

Minh Ly

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Academic Employment

University of Vermont, Assistant Professor, August 2022 to present tenure-track in the **Department of Political Science**, teaching courses in political theory and economic justice.

Stanford University, Lecturer, August 2020 to August 2022 in the **Center for Ethics in Society** and **Stanford Civics Initiative**, appointed by Dean Debra Satz to the university committee that is designing and teaching the **Citizenship in the 21st Century** course for all first-year students. Taught the graduate political theory seminar to prepare Ph.D students in the **Department of Political Science** for their field exams in political theory. Lecturer in Thinking Matters, August 2017-July 2020.

Princeton University, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Values and Public Life, August 2016-2017, **University Center for Human Values** and the Program in Values and Public Life; Postdoctoral Research Associate in Values and Public Policy, 2014-2016, jointly appointed in the University Center for Human Values, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, and the **Princeton School of Public and International Affairs**.

Book Project (under contract with Princeton University Press)

Answering to Us: The Right to Democratic Accountability. Under contract with Princeton University Press following external review by three faculty and approval by the editorial board.

Education

Brown University, Ph.D with distinction May 2014, M.A. 2011, Department of Political Science, 2008-2014; specialization in political theory, second field international relations/political economy.

Dissertation: *Global Deliberation: A Human Right to Deliberative Democracy*.

Corey Brettschneider, Mark Blyth, Sharon Krause, John Tomasi, Dennis Thompson (Harvard)

Harvard University, A.B. 2005, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

Senior honors thesis: "A Theory of Human Rights."

Adviser: Stanley Hoffmann. *Magna cum laude* (written); *Summa cum laude* (oral)

Research and Teaching Interests

Political theory, democratic theory, the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship, the inclusion of minorities in democracy, economic justice and inequality, human rights, global justice and governance, the history of political thought (esp. Madison, Kant, and liberalism).

Peer-reviewed publications (continued next page)

Ly, Minh. "A Human Right to Deliberative Justification." *Journal of Politics* (October 2018): 1355-1368, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/699247>

Ly, Minh. "Special Drawing Rights, the Dollar, and the Institutionalist Approach to Reserve Currency Status," *Review of International Political Economy* 19:2 (2012): 341-362

Review Article

Ly, Minh (with Theodora Welch). "Rawls on the Justice of Corporate Governance." *Business Ethics Journal Review* 5:2 (2017): 7-14
<https://bejreview.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/bejrv5n2welch.pdf>

- Subject of a reply article by Abraham Singer, *Business Ethics Journal Review* 6:3 (2018).

Book chapter

Ly, Minh. "The Future of the Dollar" in *The Handbook of Global Economic Governance*, eds. Catherine Weaver and Manuella Moschella (London: Routledge Press, 2014): ch. 15.

Book Summary

Answering to Us: The Right to Democratic Accountability (under advance contract with Princeton University Press)

My book explains the importance of accountability to democracy. The novel democratic theory I develop gives us the resources to reckon with two of the most formidable anti-democratic forces we face today: the rise of elected authoritarianism and discrimination against minorities. Elected authoritarians are persecuting minorities, suppressing freedom of dissent, and attacking the rule of law. Yet they claim to be democratic, because they were elected and contend that they represent the will of a self-governing people.

Responding to this challenge, I propose a conception of democracy based not on a homogeneous popular will, but on the equal democratic accountability of the government to the diverse persons it governs. Elections alone are insufficient to ensure that a government is equally accountable. Equal accountability requires the very rights to freedom of the press, protest, and the rule of law that elected authoritarians threaten. Equal accountability also calls for the government to empower marginalized minorities to participate in democratic accountability as equals. To empower minorities, officials must ensure the resources to exercise democratic rights effectively, equal treatment by the police, and a strong civic education. When minorities are treated unjustly, citizens bear the civic duty to hold their officials democratically accountable for ending injustice. *Answering to Us* shows that we are freely self-governing when our public servants are democratically accountable to us, and we protect each other's freedom and equality from the threats of discrimination and elected authoritarianism.

Conference Papers

Ly, Minh. "The Duties of Democratic Citizenship," Faculty Seminar Presentation, **Stanford University Political Theory Workshop**, Palo Alto, CA, May 2022.

Wrote and organized the panel "The Idea of Justice in Democracy: The 50th Anniversary of Theory of Justice," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, September 2021. Other panelists include Stephen Macedo, Michael Blake, David Estlund, Samuel Freeman, and Katrina Forrester (chair).

