political Science associate faculty
Associate Professor, 2015-
Assistant Professor, 2007-2015

Brown University

Carol Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women
2007-2008

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley

- Department of Political Science, 2007
- Designated Emphasis in Film Studies, 2007
- Dissertation: "The Venomous Eye: Melodrama and the Making of National Identity and State Power." *UC Berkeley Paul Rozance Dissertation Prize in Political Theory*
- Advisors: Wendy Brown (Chair), Linda Williams, Judith Butler, Shannon Stimson

Ed.M. Harvard University

- Graduate School of Education, 1998
- Emphasis: Critical Theory, Social and Education Policy

A.B. Brown University

- Honors, Department of Public Policy and American Institutions, 1997

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK:

Orgies of Feeling: Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom

Duke University Press, 2014

- Finalist, Lora Romero Prize for Best First Book in American Studies, The American Studies Association, 2015
- Choice Outstanding Academic Title in Political Theory, 2015
- The 2015 Featured Book: Feminist Theory Workshop of the Western Political Science Association
- Reviewed: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Theory*, *Journal of American History*, *American Literature*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Theory & Event*, *Review of Politics*, *Choice*, *Cultural Critique*, *Symploke*, *European Journal of American Studies*, *Textual Practice*, *Political Studies Review*, *Brown Alumni Magazine*, *Communication Booknotes Quarterly*, *American Studies Journal*

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

I Feel Your Pain: A Reckoning

Politics and Gender, March 2018, pp. 127-131.

Longing for Sovereignty: Violence and Power in the Trump Era

Theory@Buffalo, 20th Anniversary Special Issue: Doing Theory, Spring 2018, pp. 39-49.

**Sovereign Aspirations: National Security and Police Power in a Global Era
Co-Authored with William L. Youmans**

Theory & Event, 20th Anniversary Special Issue, 20:1, January 2017, pp. 3-18.

Thwarting Neoliberal Security: Inertia, Bureaucracy, and Outmodedness in *The Wire*

American Literary History, 28:4, Winter 2016, pp. 759-778.

The Cinematic Dream-Life of American Politics

Political Theory, 44:2, (May 2016): 207-218.

Three Emancipations: *Manderlay*, Slavery, and Racialized Freedom

Theory & Event 18:2 (May 2015)

- Republished in *Politics, Theory, and Film: Critical Encounters with Lars von Trier*, eds. Bonnie Honig and Lori Marso. (Oxford University Press, 2016): 216-239.

Liberalism and Its Horrors

Social Research 81:4 (Winter 2014): 795-823.

Freedom and the Human in 'Evolutionary' Political Theory

Political Research Quarterly, 67:2 (June 2014): 453-456.

Feminist Theory and The Failures of Post-9/11 Freedom

Politics and Gender 8:2 (June 2012): 207-216.

Left Melodrama

Contemporary Political Theory 11.2 (May 2012): 130-152.

Heroic Identifications: Or 'You Can Love Me Too—I Am So Like The State'

Theory & Event 15.1 (March 2012)

Villains, Victims and Heroes: Melodrama, Media and 9/11.

Journal of Communication. 55:1 (March 2005): 22-37.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS:

Mobile Sovereigns: Guns In Public

The Lives of Guns, eds. Justin Oberst and Austin Sarat (Oxford University Press, 2019)

The Communist Manifesto in an Era of Late-Capital: Melodrama and Melancholia

The Cambridge Companion to the Communist Manifesto, eds. Terrell Carver and James Farr. (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

The Melodramatic Style of American Politics

After The Tears: New Perspectives on the Politics of Victimhood, eds. Scott Loren and Joerg Mettleman. (Amsterdam University Press, 2015.)

The Limits of Neoliberalism: *The Wire* and Market Rationality

Everything is Connected: The Politics of HBO's "The Wire" eds. Shirin Deylami and Jonathan Hovercraft. (Routledge, 2014).

Wendy Brown

The Encyclopedia of Political Thought eds. Michael Gibbons, Diana Coole, Lisa Ellis (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.)

Discourse

The Encyclopedia of Governance, ed. Mark Bevir. (California: Sage, 2007.)

