

MICHAEL DAVIS
CURRICULUM VITAE

CONTACT

Department of Philosophy
Sarah Lawrence College
Bronxville, N.Y. 10708
Telephone: (914) 395-2258
email: mdavis@sarahlawrence.edu

EDUCATION

Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences:
A.B. in Government and *magna cum laude* in Philosophy and with Distinction in all subjects (June 1969)

Heidelberg University: Research (1971-72)

Pennsylvania State University:
M.A. in Philosophy (June 1973)
Ph.D. in Philosophy (November 1974)

Foreign Languages: Greek, French, German, Italian

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1977-present: Sarah Lawrence College Philosophy Faculty (tenured 1982); Sara Yates Exley Chair in Teaching Excellence (2003-2005); Chair, Humanities Division (1992-93, 2008-09); service on college-wide committees on curriculum (three times), tenure and appointment, general planning (twice), student work (twice), and various search committees (e.g. in Philosophy, Classics, Religion, History, Art History, Political Science, and Dean of Admissions, Dean of the College)

1995-2002: Regular Visiting Professor, Graduate Program in Political Philosophy, Department of Political Science, Fordham University (teaching two graduate seminars a year and mentoring dissertations)

1993: Graduate Adjunct Professor, Department of Philosophy, Fordham University

1981-89: Adjunct Professor, Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research (teaching one graduate course a year and serving on examination committees)

1976-77: Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Alfred University

1975-76: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Wesleyan University

1974-75: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Dickinson College

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Ancient Tragedy and the Origins of Modern Science, Southern Illinois University Press (April 1988), 178pp.
Chinese translation, Hermes (2008)

Aristotle's Poetics: The Poetry of Philosophy, Rowman and Littlefield (1992) 183pp.; reprinted as *The Poetry of Philosophy: On Aristotle's Poetics*, St. Augustine's Press (1999)
Chinese translation, Hermes (2009)

The Politics of Philosophy: A Commentary on Aristotle's Politics, Rowman and Littlefield (1996) 152pp. (*Choice* 1996 Outstanding Academic Book Award)

Chinese translation, Hermes (2009)

The Autobiography of Philosophy: Rousseau's The Reveries of the Solitary Walker, Rowman and Littlefield (1999), 296pp.

Chinese translation, Hermes (2010)

Aristotle – On Poetics, co-translator and co-editor (with Seth Benardete) and author of the Introduction, St. Augustine's Press (2002) 105pp.

Encounters and Reflections: Conversations with Seth Benardete, participant (with Robert Berman and Ronna Burger), University of Chicago Press (2003) 229pp.

Chinese translation, Hermes (2007)

Wonderlust: Ruminations on Liberal Education, St. Augustine's Press (2006) 194pp.

The Soul of the Greeks: An Inquiry, University of Chicago Press (2011), 260pp.

The Music of Reason: Plato, Rousseau, and Nietzsche, University of Pennsylvania Press (2019), 272pp.

Books in Progress:

The Grammar of the Self: Plato's Laches, Menexenus, and Alcibiades I.

Electras: Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides

Collections Edited:

Essays in Honor of Richard Kennington, a special *Festschrift* issue of the *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Fall 1986), 177pp.

With Ronna Burger, introduction to and editor of *The Argument of the Action: Essays on Greek Poetry and Philosophy* by Seth Benardete, University of Chicago Press (2000) 434pp.

Chinese translation, Hermes, (forthcoming)

With Ronna Burger, introduction to and editor of *The Archaeology of the Soul: Essays in Greek and Roman Philosophy and Poetry* by Seth Benardete, St. Augustine's Press, (2012), 385pp.

Chinese translation, Hermes (forthcoming)

Other Publications:

The Duality of Soul in Plato's Philebus, Doctoral Dissertation, The Pennsylvania State University (1974), 521pp.

