

AARON A. THOMAS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles (expected 2018)

Dissertation: “Rules of the Game: Norberto Bobbio on Democracy, Law, and Human Rights.”

Committee: Carole Pateman (Chair), Kirstie McClure, Anthony Pagden, Remo Bodei

Fulbright Scholar, Bologna, Italy

M.A. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

B.A. Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara

B.A. Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Political Science, University of California, Riverside (UCR)

- “Introduction to Political Theory: Democratic Theory” (Winter 2014)
Introduction to theories and concepts of democracy through the study of classic and contemporary authors: Aristotle, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Benjamin Constant, J.S. Mill, Hans Kelsen, Joseph Schumpeter, Robert Dahl, Norberto Bobbio, Stephen Holmes, Ronald Dworkin, Carole Pateman, Bernard Manin, and Nadia Urbinati.
- “Introduction to Political Ideologies” (Spring 2013)
Covered several ideologies and movements: liberalism, socialism, fascism, social democracy, the Civil Rights movement, participatory democracy, feminism, and cosmopolitanism. Authors included: Cesare Beccaria, Condorcet, Olympe De Gouges, Thomas Paine, J.S. Mill, Karl Marx, Eduard Bernstein, Alfredo Rocco, Benito Mussolini, T.H. Marshall, Friedrich Hayek, Robert Dahl, Martin Luther King, Jr., Carole Pateman, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Eleanor Roosevelt, Norberto Bobbio, Michael Walzer. Historical documents covered: Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Port Huron Statement.

Teaching Fellow, Honors Collegium, UCLA

- “The Painful Birth: The Rise of Capitalism in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy,”
Professor Massimo Ciavolella (Taught 4 times.)

- “Language, Meaning and the Making of Modern Poetry,” Professor Luigi Ballerini (Taught twice.)

Teaching Assistant, Italian Department, UCLA

- “Italian History from the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance,” Professor Luigi Ballerini (Taught 3 times.)
- “Italian History from the Renaissance to the Present,” Professor Luigi Ballerini and Lecturer Marco Codebò (Taught 3 times)
- “Sex and Politics in Italian Cinema,” Professor Thomas Harrison (Taught 3 times.)

Teaching Assistant, Political Science Department, UCLA

- “Foreign Policy and International Relations,” Professor Richard Rosecrance
- “Introduction to Political Theory,” Lecturer Glenn Stephens
- “The Supreme Court,” Professor Fred Mabbutt

Reader, Political Science Department, UCLA

- “The Rise of the Christian Right in American Politics,” Lecturer Marty Cohen
- “Contemporary Political Theory,” Professor Victor Wolfenstein

PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

Google, Inc.

Quality Evaluator – Super Rater/Administrator and Italian language specialist (2009–2012)

Supervised a pool of employees working in Ads Quality Evaluation in 9 languages, providing training, guidance and constructive feedback on work aimed to assist Google engineers building AdSense classifiers. Fostered debate on the interpretation and implementation of project guidelines. Performed taxonomic classification on search queries, web pages, display ads and conceptual clusters in Italian language and English. Collaborated with Google linguists to evaluate the content, quality and efficacy of targeted advertising for AdWords and AdSense products. Assisted in the classification of web pages for the creation of filters for publisher-sensitive content. Performed taxonomic classification of Entities in Google’s Knowledge Graph. Moderated discussion among employee teams both on- and off-site. Evaluated the accuracy of Google search engine results for AdSense targeting for Italian language search queries and content.

Getty Research Institute

GRI Publications Department

Research Associate (2001–2003)

Assisted editors in preparing book manuscripts for publication. Responsibilities included verifying the accuracy of translations from Italian to English, copy-editing, obtaining permissions to reprint images of artwork and copyrighted materials, corroborating textual quotations and citations, compiling and proofreading bibliographies, and corresponding with authors and institutions.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Teoria Politica

Editorial Board Member (2010–present)

Teoria Politica is a journal of political theory originally founded by Norberto Bobbio in the 1980s. I have served on the Editorial Board since its re-launch in 2010 as an annual publication under the direction of one of Bobbio's pupil's, professor Michelangelo Bovero of the University of Turin. <http://www.teoriapolitica.com/en/scientific-board>

Lorenzo Da Ponte Italian Library, Los Angeles

Editorial Assistant (2002–2008)

Verified the accuracy of translations from Italian to English, copy-edited and proofread manuscripts, produced content for the Lorenzo Da Ponte Italian Library website, corresponded with authors and the publishing house (the University of Toronto Press) to develop book proposals and manuscripts.