REVIEW ESSAYS:

Ranciere's Sentiments

Perspectives on Politics, 17:1 (March 2019)

War Crimes, Atrocity, and Justice

Perspectives on Politics, 14:2 (June 2016): 13-14

Red Alert: Communism, Protest, and the End of Democracy

Political Theory, 43:2 (April 2015): 262-270.

Reviews of Jodi Dean, *The Communist Horizon*; Slavoj Zizek, *The Year of Dreaming Dangerously*; Alain Badiou, *The Rebirth of History*.

Terror Firma: The Landscape of Terror in American Politics

Theory and Event. 14.1 (March 2011)

Reviews of *Terrorist Assemblages* by Jasbir Puar and *States of Terror* by Robin Goodman.

Reviews: *American Multiculturalism After 9/11* and *Out of the Blue: September 11 and the Novel*.

American Literature 83:2 (June 2011): 471-474.

National Love in Violent Times

Political Theory 36:5 (October 2008):762-769

Reviews of *Postcolonial Melancholia* by Paul Gilroy and *The Truth About Patriotism* by Steven Johnston.

The Only Thing We Have To Fear. . .

Theory and Event. 8:3 (September 2005)

Reviews of *Fear: The History of a Political Idea* by Corey Robin and *In The Shadow of No Towers* by Art Spiegelman.

POPULAR SCHOLARSHIP, PODCASTS, AND INTERVIEWS:

"On the 2016 Election"

Daily Nous, November 2016

"Trump's Melodrama"

Daily Nous, March 2016

"New Books In Political Science Podcast: Orgies of Feeling"

New Books Network Podcast, November 2015

"Orgies of Feeling: Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom"

StatusHour Radio Podcast, May 27, 2015

"Elisabeth Anker: Orgies of Feeling"

Process: A Blog for American History from the Journal of American History, March 12, 2015

"New Texts Out Now: Elisabeth Anker's Orgies of Feeling"

Jadaliyya, February 11, 2015

"The Danger in Political Melodrama"

New America Foundation: The Weekly Wonk Magazine, October 9, 2014.

"Lights, Camera Action: The Politics of Melodrama"

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Magazine, September 2014

IN PROGRESS:

Ugly Freedoms

Book project on violent practices of freedom in a globalized era. Manuscript in progress.

The Sovereign's Wrath

Book project on the return of state and individual sovereignty. Manuscript in progress.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Humanities Facilitating Fund, George Washington University, 2019, 2018

Finalist, Lora Romero Prize for Best First Book in American Studies, The American Studies Association, 2015

Columbian College Facilitating Fund, George Washington University (2018, 2015, 2013, 2010)

Political Research Quarterly Outstanding Reviewer Award, 2017

Faculty Fellow, Honors Program Initiative, George Washington University (2014-2015)

Dean's Enhanced Travel Award, George Washington University (2014, 2015, 2017, 2019)

Paul Rozance Dissertation Prize in Political Theory, UC Berkeley (2007)

Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory Scholarship, UC Humanities Research Institute (2007)

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Political Science UC Berkeley (2005-2006)

Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley (2005)

Society of Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Grant (2005)

Dean's Fellowship, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley (2004-2005)

Travers Fellowship in Ethics and Politics, Institute of Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley (2000-2001, 2001-2002) Received two years.

Anti-Defamation League Steinberg Leadership Institute Fellow, Anti-Defamation League (2001-2002)

Graduate Assembly Travel Grant, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly (2000, 2002)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Al Jazeera English:

June 26 2016, February 27 2019, Feb 11 2019, September 1 2018, January 30, 2018, October 30 2017, September 26 2017, July 24 2017, March 21 2017, February 4 2017, February 21 2016, August 30 2014, September 15 2012, June 18 2012.

BBC:

February 27 2019, February 15 2019, November 29 2018, May 3 2018, January 19 2017, November 15 2016.

