

September 2008

**DIEGO A. VON VACANO**

**ADDRESS**

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**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D.** Princeton University, Politics, 2003.  
Fields: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, Latin American Politics.
- M.P.P.** Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government,  
Public Policy of Political and Economic Development, 1996.
- B.A.** Wesleyan University, Political Science, Economics, Philosophy, and History,  
College of Social Studies, 1993.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science,  
Member Fellowship, Princeton, NJ, 2008-2009.  
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation,  
Career Enhancement Fellowship, Princeton, NJ 2008-2009.  
Center for Ethics and Public Affairs Faculty Fellowship, Murphy Institute,  
Tulane University, 2008-2009 (declined).  
Mellon Prize Graduate Fellowship, University Center for Human Values,  
Princeton University, 2000-2001.  
Princeton University Presidential Fellowship, 1997-2001.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Book*

*The Art of Power: Machiavelli, Nietzsche and the Making of Aesthetic Political Theory*  
(Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield, April 2007).

The book examines Machiavelli's philosophy of life and its relationship to Nietzsche's contribution to moral and political theory. It analyzes two thematic links between the authors: their tragic perception of the human condition and their aesthetic conceptualization of human activity. I also argue that Machiavelli and Nietzsche, taken together, provide the foundations for understanding politics through aesthetic categories (such as representation, expression, and form). This poses an alternative to the traditional ethical basis of political theory that I call 'aesthetic political theory.'

Reviewed in the journals *Political Theory* (February 2008), *Perspectives on Politics* (Volume 6, Issue 1, March 2008, pp 170-171), and *Theory and Event* (December 2007)

*Book Chapters*

“Race and Political Theory” in Jorge J.E. Gracia, ed., *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity* (Cornell University Press, April 2007), p. 248-266.

“Immigrantenidentität und politische Theorie,” in Michael Meimeth, John Robertson, and Susanne Talmon (ed.): *Integration und Identität in Einwanderungsgesellschaften. Herausforderungen und transatlantische Antworten*. Denkart Europa. Schriften zur europäischen Politik, Wirtschaft und Kultur, Band 5. NOMOS Verlag Baden-Baden, Germany, 2008.

*Non-Refereed Articles*

“Football and Philosophy,” *Philosophy TODAY*, 17: 45 (April, 2004). British Society for Applied Philosophy, University of London, p. 20-27.

*Book Reviews*

Leslie Paul Thiele, *The Heart of Judgment: Practical Wisdom, Neuroscience, and Narrative*, *Theory and Event* 10: 4 (2007), p. 31-34.

**WORK UNDER REVIEW**

*Articles*

‘Liberty loves Struggle: Machiavelli on Social Conflict and Freedom’

‘Machiavelli’s Empire’

‘Virtuoso Performance: The Aesthetics of Political Action in Machiavelli and Nietzsche’

‘Immigrant Identity in a Cosmopolitan World’

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Monograph*

*The Color of Citizenship: Racial Identity, Modernity, and Latin American Thought*

The monograph examines the persistence of race as a political issue in spite of it being a superficial human characteristic. It argues that canonical political theory in the European and US traditions deal inadequately with this problem. It examines the formation of racial identity vis-à-vis citizenship in the history of Latin American and Hispanic political thought (1492-1939) and its analytical/normative implications for modern multicultural societies. It finds a ‘synthetic’ concept of race through analysis of Empire, Nation and Cosmopolis in the writings of various Hispanic thinkers and argues that race is central in the making of modernity.

*Articles in Progress*

‘Defending Democratic Caesarism: Vallenilla Lanz and the Problem of Race’

‘Zarathustra Criollo: Vasconcelos, Nietzsche, and Race’

## **MAIN RESEARCH FIELDS**

Modern Political Theory (from Machiavelli to Nietzsche)  
Latin American Political Thought  
Race and Political Theory  
Aesthetics and Political Theory

## **SECONDARY RESEARCH FIELDS**

Ethics of Immigration  
Latino/a Identity  
Politics in Bolivia  
Andean nations' comparative democratization and constitutionalism  
Public Policy of economic and political development in Latin America

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

2008-2009	Member, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
2005-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University
2004-2005	Visiting Scholar, Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University
2004-2005	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Hunter College, CUNY
2003-2004	Consortium for a Strong Minority Presence Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow, Political Science Department, Vassar College
2002-2003	Bolin Predoctoral Faculty Fellow/Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Williams College
2001-2002	Research Assistant, Center for Human Values, Princeton University

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

### *Papers Delivered*

“Three Kinds of Latin American Constitutions,” Constitutional Experiences in Federal Polities, paper presented at the ASKO Europa Stiftung Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, October 2007.

