

# **LOUBNA EL AMINE**

loubnaelamine.com  
loubna.elamine@northwestern.edu

Department of Political Science  
Northwestern University  
Scott Hall  
601 University Place  
Evanston, IL 60208

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- August 1, 2016 – present: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University.

On parental leave:

September 2018-March 2019

(with twins) September 2021-March 2022

- August 2014 – July 2016: Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University.
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University (July 2012- June 2014).

## **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, September 2020-August 2021.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, September 2017-August 2018.
- Henry Luce Foundation/American Council for Learned Societies Program in China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, September 2017-August 2018.
- Princeton University Nominee, 2013 APSA Leo Strauss Award for best dissertation in political philosophy.
- Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, 2011-2012.

- Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2010-2011.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- January-October 2018: Visiting Scholar, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.
- September-December 2017: Residential Fellow Program, Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, Zhejiang University.
- April 2017-April 2019: Associate Member, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.
- July 2015: Asiatic Research Institute of Korea University, Fellowship Program for Northeast Asian Studies.

## **EDUCATION**

- Princeton University (2006-2012)  
PhD, Politics (subfields: political theory, Chinese political thought, and comparative politics); also in the Program in Political Philosophy.

Dissertation title: “The Confucian Conception of the Political”; Dissertation Committee: Charles Beitz, Alan Patten, Willard Peterson, and Stephen Angle.

Fall 2009; Visiting Student, Peking University, Beijing, China.

- Indiana University - Bloomington (2004-2006)  
Graduate Studies, Political Science (subfields: comparative politics and political theory).
- American University of Beirut (2001-2004)  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies, Minor in Philosophy  
Graduated with high distinction

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOK

*Classical Confucian Political Thought: A New Interpretation* (Princeton University Press, 2015).

Reviewed in: *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *The Review of Politics*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Philosophy East and West* (including critical exchange); also in *InterLib Magazine*, *Annabar*, and *Asbarq Al-Ansat*; subject of book symposium in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* (June 2019) and of author-meets-critics panel at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Annual Meeting (Seattle 2017).

Book talks: Philosophy Department, Division of Chinese Philosophy, Renmin University, Beijing, April 6, 2017; School of Political Science and Public Administration, Shandong University, Jinan, April 5, 2017; School of Philosophy, Fudan University, Shanghai, March 31, 2017; Philosophy Department, The University of Hong Kong, March 28, 2017; Center for East Asian and Comparative Philosophy, City University of Hong Kong, March 27, 2017; Department of Philosophy, National University of Singapore, March 23, 2017.

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- “The nation-state 1648-2148,” *Political Theory*, 50:1 (2023) (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary special issue), pp.65-73.
- “The family-state analogy in the *Mengzi*,” *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Philosophy*, edited by Justin Tiwald (forthcoming).
- (With Kevin Mazur) “Thinking about groups in political science: A case for bringing the meso level back in,” *Political Science Quarterly* 137:2 (Summer 2022), pp.331-355.
- "Political Liberalism, Western History, and the Conjectural Non-West," *Political Theory* 49:2 (February 2021), 190-214.
- "On the Liberatory Potential of the Past: The Case of Non-Feudal China," *Journal of World Philosophies* 4:1 (June 2019).
- “Beyond East and West: A reorientation of political theory through the prism of modernity,” *Perspectives on Politics* 14:1 (March 2016).

REVIEWS AND SHORTER ESSAYS

(My non-academic publications are listed here: <https://loubnaelamine.com/writing/>)

- “The Loftiness of Political Order,” *Confucian Political Philosophy: Dialogues on the State of the Field*, edited by Robert A. Carleo III and Yong Huang (Springer, 2021).
- “Material Conditions, Hierarchy, and Order in Early Confucian Political Thought: A Response to Reviewers,” *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 18:2 (June 2019): 285-289.
- “The 2016 elections and American exceptionalism: a view from the periphery,” part of a Critical Exchange on “Political and ethical action in the age of Trump,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 17:3 (August 2018): 331-362.
- “Ethics and Politics in Classical Confucian Thought: A Response to David Elstein,” *Philosophy East and West* 67:3 (July 2017): 919-920.
- “Democratic Hopes for the Arab World: A Review of Iliya Harik’s Work,” *Journal Of New Media Studies in the Middle East and North Africa* 2 (Summer 2013).

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Democracy in Contemporary Confucian Philosophy*, by David Elstein, *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 46:3-4 (September-December 2019).
- Review of *A History of Chinese Political Thought*, by Youngmin Kim, *H-Net Reviews* (February 2019).
- Review of *Reframing the Intercultural Dialogue on Human Rights: A Philosophical Approach*, by Jeffrey Flynn, *Philosophy East and West* 68:1 (January 2018).
- Review of *Changing Referents: Learning Across Space and Time in China and the West*, by Leigh Jenco, *Perspectives on Politics* 14:4 (December 2016).
- Review of *Being in the World: Dialogue and Cosmopolis*, by Fred Dallmayr, *Perspectives on Politics* 13:1 (March 2015).
- Review of *Confucian Democracy in East Asia: Theory and Practice*, by Sungmoon Kim, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (February 2015).

- Review of *Making the Political: Founding and Action in the Political Theory of Zhang Shizhao*, by Leigh Jenco, *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 11:3 (September 2012).
- Review of *Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shari'a*, by Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 41:3 (August 2009).

