
Braniff Dissertation Lecture -- David Moreno Guinea

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Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 11:59 AM



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS
Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts

Please join us for the public dissertation lecture:

Tyranny and Political Philosophy



Thursday, April 29, 2021

6:00 pm CST

**Held virtually via Zoom - please
see more information below**

Presented by:

David Moreno Guinea

Doctoral Candidate in Politics

Dr. Joshua Parens, Ph.D., Director

Dr. Richard Dougherty, Ph.D., 2nd Reader

Dr. David Sweet, Ph.D., 3rd Reader

Tyranny is a theme that has reverberated in politico-philosophical scholarship since the post-war era of the twentieth century and it has been taken up with a renewed interest in recent years. Aside from Leo Strauss, only very few scholars have focused on the link between ancient and modern tyranny, and even fewer on how the concept of tyranny might give insight into the study of political philosophy itself. In this dissertation, I argue that the concept of tyranny can make us aware of the permanent character of the problems that

arise between philosophy and politics, and help us distinguish between the core and the peripheral tenets of political philosophy. On this basis, I contend that it is possible to draw a closer connection between Socratic and Machiavellian political philosophy. Through a close reading of select passages of Xenophon, Plato and Aristotle, on the one hand, and of Machiavelli, on the other, I address the main differences that separate the philosophic from the political way of life.

I first analyze the concept of tyranny from the viewpoint of the city and of “real men” (andres), and then contrast it with the perspective of the philosopher. I assert that the praise of kalokagathia is more of a concession than the real essence of the classics’ philosophic teachings. Although I show that there is a close connection between the philosopher and the tyrant, I also explain what sets them apart. The subtle distinction that the classics made between the principles of their philosophic politics as opposed to the principles of philosophy itself, I argue, helps us to understand the classics better and to read Machiavelli in a different, more benevolent and more philosophical light. While I acknowledge that modern forms of tyranny, such as the universal and homogeneous state that Kojève proposes, originate in Machiavelli’s revolution, I hold that the essence of Machiavelli’s teachings, in harmony with the classics, shores up philosophy, not tyranny. The return both to the classics and to the origins of modernity that I put forward aims at keeping philosophy alive against tyranny of thought.

This event is one of the most important symbolic events in one's academic life. David Moreno Guinea will present his first public lecture after having made the transition from student colleague to faculty colleague.

The Braniff Graduate School is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:

Topic: David Moreno dissertation lecture

Time: Apr 29, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87596833206?pwd=TDhRdWs0b2RUeWRXYzRNbWNaM3Rmdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 9683 3206

Passcode: 869328

For dial-in information, please contact the Braniff Graduate Office at braniff@udallas.edu.

All are welcome to attend!

Dr. Joshua Parens, Dean, Braniff Graduate School
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