Al Jazeera Arabic:

March 21 2019, Jan 20 2019, Jan 18 2019, Jan 10 2019, November 1 2018, October 18 2018, May 5 2018, May 4 2018, April 3 2018, February 9 2018, January 20 2018, January 19 2018, December 11 2017, November 1 2017, September 30 2017, August 13 2017, April 25 2017, April 16 2017, March 21 2017, March 10 2017, March 8 2017, February 22 2017, January 31 2017, January 29 2017

CNN, The Situation Room: January 25, 2017

France24: January 6, 2018

3Sat German Television: January 20, 2017

This Week, RTE: January 15, 2017; November 12, 2016

Morning Ireland, RTE: November 9, 2016

Voice of America: November 8, 2016

Al Arabiya: June 12, 2016

MetroTV Indonesia, November 2, 2012

Stealing America: Vote By Vote. Documentary Film Dir: Dorothy Fadiman. (Concentric Media, 2008. DVD)

INVITED LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

Annual Sandison Memorial Lecture, Western Washington University

Sugar, Slavery, and The Politics of Freedom, May 2019

World Issues Forum, Fairhaven College at Western Washington

Freedom and Climate Violence, May 2019

New York University Latinx Project
2018 Midterm Elections, December 2018

Brown University Political Theory Colloquium
The Sweet Taste of Freedom, October 2018

Neal Maxwell Endowed Lecture In Political Theory and Politics, University of Utah
The Sovereign's Wrath: Whiteness and Vengeance, September 2018

University of London, SOAS
Colonial Unfreedom and Material History: On the Intimacies of Four Continents, June 2018

The Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity
Repair and Reparations, April 2018

Georgetown University
Affective Environmentalism, February 2018

University of Illinois, Biohumanities Institute
Freedom of the Anthropocene, December 2017

Cultural Studies Association
Plenary Speaker. Grab Em By The Pussy: Sovereign Longings in the Trump Era , May 2017

Emory University Department of Women and Gender Studies
New Scholarship in Affect Sawyer Seminar, May 2017

American University Beirut, Lebanon
CASAR Center for American Studies, April 2017

University of Chicago Department of Cinema and Media
Keynote Address: Melodrama and Trauma Conference, April 2017

Georgetown University
Thinking the Anthropocene, April 2017

University of Hawaii Department of Political Science
Climate Change in the Anthropocene, March 2017

Mount Holyoke College Climate Change Lecture Series
Freedom and Climate Violence, March 2017

Amherst College
Gun Ownership and Sovereign Desires, March 2017

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Freedom and the Anthropocene, December 2016

Cornell University Political Theory Workshop
Tragedies of Emancipation, October 2016

University of Basel, Switzerland
Keynote Address: Feminist Affect Studies, September 2016

Bard College at Simon's Rock, Center for Humanistic Inquiry

Freedom and Climate Violence, September 2016

American University Beirut, Lebanon

Melodramas of Global Security, May 2016

University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

Melodrama, Trump, and the Politics of Sovereignty, April 2016

University of Wisconsin, Madison Political Theory Workshop,

Tragedies of Emancipation: Race and Freedom in the Aftermath of Slavery, April 2016

New York University, Social and Cultural Analysis

Orgies of Feeling book talk, April 2016

Georgetown University Political Theory Workshop

Tragedies of Emancipation: Race and Freedom in the Aftermath of Slavery, April 2016

George Mason University Cultural Studies Colloquium

Melodramas of Global Security, March 2016

Busboys & Poets Washington DC

Conversations about Citizenship in Contemporary America, March 2016

Duke University, John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute,

Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom, December 2015

Colorado College Department of Film and Media

Standard Operating Procedure and the Neoliberalism of Horror, October 2015

University of Maryland College Park, Potomac Center Graduate Workshop

The End of Sovereignty?, October 2015

Uppsala University, Sweden, Department of English

Cultures of Security, August 2015

University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium

Articulating Politics: Author Meets Readers, *Orgies of Feeling*, April 2015

University at Buffalo Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature

Keynote Address: Optimism in the Age of Catastrophe, April 2015

University of Maryland Department of Women's Studies

Orgies of Feeling Book Discussion, March 2015

George Mason University School of Policy, Government and International Affairs

Orgies of Feeling: Melodrama and American Politics, November 2014

George Washington University Honors Program

The Theft of Freedom: Hollywood Addresses Racism, November 2014

UCLA Political Theory Workshop

Tragedies of Emancipation, November 2014

School of Media And Public Affairs at George Washington University
Orgies of Feeling: Melodrama and American News Media, October 2014