“Race and Republicanism in Latin American Political Thought,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, August, 2007.

“Race in Hispanic/Latin American Republican Thought,” paper presented at the Siglo XXI Latino Cultural Studies Conference, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, April 14, 2007.

“Machiavelli’s Art of Power: A Study of Aesthetic Politics,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August, 2006.

“Machiavelli and Empire,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Political Theory Association, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, April 15, 2006.

“Race and Identity in Latin American Political Thought,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March, 2006.

“Alternative Modernities: Dussel, Latin America and Modernity,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2005.

“Race in the History of Latin American Political Thought,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, September, 2004.

“The Art of Power: Nietzsche’s Machiavelli and the Making of Aesthetic Political Thought,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, April 30, 2004.

“Whose Nietzsche for Latin America? Rodó’s or Mariátegui’s?,” paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Iberoamerican Philosophy Association Annual Conference, Lima, Peru, January 16, 2004.

“Teaching Latin American Political Thought in US Colleges: Some Theoretical Reflections,” paper presented at the 9th International Annual Conference of the Iberian Association for Cultural Studies’ ‘Culture and Power’ Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, November 7, 2003.

“Machiavelli and Nietzsche,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 8, 2001.

“Pinochet and Crimes against Humanity,” paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association International Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., September 2, 2001.

“John Dewey in Mexico,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association International Annual Conference, Miami, Florida, March, 2000.

“The Political Praxis of José Carlos Mariátegui and Gustavo Gutiérrez,” paper presented at the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellows National Convention at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, June, 1999.

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

### *Panel Organizer*

Chair and Organizer, ‘Race and Political Theory’ panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, August, 2007.

Chair and Organizer, 'Machiavelli and Power' panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August, 2006.

Chair and Organizer, 'Regulating Race and Ethnicity' panel at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March, 2006.

Chair and Organizer, 'Comparative Political Theory in Global Perspective' panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, September, 2004.

*Workshop Participation*

"Resurgent Populism in the Andes," United States Government, Arlington, Virginia, March 7, 2007.

Immigration and Citizenship Conference, European Academy, Otzenhausen, Germany, October 9-11, 2006.

Annual Meeting of the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellows National Convention at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June, 2003.

'Small States in World Markets,' Gothenburg University, Sweden, September 25, 2001.

*Conference Organization*

"Forging People: Race, Ethnicity and Nationality in Latin American Thought" with Professor Jorge Gracia at SUNY-Buffalo, October 2007.

"Immigration and National Identity: Lessons from/for Political Theory," held at Texas A&M University, February 23-24, 2007 (\$25,000 Budget). Professors Stephen Macedo and Alejandro Portes, keynotes.

*Invited Presentations*

"Immigrant Identity in a Cosmopolitan World," UCLA, November 15, 2007.

"Vasconcelos on Internationalism," San Francisco State University, December 4, 2007.

"Racial Identity in Hispanic/Latin American Thought: The Republican Tradition," University of Texas, Austin, April 25, 2007.

"Bolivia and Latin American Politics," Latin America at the Crossroads Conference, Institute of Latin American Studies and SIPA, Columbia University, November 17, 2006.

"Bolivia and Latin American Politics," Political Science Department, Vassar College, November 16, 2006.

"Bolivia and Latin American Politics," New York Public Library, October 7, 2006.

“Bolivia’s Left Turn: Prospects for Democracy and Latin America,” Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University, March 9, 2006.

“Race and Identity in Latin American Political Theory,” Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University, November 16, 2004.

‘A Machiavellian Zarathustra,’ Philosophy Department, Williams College, December 5, 2002.

*Media/Political Commentary*

Op-ed, ‘How He Can: Obama and the Latino Vote,’ *The Washington Post*, February 6, 2008.

The Battalion Student Newspaper, Texas A&M University. Interviewed and cited for article “Immigration issues strike close to home,” January 30, 2008.

Op-ed, “Bolivia, Morales, and Soccer War,” *Miami Herald*, June 13, 2007.

Op-ed, “Levante gradual da esquerda,” *Jornal do Brasil* (Brazilian daily newspaper), December 12, 2004.

Guest Speaker, ‘No Subtitles,’ Texas A&M University Radio Program on Latino Discussion show, 2005-2006.

