

Department of Political Science
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, California 95053-0320

408-554-4139; pminowitz@scu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (1988) Harvard University, political science. Dissertation: “Religion and Political Economy in Adam Smith.” Advisors: Harvey C. Mansfield and Judith Shklar.

M.A. (1985) Harvard University, political science.

B.A. (1976) Middlebury College, political science major, Phi Beta Kappa.

BOOKS

2009. *Straussophobia: Defending Leo Strauss and Straussians against Shadia Drury and Other Accusers*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.

2009. “*Straussophobia: Six Questions for Peter Minowitz*” ([interview](#) by Scott Horton), *Harper’s Magazine*, 9/29/09.

1993. *Profits, Priests, and Princes: Adam Smith’s Emancipation of Economics from Politics and Religion*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1993.

CHAPTERS

2022. “From the Death of God to the Death of Man: What Nietzsche and Lampert Can Teach Catholics—and Straussians—about Environmentalism.” In George A. Dunn and Mango Telli, eds., *Toward a New Politics for Philosophy: Perspectives on Plato, Nietzsche, and Strauss* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2022), pp. 251-273.

2016. “Adam Smith’s Invisible Hands.” In Giorgi Areshidze, Paul O. Carrese, and Suzanna Sherry, eds., *Constitutionalism, Executive Power, and the Spirit of Moderation* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2016), pp. 241-279.

2000. “Political Philosophy and the Religious Issue.” In Mark Blitz and William Kristol, eds., *Educating the Prince: Essays in Honor of Harvey Mansfield* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), pp. 142-175.

1997. “Prince Versus Prophet: Machiavellianism in Frank Herbert’s *Dune* Epic.” In Donald M. Hassler and Clyde Wilcox, eds., *Political Science Fiction* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997), pp. 135-47.

ARTICLES

2024. “The Acorn and the Loaf: How Locke, Smith, and Marx Struggled to Balance Ecological and Economic Complexity.” Forthcoming in *Perspectives on Political Science*.
2022. “[Discomfort Is Still Legal](#),” *Inside Higher Ed*, 5/3/22.
2021. “[Getting ‘Woke’ with Socrates](#),” *VoegelinView* (August, 2021).
2021. “[Teaching Utopia in Troubled Times](#),” *Thomas More Gazette* #43 (June, 2021).
2021. “[Reconciliation Begins at Home: Two Pleas for Post-Trump Academic Life](#),” *RealClearEducation*, 1/4/21.
2020. “[How to Be a Better—and Less Fragile—Antiracist](#),” *Independent Institute*, 9/1/20.
2018. “[Diversity and Demonization](#),” *Claremont Review of Books*, 12/17/18.
2017. “Universities Should be Safe Spaces—for Intellectual Diversity,” *RealClearPolitics*, 6/1/17. Co-authored with five other professors who are Middlebury alums.
2016. “Rescuing ‘Diversity’ from Affirmative Action and Campus Activists.” *Perspectives on Political Science* 45, no. 3 (July 2016): 147-162.
2016. “[The Ultras and Their Ultimatums](#),” *On-Line Library of Law & Liberty*, 3/4/16,
2015. Guest editor for two-issue symposium on *Philosophy Between the Lines: The Lost History of Esoteric Writing*, by Arthur Melzer. *Perspectives on Political Science* 44, no. 3 - 4 (July & October 2015). My introduction appears on pp. 145-147 of the July issue.
2011. “What Was Leo Strauss?” *Perspectives on Political Science* 40, no. 4 (October 2011): 218-226.
2004. “[Adam Smith's Invisible Hands](#),” *Econ Journal Watch* 1, no. 3 (Winter 2004): 381-412.
1998. “The Ethics of Impeachment,” *San Jose Mercury News*, 12/20/98, C1, C3.
1993. “Machiavellianism Come of Age? Leo Strauss on Modernity and Economics,” *The Political Science Reviewer* 22 (1993): 157-197.
1991. “Crimes and Controversies: Nihilism from Machiavelli to Woody Allen,” *Literature/Film Quarterly* 19 (July 1991): 77-89.
1989. “Invisible Hand, Invisible Death: Adam Smith on War and Socioeconomic Development,” *Journal of Political/Military Sociology* 17 (Fall 1989): 305-315.

