

Stephon J. Boatwright

Assistant Professor of Political Science & International Relations

Professional Profile

Stephon J. Boatwright is a political scientist whose work examines demagoguery, authoritarian populism, and democratic backsliding in transatlantic and global contexts. His research draws on social psychological theory to analyze contemporary extremist and populist movements, with a focus on identity formation, rhetoric, and processes of collective meaning-making.

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Education Profile

- 02.2025 Doctor of Philosophy | Political Science and International Relations
City University of New York - Graduate Center
 - Dissertation: *Myth, Mayhem, and Pseudo-Democracy: The Role of Political Myths in Mobilizing Nationalist Populist Movements and Political Extremists*
- 02.2022 Master of the Arts | Political Science and International Relations
City University of New York - Graduate Center
- 05.2019 Master of the Arts | Education; Social Sciences
University of Colorado - Denver
- 05.2011 Bachelor of the Arts | Political Science
State University of New York - Oswego
 - Bachelor Thesis: *Antonio Gramsci's Concept of Common Sense*

Advanced Research Training & Professional Development

- 08.2026 Swiss School in Social Science Methods - Università della Svizzera Italiana
 - Training in theory-building using comparative case methods
- 03.2026 Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods - University of Oxford
 - Training in discourse analysis and qualitative analysis
- 08.2025 Teaching Innovation Cohort - Saint Michael's College
 - Faculty participant in a competitive cohort on innovative teaching technology
- 06.2024 Exeter Humanities Institute - Phillips Exeter Academy
 - Intensive training in the Harkness discussion method of pedagogy

Academic Employment History

- 08.2025 -
Ongoing
- New York University, New York | Adjunct Instructor
- Design and teach undergraduate courses in international relations, international law, and global affairs
- 08.2024 -
Ongoing
- Saint Michael's College, Vermont | Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations
- Specializing in political populism and extremism, Atlanticism and Constitutional and international law
 - Member, Criminology and Political Science / International Relations Steering Committees
 - Founding member, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Program
 - Member, Faculty Professional Development Committee
- 08.2019 -
2025
- Lehman College, Bronx, New York | Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Teach U.S. government, criminal justice, and political economy, emphasizing institutions, law, public policy, and political power.
 - Digital and In-person instruction
- 08.2011-
05.2014
- City University of New York Graduate Center | Research Fellow
- Research assistance and archival analysis supporting faculty publications
- 05.2010-
08.2011
- SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York | Research Assistant
- *Understanding Energy and Energy Policy* (Zed Books, 2014)

Classes Taught

- Atlanticism and Transnational Democracy
 - Includes a study-abroad field experience in Europe
 - Classical Political Economy
 - Comparative Constitutional Law
 - Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
 - Constitutional Law: Government Power
 - Criminal Justice
 - Current Political Issues
 - Government Internship Advisement
 - International Studies
 - International Law
 - International Relations
 - Interrogating Political Globalization
 - Populism, Radicalism, and Extremism
 - Parties and Elections
 - United States Politics
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Manuscripts Under Review

Boatwright, S. J. *From the Illuminati to Modern Populism: The Evolution of the Great Replacement Theory in Right-Wing Ideologies*. Article manuscript under peer review.

Boatwright, S. J. *The Roots We Refuse: Pedagogy for a Demagogic Age*. Article manuscript under peer review.

Other Scholarly Writing

Boatwright, S. J. *Myth, Mayhem, and Pseudo-Democracy: The Role of Political Myths in Mobilizing Nationalist Populist Movements and Political Extremists*. PhD diss., City University of New York Graduate Center, 2024.

Boatwright, S. J. "Defund the Police? We've Been Doing That to Education for Years." Education Week, July 29, 2020.

Boatwright, S. J. "Common Sense in Antonio Gramsci's Political Thought." SUNY Oswego Commons, 2011

Selected Conference Presentations

Boatwright, S.J. "Organizing Belonging in Uncertain Times: Discourse, Citizenship, and Nationalist Group Formation." Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, September 2026.

Boatwright, S.J. "A Rival Vision of Unity: Replacement, Remigration, and the Transnational Right at CPAC." Paper presented at the Council for European Studies International Conference, June 2026.

Boatwright, S.J. "The Roots We Refuse: Pedagogy for a Demagogic Age." Paper presented at the Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, March, 2026. (Refereed conference)

Boatwright, S. J. "If You Only Did Your Research: The Myth of the Deep State and the Emergence of Decentralized Demagoguery." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association Annual Conference, April, 2025.

Boatwright, S. J. "From the Illuminati to Modern Populism: The Evolution of the Great Replacement Theory." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April, 2025.

Boatwright, S. J. "Reading Radicals: The Social and Discursive Techniques of Authoritarian Populists and Armed Extremists." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association, April, 2024.

Distinctions

- Nominated University of Vermont Outstanding Educator | 2023
- Professional Teaching License; Social Studies 7-12; Colorado & Vermont
- National Geographic Certified Educator | 2019
- Dean K Harrison Fellow - CUNY Graduate Center | 2014

Applied Political Experience

Advisor to Municipal Executive; Burlington, Vermont | February 2024 - Present

- Conduct policy research and strategic planning in support of executive initiatives and platform development.
- Coordinated volunteer operations during the campaign cycle, including canvassing, voter outreach, and event logistics

Coordinating Committee Member, State-Level Political Organization; Vermont | November 2023 - July 2025

- Lead strategic planning and internal governance for a statewide political organization
- Collaborate with regional leaders to develop electoral priorities and candidate support strategies

Precinct Chairperson, Local Electoral District; Fort Collins, Colorado | August 2017 - April 2019

- Organized and facilitated local caucuses and voter outreach initiatives