

Robert A. Ballingall

University of Maine
Department of Political Science
229 Boudreau Hall
Orono, ME 04469
robert.ballingall@maine.edu

APPOINTMENTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024– Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Maine
2018–24 Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Maine
2017–18 Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Constitutional Government, Harvard University
2016–17 Allan Bloom Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow for Research in Classical Political Thought, University of Toronto
2013–14 Harry Bikakis Fellow in Ancient Greek Law, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Classical political philosophy, constitutional government, liberalism and its critics, religion and politics, American political thought, French political thought

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Toronto
M.Phil., University of Oxford
B.A. (Hons, First Class), University of Alberta

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023. *Plato's Reverent City: The Laws and the Politics of Authority* (Palgrave Macmillan, Recovering Political Philosophy Series).

Book Chapters & Journal Articles

- Forthcoming. "Civic Virtue and Its Contradictory Demands in Plato's *Laws*." *Political Science Reviewer*.
2024. "Platonic Revivalists? The Cases of Simone Weil and Leo Strauss." *Brill's Companion to the Legacy of Greek Political Thought*, eds. David Carter & Rachel Foxley (Brill Publishing), pp. 74–104.
2024. "The (Utopian) City in Greek Political Thought." *The Blackwell Companion to Cities in the Greco-Roman World*, eds. Andries Zuiderhoek & Miko Flohr (Wiley-Blackwell), pp. 443–457.
2022. "The Rule of Law and the Imitation of God in Plato's *Laws*." *Perspectives on Political Science* vol. 51, no. 4, 190–200.
2019. "'Working at the Same Time to Animate and to Restrain': Tocqueville on the Problem of Authority." *The European Legacy* vol. 24, nos. 7-8, pp. 738–754.
2017. "The Platonic Rehabilitation of Tragedy." *Classical Rationalism and the Politics of Europe*, ed. Ann Ward (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), pp. 75–95.

2016. “Distant Goals: Second-best Imitation in Plato’s *Laws*.” *History of Political Thought* vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 1–24.

Book Reviews

2023. André Laks, “Plato’s Second Republic” (Princeton University Press, 2022). *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought* vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 539–46.
2021. Eli Friedland, “The Spartan Drama of Plato’s *Laws*” (Lexington Books, 2020). *Interpretation*, vol. 47, no. 3, pp. 555–561.
2019. Josine Blok, “Citizenship in Classical Athens” (Cambridge, 2017). *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought*, vol. 36, no. 1, pp. 183–187.
2016. Gerd Van Riel, “Plato’s Gods” (Ashgate, 2013). *Anamnesis*, vol. 5, pp. 140–45.
2014. Ben Jackson & Marc Stears, eds., “Liberalism as Ideology: Essays in Honour of Michael Freedman” (Oxford, 2012). *History of Political Thought*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 590–593.
2013. Gregory Recco & Eric Sanday, eds., “Plato’s *Laws*: Force and Truth in Politics” (Indiana, 2013). *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 350–353.

Manuscripts Under Review or in Preparation

- “Plato’s *Laws*: Reason, Revelation, and the Tragedy of Politics.” Edited volume under contract with the New Perspectives on Political Thought Series at SUNY Press.
- “Children of Pride: Lawlessness and Humiliation in Modern Political Thought.” Book manuscript.
- “‘That Tranquility of Spirit’: Pride and Humiliation in Montesquieu’s Liberal Constitutionalism.” Article manuscript.
- “The Ambivalences of Xenophobia in Plato’s *Laws*.” Chapter manuscript for *Migration, Cultural Diversity, and the Rights of Foreigners in Political Thought*, ed. Ann Ward (Anthem Press).

Journalism & Occasional Publications

2025. “Does Trump’s Agenda Overturn the Constitution?” *Bangor Daily News*, 5 February.
2022. “Why Seeking Justice for Trump Could Backfire.” *Bangor Daily News*, 25 August.
2018. “Constitutional Monarchy: Anachronism or Missed Opportunity?” *Portland Press Herald*, 19 May.
- 2012–13. Letters from Grad School Column, *U of T Magazine*.
2012. “The *Secwepemc* Memorial to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.” *Kamloops Daily News*, 25 August.
2012. “An Unresolved Problem with the ‘Developmental’ Concept of Power in C. B. Macpherson.” *Journal of Intellectual History & Political Thought* vol. 1, pp. 136–74.
2011. “Is There a Case for Limiting Democratic Openness?” *Public Policy & Governance Review* vol. 2, pp. 52–62. First runner-up for the 2011 Sylvia Ostry Prize in Public Policy.
2010. “Love’s Tragedy in J. M. Coetzee.” *The Owl*, vol. 16, pp. 14–16.

TEACHING

University of Maine

- POS 201: Introduction to Political Theory
- POS 282: Introduction to American Law
- POS 301: Classical Political Thought
- POS 303: Early Modern Political Thought

POS 305: Late Modern Political Thought

POS 308: Liberalism and Its Critics

POS 383: American Constitutional Law

POS 498: Independent Study: The Moral Ambiguity of Greed in More's *Utopia* (2026)
Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* and the Question of Justice (2025)
Totalitarianism (2021)
The Morality of Philosophy in the Platonic Dialogues (2020)
The Problem of Virtue in Plato's Political Philosophy (2019)

POS 499: Senior Seminar: Plato & The Origins of Constitutional Government (2021)

HON 498/499: Honors Thesis Directed Study:

Natalie Garcia, "No One Does Wrong Willingly: The Socratic Paradox of Punishment" (2025)

Teodora Blejeru, "What is Marxian Communism? Limning the Post-revolutionary Utopia by Implication" (2024)

Sean Staton, "High Automation, Fascism, and our Social Revolution" (2023)

