

SONU BEDI

Professor of Government • Dartmouth College
Sonu.S.Bedi@dartmouth.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Dartmouth College

Joel Parker 1811 Professor in Law and Political Science, July 1, 2017—

Hans '80 and Kate Morris Director of the Ethics Institute, 2017—

Professor, Department of Government, July 1, 2020—

Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Government, July 1, 2013—

Assistant Professor, Department of Government, 2007-2013

EDUCATION

Yale University

Ph.D. in Political Science, with Distinction, 2006

M.A., M.Phil. in Political Science, 2005

Examination Fields: Political Philosophy, Contemporary Political Theory, and American Politics

Harvard Law School

J.D., 2001

Brown University

A.B. and A.M. in Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1997.

University of Oxford, Visiting Student in Philosophy, 1995-1996

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Political Theory, Law, Civil Liberties, Race and Identity

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

4. Sonu Bedi. *Private Racism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2019)
3. Sonu Bedi. *Beyond Race, Sex, and Sexual Orientation: Legal Equality without Identity* (New York: Cambridge University Press 2013)
Reviewed by: *Polity* (2017) (Review Essay); *Law and Politics* section (2014); *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (2014); *Tulsa Law Review* Book Review Edition (2014); *Perspectives on Politics* (2015); *Irish Jurist* (2015); Book Panel: Western Political Science Association Annual Conference (2015); Book Panel: Law and Society Annual Conference (2014).
2. Sonu Bedi. *Rejecting Rights* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2009)
Reviewed by: *Law and Politics* Section (2009); *Perspectives on Politics* (2011); *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (2012).
A Pegs Reader Recommended Book (Good Society, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2009)
Recommended by Legal Theory Blog
1. Sonu Bedi, Ian Shapiro, eds., *Political Contingency: Studying the Unexpected, the Accidental, and the Unforeseen*. (New York: New York University Press 2007)

Articles and Book Chapters:

14. Sonu Bedi. "Sexual Racism," in David Boonin (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Sexual Ethics*. Palgrave Macmillan.
13. Sonu Bedi. "The Pluralist Constitution," in *Critical Review: A Journal of Politics and Society*, (published online March 11, 2021).
12. Sonu Bedi. "Online Dating Sites as Public Accommodations: Facilitating Racial Discrimination," in *Free Speech in the Digital Age* (Oxford University Press) (eds., Susan Brison and Katharine Gelber) (2019).

*An earlier version of the paper was awarded the Best Conference Paper at the Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA 2017.
11. Sonu Bedi. "The Absence of Horizontal Effect in Human Rights Law: Domestic Violence and the Intimate Sphere," in *Political and Legal Approaches to Human Rights*. Routledge Press. (eds., Tom Campbell and Kylie Bourne) (2018).
10. Sonu Bedi. "Reclaiming the Conceptual Legacy of the Progressives' Critique of Rights: Equal Protection without Higher Scrutiny," in *The Progressives' Century* edited by Stephen Skowronek, Stephen Engel, and Bruce Ackerman. Yale University Press (2016).

9. Sonu Bedi. "Obergefell and the Liberal Case Against Civil Marriage, in *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: Perspectives on Marital Possibilities*," edited by Ronald Den Otter. Lexington Books (2016).
8. Sonu Bedi. "Sexual Racism: Intimacy as a Matter of Justice," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 77 (4) (2015).
7. Sonu Bedi. "Are rights important?" in *Current Controversies in Political Philosophy*, Thom Brooks (ed.). Routledge Press (2015).
6. Sonu Bedi. "The Scope of Formal Equality of Opportunity: The Horizontal Effects of Rights in a Liberal Constitution," *Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 42 (6) (2014)
5. Sonu Bedi. "Judging without Rights: Public Reason and the Counter Majoritarian Difficulty" in *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*, vol. 58, 2012 (lead article).

