



## Faculty Profile

# Andrew Moravcsik

Although it requires more than good luck to become a professor of government at Harvard University, Andrew Moravcsik reflects on his accomplishment by referring to Lester Thurow's theory of professional success: "In most professions you need to meet a threshold of ability and training, often a high one, to be part of a sort of lottery. After that, however, I believe that much depends on coincidental connections, encountering topics that turn out to be fruitful, working hard...and being the right person for the right department at the right time."

A faculty associate of the Weatherhead Center, as well as the Center for European Studies (CES) and the Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights, Moravcsik is a specialist in international organization with interests in European Union politics, human rights policy, history, and political economy. A glance around his CES office reveals the range of Moravcsik's interests: journals and books on Latin America, international relations theory, and European integration line the floor-to-ceiling shelves—all within reach of the 6-foot-6-inch professor. Despite these many scholarly interests, it isn't difficult to determine what also matters deeply to Moravcsik. Nestled in the heart of his shelves are photos of his sons—Edward, 4, and Alexander, 2—and several photos of his wife and Harvard colleague, Anne-Marie Slaughter, hang at eye level. A CD-player, often emitting opera, rests near the computer.

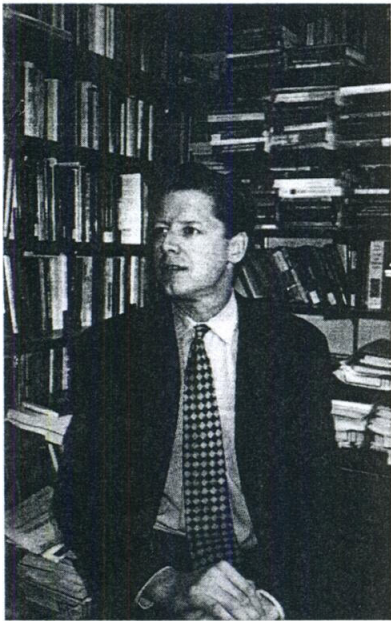
Moravcsik attributes the development of his academic interests and some of his hobbies, at least in part, to his family background. His mother is of "Basque/Dutch/German/English/Scottish" origin. Growing up in Eugene, Oregon, in the late 1960s and early 1970s—where his father was a professor of physics at the university—Moravcsik recalls there was "an entire counter-culture, and my mom would hear about secret Grateful Dead concerts out by Ken Kesey's farm and out we would go." Still, "the dominant cultural influence in my life was my father, who was a Hungarian immigrant from Budapest." Moravcsik's father, adhering to many European traditions, introduced the family to intellectual life, art, and opera, often driving hundreds of miles to experience the cultural offerings of Portland or Seattle: "My father

spent much of his youth in the balcony of the Budapest opera." Music played a significant role for his parents, who met at Cornell University where they both sang in the chorus. "My father was 6 feet 7½ inches," and he would stand in front of my mom and sway back and forth as he sang, so she had to learn to sway in the opposite direction."

Moravcsik's intellectual journey began at Stanford University where he began, like his father, studying physics. As he made his way through the required physics classes, he enrolled in a team-taught Modern European History sequence. So, inspired by the course sequence, Moravcsik promptly switched his major to history, and on a junior semester in Berlin deepened a passion for Europe. After graduation in 1980—following his empirical, inductive instincts—he went to work for a law firm in San Francisco and "hated it." "Through a complete fluke," however, he went to work teaching English in South Korea and within months of his arrival was working for the deputy prime minister of Korea writing speeches and editing an economic bulletin. From there Moravcsik returned to Germany, this time on a Fulbright scholarship.

In 1982 he enrolled in the master's program at the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., where he was editor-in-chief of the foreign policy journal *SAIS Review* and also worked as a trade negotiator for the U.S. Department of Commerce, traveling back and forth to Brussels. In time, Washington failed to hold his interest because the culture "didn't give you the chance to reflect. The trick in Washington is to stay ten minutes ahead of your times. I got bored." Seeking a more reflective atmosphere, Moravcsik made his way to Harvard in 1984 to pursue a Ph.D. in political science.