BOOK REVIEWS

2021. Review of *Our Great Purpose: Adam Smith on Living a Better Life*, by Ryan Patrick Hanley. *Review of Politics* 83, no. 1 (Winter, 2021): 146-149.
2019. Review of *The Bleak Political Implications of Socratic Religion*, by Shadia B. Drury. *Interpretation* 45, no. 2 (Spring, 2019): 342-346.
2019. "[A Dispatch from the Academic Wilds](#)": Review of *The Diversity Delusion*, by Heather Mac Donald. *On-Line Library of Law & Liberty*, 3/26/19.
2014. "[The Enduring Problem of Leo Strauss](#)." *Claremont Review of Books*, Special Edition (Fall 2014): 1-4.
2014. Review of *Adam Smith as Theologian*, ed. Paul Oslington, *Journal of the History of Economic Thought* 36, no. 2 (June 2014): 255-258.
2000. [Review](#) of *One by One from the Inside Out: Essays & Reviews on Race and Responsibility in America* by Glenn C. Loury. *Explore* (Winter 2000): 28-31.
1991. Review of *The Political Theory of Conservative Economists* by Conrad P. Waligorski. *The Review of Politics* 53 (Spring 1991): 418-421.

ESSAYS POSTED BY THE MARKKULA CENTER FOR APPLIED ETHICS

2020. "[A \(Morality\) Tale of Two Protests](#)," 6/8/20.
2019. "[Dilemmas about Political Ads on Social Media](#)," 12/6/19.
2019. "[Navigating Complexity and Catastrophe: From *Laudato Si'* to the GND](#)," 10/14/19.
2019. "[Maintaining Objectivity when Confronted by Horror](#)," 8/20/19.
2018. "[Flierphobia at Santa Clara University?](#)" 3/29/18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2023. [Letter](#) on academic freedom, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 9/5/23.
2023. "[Florida's Stop W.O.K.E. Act: an Exchange with Robin D.G. Kelley](#)," *New York Review of Books*, 7/11/23.
2022. "Secession Talk Leads in Deadly Direction," [letter](#) to *San Jose Mercury News*, 7/12/22, A6.
2021. [Letter](#) on critical race theory, *Washington Post*, 7/30/21.
2019. "[The Truth about Lies](#)," letter to the *Nation*, 12/2/19, p. 2.

2019. [Letter](#) on affirmative action, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/11/19.

2019. “Avoiding Hype in Editorializing about Women’s Health,” [letter](#) to the *San Jose Mercury News*, 8/25/19, A14.

2019. “[Misreading Plato’s Republic](#),” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 7/5/19, B2.

2019. [Letter](#) on John Locke’s stance towards Jews and Catholics, *Commonweal*, 4/22/19, p. 4.

2015. “[Regarding Leo Strauss](#)” (a 550-word letter). *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1/16/15, B15.

PEDAGOGY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR INCLUSIVITY & ANTIRACISM

2023. Four-day Summer Anti-Racist Liberatory Pedagogy Academy sponsored by the [Alliance for the Black Community](#).

2023. *Certificate in Inclusive Instruction for Equitable Learning* from ACUE (Association of College and University Educators). For completing a five-module course in inclusive teaching-practices that require the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2009 – present: Professor of Political Science, Santa Clara University.

1992 – 2009: Associate Professor of Political Science, Santa Clara University.

2000-01: Co-Director of Environmental Studies Institute, Santa Clara University.

1994-99: Chair of Political Science Department, Santa Clara University.

1985-92: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Santa Clara University.

1978-83: Teaching Fellow in Government, Harvard University.

Courses Taught at SCU:

Introduction to Political Philosophy	Seminar: Adam Smith
History of Political Philosophy I	Seminar: Marx and Marxism
History of Political Philosophy II	Seminar: Political Theory & Science Fiction
History of Political Philosophy III	Seminar: Leo Strauss and Xenophon
American Political Thought I	Seminar: Nietzsche’s <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>
Environmental-Studies Capstone Seminar	Thesis-Writing Seminar for Honors Students

SELECTED PAPERS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2021 – present: Founding member of the [Academic Freedom Alliance](#).