Studio Theatre, Washington DC
The Apple Family Plays and Post-9/11 Politics, January 2014

The University of Utah Neal Maxwell Lecture in Politics, Commentary
Freedom and the Human in 'Evolutionary' Political Theory, September 2013

Johns Hopkins University Department of Political Science
Heroic Identifications: Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom, November 2012

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
After The Tears: Victimhood and Subjectivity in the Melodramatic Mode, November 2011

University of Virginia Workshop in Political Philosophy
Orgies of Feeling, February 2011

Union College 21st Century Feminisms Lecture Series
Feminist Theory and the Melodrama of the Iraq War, February 2011

United States Embassy of Switzerland, and University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
Lecture series on "Orgies of Feeling" manuscript, October 2010

SUNY SCCC and the Capital Region Arts Council
Melodramatic Politics After 9/11, April 2010

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Rhetoric
Feminist Theories of Melodrama, April 2010

University at Albany, SUNY Political Theory Workshop
Melodramatic Politics and Nietzschean Discontents, March 2010

Brown University, Department of English Mellon Seminar
Politics and Forms: Practices of Political Misreading, January 2010

Union College Department of Political Science
Melodrama and Media, January 2010

Brown University Political Philosophy Workshop
Vengeance, Melodrama and the Legitimation of State Power, May 2008

Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University
Melodramatic Media, Symposium on Global Media, April 2008

The Johns Hopkins Political Theory Colloquium
Villains, Victims and Heroes: Melodrama, Media and 9/11, March 2004

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dust and The Politics of Climate Freedom
Western Political Science Association, March 2019

Sugar, Slavery and The Politics of Freedom
American Studies Association, November 2018

Mobile Sovereigns
Association for Political Theory, October 2018

Guns, Publics, and Appearances
American Political Science Association, August 2018

Masculinity in the Age of Trump
Western Political Science Association, March 2018

Roundtable on Liberal Dissent
American Studies Association, November 2017

Freedom of the Anthropocene
American Political Science Association, August 2017

Roundtable on Disavowed Violence in America
American Political Science Association, August 2017

Humble Humanity in the Thought of William Connolly
International Studies Association, February 2017

Sovereign Aspirations in the Trump Era (co-authored With William Youmans)
International Studies Association, February 2017

What is the Anthropocene?
Association for Political Theory, October 2016

Tragedies of Emancipation
American Political Science Association, September 2016

Freedom of the Anthropocene
Western Political Science Association, March 2016

The Promises and Perils of Visual Analysis Roundtable
Western Political Science Association, March 2016

The (Neo)Liberalism of Horror
American Political Science Association, September 2015

Ugly Freedoms: Insect Gestures in *The Metamorphosis*
Western Political Science Association, April 2015

Punishment and Emancipation
Law, Culture and the Humanities, March 2015

The Tragedy of Emancipation
American Studies Association, November 2014

Leviathan: A Tale of Two Monsters
Association for Political Theory, October 2014

Tragedies of Emancipation

American Political Science Association, August 2014

Passivity and The Practice of Freedom

Association for Political Theory, Vanderbilt University, October 2013

The Tragedy of Ugly Freedom

American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL August 2013

Melodramas of Failed Sovereignty

Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles CA, March 2013

The Affective Terrain of Post-9/11 Politics

Association for Political Theory, Columbia, SC October 2012

The Political Power of Pathos

Western Political Science Association, Portland OR, March 2012

Feminist Perspectives on Freedom and Rights, Roundtable Participant

American Political Science Association, Seattle WA, September 2011

Melodramatic Theater and Political Critique

American Political Science Association, Seattle WA, September 2011

***Three Kings* and the Repoliticization of War**

American Studies Association, San Antonio TX, November 2010

Felt Legitimacy

Association for Political Theory, Portland OR, October 2010

Political Theory and Leftist Politics, Roundtable Participant

American Political Science Association, Washington DC, September 2010

Genres of Political Theory

Western Political Science Association, San Francisco CA, March 2010

Power and Empire in the Age of Obama

Telos Institute Annual Conference, New York City, January 2010

Obama and the Practice of Critical Citizenship

American Studies Association, Washington DC, November 2009

Left Melodrama

American Political Science Association, Toronto Canada, September 2009

Left Melodrama

DC Queer Studies Conference, University of Maryland, April 2009

How Can We Practice Political Judgment Now?