"Courage and Impotence in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*," *Essays from Sarah Lawrence College*, Vol. 4, No. 2, February 1979, 29pp.; reprinted in revised form in *Shakespeare's Political Pageant*, Alulis and Sullivan eds., Rowman and Littlefield (1996), 219-36

Review of *Plato's Apology of Socrates* by Thomas West, *Independent Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. III (1979), 151-52

"Socrates' Pre-Socratism: Some Remarks on the Structure of Plato's *Phaedo*," *Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 3 (March 1980), 559-577

Review of *The Dialectic of Action: A Philosophical Interpretation of History and the Humanities* by Frederick Olafson, *Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (Sept. 1980), 153-55

"Plato and Nietzsche on Death: An Introduction to Plato's *Phaedo*," *Ancient Philosophy*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Fall 1980), 69-80

"Philosophy and the Perfect Tense: On the Beginning of Plato's *Lovers*," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Fall 1985), 75-97; reprinted in *Platonic Philosophy and its Others*, Dustin and Schaeffer eds., Lexington Books (2013), 265-85

"Aristotle's Reflections on Revolution" in *Essays in Honor of Richard Kennington*, *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Fall 1986), 49-63

"Politics and Madness" in *Greek Tragedy and Political Theory*, ed. J. Peter Euben, University of California Press (1987), 142-61

"On the Being of *The Being of the Beautiful*," review article for *Ancient Philosophy*, Vol. 7 (1987), 191-200; reprinted in *The Eccentric Core: The Thought of Seth Benardete*, Burger and Goodin eds., St. Augustine's Press (2018), 219-231

"Cannibalism and Nature," *Metis: Revue d'anthropologie du monde grec ancien*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (1989), 33-50

"Politics and Poetry: Aristotle's *Politics* Books VII and VIII," *Interpretation*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Winter 1991-1992), 157-168

"Das Ziel der Zweckursache: Aristoteles' *Metaphysik A*," Roland Dollinger trans. in *Philosophia Naturalis: Beiträge zu einer zeitgemässen Naturphilosophie*, Arzt, Dollinger und Dürckheim Hrsg., Königshausen & Neumann (1996), 323-339

"Euripides among the Athenians," *The St. John's Review*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (1998), 61-81

"The Tragedy of Law: Gyges in Herodotus and Plato," *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (March 2000), 635-55

"On the Intention of Plato's *Cleitophon*," *Metis: Revue d'anthropologie du monde grec ancien*, Vol. XIII (1998) [actual publication date: 2002], 271-285

"Unraveling *Ravelstein*: Saul Bellow's Comic Tragedy," *Perspectives in Political Science*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Winter 2003), 26-31

"Father of the Logos: The Question of the Soul in Aristotle's *De Anima* and *Nicomachean Ethics*," *Epoché*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 2003), 169-187

"Seth Benardete's Second Sailing: On the Spirit of Ideas," *The Political Science Reviewer*, Vol. 32 (2003) 8-35; reprinted in *The Eccentric Core: The Thought of Seth Benardete*, Burger and Goodin eds., St. Augustine's Press, (2018), 101-24

"Tragedy in the Philosophical Age of the Greeks: Aristotle's Reply to Nietzsche," in *The Impact of Aristotelianism on Modern Philosophy (Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy, Volume 39)*, Riccardo Pozzo, ed., Catholic University Press (2004), 210-230

Preface to Seth Benardete's *Achilles and Hector: the Homeric Hero*, St. Augustine's Press (2005), vii-xi

The Riddle of the Middle: A review of A Democracy of Distinction: Aristotle and the Work of Politics by Jill Frank, *The Claremont Review Website* (May 5, 2006)

"Making Something from Nothing: On Plato's *Hipparchus*," *Review of Politics*, Vol. 68, No. 4, (Fall 2006), 547-63

"The Grammar of the Soul: On Plato's *Euthyphro*," in *Logos and Eros: Essays Honoring Stanley Rosen*, Nalin Ransinghe ed., St. Augustine's Press (2006), 57-71

"Philosophy in the Comics," excerpted from (*Wonderlust*) in *Sarah Lawrence* (Spring 2007), 60-61

Review Article: *Aristotle's Dialogue with Socrates*, by Ronna Burger, *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (2009), 133-39

"Euripides' *Helen*: The Fake that Launched a Thousand Ships," in *Logos and Muthos*, William Wians ed., SUNY Press (2009), 255-71

"The Essence of Babel: Rousseau on the Origin of Languages," in *The Companionship of Books: Essays in Honor of Laurence Berns*, Lexington Books (2012), 229-50

"The Music of Reason in Rousseau's *Essay on the Origin of Languages*," *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (2012), 389-402

"The Soul of Achilles," excerpted from *The Soul of the Greeks*, *The Montreal Review* (June 2012)

With Gwenda-lin Kaur Grewal, "The Daimonic Soul: On Plato's *Theages*," in *Socratic Philosophy and its Others*, edited by Christopher Dustin and Denise Schaeffer, Lexington Books (2013), 35-50

"What's wrong with this picture?": on *The Coast of Utopia*," in *Natural Right and Political Philosophy: Essays in Honor of Catherine Zuckert and Michael Zuckert*, Notre Dame University Press (2013), 420-430

"Lies Like the Truth: On Plato's *Lesser Hippias*," *Cogent Arts & Humanities* (January, 2016), 3: 1133079
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2015.1133079>

"Plato's *Minos*: The Soul of the Law," *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 78, No. 3 (2016), 343-363

"This and That: On Plato's *Laches*," *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 70, No. 2 (December 2016), 253-77

"On the Coherence of *Plato's Philosophers*," *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 80, No. 2 (2018), 241-46

PUBLIC LECTURES

"Plato's Critique of Cosmology," Philosophy Departments at the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research (Spring 1975) and at SUNY Geneseo (Spring 1975)

"Courage and Impotence in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*," Wesleyan University Philosophy Forum (Spring 1976)

"Plato's Other View of Poetry," the General Program, Notre Dame University (Spring 1977)

"Plato and Nietzsche on the Problem of Death: An Introduction to Plato's *Phaedo*," Wesleyan University (Spring 1978)

"Some Remarks on Gadamer's Use of Plato and Aristotle," Text and Time: The Thought of Hans-Georg Gadamer, a conference at Dickinson College (Fall 1978)

"Socrates' Pre-Socratism: Some Remarks on the Structure of Plato's *Phaedo*," The School of Philosophy, Catholic University of America (Spring 1979)

"Criminality in Plato's *Meno*," Dickinson College (Fall 1980)

A week in residence at Alfred University: two lectures on Sophocles' *Antigone*, a discussion of Rousseau's *The Reveries of a Solitary Walker*, a lecture on Sophocles' *Ajax* and Aeschylus' *Eumenides*, and a public discussion with Charles Altieri, Professor of Literature at the University of Washington (Spring 1982)

"Aristotle's Reflections on Revolution," Center for International Studies, Emory University (Spring 1984) and the Department of Political Science, Boston College (Fall 1984)

"Autonomy and Criminality in Plato's *Meno*," Emory University (Spring 1984)

"The Limits of Autonomy: Plato's *Meno*," Boston Area Political Theory Group (Fall 1984)

"Cannibalism and Nature: Book I of Aristotle's *Politics*," Harvard University (Fall 1985), Catholic University of America (Spring 1986), Brown University (Spring 1986)

"Aristotle on Friendship: Side by Side and Face to Face," Brown University (Spring 1986)

"For the friend is another self." SSIPS/SAGP Conference (Fall 1987); Society for Greek Political Thought (Spring 1989); revised version at The Franklin Forum, Skidmore College, (Fall 2014)

"Poetry and Politics: Aristotle's *Politics* Books VII and VIII," SSIPS/SAGP Conference (Fall 1988), Skidmore College (Fall 1994)

"Natural Attraction: The Friendship of Nature in Plato's *Lysis*," Society for Greek Political Thought at the American Political Science Association meetings (Summer 1989)

"Aristotle's Poetics of Action," SSIPS/SAGP Conference (Fall 1989)

"Politics and Parricide: The Nature of Political Inquiry," NEH Summer Seminar on the Ancient Philosophy of Law (Summer 1990)

"The Poetry of Philosophy: On Aristotle's *Poetics*," Middlebury College (Fall 1990), Fordham University (Spring 1993), Stonehill College (Spring 1993)

"Judging the Judge: Political Philosophy in *Politics* III," Society for Greek Political Thought at the Midwestern Political Science Association meetings (Spring 1991)

"The Importance of Tragedy for Aristotle," The German School, White Plains, N.Y. (Spring 1992)

"Aristotle's *Politics* Book IV: The Soul of the Polis," Catholic University of America (Spring 1994), Tulane University (Spring 1994)

Respondent for "On *The Poetry of Philosophy* by Michael Davis," a panel in the Politics and Literature Section at the 1996 Meeting of the American Political Science Association (August 1996)

"Euripides Among the Athenians: A Reading of *Iphigeneia Among the Taurians*," St. John's College, Annapolis (Spring 1997)

"The Autobiography of Philosophy: On Rousseau's *The Reveries of the Solitary Walker*," Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (December 1997)

"The 'Spirit' of Plato's *Republic*," University of Tulsa, November 1998

"On the Intention of Plato's *Cleitophon*," University of Tulsa, November 1998; Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, October 1999; Notre Dame University, October 1999

"The Tragedy of Law: Gyges in Herodotus and Plato," St. John's College at Santa Fe, June 1999; Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, October 1999; St. John's College at Annapolis, November 1999

"Tragedy in the Philosophical Age of the Greeks: Aristotle's Reply to Nietzsche," Catholic University of America, October 1999; Notre Dame University, October 1999

"The One Book Course: Internships in the Ivory Tower," Emory University, April 2000; Roosevelt University, Fall 2003

"Socratic Self-Examination: A Roundtable on Michael Davis's *The Autobiography of Philosophy*," Society for Greek Political Thought at the 2000 American Political Science Association Meeting, September 1, 2000, respondent

"Father of the Logos: The Question of the Soul in Aristotle's *De Anima* and *Nicomachean Ethics*," Bellarmine College, March, 2001 and Holy Cross College, April, 2001

"Unraveling *Ravelstein*," for "A Roundtable on Saul Bellow's *Ravelstein*," jointly sponsored by the Claremont Institute and the Politics and Literature Section at the 2001 American Political Science Association Meeting

Commentator for "A Roundtable on the Work of Richard Kennington," sponsored by the Claremont Institute at the 2001 American Political Science Association Meeting

"The Grammar of the Soul: On Plato's *Euthyphro*," Philosopher's Holiday Series, Vassar College, Fall 2002; St. Francis College, Fall 2002, University of Chicago, Spring 2005, Notre Dame University, Spring 2005

"Benardete's Second Sailing: On the Spirit of Ideas," invited paper at "The Philosophy of Seth Benardete," a conference at The New School University, Dec. 5-6, 2002

"The Fake that Launched 1000 Ships: On Euripides' *Helen*," Saint John's College, Santa Fe, Fall 2003, Notre Dame Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, Spring 2007

“The Empire of Poetry: On Shakespeare’s *Titus Andronicus*,” Roosevelt University, Fall 2003; Harvard University, Fall 2003

“Thinking Through Philosophic Texts: On Reading Plato and Descartes on Reading,” Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Spring 2004

“The Philosophy of Leo Strauss: An Introduction,” State University of New York at New Paltz, Spring 2004

“Disclosing the Motion of Rest: Herodotus in Egypt,” Emory University Center for International Education, Fall 2004

“Making Something from Nothing: On Plato’s *Hipparchus*,” Invited paper at “The Thought of Seth Benardete,” a conference at Howard University, Spring 2005

“Autobiography: The Logos of the Self,” Invited paper at “Autobiography Across the Disciplines,” a conference at Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, Fall 2005

“Leo Strauss and Metaphysics,” comments on three papers at “Leo Strauss and Modernity,” a conference at New School University, Fall 2005

“On *Wonderlust: Ruminations on Liberal Education*,” St. Augustine’s Press Annual Seminar, Winter 2005

“The Daimonic Soul: On Plato’s *Theages*,” Notre Dame University, Spring 2007

“Poetry and the Boundaries of Freedom: Herodotus’s Scythians,” Southern Political Science Association, Winter 2008

Roundtable on Ronna Burger’s *Aristotle’s Dialogue with Socrates*, Northeast Political Science Association Meeting, November 2008, and Society for the History of Political Philosophy at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 2008

“The Soul as Self and Self-aware, Seminar on Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Department of Political Science, Baylor University, November 2009

“The Essence of Babel: Rousseau on the Origin of Languages,” *Rousseau and Modern Political Thought*, Society, Invited panel of the Society of the History of Political Philosophy, Eastern Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 2009

“The Soul of Achilles,” The McFarlin Lecture, University of Tulsa, September 2010

“Lies Like the Truth: On Plato’s *Hippias Minor*,” Honors Program, University of Tulsa, September 2010

“Plato’s *Minos*: The Soul of the Law,” American University, Fall 2011, Notre Dame University, October 2011, and University of Dallas, October 2013

Response to Panelists, Roundtable Discussion of *The Soul of the Greeks*, Northeast Political Science Association, November, 2011

Response to Panelists, Roundtable Discussion of *The Soul of the Greeks*. Southern Political Science Association, January 2012

Response to Panelists, Roundtable Discussion of *The Soul of the Greeks*, Society for the History of Political Philosophy, Midwest American Philosophical Association, February 2012

“*The Closing of the American Mind—after a Quarter Century*,” for “Allan Bloom’s *The Closing of the American Mind* on its 25th Anniversary,” Harvard Program on Constitutional Government, September 2012

“The Essence of Babel: Rousseau on the Melody of Language,” The Murphy Institute, Tulane University, October 2012

“Lies Like the Truth: On Plato’s *Lesser Hippias*,” University of Dallas and Baylor University, October 2013

“The Logos of Plato’s *Laches*: A Grace Note,” School of Philosophy, Catholic University, October 2014

“Speaking of the Dead: Plato’s *Menexenus*,” St. John’s College, Santa Fe, October 2016 and College of the Holy Cross, November 2016

“The Self Itself: On Beginning Plato’s *Alcibiades I*,” Thomasfest Lecture, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2018

At Sarah Lawrence College:

- "Plato and Nietzsche on the Problem of Death: An Introduction to Plato's *Phaedo*" (Spring 1978)
- "History and the Liberal Arts," (Fall 1979)
- "Sophocles, Aeschylus, the Moral Majority and Secular Humanism" (Fall 1981)
- "Aristotle on Friendship: Side by Side and Face to Face," Helen Merrill Lynd Colloquium (Spring 1985)
- "On John Henry Newman's *The Grammar of Assent*, Lynd-Rauschenbush Colloquium (Fall 1986)
- "Love, Marriage and Philosophy: On Book V of Rousseau's *Emile*" (Spring 1987)
- "On Opening *The Closing of the American Mind*," Friends of the Library (Fall 1988)
- "Horsefeathers: Plato's Myth of the Soul in the *Phaedrus*," Humanities Seminar Lecture Series (Fall 1988)
- "The Poetry of Philosophy: On Aristotle's *Poetics*," Reading the World Series (Fall 1992)
- "The Two Freedoms of Speech in Plato," Helen Merrill Lynd Colloquium (Spring 1993)
- "Freedom and Responsibility," Orientation Keynote Speech (Fall 1993)
- "A Life of Learning," Senior Lecture (May 1999)
- "Oedipus, the Complex," Orientation Keynote Speech (Fall 1999)
- "The Fake that Launched 1000 Ships: On Euripides' *Helen*," (Spring 2002)
- "The Empire of Poetry: On Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*," (Spring 2004)
- "On *The Coast of Utopia*," (Fall 2007)
- Convocation Address, (Fall 2015)
- "The Best Years of Your Life: Education and Teething," Alumni Address (Spring 2016)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND POSITIONS

American Philosophical Association
American Political Science Association
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy
Society for Greek Political Thought
Society for the History of Political Philosophy, Member of the Board of Directors
Editorial Board, *Ancient Philosophy*
Honorary Editorial Board. *The Chinese Journal of Classical Studies*
Manuscript Reviewer for:
Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press,
Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, SUNY Press; *American Political Science Review*,
Ancient Philosophy, *Polity*, *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*, *The Review of Metaphysics*,
The Review of Politics; Conservative Book Club
The Benardete Archive, Secretary-treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Phi Beta Kappa (1969)
Phi Kappa Phi (1969)
NDEA Fellowship: 1971-73
Richard Weaver Fellowship: 1973-74
Mellon Foundation Faculty Development Grant: Fall 1979, Fall 1990, Fall 1998, 2007-2008
Earhart Foundation Grants: Summer 1986, 1990-91, Fall 1993, Summer 1996, Spring 1997, Spring 2008; Spring 2012
Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award (1996) for *The Politics of Philosophy*
Lipkin Prize for Inspirational Teaching, Sarah Lawrence College, 2013
Writing the Poetic Soul of Philosophy: Essays in Honor of Michael Davis, Denise Schaeffer ed. (St. Augustine's Press, South Bend, IN: 2018)