At Harvard, Moravcsik discovered for a second time how an academic focus can shift. At the outset he spent considerable time at MIT and the Kennedy School of Government and proposed a dissertation topic on high-technology cooperation in Europe. While conducting research in London and Paris in 1989, through another "total fluke," he won a three-week grant from the European Community Visitors Program. At the time, Moravcsik had only a vague interest in European integration and admits that he was most attracted by the generous accompanying stipend. After touring EU institutions and visiting three member-states, he grew fascinated by the subject of European integration. "It was so much more interesting than my dissertation topic that I immediately sat down and wrote an article, which was published in *International Organization*."<sup>1</sup>



Upon returning to the U.S. in 1999, Moravcsik realized that he really was more interested in European integration than his original topic. He set to work on establishing himself as an EU specialist: he went on the job market and accepted a junior faculty position at Harvard, but there was still the unfinished business of his dissertation. Moravcsik negotiated a year to finish the thesis and consulted with his dissertation advisor, Bob Keohane, to whom he announced, "I want to sit and write a dissertation in a year on the EU." Keohane urged him to complete his proposed topic, but Moravcsik was unconvinced and in just a year wrote his dissertation on "National Preference Formation and Interstate Bargaining in the European Community, 1957-1988," which earned the William Sumner Dissertation Prize and eventually became the "bold and ambitious in scope" tenure-making book, *The Choice for Europe*.<sup>2</sup>

During the furious writing of his "new" dissertation, Moravcsik's grandmother called his attention to a coincidence in their family's history. In 1930, his great-uncle and namesake, Andreas Fleissig, had published a book in German called *Plan-Europa*. The premise of the book was remarkably similar to Moravcsik's own: European integration is not about high ideals and great political entrepreneurs or geopolitical challenges but rather about "hardcore functional economic interests." Moravcsik sees this mostly as a coincidence but perhaps also a consequence of his European heritage: "It's not surprising that someone in my family would be interested in the subject."

A self-professed "relative newcomer" to human rights policy, Moravcsik is now conducting research primarily on the emergence, evolution and enforcement of international human rights norms. Among the many origins of his interest in the topic, one important one was a call he received from the Inter-American Dialogue, a think-tank that works closely with the Organization of American States. At the suggestion of Professor Jorge Domínguez, the Dialogue wanted him to write about what the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights could learn from the European Convention on Human Rights. "At the time I knew nothing about human rights, nothing about the European Convention on Human Rights, and *had never heard of* the American Convention on Human Rights, but it was a perfect social scientific comparison that intrigued me intellectually." Now, however, he is applying some theories drawn from American politics and international relations to the formation of a series of international human rights regimes.

As the director of the Center for European Union Studies—a consortium of the CES, Weatherhead Center, Kennedy School, the Business School and the Law School—Moravcsik has entered the realm of administration. The Center is designed to coordinate EU activities through interfaculty projects, and Moravcsik credits the University's central administration for encouraging this inter-disciplinary approach. "Harvard is one of those places where the combination of theoretical interests and regional and historical expertise is appreciated as much as it should be."

His teaching portfolio at Harvard includes introductory undergraduate courses, specialized graduate courses, and thesis workshops. "I like that mix," he says. "One helps keep me broad, and the other keeps me focused on research and the profession." It is often undergraduate teaching, he says, that "gets me back in touch with the larger, substantive questions." Moravcsik particularly enjoys team-teaching the Core course "International Conflict and Cooperation in the Modern World" (Historical Studies A-12) with Stephen Rosen or Stanley Hoffmann.

Moravcsik and Slaughter, as professionals, spouses, and parents, appreciate the flexibility of the academic calendar. While they consider themselves very fortunate to have two jobs at a top university, they acknowledge the challenges of any two-career-with-children marriage. Now that they have children, he says, "I just don't see how two professional people remain productive at the top of demanding fields while raising kids." Still, the family is able to spend every June in Italy, south of Florence, where the EU has a university. One of their favorite outlets is opera, and every summer they attend festivals in Europe and the U.S.—most often the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York, where a convergence of baseball and opera proves to be a cultural exploration all its own. Moravcsik speaks German and French, reads Spanish, and can "fake" Italian. "Most of my Italian comes from the opera," he jokes, "so 'Watch out for the Grand Inquisitor!' and 'Before him all Rome trembles!' are among my more fluent and useful phrases." Keeping in tune with his intellectual journey, Moravcsik comments that, "perhaps someday I'd like to write about the history of opera." Almost certainly he will.

~ Amanda Pearson

1 "Negotiating the Single European Act: National Interests and Conventional Statecraft in the European Community" *International Organization* (Winter 1991).

2 *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, and London: Routledge, 1998).