

sfurnal@fiu.edu

EDUCATION

PhD, Political Science

University of California, Davis

Fields of Study: Political Theory,
American Politics, and Comparative
Literature

Dissertation: "What Can Be Done in Light of What Has Been Done: The Intersection of Theory and Practice in Rousseau"

Committee: John T. Scott (Chair), Robert S. Taylor, Julia Simon (French)

- MA, Political Science
 University of Houston
- BA, Political Science
 University of Houston
 Summa cum laude with honors from the Honors College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Teaching Professor of Political Science, Florida International University, Miami, FL (current)

- POS 2041: American Government
- POS 4205: American Political Culture
- POT 2002: Introduction to Political Theory
- POT 3013: Ancient & Medieval Political Theory
- POT 3054: Modern Political Theory
- POT 3064: Contemporary Political Theory
- POT 3204: American Political Thought
- POT 3302: Political Ideologies
- POT 4311: Problems of Democracy
- POT 4621: Theories of Justice

Faculty, Univ. of New Mexico, Valencia, Los Lunas, NM

- The Political World
- U.S. Government

Faculty, Portland Community College, Portland, OR

- U.S. Government
- Citizenship and Engagement
- Globalization and International Relations
- Political Ideologies

Faculty, Univ. of La Verne, La Verne, CA

Modern Political Theory

Faculty, Odessa College, Odessa, TX

- Introduction to Federal Government
- Texas State Government

Instructor, Univ. of California, Davis, Davis, CA

- Late Modern Political Theory
- Basic Concepts of Political Theory

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- Book Review, "The Cambridge Companion to Rousseau's Social Contract, edited by Matthew W. Maguire and David Lay Williams, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2024," in History of European Ideas, Volume 51, Issue 3, 2025
- "Rousseau's Rome: Book IV of the *Social Contract* and the Specter of Montesquieu," in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Volume 57, Number 1, Fall 2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Political Right, Legitimacy, and Institutional Design
- Democratic Theory
- Public Discourse and Rhetoric in Political Theory
- Republicanism, Ancient and Modern
- Theories of Progress
- History of Political Thought
- French Enlightenment
- Political Theory and Technology

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Working Article- "What Right Permits and Interest Prescribes: Equality and Legitimacy in Rousseau's Applied Constitutionalism"
- Working Article- "Rousseau's Cosmopolitan Republicanism: Confederation, Political Progress, and the Limits of Universalizing the General Will"

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (SELECTIONS)

- "What Right Permits and Interest Prescribes: Equality and Legitimacy in Rousseau's
- Applied Constitutionalism." Presented on panel "Liberty, Right, and Order in Rousseau and Tocqueville," at the 2025 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2025
- "Rousseau's Practical Philosophy: Applying a Standard of Right to Poland and Corsica."
 Presented at the 2021 meeting of the Western Political Science Association Meeting, 2021

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Research Assistant for Dr. Scott MacKenzie, Area: American Political Development
- Research Assistant for Dr. Cindy Kam, Area: American Political Psychology
- Research Assistant for Dr. Richard Matland, Area: American Politics, Qualitative Methods
- Research Assistant for Dr. Ross M. Lence, Area: American Political Thought
- Research Assistant for Dr. Donald Lutz, Area: American Political Thought

ADDITIONAL TEACHING AND SKILLS

TEACHING ASSISTANT (UC DAVIS, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON)

Courses in Political Theory

- Introduction to Political Theory (Honors and Standard)
- Plato's Republic Seminar
- Ancient Political Theory
- Early Modern Political Theory
- Late Modern Political Theory
- Contemporary Analytic Political Theory
- War in Political Theory
- Politics of Greek Theatre (Honors)
- History of Political Philosophy (Graduate Level)
- Techniques of Textual Analysis (Graduate Level)
- American Political Thought (Graduate Level)

Courses in American Politics

- Introduction to American Politics/U.S. Government
- American Public Policy
- Political Communication and Politics of Mass Media
- Legislative Processes/Congress
- Politics of Equality in Constitutional Law
- Science and Technology Policy

SKILLS

- Foreign Languages: French (Intermediate), Greek (Basic), Latin (Basic)
- Computer Languages and Statistical Modeling Tools: HTML (Basic), CSS (Basic), Python (Basic), FileMaker Pro, STATA, SPSS, R; Harvard University Data Science Professional Certificates in R, Data Visualization, Inference and Modeling, Probability, Productivity Tools (R Markdown, UNIX, GitHub, Atom), and Linear Regression
- Learning Management Systems and Online Course Design: Blackboard and Canvas, Online Live Teaching Microcredential at Florida International University (2021), HQ Certification for Eight Courses
- Collaboration Tools: MS Teams, Zoom, Asana
- Social Media Content Creation, Advertising, Analytics, and Management Tools: Podcastle, Acast, Podbean, Social Blade, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, Google Analytics, AMS, Facebook Ads, Buffer, HootSuite
- Video Production and Collaboration/Graphic Design Tools: DaVinci Resolve, YouTube Studio, iMovie, Animaker, Video Scribe, Doodly, Kaltura, Vellum, Canva, InVideo Al
- Al Tools: Microsoft Al for Educators Trophy (2024), InVideo Al, MS Copilot, Chat GPT, Dall-E

SERVICE AND AWARDS

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (SELECTIONS)

- Jack Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles, Summer Institute Fellow
- UC Davis and Humanities Research Fellowship
- UC Davis Charles Hardin and Emeriti Travel Award
- Earhart Foundation Fellowship, Awarded Twice

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTIONS)

- Chair of Panel "Political Legitimacy, Anarchism, and Secession" at Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (2025)
- Website/Social Media Manager, Politics and International Relations Department at Florida International University (2021-current)
- Departmental Committee Service at Florida International University (2020-current)
- Chair of Panel "Virtuous Collisions" at Western Political Science Association Meeting (2021)
- U.S. Government Advanced Placement Exam Reader, Salt Lake City, UT (2016, 2018)
- Chair of Panel "Rousseau: Possibility, Omnipotence, Intimacy & Communion" at WPSA Meeting (2010)
- Social Chair of Political Science Graduate Student Association, UC Davis
- Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Graduate Committee, UC Davis Dept. of Pol. Sci.
- Vice President/Social Chair of Graduate Student Association, University of Houston

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, Press and Public Affairs Division, assisting in Foreign Trade and Investment Division, British Consulate-General, Houston, TX
- Public Liaison Intern, Office of Houston City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Quan