*An earlier version of the paper was awarded the Best Faculty Political Theory paper at the Northeastern Political Science Conference, Boston, MA 2010.

4. Sonu Bedi. "Why a Criminal Prohibition on Sex Selective Abortions Amounts to a Thought Crime," in *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, Vol. 5 (3), 2011.
3. Sonu Bedi. "Expressive Exclusion: A Defense," in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, Vol. 7(4), 2010 (lead article).
2. Sonu Bedi. "How Constitutional Law Rationalizes Racism," in *Polity*, Vol. 42, 2010.
1. Sonu Bedi. "What is so Special About Religion? The Dilemma of the Religious Exemption," in *Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 15, 2007.

Law Reviews:

6. Sonu Bedi (co-authored with Elvin Lim). "The Two Foundings Thesis: The Puzzle of Constitutional Interpretation," 66 *UCLA Law Review Discourse* 110 (2018).
5. Sonu Bedi. "An Illiberal Union," 26 *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 1081 (2018).
4. Sonu Bedi. "The Horizontal Effect of a Right to Non-Discrimination in Employment: Religious Autonomy under the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of South Africa," 95 *Boston University Law Review* 1181 (2015).
3. Sonu Bedi. "Affirming (Not Rewriting) the Constitution: Higher Lawmaking as a Kind of Civic Education," 19 *Wisconsin Law Review Online* (2015).
2. Sonu Bedi. "Collapsing Suspect Class with Suspect Classification: Why Strict Scrutiny is too Strict and not Strict Enough" 47 *University of Georgia Law Review* 301 (2013) (lead article).

1. Sonu Bedi. "Repudiating Morals Legislation: Rendering the Constitutional Right to Privacy Obsolete," in *Cleveland State Law Review*, 53 (3) (2006).

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries:

Sonu Bedi. Book Review Essay. "Moral Disapproval and the Meaning, Boundary and Accommodation of Bigotry," *Boston University Law Review*. 99 (6): 2633-2649 (2019). *The Rhetoric of Bigotry* (by Linda McClain) (forthcoming Oxford University Press).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review. *Perspectives on Politics* 17 (4) (2019). *Against Marriage: An Egalitarian Defence of the Marriage-Free State* (by Clare Chambers) (Oxford University Press 2017).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review. *The Political Science Reviewer*, Vol. 42, No. 2 (2018). *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Toleration* (by Teresa M. Bejan) (Harvard Press 2017).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review Symposium. *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 79, No. 3 (2017). *Just Married: Same-Sex Couples, Monogamy, and the Future of Marriage* (by Stephen Macedo) (Princeton Press 2015).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review. *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2013). *Human Rights and the Ethics of Globalization* (by Daniel E. Lee & Elizabeth J. Lee) (Cambridge University Press 2010).

Sonu Bedi. "Judicial Activism" and "Judicial Restraint," Entries for the *Encyclopedia of Political Science*, ed. G. T. Kurian (CQ Press, 2011).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review. *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (2010). *Human Rights and Their Limits* (by Wiktor Osiatynski) (Cambridge University Press: 2009).

Sonu Bedi. Book Review. *Law and Politics Review*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2010). *The Supreme Court and the Idea of Constitutionalism* (eds., Katuz, Melzer, Weinberger, and Zinman) (University of Pennsylvania Press: 2009).

AWARDS AND GRANTS

The Jerome Goldstein Award for Distinguished Teaching, chosen by vote of the Class of 2017

The Jerome Goldstein Award for Distinguished Teaching, chosen by vote of the Class of 2014

The John M. Manley Huntington Award for Newly Tenured Faculty in recognition of Outstanding Merit, 2013

Partner Investigator (PI), Australian Research Council Grant, entitled "A Constructive Critique of the Political Approach to the Philosophy of Human Rights" (First Investigator: Professor Thomas Campbell), 2013-2016.