2021. Referee of manuscript on Adam Smith for the *Review of Politics*.

2020. Panelist for Real Talk conference, “Democracy Online” (March).
2019. Referee of manuscripts on Adam Smith for *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.
2017. *Utopia* translation-consultant for the Center for Thomas More Studies in Dallas.
2016. Referee of manuscript on Leo Strauss for *Political Theory*.
2016. Podcast, “[Free Speech vs. Hate Speech](#),” Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (November).
2016. Researcher, “The Next President: What It Means to Europe” (documentary by Trevor Poots), Chainsaw Europe Studio, https://youtu.be/8v_JLcmR4ro (September - November).
- 2015 – present. Consulting Editor and manuscript referee, *Perspectives on Political Science*.
2015. Invited participant in two-day symposium sponsored by the Leo Strauss Project (October).
2015. “Dispatches from the Strauss Wars.” Lecture at Middlebury College (March).
2011. Political Philosophy consultant for HarperCollins (July-August).
- 2011, 2008. Referee of grant applications for the H.B. Earhart Foundation.
2009. Directed podcast on political lying at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (October).
2008. Directed podcast on executive power at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (January).
2007. “Diversity at a Jesuit University.” Presentation to the Markkula Center (February).
2005. Referee of manuscript on Adam Smith for *Polity*.
2005. “Ethical Values and the Future of the U.S. Involvement in Iraq.” Presentation to the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (October).
2003. “The Ethical Implications of the California Recall Election.” Presentation to the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (September).
2003. Referee for Rowman & Littlefield on book manuscript, *Civil Peace and the Quest for Truth: First Amendment Freedoms in Political Philosophy and American Constitutionalism*.
2001. “Deconstructing Diversity: Justice, Multiculturalism and Affirmative Action in Catholic Higher Education.” Lecture and panel discussion for Santa Clara University’s Sesquicentennial Celebration (May).
- 1997-98. Referee of manuscripts on Adam Smith for the *American Political Science Review* and *Polity*.

- 1996-98. Referee for tenure reviews at Texas Tech and Utah State Universities.
1997. Chaired panel on “50 Years of Political Philosophy: The Contributions of Strauss, Rawls, Feminism, and Post-Modernism” for the annual convention of NCPSA (Northern California Political Science Association). Berkeley (May).
1996. “From Providence to Nature: The Historical Rhetoric of Adam Smith.” Paper delivered at annual convention of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco (August).
- 1994-96. Referee of manuscripts on Adam Smith for the *American Political Science Review*, the *Review of Politics*, and *Political Research Quarterly*.
- 1994-96. President, Northern California Political Science Association (NCPSA).
1995. “Environmental Themes in Science Fiction.” Lecture delivered for the *Institute on Ecology* at Santa Clara University (February).
1995. “What Deans Need to Know About Environmental Studies.” Presentation to the American Conference of Academic Deans (AAC&U). San Francisco (January).
- 1993-94. Program Director, Northern California Political Science Association.
1994. “Antiquity, Religion, and *Das Adam Smith Problem*.” Paper presented at the annual convention of the Southern Economics Association. Orlando (November).
1994. “Ethical Issues Raised by Propositions 184 & 187.” Presentation to the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (October).
1994. Chaired panel on “Citizenship, Democracy, and Political Theory” for the annual convention of the Northern California Political Science Association. Santa Clara (May).
1993. Referee of manuscript on economic democracy for *Polity* (July).
1993. “The Deflection Thesis Revisited.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association. New Orleans (March).
1991. Referee of manuscript on *Centesimus Annus* for *Polity* (September).
1990. Panelist for roundtable discussion—“Is Marxism Still Relevant?”—at the annual convention of the NCPSA. Santa Clara (May).
1989. “Adam Smith and Karl Marx on the Emancipation of Economics from Religion.” Lecture delivered to the School of Management, Brigham Young University. (October).
1989. “Strange Bedfellows: Adam Smith and Edmund Burke on Property and Markets.” Bannan Lecture with Francis Canavan, S.J. Santa Clara, California (April).

Curriculum Vitae: Peter Minowitz (9/30/23)

1987. “Women and Other Minorities.” Lecture delivered for SCU’s *Institute on the Bicentennial of the Constitution* (March).

1987. “Market Justice and Political Justice.” Paper presented at the annual convention of the NCPSA. Santa Clara, California (May).

1985. Discussant on panel, “Adam Smith on Politics & Self-Interest,” at the annual convention of the American Political Science Association. New Orleans (August).

1985. Chaired panel on “Theory and Practice” at the annual convention of the American Political Science Association. New Orleans (August).