Ly, Minh. "Democracy, Equal Accountability, and the Inclusion of Noncitizens," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 2020. Presenting in the panel, "Alternative Sites of Democracy." Paulina Ochoa Espejo, Anna Jurkevics, and Lucia Rafanelli were co-panelists, Melissa Schwartzberg the commentator, and Eric Beerbohm the chair.

Ly, Minh. "Democratic Accountability and Self-Determination," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Washington DC, August 2019. Wrote and organized the panel, "The Human Right to Democracy in Politics and Economics." Thomas Christiano, Carol Gould, and Lucia Rafanelli were co-panelists, Anna Stilz the commentator, and Jamie Mayerfeld the chair.

Ly, Minh. "Answering to Us: The Right to Democratic Accountability," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 2018. Wrote and organized the panel, "The Value of Democratic Participation." Anna Stilz and Eric Beerbohm were co-panelists, and Corey Brettschneider was the chair and commentator.

Ly, Minh. "Answering to Us: The Right to Democratic Accountability," **Stanford University**, The Nature of Rights Revisited: Philosophical, Legal, and Political Implications Workshop, Palo Alto, CA, June 2018.

Ly, Minh. "The Meaning of Democratic Accountability: A Rights Based Theory," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2017.

Ly, Minh. "A Democratic Theory of Self-Determination," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia PA, August 2016.

Ly, Minh. "A Human Right to Deliberative Justification." Faculty Seminar Presentation, **Princeton University Center for Human Values**, Princeton, NJ, December 2014.

Ly, Minh. "Deliberating the Just War," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Washington DC, August 2014.

Ly, Minh. "Deliberative Democracy in Global Governance Institutions," **University of Chicago Society of Fellows**, Chicago, IL, February 2014.

Ly, Minh. "Accountability and the Global Democratic Deficit," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, September 2013.

Ly, Minh. "Deliberative Democracy in Global Governance Institutions," **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, September 2012.

Ly, Minh. "Deliberative Democracy in Global Governance Institutions," **New England Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, NH, April 2012.

Ly, Minh. "In Defense of a Human Right to Deliberative Democracy," **New England Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Hartford CT, April 2011.

Ly, Minh. "Making Foreign Policy Moral: The Need for Foreign Deliberation," **New England Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Newport RI, April 2010.

Invited Conference Commentary

Commentator on Michelle Chun, "Motivating Basic Equality," **NYU/McGill/Stanford/Duke University Conference, Political Theory In/And/As Political Science**, Palo Alto, CA, April 2021.

Commentator on Jonathan Gingerich, "Integrity and Spontaneity," **Stanford University Center for Ethics in Society**, Junior Scholars Workshop, Palo Alto, CA, February 2021.

Commentator on Ted Lechterman, “Donor’s Democracy: Private Philanthropy and Political Morality,” **Stanford University Center for Ethics in Society**, Book Workshop, Palo Alto, CA, June 2018.

Commentator on Jackie Basu, “Stability Under the Democratic Modus Vivendi,” **Stanford University Department of Political Science**, Political Theory Workshop, Palo Alto, CA, April 2018.

Panel chair, “Political Theory Beyond the Nation-State,” **American Political Science Association**, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia PA, August 2016.

Commentator on Joseph Mazor, “Beyond Deliberation Day: Rethinking Institutionalized Mass Deliberation,” Princeton University Department of Politics, **London School of Economics – Princeton Political Theory Conference**, Princeton, NJ, May 2016.

Commentator on Claudio López-Guerra, “Accountability, Equality of Stakes, and Justice.” Faculty Seminar Presentation, **Princeton University Center for Human Values**, Princeton, NJ, Dec. 2015.
Commentator on Louis-Philippe Hodgson, “Dimensions and Levels of Political Evaluation.” Faculty Seminar, **Princeton University Center for Human Values**, Princeton, NJ, April 2015.

Working papers

Ly, Minh. “Democratic Accountability and Self-Government.” Completed draft. This paper addresses the puzzle of how minorities can be fully included in democracy and be freely self-governing. I show that freedom as self-government requires more than elections. Even if they have the vote, marginalized minorities are not freely self-governing, but they are subject to the external rule of rights-violating officials or factions of other citizens. In response to this challenge, I offer an original theory of freedom as self-government. I argue that we are freely self-governing when we are free to hold our government democratically accountable and we are included as equals in democracy. To be freely self-governing, minorities must have equal democratic accountability rights, and their freedom and equality must be respected and protected by officials and other citizens.

