

Philosophy
Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies
Leonard Lief Library
present
A Reading and Discussion

**Political Authority:
The Paradox and Promise of Constructivism in Politics
by Michael Buckley**

This book defends constructivism as a leading approach to formulating the moral basis of political authority. It addresses a central tension in constructivist theory: how principles can be both dependent on human deliberation and normatively objective.

Moving beyond the familiar Rawlsian model - Political Authority develops a constructivist framework for normative political analysis that is accommodating of pluralism, sensitive to context, attuned to moral reasoning, and continuous with a long history of political thought about the nature of moral truth and legitimacy in politics.

Engaging with traditional themes of authority, power, and justice - as well as contemporary debates on political realism, public justification, and performance legitimacy - this book is of interest to scholars and graduate students in political philosophy, political theory, normative ethics, democratic theory, and human rights studies.

Michael Buckley is Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department and Director for Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Lehman College.

Philosophy and Politics - Critical Explorations

Michael Buckley

Political Authority

The Paradox and Promise
of Constructivism in Politics

 Springer

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

12:00 - 1:00 PM

RSVP by May 5th: <https://libcal.lehman.edu/event/16601613>

Location: Library - Classroom A - Concourse Level

Registration is required

Information: Bernice.Suphal@lehman.cuny.edu