

**MICHAEL DAVIS  
CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Office Addresses:** Department of Philosophy  
Sarah Lawrence College  
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White Plains, N.Y. 10606  
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**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, forthcoming

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

Chinese translation, Hermes, forthcoming

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

*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) 194 pp.

#### 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.

With Ronna Burger, introduction to and editor of *The Archaeology of Soul: Essays in Greek and Roman Philosophy and Poetry* by Seth Benardete, St. Augustine's Press, (forthcoming 2009)

#### 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), pp. 219-36.

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

"Socrates' Pre-Socratism: Some Remarks on the Structure of Plato's *Phaedo*," *Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 3 (March 1980), pp. 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), pp. 153-55

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

"Philosophy and the Perfect Tense: On the Beginning of Plato's *Lovers*," *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Fall 1985), pp. 75-97

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

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

"On the Being of *The Being of the Beautiful*," review article for *Ancient Philosophy*, Vol. 7 (1987), pp. 191-200

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

"Politics and Poetry: Aristotle's *Politics* Books VII and VIII," *Interpretation*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Winter 1991-1992), pp. 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), pp. 61-81.

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

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

"Unraveling *Ravelstein*: Saul Bellow's Comic Tragedy," *Perspectives in Political Science*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Winter 2003), pp. 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), pp. 169-187.

"Seth Benardete's Second Sailing: On the Spirit of Ideas," *The Political Science Reviewer*, Vol. 32 (2003) 8-35.

"Tragedy in the Philosophical Age of the Greeks: Aristotle's Reply to Nietzsche," *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* (South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2005)

*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*, Fall 2006, Vol. 68, No. 4, 547-63.

"The Grammar of the Soul: On Plato's *Euthyphro*," in *Logos and Eros: Essays Honoring Stanley Rosen*, Nalin Ranasinghe (Editor), 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," to be published in *Logos and Mythos* edited by William Wians, SUNY Press (forthcoming, 2009)

#### Work in Progress:

*The Soul of the Greeks*

With Gwenda-lin Kaur Grewal, "The Daimonic Soul: On Plato's *Theages*," in *Strange Fellows* edited by Christopher A. Dustin and Denise Schaeffer

#### 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)

"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 Kenington," 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.

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-Raushenbush 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)

#### LIBERTY FUND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Faulkner's *Go Down Moses* (1990); Cato's *Letters* (1991); Plato's *Laws* (1992); Xenophon's *Education of Cyrus* and *Anabasis* (1992); Thucydides' *History* and Aristophanes' *Peace* (1993); Thucydides (1994); Socrates as a Teacher (1995); Plato's *Republic* (1996); The Philosophy and Literature of Iris Murdoch I (1997); Friendship and Justice in Plato, Aristotle, and Montaigne (1997); Shakespeare's Comedies (1997); Shakespeare's Histories (1998); Homer's *Odyssey* (1998); Montesquieu's *On the Spirit of the Laws* (1998); Plato's Trilogy: *Theaetetus*, *Sophist*, *Statesman* (1998); Thucydides (1998); Parmenides and the Transcendent Ground of Politics (1998); Montaigne and "La Boétie" (1999); Iris Murdoch II (1999); Tyranny in Ancient Thought (1999); Herodotus (1999); Sophocles and Plato (1999); Spinoza as the Architect of Freedom in Modernity (1999); Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (2000); Aristotle, Cicero, and Machiavelli (2000); Shaftesbury's *Characteristicks* (2001), Benjamin Franklin (2001), Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (2001), "Self-Knowledge, Moderation, and Liberty (2002), Epicurean Philosophy (2002), Montesquieu's *Spirit of Laws* (2003), Herodotus' *Histories* (2003), "Freedom, Necessity, and Virtue in Adam Smith" (2003), "Nature and Nurture in the Writings of Mark Twain" (2005), "Law, Virtue, Knowledge, and Liberty in Plato" (2005), "Freedom and Empire in Herodotus's *Histories* (2006), "Heroism Liberty, and Fate in Homer's *Iliad*," (2007), "The *Annals* of Tacitus" (2007), "Liberty and the Law in Samuel I and II" (2007), "Homer's *Odyssey* (2009).

#### 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*  
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  
Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award (1996) for *The Politics of Philosophy*

#### REFERENCES

Ronna Burger, Chair and Professor of Philosophy, Tulane University (Department of Philosophy, 105 Newcomb Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118-5698; 504-862-3381)

Mary Nichols, Chair and Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Richard Velkley, Celia Scott Weatherhead Distinguished Professor, Department of Philosophy, Tulane University (113 Newcomb Hall, 1229 Broadway, New Orleans, LA 70118; 504-862-3391)

Catherine Zuckert, Nancy Dreux Professor, Department of Government, Notre Dame University (217 O'Shaughnessy Hall, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN 46556; 219-631-6620)

Michael Zuckert, Chair and Nancy Dreux Professor, Department of Government, Notre Dame University (217 O'Shaughnessy Hall, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN 46556; 219 631-8050)