COURSES TAUGHT

Dartmouth College

Civil Liberties: Legal and Normative Approaches, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2010, Winter 2012, Spring 2013, Winter 2014, Summer 2014, Winter 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2021
Constitutional Law, Development, and Theory, Winter 2007, Fall 2007, Summer 2008, Winter 2010, Fall 2011, Winter 2013, Fall 2013, Winter 2015, Fall 2016, Winter 2018, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2022
Contemporary Readings in Justice: Seminar, Fall 2008, Spring 2010, Winter 2012, Winter 2013, Fall 2013, Winter 2015, Fall 2016, Winter 2018, Fall 2018, Winter 2020, Fall 2021
Race: Seminar, Fall 2007, Race, Law and Identity, Spring 2012, Spring 2017
Theorizing Free Speech, Summer 2008, Winter 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Winter 2014, Summer 2014, Winter 2017
Critical Legal Theory, Spring 2010 (Independent Study).

Yale University

Liberalism, Multiculturalism, and Gender, Fall 2005 (teaching assistant)
Constitutional Law, Spring 2005 (teaching assistant)
Crime and Punishment, Fall 2004, Fall 2005 (teaching assistant)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

“What lives matter according to the Constitution,”

-American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. October 2, 2021

“Private Injustice: Enlarging the Boundary of Justice”

- Annual Ngee Ann Kongsi Lecture, Singapore Management University, September 26, 2019

Private Racism (selections)

-Ethics Institute’s Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop. Hanover, NH. November 2, 2018.

-Boston University Gender, Law, and Policy Colloquium. Boston, MA. October 29, 2018

-Yale Law School’s Legal Theory Workshop. New Haven, CT. February 1, 2018.

“How Racial Disclosure in the Reproductive Market Corrupts”

-Notre Dame Political Theory Colloquium, South Bend, ID. October 25, 2017

“Beyond Equality of Opportunity: Race and the Limits of Artistic Freedom”

-American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. August 31-September 3, 2017.

Critic, Author meets Critics, *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Tolerance* by Teresa Bejan.

-American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. August 31-September 3, 2017.

- “Online Dating Sites as Public Accommodations: Facilitating Racial Discrimination”
 -Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, August 3-5, 2017
- “The Two Foundings Thesis”
 -New England Political Science Association, Providence, RI, April 20-22, 2017
- “Beyond Race, Sex, and Sexual Orientation: Gaining Equality without Claiming Identity”
 -Lecture, Bates College, Lewiston, ME, April 6, 2105.
- “Taking which rights more seriously: The Problem with a Moral Reading of the South African Constitution,”
 -Association for Political Theory Conference, Boulder, CO, October 22-24, 2015.
- “The Dilemma of Adultery: From Recognizing Marriage to Protecting it”
 -American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, Sept. 2-6, 2015
- “Is there really a right to say what you want? Universities, the marketplace of ideas, and the debate over hate speech”
 -New England Political Science Association Annual Conference, New Haven, CT, April 25, 2015
 -Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2-5, 2015.
- “Sexual Racism: Intimacy as a Matter of Justice”
 -Association for Political Theory, October 16-18, 2014
- “The Absence of Horizontal Effect: Why Human Rights Law is Inconsistent with the Moral or Natural Conception of Human Rights”
 -University of Sydney Law School, June 25-26, 2014, Australian Research Grant
- “The Absence of Horizontal Effect in Human Rights Law”
 -University of Sydney Law School (Political Conception of Human Rights Conference), Sydney, AU, June 25-26, 2014
- “John Locke and the Horizontal Effect of Rights,”
 -American Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, August 29-Sept. 1, 2013
- “The Absence of Horizontal Effect: A Case Against the Moral Conception of Human Rights,”
 -New England Political Science Association Conference, Portland, ME, May 2-4, 2013
 -Western Political Science Association Conference, Hollywood, CA, March 28-31, 2013
- “The Constitutional Argument for the Disestablishment of Marriage”
 -Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium, Chicago, IL, Nov. 2-3, 2012.
 -University of Chicago Law School Public Law and Legal Theory Workshop, Chicago, IL, Feb. 5, 2013.