Agincourt Press, Los Angeles

Managing Editor (2002–2008)

Shepherded book manuscripts through the production process. Duties included proofreading and copy-editing manuscripts, corresponding with authors, graphic designers, typesetters, printers and distributors, and obtaining ISBN numbers and UPC codes.

Italian Department, UCLA

Research Assistant (2004–2005)

Provided research assistance to professors Massimo Ciavolella and Luigi Ballerini in the UCLA Italian Department. Responsibilities included translating works from Italian to English, copy-editing, proofreading and readying manuscripts for publication, compiling bibliographical references, and assisting in the preparation of course materials.

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED VOLUMES

1. Norberto Bobbio, *In the Labyrinth of Politics: Essays on Democracy, Human Rights and the Law*, ed. and trans. Aaron Thomas (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming 2019).
2. Cesare Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments and Other Essays*, ed. Aaron Thomas, trans. Aaron Thomas and Jeremy Parzen (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008).

ARTICLES AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

1. "Cesare Beccaria" in *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011), p. 128.
2. "Norberto Bobbio" in *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2011), pp. 143-44.

3. Preface to Cesare Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments and Other Writings*, ed. Aaron Thomas, trans. Aaron Thomas and Jeremy Parzen (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008), pp. xv-xxxii.
4. “Race and Gender,” *Cosmopolis*, vol 1 (2007), pp. 143-58. [Interview of Carole Pateman]
5. (with Riccardo Gori-Montanelli) “Teocrazia e Imperial Presidency,” *Una Città*, no. 142 (October 2006), pp. 18-19.
6. “‘America Never was America to Me’: The Problem of Race between Past and Present,” *Cosmopolis*, vol. 1 (June 2006), pp. 145-51.
7. “L’America non è mai stata America per me’: La questione razziale negli Stati Uniti tra passato e presente,” *Società Italiana di Filosofia Politica*, January 31, 2006.
8. (with Tommaso Greco) “Le difficili vie della pace,” *Una Città*, no. 134 (December 2005), pp. 24-25.
9. “Norberto Bobbio in the U.S.A.” *Italian Politics and Society*, no. 59 (Fall 2004), pp. 9-11.
10. “Norberto Bobbio negli Stati Uniti,” *Idee: Foglio di Critica Politica* (February 2004). Reprinted in: *Il pensiero mazziniano*, vol. 59, no. 1 (January-April 2004), pp. 24-28.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Han Lamers and Bettina Reitz-Joose, eds., *The Codex Fori Mussolini: A Latin Text of Italian Fascism* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016). Forthcoming in *Quaderni d’italianistica: Official Journal of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies*, vol. 38, no. 1 (2017).
2. Niamh Cullen, *Piero Gobetti’s Turin: Modernity, Myth and Memory* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2011). Pp. 329. Reviewed in *Annali d’Italianistica*, vol. 30 (2012), pp. 564-66.
3. Robert A. Ventresca, *From Fascism to Democracy: Culture and Politics in the Italian Election of 1948* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004). Pp. 354. Reviewed in *Annali d’Italianistica*, vol. 22 (2004), pp. 476-78.

TRANSLATIONS

1. Norberto Bobbio, *In the Labyrinth of Politics: Essays on Democracy, Human Rights and the Law*, ed. and trans. Aaron Thomas (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming 2019).
2. Tommaso Greco, “The Reality of Rights: On Horizontal and Vertical Relationships in Law,” *Soft Power. Revista euro-americana de teoría e historia de la política*, vol. 2, no. 2 (julio-diciembre 2015), DOI: 10.17450/150210.
3. Remo Bodei, “Politics and Culture from the Twentieth-Century to the New Millennium,” *Ratio Juris*, vol. 23, no. 2 (2010), pp. 157-66.
4. Massimo Ciavolella, “Literature and Pornography: Boccaccio’s Novella on Masetto da Lamporecchio (*Decameron* III:1)” [forthcoming in *Lectura Boccaccii* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press)]
5. Tommaso Greco, “Norberto Bobbio” in [encyclopedia forthcoming].
6. Angelo Rognoni, “Third Class: Milan – Pavia,” *Or: A Literary Tabloid*, no. 3 (October 2009).
7. Gualfredo Senigalia, “Thunderbolt – Futurism,” *Or: A Literary Tabloid*, no. 3 (October 2009).