CNN Guest Speaker, “Panorama Mundial” about the political crisis in Bolivia on CNN en Español, live international broadcast, June 9, 2005.

Interviewed by the Council of Foreign Relations on the nationalization of gas in Bolivia, May 10, 2006 ([www.cfr.org/publication/10682/bolivias\\_nationalization\\_of\\_oil\\_and\\_gas.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/10682/bolivias_nationalization_of_oil_and_gas.html))

Letters to the editor, *New York Times*, ‘Praxis Makes Perfect,’ May 4, 2008; ‘The Second Plane,’ May 11, 2008.

*Consulting*

External Examiner for Undergraduate Political and Social Theory Comprehensive Exams, College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University, 2002-2003.

Consultant, Harvard Institute for International Development, 1995-1996.

*Manuscript Reviewing*

*American Political Science Review*

*Political Theory*

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

*Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University*

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2007-2008.

Member, Graduate Advisory Committee for graduate students: Daniel Betti, Mary Elizabeth Sullivan, and Ted Brown

### **CLASSES TAUGHT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Spring 2008 POLS 362 Latin American Political Thought (10 students)  
POLS 689 Graduate Seminar in Race and Political Theory (5 students)  
Fall 2007 POLS 362 Latin American Political Thought (26 students)  
POLS 454W Race and Political Theory (17 students)  
Fall 2006 POLS 306 Latin American Political Thought (25 students)  
Spring 2006 POLS 364 Latin American Political Thought (27 students)  
Spring 2006 POLS 654 Graduate Seminar in Latin American Political Philosophy (5 students)  
Fall 2005 POLS 306 Latin American Political Thought (29 students)

### **CLASSES TAUGHT AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

Hunter College Fall 2004 and Spring 2005: Latin American Political Thought (30 students)  
Spring 2005: Democracy and Dictatorship (32 students)  
Fall 2004: The Art of Power: Aesthetics and Politics (28 students)  
Vassar College Fall 2003: Latin American Political Philosophy Seminar (6 students)  
Spring 2004: The Art of Power: Aesthetics and Politics (31 students)  
Williams College Spring 2002: History of Latin American Political Theory (33 students)

### **GRANTS**

European Union Center for Excellence, Texas A&M University, Travel and Research Grant, December 2007  
Liberty Fund, Latin American Political Theory, Faculty Seminar Travel Grant, February 1-4, 2007  
Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, Internal Faculty Fellowship, Fall 2007  
Texas A&M University, Faculty Abroad Seminar Grant, Mexico, May 2006  
Mexican-American/Latino Research Center, Texas A&M University, Faculty Fellowship, 2005-2008  
NEH Faculty Seminar in Latin American Philosophy, Seminar Participation Grant, 2005  
Université de Montréal, Ethics Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2003 (declined)  
Frederick Douglass Minority Teaching Grant, Political Science Department, West Chester University, summer 2002  
Research Grant, Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, NJ, summer 2001  
The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business /Center for Latin American Studies, Cuban Scholarly Exchange Grant, 1997  
American Political Science Association, Latino Graduate Fellowship Program, 1994/1996  
Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program, 1990-present

### **CITIZENSHIP**

United States citizen since 1991  
Born in Bolivia in 1970  
Immigrated to the United States as a political refugee in 1981

### **LANGUAGES**

Native Fluency in Spanish  
Fluent in French  
High Proficiency in Italian  
Knowledge of Portuguese

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Political Science Association (APSA)  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)  
Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, University of California, San Diego  
Iberoamerican Political Thought Association  
Latin American Nietzsche Society

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. George Kateb [kateb@princeton.edu](mailto:kateb@princeton.edu)  
William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics,  
Politics Department, Princeton University

Dr. Stephen Macedo [macedo@princeton.edu](mailto:macedo@princeton.edu)  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and Director  
Center for Human Values, Princeton University

Professor Maurizio Viroli [viroli@princeton.edu](mailto:viroli@princeton.edu)  
Politics Department, Princeton University

Prof. Jorge Gracia [gracia@buffalo.edu](mailto:gracia@buffalo.edu)  
Samuel P. Capen Chair and  
SUNY Distinguished Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
State University of New York at Buffalo

Dr. Peter Singer, Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics [psinger@princeton.edu](mailto:psinger@princeton.edu)  
Center for Human Values, Princeton University

Prof. Don Moon [dmoon@wesleyan.edu](mailto:dmoon@wesleyan.edu)  
Government Department, Wesleyan University