“The Horizontal versus Vertical Effect of Rights: John Rawls, the Basic Structure, and Comparative Constitutional Law”

-New England Political Science Association Annual Conference, Portland, ME, April 27, 2012

“Are Rights the Defining Feature of the U.S. Constitution?”

-University of New Hampshire Law School, August 21, 2012.

Roundtable on Rights and Political Justification

-American Political Science Association Annual meeting, Seattle, WA, Sept. 1, 2011

Roundtable on *Rejecting Rights*

-Law and Society Association National Conference, San Francisco, CA, June 3-6, 2011

-Participants: Randy Barnett, Joel Grossman, and Lawrence Solum

Lecture discussing *Rejecting Rights*, “Recent Books on the Constitution”

-Georgetown Law School, March 29, 2011

“Constitutional Powers versus Rights: Public Reason and the Critique of Identity”

-Vanderbilt Law School, February 28, 2011

“Constitutional Powers versus Rights: Public Reason and the Critique of Identity”

-Yale Political Theory Workshop, January 19, 2011

“Constitutional Powers versus Rights: Public Reason and the Critique of Identity,”

-Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, MA, November 11, 2010

-Association for Political Theory, Portland, OR, October 22, 2010

“The Politics of Sameness: The Defense of Cultural Assimilation” (co-authored)

-Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 1, 2010

“Sex Selective Abortions and the Nature of Rights”

-Legal Studies Workshop, Dartmouth College, October 30, 2009

-Reproduction Technologies Conference, Minnesota Law School, April 9, 2009

“Theorizing Political Primaries”

-American Political Science Association Conference, Toronto, Canada, September 3-6, 2009

“Sex Selective Abortions and the Right to Choose,”

-Conference on Assisted Reproduction: Interrogating Law, Race, Class, and Sex: University of Minnesota Law School, April 9, 2009

“Rejecting Rights”

-University of Tulsa, Public Lecture, March 2008

“How Constitutional Law Rationalizes Racism,”

-Law and Society Association National Conference, Denver, CO, May 28-31, 2009

-American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA, October 28-31, 2008

- Legal Studies Workshop, Dartmouth College, March 4, 2007
- “The Argument for Sexual Freedom: Rejecting Privacy and Equality”
-Swarthmore College, Sager Symposium, March 2007
- “Expressive Exclusion: A Defense”
-Northeastern Political Science Conference, Boston, MA, November 14-16, 2008.
- Rejecting Rights: The Turn to Justification*
-Manuscript Review, Dickey Center for International Understanding, January 21, 2008,
Outside Reviewers: Chandran Kukathas, Stephen Macedo.
- “The Slavery Contract: A Defense”
-Law and Society Association National Conference, Berlin, Germany, July 25-28, 2007.
- “Reframing the Cultural Defense: Multiculturalism and Criminal Legal Theory”
-2006 Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA, November 9-11,
2006.
- “Rejecting Rights: The Turn to Legislative Purpose, Reconsidering the Affirmative Action and
Abortion Debates”
-2006 Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, April 20-23, 2006.
- “Purging Liberalism of the Right to Privacy,”
-Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, September 2004.
- “Deliberation and Minimal Multiculturalism”
-2004 Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA, November 11-
14, 2004

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- Hans '80 and Kate Morris Director of the Ethics Institute, 2017—
- Member, Dartmouth Committee on Organization and Policy, 2020—
- Chair, Department of Government Vow to Act Review Committee—2020-21
- Co-Chair, Joint Government/Philosophy Junior Search, 2021—
- Member, Title IX Council, 2019-2021
- Member, Council on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (CAFR), 2017-2019
- Member, Search Committee for New General Counsel, 2016-17
- Member, Montgomery Fellows Committee, 2014-2018

Member, Institute of Writing and Rhetoric, 2014-2016

Convener, Legal Studies Faculty Working Group, 2013-2015

Member, Committee on Student Organization, 2013-2014

Member, Curriculum Review Committee, Ad-hoc Dean of Faculty Committee, 2011-2013

Member, Government Department Senior Planning and Recruitment Committee, 2013-2014

Chair, Government Department Search Committee, Junior Position in Political Theory, 2013-2014

Member, Government Department Search Committee, Named Chair Position, 2007

Member, Government Department Search Committee, Junior Position in Race/Ethnicity, 2007-2008

Faculty Advisor, *Dartmouth Law Journal*

Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *Social Theory and Practice*, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Polity Press, Stanford University Press, Columbia University Press, Yale University Press.

ON CAMPUS INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Dealing with disagreement”

-Shared Academic Experience, Class of 2025, September 9, 2021

“How we study Race: A Discussion Across Disciplines”

-Moderator of Discussion among various Dartmouth faculty

“A Practice of Disagreement”

-Shared Academic Experience, Class of 2024, September 13, 2020

“Selling Segregation”

-Dartmouth Law Journal, April 23, 2019

-Dartmouth Pre-Law Minority Association, February 24, 2019

“Are Rights the Defining Feature of the U.S. Constitution?”

-Family Weekend, February 22, 2019

-Presidential Summit, September 16, 2017

- Dimensions Admitted Students Program, July 29, 2013.

- Dartmouth Bound Prospective Students Program, July 30, 2012

- Dimensions Admitted Students Program, April 20, 2012

- Dartmouth Bound Prospective Students Program, August 2, 2011
- Dartmouth Bound Program for Prospective Students, July 30, 2010

“How to Frame Three Hard Cases: Abortion, Same Sex Marriage, and Affirmative Action”

- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 3, 2022
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 5, 2019
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 5, 2018
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 5, 2015
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 9, 2014
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, February 9, 2012
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, January 27, 2011
- Rockefeller Leadership Forum, January 28, 2010

“Why it’s All About Sex: Unifying the LGBTQ Movement,”

- Dartmouth GALA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni/ae Association), June 17, 2017

“Living in a Time of Momentous Change—Human Rights and Beyond”

- Class of 1967 Reunion Event, June 9, 2017

“Is there really a right to say what you want? Universities and the marketplace of ideas”

- Dean of the Faculty Diversity Lecture, April 23, 2015

“Should We Abolish Civil Marriage?”

- Dartmouth GALA, November 1, 2104

“The Problem with Immutability.”

- Dartmouth Gay and Lesbian Student Association, April 23, 2012

“Where should Khalid Sheikh Mohammed be tried?”

- Daniel Webster Society, Dartmouth College, March 1, 2010

“Rejecting Rights: Reframing the Debate”

- Rockefeller Center, public lecture in support of Martin Luther King Celebration and the Dartmouth Centers Forum on Conflict and Reconciliation, April 2, 2009

PROFESSIONAL AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Vice Chair, New Hampshire Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, 2013-2014

Retained Expert, Ontario Attorney General’s Office, Constitutional Branch, Provided Expert Testimony regarding Constitutional Case Concerning Religious Accommodation from a motorcycle helmet law, 2007-2008, re: Badesha, Ontario Court of Justice, decided 3/6/08

Senior Editor, *Harvard Civil Rights Civil Liberties Law Review*, 2000-2001

Cahill, Gordon & Reindel, First Amendment/Litigation Associate, New York, NY, 2001-2002

Harvard Law School's Mock Trial Team, Finalist, ABA Criminal Justice Division National Competition, 2000

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, MA, Student Prosecutor, 2000-20001

American Civil Liberties Union, New York, NY, Summer Intern, 1999

GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders), Boston, MA, Volunteer, 1999-2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
New York State Bar