Western Political Science Association, Vancouver Canada, March 2009

Refusing Urgency: Post 9/11 Politics and the Deferral of Action

Association for Political Theory, Wesleyan University, October 2008

Judgment, Narrative, Critique

American Political Science Association, Boston MA, August 2008

Individualism as the Push for Expansions in State Action

Law, Culture and the Humanities Conference, Berkeley, March 2008

Individualism and National Violence

Western Political Science Association, San Diego, March 2008

Seminar Participant for “Cartographies of the Theological-Political”

UC Humanities Research Institute Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory, August 2007

American Political Imaginaries

Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, March 2007

The Discourse of Vengeance

Association for Political Theory, Indiana University, November 2006

The Venomous Eye: Moralism and The Legitimation of State Violence

American Political Science Association, Washington, DC; August 2006

Democracy, Equality and Contemporary Political Discourse

APSA Taskforce on Democracy and Equality, University of Minnesota; April 2006

From Politics to Evil

American Political Science Association, Washington, DC; September 2005

Melodrama, Media and National Identity

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, London, England; April 2005

Moralism and Victimization in American Politics

Western Political Science Association, Oakland, CA; March 2005

Orgies of Feeling: Suffering and Meaning in the Melodramatic

American Political Science Association. Chicago, IL; August 2004

Vicissitudes of Good and Evil

Harvard Divinity School and The Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis: The Netherlands; June 2004

The Melodrama of American Political Life

Western Political Science Association. Portland, OR; March 2004

Satire and Subversion in *The Manchurian Candidate*

American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA; August 2003

911 and American Ideology

Literature and Democracy, Democracy and Literature. Emory University, Atlanta, GA; February 2003

Locating Founding Father Benjamin Rush in American Philosophy

Western Political Science Association. Long Beach, CA; March 2002

Is the Personal Political?: Gender Equality in Liberal Thought

Thinking Gender Conference: The UCLA Center for Feminist Research. Los Angeles, CA; March 2001

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

American Political Science Association

Foundations of Political Theory Program Co-Chair, 2015-2016

Politics and Gender Journal

Associate Editor, 2016 -- 2018

Contemporary Political Theory Journal

Associate Editor, 2013 -- 2016

Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity

Symposium Organizer, "The End of Sovereignty?" Fall 2015

Association for Political Theory

Chair of the Governing Council, 2013-2014

Governing Council, 2010-2014

Conference Program Committee, 2009-2010

Manuscript and Scholarship Reviewer

Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Chicago University Press, Duke University Press, Political Theory, American Political Science Review, American Quarterly, Contemporary Political Theory, differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies, Modern Drama, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Stanford University Humanities Center, Theory & Event

EDITORIAL BOARDS

American Political Science Review (APSR)

Editorial Board, 2016 --

Theory & Event

Editorial Board, 2015 --

Contemporary Political Theory

Editorial Board, 2018-

Reinventing Critical Theory Book Series, Roman & Littlefield

Editorial Board, 2014-

Journal of American Studies: Eurasian Perspectives

Editorial Board, 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Association for Political Theory
American Studies Association
Society for Cinema and Media Studies

COURSES

GRADUATE:

Worldmaking and The Politics of Freedom
Democracy and Violence
Capitalism and Neoliberalism
Freedom and Domination
Debating Democracy in America
Critical Theory
American Political Thought and the Melodramatic Imaginary
Post-9/11 Politics and Culture

UNDERGRADUATE:

Politics, Culture, Climate
Democracy and Power in a Global Era
Politics and Feelings
Freedom in American Thought and Culture
Senior Research Seminar
Politics and Film
American Political Culture After 9/11