THREE-DAY LIBERTY FUND CONFERENCES (by invitation only)

2013. Morality and Capitalism. Hermosa Beach, California (October).

2003. Freedom and Empire in Thucydides. Big Sky, Montana (October).

1999. Shakespeare’s English-history plays. Tucson, Arizona (January).

1998. Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*. Chicago (April-May).

1998. Shakespeare’s history plays. Princeton, New Jersey (February).

1995. Shakespeare’s Roman plays. Jackson Hole, Wyoming (September).

1995. Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary* and Cather’s *A Lost Lady*. Chicago (July).

1993. Karl Polanyi’s *The Great Transformation*. Richmond, Virginia (October).

1993. Adam Smith as Moral Thinker. Charleston, South Carolina (June).

1992. Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Houston (August).

1989. The Hobbesean Problem of Order. Jackson Hole, Wyoming (October).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2013. “Best Lower-Division Course” award from SCU political science students.

2008. “Best Senior Seminar” award from SCU political science students.

2002. Distinguished Environmental Service Award, Santa Clara University.

1988-89: John M. Olin Faculty Fellowship (funding for a 1-year research leave).

SELECTED SERVICE AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

- 2005 – present: Emerging Issues Fellow, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.
- 1992 – present: Scholar, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.
- 1988 – present: Co-founder and co-organizer of the Political Theory Study Group.
- 2023: Instructor for Osher Lifelong Learning summer course, “Wisdom in Prison.”
- 2022: Instructor for Osher Lifelong Learning summer course, “Wisdom on Trial.”
- 2020: Facilitator for discussions of *White Fragility* at the Office of Multicultural Learning.
- 2019 – 2020: Member, Core Curriculum Committee on Pathways.
- 2016 – 2018: Facilitator, Small-Group Diversity & Inclusion Sessions for New Students.
- 2014 – 2015: Participant, Ignatian Faculty Fellowship.
- 2011 – 2013: Member, University Coordinating Committee (Chair during 2012-13).
- 2008 – 2011: Member, Advisory Council for the Writing Center.
- 2009 – 2010: Member, Academic Affairs Committee.
- 2005 – 2023: Director, Political Science Honors Program.
- 2000-01: Co-Director, Environmental Studies Institute.
- 1998-99: Participant, Markkula Center’s Faculty Seminar on Affirmative Action.
- 1997-99: Member, Steering Committee of the new Center for Science, Technology, and Society.
- 1994-99: Chair, Political Science Department.
- 1993-95: Member, Planning/Steering Committee for the *Institute on Ecology*.
- 1992 – 2005: Member, Environmental Studies Program Council.
- 1992: Co-creator/organizer of the faculty workshop finalizing the curriculum for the SCU Environmental Studies Minor (September 15-17).
- 1990-92: Co-founder of the interdisciplinary committee that created the SCU Environmental Studies Minor.

1989-92: Faculty representative on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team.

1991: Participant in the Ethnic Studies Summer Workshop (June 24-28).

1986-87: Member, Planning/Steering Committee for the SCU *Institute on the Bicentennial of the Constitution*.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2021 – 2022: Member, Equal Justice Team of the Palo Alto League of Women Voters. Helped organize and moderate “[Housing for All](#),” a large Zoom meeting on 1/26/22.

2020 – 2021: Board of Directors, [Real Talk](#).

2019 – present: Communications Director, [Banyan Tree Women’s Collective](#) in North Fair Oaks, California.

1986 – present: Jazz-piano performances, solo and with combos. Currently appearing with the “Med’s Mood Swings” trio.

2003 – 2005. Manager and Assistant Coach for the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams at JLS Middle School in Palo Alto, California; Manager and Assistant Coach for the Palo Alto 7th and 8th grade boys All-Net teams in the National Junior Basketball League.

REFERENCES

David DeCosse, Director of Campus Ethics Programs, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.

Murray Dry, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science, Middlebury College.

Janet A. Flammang, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Santa Clara University.

Philip J. Kain, Professor of Philosophy, Santa Clara University.

Daniel B. Klein, Professor of Economics, George Mason University.

Timothy J. Lukes, Professor of Political Science, Santa Clara University.

Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., William Kenan Professor of Government, Harvard University.

Peter McNamara, Professor of Practice, Political Economy, Statesmanship and Leadership, Arizona State University.

David Schaefer, Professor of Political Science, College of the Holy Cross.

Michael Zuckert, Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame.