

**KEVIN D. PHAM**

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**EDUCATION**

**University of California, Riverside**

Ph.D. in Political Theory and International Relations, expected June 2020

Title of Thesis: *Thinking Across Cultures: Vietnamese Decolonization and Political Theory*

Committee: Farah Godrej (chair), John Christian Laursen, John Medearis, Daniel Brunstetter (UC Irvine).

**University of Amsterdam**

M.Sc. in Conflict Resolution and Governance, 2012

**University of California, Irvine**

B.A. in Political Science and Conflict Analysis, 2010

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

History of political thought (Western and non-Western), comparative political theory, Vietnamese and Asian political thought, colonialism/postcolonialism, just war, otherness/identity, liberalism, cross-cultural borrowings, immigration, democratic theory.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

2019 “Nguyễn An Ninh’s Anti-Colonial Thought: A New Account of National Shame,” *Polity*, in press.

2019 “Phan Chu Trinh’s Democratic Confucianism,” *The Review of Politics* 81 (4), 597-620.

2019 “Montaigne in American Political Theory: Two Generations,” *Montaigne Studies* 31 (1-2), 97-110. With John Christian Laursen.

2017 “Empires for Peace: Denis Veiras’s Borrowings from Garcilaso de la Vega,” *The European Legacy* 22 (4), 427-442. With John Christian Laursen.

**Book Reviews**

2019 “Sources of Firepower for Weaponized Rights,” review of *Rights as Weapons: Instruments of Conflict, Tools of Power*, by Clifford Bob, symposium in *Ethics & International Affairs*, in press.

2017 “Ideologies of experience: Trauma, failure, deprivation, and the abandonment of the self, by Matthew Bowker,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 16 (4), 557-560.

### **Other Publications**

2019 “Indelible,” in *Do Better, Be Better: How Mentoring Happens*, edited by Hilary Holladay (Virginia: Jefferson Park Press, 2019), in press.

2014 “Two Halves: Vietnamese American Identity,” *Viết Về Nước Mỹ, Năm Thứ XIII-XIV, Tuyển tập 68 Tác Giả* (Writing on America, Volume 8, Việt Báo Awards Collection).

2010 “Growing Pains: Experiential Learning in Israel and Palestine,” *Impression/Expression Journal, University of California Irvine*. Volume 7. Spring.

### **Works in Progress**

“Justice as *Convenance*: Lessons from Francophone Vietnamese Confucianism” (in preparation).

“Montaigne in Communist Vietnam” (in preparation).

“Vietnamese Political Thought: Learning from the West?” (book manuscript in preparation).

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2019 July “Hộ Chí Minh: Practice, Theory, and the Linking of Marxist Self-Criticism and Confucian Self-Cultivation,” Engaging with Vietnam Conference, Leiden University, the Netherlands

2019 July “To Keep or Abandon? Perspectives on Confucianism from Francophone Vietnamese Decolonial Thinkers,” International Convention of Asia Scholars, Leiden University, the Netherlands

2019 June “Beyond Resistance and Collaboration: Phạm Quỳnh, the ‘Architect’, in French Colonial Vietnam,” Annual Meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society, Montréal, Canada

2019 May “From Reformer to Vietnamese Revolutionary: the Fruits of Frustration at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference,” “The Making of a World Order: A Reappraisal of the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles,” American University of Paris, France

2019 March “Hộ Chí Minh’s Liberal Marxist Confucianism,” John L. Stanley Political Theory Showcase, UC Riverside

2018 Nov. “Beyond Resistance and Collaboration: Phạm Quỳnh, the ‘Architect’, in French Colonial Vietnam,” Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Northwestern University, Chicago

- 2018 June “Nguyễn An Ninh’s Decolonialism: a New Account of National Shame,” International Asian Dynamics Initiative, University of Copenhagen
- 2018 June Discussant for Leszek Sobolewski, Uyen Nguyen, and Li Zou, International Asian Dynamics Initiative, University of Copenhagen
- 2018 May “Nguyễn An Ninh’s Decolonialism: a New Account of National Shame,” Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Sciences Po, Paris, France
- 2017 Sept. “Phan Văn Trường and the fight for Quốc Ngữ: Vietnamese self-strengthening through Romanized Script,” Paradigms of Change Conference, Ghent University, Belgium
- 2017 June “Remaking the Self in Vietnamese Political Thought in the 1920s,” French Network for Asian Studies International Conference, Paris, France
- 2017 June “Phan Chu Trinh: Democracy on Confucian Foundations,” Graduate Student Political Theory Conference, UC Irvine
- 2017 May “The Political Thought of Nguyễn An Ninh and Phan Chu Trinh,” UC Berkeley-UCLA Graduate Dissertation Conference, Los Angeles
- 2017 April “Meta Comparative Political Theory: Discourses of Self Remaking in French Colonial Vietnam,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago
- 2016 April “Montaigne’s Instinct for Peace,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago
- 2016 March “The Intervention of a Montaignean Political Philosopher,” Graduate Political Theory Conference, London School of Economics, UK
- 2015 Nov. “Peace-making Empires and the Practices of Coexistence: Denis Veiras’s Borrowings from Garcilaso de la Vega, el Inca,” Society for Utopian Studies, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2015 July “Learning About Intractable Conflicts through Experiential Education,” Conference on Youth Participation in Politics, Paris, France
- 2015 April “Structuring Fugitive Democracy: Archê, Common Good and Non-Hierarchy in Occupy and Porto Alegre,” Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Princeton University
- 2014 Nov. “Conflict Analysis and Experiential Education through the Olive Tree Initiative,” World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
- 2014 April “Fugitive Democracy as Rebellion,” James C. Young Colloquium, UC Riverside

## TEACHING

### University of California, Riverside

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2019. Instructor: Whitney Mannies  
American Politics, Winter 2019. Instructor: Daniel Biggers  
Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2017. Instructor: John Medearis  
Political Ideologies, Fall, 2018, Winter 2017. Instructor: Georgia Warnke  
Skepticism and Liberalism, Fall 2016. Instructor: John Christian Laursen  
American Politics, Spring 2016. Instructor: Bruce Bordner  
World Politics, Winter 2016. Instructor: Eric Bordenkircher  
Political Ideologies, Spring 2014, 2015. Instructor: John Christian Laursen  
Contemporary Political Theory, Winter 2015. Instructor: Mandy Mitchell  
Introduction to Political Theory, Fall 2014. Instructor: Farah Godrej

University Interdisciplinary Writing Program Co-Instructor

Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Fall 2016, Winter 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

### University of California, Irvine

Instructor

Culture and Politics of Identity, Spring 2010.

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

2008-present

### **The Olive Tree Initiative**

University of California, Irvine

*Cofounder, Alumni Coordinator, Editor of Alumni Journal, Mentor*

2010-2011

### **North American English School**

Nha Trang, Vietnam

*Instructor of English as a second language*

## AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

2019 First place, \$5,000, UCR Annual Grad Slam (Public Speaking Contest), for  
“[Self-Help: the Vietnamese Battle of Ideas](#)”

2019 Semi-finalist for Fulbright Research/Study Award in France

2017-2018 Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, University of California-Riverside

2017 UC Berkeley-UCLA Graduate Student Workshop in Southeast Asian Studies  
Fellowship

2016 Graduate Research Award in Political Science, University of California-  
Riverside

2013 Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellowship, University of California-Riverside

2013 United States Congress and Việt Báo. Writing on America Essay Award

2011-2012 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, Rotary International

2011 California State Assembly Resolution recognizing the Olive Tree Initiative for  
outstanding contributions to the community.

2011 Newport-Mesa-Irvine Interfaith Bridge Builder Award for the Olive Tree  
Initiative

2011 University of California-Irvine, Anteater Award for Best International

- Organization, Olive Tree Initiative, Awarded by the Associated Students Association at UC Irvine
- 2010 Top Ten Program in Higher Education Award, Olive Tree Initiative, Awarded by the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Summit & Initiative For Global Citizen Diplomacy
- 2010 University of California, Inaugural Student Leadership Award, Olive Tree Initiative, Awarded by UC Regents and UC President Mark G. Yudof
- 2010 University of California, Irvine, Anteater Award for Best International Organization, Olive Tree Initiative, Awarded by the Associated Students Association at UC Irvine
- 2010 Paul Delp Peacemaker Award, Olive Tree Initiative, Awarded by the Orange County Peace Ministry
- 2009 University of California Living our Values Award, Olive Tree Initiative (Student Team Award), UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake
- 2007 Excellence in Leadership Mesa Court Award, University of California-Irvine

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

American Political Science Association (APSA)  
 Association for Political Theory (APT)  
 French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS)  
 American Middle East Network for Dialogue at Stanford (AMENDS)

### **SERVICE**

- 2014-2015 Secretary of Graduate Students of Political Science (University of California-Riverside)
- 2014-2017 Chairman of Center for Regional Engagement, an American, non-partisan organization with offices in Jerusalem dedicated to educating and empowering leaders on all sides of the Middle East conflict through regional engagement

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native)  
 Vietnamese (proficient speaking and reading)  
 French (proficient speaking and reading)

### **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Farah Godrej, Department of Political Science, University of CA, Riverside.  
 Email: farah.godrej@ucr.edu
- Dr. Daniel Brunstetter, Department of Political Science, University of CA, Irvine.  
 Email: dbrunste@uci.edu
- Dr. John Christian Laursen, Department of Political Science, University of CA, Riverside.  
 Email: johnl@ucr.edu
- Dr. Daniel Wehrenfennig, Executive Director, Olive Tree Initiative, University of CA, Irvine.  
 Email: wehrenfennig@gmail.com