## INVITED TALKS

### KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- “Thinking beyond the modern (Western) state,” 2021 Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Oxford University, April 2021.
- “Sovereignty and Diversity: Lessons from Empires,” Borghesi-Mellon Workshop on “(Re)Imagining Identity and Diversity in the Shadow of Empire,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, February 2020.
- “Comparative Political Theory: Between Universalism and Particularism,” 14<sup>th</sup> annual Middle East Technical University Conference on International Relations: “Area Studies and International Relations: Intersecting Dimensions,” Ankara, Turkey, June 2015.

### OTHER INVITED TALKS

- Panel on “Communities in China: Ethics, Laws, and Politics,” Townsend Center for the Humanities [“In Dialogue with China” series], University of California, Berkeley, October 2022.
- “The Statist Blindspot and Histories of Empires,” Duke University Political Theory Workshop, October 2022.
- Commentator for roundtable on “Law and Morality in Early China and the Roman Empire,” University of Notre Dame and Hong Kong Baptist University, September 2022.
- “On Arab Sinology: A Conversation with Loubna El Amine,” *in Arabic*, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 2021.

- “Status, Hierarchy, and the State: Women in the Confucian Classics,” Perspectives on Ethics, The Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, January 2021.
- “Beyond Freedom and Slavery: On the Early Confucian Conception of Membership”
  - Columbia University Political Theory Workshop, February 2017.
  - Tri-Co Political Theory Workshop, Bryn Mawr College, December 2016.
- “Sectarianism’s Trash: What the Garbage Crisis Reveals about Politics in Lebanon,” College Park Scholars, University of Maryland, April 2016.
- “The Question of Political Order in Classical Confucian Thought,” the College of William & Mary Confucius Institute, March 2016.
- “Another kind of foundationalism: historical continuity and political order in Classical Confucian thought,” Democracy and China: A Workshop with Jiwei Ci, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, November 2015.
- Panel on Daniel Bell’s *The China Model*, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, October 2015.
- “The Problem of Political Order in Classical Confucianism,” Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar, University of Cambridge, May 2015.
- “Confucian Political Thought in a Comparative Perspective,” The Rahmania Annual Seminar: “Asia and Arabia Continued,” Al-Ghat, Saudi Arabia, January 2015.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Organizer:

- Workshop on “Comparative Ancient and Medieval Political Thought,” sponsored by the International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, and co-sponsored by the Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, May 2014.

Paper Presentations:

- On women in the ancient Confucian Classics

- American Political Science Association, online, September 2020.
- Association for Political Theory, online, November 2020.
- On looking at the Chinese past to rethink the modern state form
  - Conference on “Rethinking Global Political Thought,” Central European University, Budapest, May 2018.
  - Conference on “What Now? Political Thought at a Moment of Crisis,” The Program in Critical Theory, Department of Philosophy, UC Berkeley, September 2017.
- On deprovincializing multiculturalism
  - Workshop on “Priority in Practice,” Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, May 2018.
  - (with Kevin Mazur) Conference on “Rethinking Nationalism, Sectarianism and Ethno-Religious Mobilisation in the Middle East,” St Antony’s College, University of Oxford, January 2018.
- On Rawls’ conception of non-Western societies
  - Association for Political Theory, Columbus, Ohio, October 2016.
- On the family-state analogy in Mencius
  - Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, The American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 2016.
- On time and the reverence for the past in Confucian political thought
  - Association for Political Theory; Boulder, Colorado, October 2015.
  - Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, April 2015.
- On state versus empire in early China
  - “Advice to Rulers in Early China: between State and Empire,” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2015.
- On Confucianism between religion and politics
  - American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, August 2014.

- On ethics and politics in early Confucianism
  - American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 2013.
  - Association for Political Theory, Columbia, South Carolina, October 2012.
  - Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, November 2010.
  
- On the Confucian conception of the political
  - “Annual UPSS Student Conference (“From Political Science to Politics”); the New School for Social Research, New York, April 2013.
  - Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference; Princeton, October 2011.
  - Workshop on East Asian Perspectives on Legal Order, organized by the Asia Research Institute and the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore; in collaboration with the Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto; Singapore, August 2010.
  - Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar, University of Cambridge, in conjunction with the conference on “The Idea of Politics: Theory and History”; Cambridge, March 2009.

Discussant & Chair:

- Chair, “Democracy in non-Western Political Theories,” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2017.
  
- Discussant, “Ethics and Political Order in Chinese Thought,” Association for Chinese Philosophers in America, The American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, San Francisco, April 2015.
  
- Discussant, “Comparative Perspectives on Law in the Ancient and Medieval World,” American Political Science Association, Washington DC, August 2014.

Other:

- Faculty discussant, Association for Political Theory Book Proposal Workshop, November 2020.
  
- Roundtable on “Political Ethics and Political Action in the Age of Trump,” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2017.
  
- Short course on “Deparochializing Political Theory,” American Political Science Association, Washington DC, August 2014.



**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

Consulting editor: “Studies in Comparative Political Theory” (Oxford University Press).

Chair, “Foundations of Political Theory” section, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2018.

Manuscript review: *American Political Science Review*, *Constellations*, *Comparative Political Theory*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Frontiers of Philosophy in China*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of World Philosophies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Studies*.

**LANGUAGES**

Arabic (native language), French (fluent), Spanish (reading), Classical Chinese (reading).