8. Cesare Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments and Other Writings*, ed. Aaron Thomas, trans. Aaron Thomas and Jeremy Parzen (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008).
9. Massimo Ciavolella, "Paolo Icaro: The Interior Space," in *Icaro: Forme Tese* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2007).
10. Luigi Ballerini, "Paolo Icaro: A Tense Form with Prepositions" in *Icaro: Forme Tese* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2007).
11. Lara Conte, "Stolen Forms: Notes on the Sculpture of Paolo Icaro" in *Icaro: Forme Tese* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2007).
12. Remo Bodei, *We, the Divided: Ethos, Politics and Culture in Post-war Italy, 1943-2000*, trans. Jeremy Parzen and Aaron Thomas (New York: Agincourt Press, 2006).
13. Luigi Ballerini, "Eliseo Mattiacci: Gazer of Skies and Horizons of Expectation" in *Mattiacci* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2005).
14. Massimo Ciavolella, "Eliseo Mattiacci in the Garden of Hesperides," in *Mattiacci* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2005).
15. Paolo Fabbri, "The Orbit of the Eye and the Color of the Sky," in *Mattiacci* (Ravenna: Danilo Montanari Editore, 2005).
16. Remo Bodei, "Conjecture and Reasonableness" in Riccardo Dottori, ed., *Reason and Reasonableness* [sic.]/*Vernunft und Vernünftigkeit* (Münster: Lit Verlag, 2005), pp. 389–98. [Translated with Annegret Martella.]
17. Paolo Fabbri, "Thoughts on the Nude Body" in P. Weiermaier, ed., *Il nudo tra ideale e realtà* (Milan: ArtificioSkira, 2004).
18. Paolo Fabbri, "Fighting for Peace" (2003). Unpublished manuscript. Posted on Prof. Fabbri's website: http://www.paolofabbri.it/traduzioni/fighting_for_peace.html
19. Selected essays for *Flaunt* magazine, special Italian edition June/July 2002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

1. "Cesare Beccaria on Crimes and Punishments," California State University, Long Beach, Italian Department (2014)
2. "*Sine effusione sanguinis*: Norberto Bobbio, Democracy, and the Problem of Violence" presented at the annual meeting of the California Interdisciplinary Consortium for Italian Studies (CICIS), University of California, Santa Cruz (2008).
3. "Machiavelli and Renaissance Politics," University of California, Los Angeles (2007)
4. "Between the Celeste Aquarium and Celestial Happiness: Politics as Civil Vocation," presented at the conference "Remo Bodei: Ethos and Politics in Post-war Italy," University of California, Los Angeles (2006).
5. "A Grain of Sand in the Machinery of War: Norberto Bobbio and the Search for Paths to Peace," presented at the conference "War in the 20th Century: Representations in Italian Culture," Department of Italian, University of California, Los Angeles (2005).
6. "The *Popolo*, the Prince and Renaissance Politics," University of California, Los Angeles (2006)
7. "The *Popolo*, the Prince and Renaissance Politics," University of California, Los Angeles (2005)
8. "Cesare Beccaria and the Italian Enlightenment," University of California, Los Angeles (2004)

9. “Making Democracy in Italy: Reflections on Civil Society, Popular Sovereignty and Citizenship.” Western Political Science Association (2000).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organizer

“Remo Bodei: Ethos and Politics in Post-war Italy,” University of California, Los Angeles, 10 May 2006.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Fulbright Association

Conference Group on Italian Politics and Society (CONGRIPS)

California Interdisciplinary Consortium of Italian Studies (CICIS)

FUTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. Neo-Enlightenment

Building upon my work on the Italian Enlightenment thinker Cesare Beccaria, I am interested in exploring the twentieth-century movement in Italy known as *Neoilluminismo* (or Neo-Enlightenment). Burgeoning from the darkness of Mussolini’s fascism and the carnage of World War II, this movement looked to John Dewey and American pragmatism (among other currents) to develop a new “critical rationalism” that rejected the forms of irrationalism, myth, and metaphysical speculations that characterized Italian culture during the “fascist parenthesis” – a period in which Italians were enjoined simply to “Believe, Obey, Fight.” An in-depth study, perhaps with an accompanying anthology in translation, could offer comparative perspective to similar tendencies elsewhere in the post-war period, most notably in Germany with the work of Jürgen Habermas, Karl-Otto Apel, and Hans Albert.

LANGUAGES

English: native

Italian: near-native

Spanish: reading proficiency

French: reading proficiency

Portuguese: beginning level reading