Ly, Minh. “Democratic Self-Determination and the Human Right to Democratic Accountability.” Revised draft in-progress. This paper challenges the widely-held popular will theory of self-determination, which allows a majority to choose an authoritarian form of government that discriminates against racial minorities and women. I show that this view neglects the internal diversity of states, and I explain that the values of non-discrimination and self-government call for equal political rights for all citizens to hold their government accountable. Drawing on Frederick Douglass and Michael Walzer, I argue that all residents who are subject to the jurisdiction of government are entitled to equal citizenship.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record:

Economic Justice, University of Vermont (fall 2022)

Ethics in Society Senior Thesis Workshop, Stanford University (spring 2022)

Citizenship in the 21st Century, Stanford University (winter 2021)

20th Century and Contemporary Political Theory, graduate seminar to prepare Stanford Ph.D students for their field exam in political theory in the Department of Political Science (fall 2021)

Citizenship, Stanford University (winter 2020 with Pamela Karlan)

Justice and the University, Stanford University (fall 2019, winter 2017 with Rob Reich and Pamela Karlan)

Rules of War, Stanford University (winter 2019 with Scott Sagan and Allen Weiner)

Inventing Government, Stanford University (taught spring 2019 and spring 2018 with Josiah Ober)
The Spirit of Democracy, Stanford University (fall 2018, 2017 w/ James Fishkin and Larry Diamond)
Values and Public Life Senior Thesis Seminar, Princeton University (spring 2017 and fall 2016)
Global Justice, Brown University (summer 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)
Democratic Theory and Globalization, Brown University (spring 2014)

Curricular Committee: Citizenship in the 21st Century, Stanford University (spring 2020-summer 2022), appointed to the university-wide committee that is designing and teaching a course on democracy for all Stanford first-year students. Responsible for increasing the diversity of the curriculum, writing the faculty teaching guides, and teaching a pilot course with Pamela Karlan.

Teaching assistant:

Modern Political Thought: Hobbes to Rawls (spring 2013)
Introduction to Political Thought: Plato to Marx (spring 2012)
Prosperity: The Ethics and Economics of the Wealth of Nations (fall 2013, spring 2011)
Global Security (fall 2010)
Introduction to International Politics (spring 2010)

Invited senior thesis reader and examiner:

Alexander Lam, "Reformulating Inheritance Taxation," Stanford University (advisor, Debra Satz)
Winner, Lyle and Oliver Cook Prize for best senior thesis in the Program in Ethics in Society

Senior thesis prize committee, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University (fellow committee members Nannerl Keohane and Melissa Lane)

Professional Service

Referee for the *American Political Science Review*, *Review of International Political Economy*,
Stanford Center for Ethics in Society Junior Scholars Workshop.

Postdoctoral selection committee for the Center for Ethics in Society at Stanford University.

Research Experience

Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Corey Brettschneider, Political Science
Department (2009-2014)

Harvard University, Full-time Research Assistant for Professor Graham Allison, Belfer Center for
Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2005-2008)

Harvard University, Research Assistant for Professor Dennis Thompson, Department of Government
(summer 2004)

Awards and honors

2012 Honorable mention, Archambault Award for Teaching Excellence, *Brown
University*

2012, 2011 Graduate dissertation fellowship, Department of Political Science, *Brown
University*

2010 Pass with distinction (highest grade), comprehensive exam in political theory.
Examining committee: Sharon Krause and John Tomasi

References

Corey Brettschneider, Professor of Political Science, *Brown University*
(Corey_Brettschneider@Brown.edu), (401)-439-8758

Dennis F. Thompson, Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy, Director Emeritus
of the Center for Ethics, *Harvard University* (Dennis_Thompson@Harvard.edu), (617)-413-8961

Anna Stilz, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and Human Values, Director of the Program
in Values and Public Life, *Princeton University* (Astilz@Princeton.edu), (617)-308-2613

Pamela Karlan, Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law, *Stanford Law
School* (Pkaran@Stanford.edu), (650)-520-4851

Josiah Ober, Constantine Mitsotakis Chair, Departments of Political Science and Classics, *Stanford
University* (Jobber@Stanford.edu), (650) 387-8380

Rob Reich, Professor of Political Science, Director of the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society,
Stanford University (Reich@Stanford.edu)

Stephen Macedo, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and Human Values, *Princeton
University* (Macedo@Princeton.edu)