Ivy Flessen, "The Tension Between Morality and Philosophy in the Platonic Dialogues" (2021)

Harvard University

GOV 1051: The Classical Quest for Justice (Teaching Fellow)

University of Toronto

POL 200/B72: Introduction to Political Theory

POL 355: Topics in Classical Political Thought: Classical Constitutionalism

POL B30: Law, Justice, and Rights (Teaching Assistant)

POL 320: Modern Political Thought (Teaching Assistant)

Trinity College, University of Toronto

Rolph-Bell Don in Political Science & International Relations

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

Pride and Security in Montesquieu's Liberal Constitutionalism
2025, APSA, Vancouver, BC

Plato and the Origins of Constitutional Government
2024, Bowdoin College, Peucinian Society & Dept. of Government

Roundtable on *Plato's Reverent City: The Laws and the Politics of Authority*
2024, APSA, Philadelphia, PA

The (Utopian) City in Greek Political Thought
2023, APPSA, Fredericton, NB
2022, APSA, Montreal, QC

Divine Law and Human Founding in Plato's *Laws*
2022, NPSA, Boston, MA

The Rule of Law and the Imitation of God in Plato's *Laws*
2021, APSA, Seattle, WA
2021, MPSA (virtual)

Popular Cynicism, Naivety, and the Threat of Tyranny

2021, What Makes for Good Governance? A Roundtable in Honor of Jim Warhola (virtual)

Classical Constitutionalism and the Virtue of Reverence
 2020, University of Maine, Dept. of Philosophy Colloquium
 2017, Koç University, Istanbul, Dept. of International Relations

“Working at the Same Time to Animate and to Restrain”: Tocqueville on the Problem of Authority
 2019, CPSA, University of British Columbia
 2018, APSA, Boston, MA

Platonic Revivalists? The Cases of Simone Weil and Leo Strauss
 2018, NPSA, Montréal, QC
 2017, WPSA, Vancouver, BC

The Platonic Rehabilitation of Tragedy
 2017, CPSA, Ryerson University
 2015, CPSA, University of Ottawa
 2014, NPSA, Boston, MA

The Political Psychology of Reverence in Plato’s *Laws*
 2016, APSA, Philadelphia, PA
 2016, CPSA, University of Calgary

Distant Goals: Second-best Imitation in Plato’s *Laws*
 2014, University of Toronto Political Theory Workshop
 2014, CPSA, Brock University

Political Authority and the Enigma of Godlikeness in Plato’s *Laws*
 2013, NPSA, Philadelphia, PA
 2013, CPSA, University of Victoria

Macpherson's Developmental Model of Democracy.
 2013, Roundtable on the Political Thought of C. B. Macpherson, University of Toronto

Freedom and the Problem of Ethical Authority.
 2013, Invited lecture on the Occasion of the Buddha’s Birthday, Toronto Zen Buddhist Temple

An Unresolved Problem in C. B. Macpherson’s Developmental Concept of Power
 2012, Property, *Dominion*, and Self-ownership: London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought

Civic Virtue and Political Liberty in Plato’s *Laws*
 2012, University of Toronto Political Theory Workshop

Reverence as a Civic Virtue: Plato’s *Laws* and its Relevance to Liberal Democratic Citizenship
 2012, Institutions, Narratives and Identities: University of Florida Graduate Workshop

Freedom and Shame in Plato’s *Laws*
 2011, CPSA, Sir Wilfred Laurier University
 2010, NPSA, Boston, MA

A Defense of Human Nature in Aristotelian Practical Science: The Unlikely Example of C. B. Macpherson
 2010, CPSA, Concordia University

Are the Virtues of the Environmentalist Moral Virtues?
 2008, Human Flourishing and Ecological Restoration in the Age of Global Warming, Clemson University

Efficiency for What? Re-evaluating Instrumental Goods in Modern Economic Discourse
 2007, Faculty of Arts Visiting Committee, University of Alberta

SELECTED HONORS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2024 Faculty Mentor Impact Award Nominee, University of Maine
- 2023 McGillicuddy Humanities Center Faculty Grant Award, University of Maine
- 2020 Pre-Tenure Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowship, University of Maine
- 2019 Bangor Savings Bank/LoRusso Memorial Faculty Development Award, University of Maine
- 2018 Marie Curie LEaDing Fellowship, Leiden University (declined)
- 2013 Harry Bikakis Fellowship in Ancient Greek Law, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- 2009 C. B. Macpherson Graduate Admission Award, University of Toronto
- 2008 Roger Short Memorial Scholarship, University College, Oxford
- 2003 Hu Harries Memorial Entrance Leadership Award, University of Alberta
- 2003 Class Valedictorian, École Secondaire John Peterson

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Discussant

- 2026 Rebecca LeMoine's *Plato's Caves: The Liberating Sting of Cultural Diversity*, roundtable panel, SPSA, New Orleans, LA
- 2022 Ancient Politics: Leadership and Knowledge, conference panel, NEPSA, Bretton Woods, NH
- 2021 Greek Political Thought, conference panel, NEPSA (virtual)
- 2019 Limits of Political Rationalism: Ancient and Modern, conference panel, NEPSA, Portland, ME
- 2018 Leo Strauss Read from France and Canada, conference panel, NPSA, Montréal, QC
- 2018 Pedagogy & Politics, conference panel, APSA, Boston, MA
- 2016 Thucydidean Reflections on Democratic Imperialism, public lecture by Seth N. Jaffe, University of Toronto Political Theory Workshop
- 2016 Deconstructing the Ancients/Moderns Trope in Historical Reception, public lecture by John R. Wallach, Conference for the Study of Political Thought (CSPT), Toronto, ON

Reviewer

- 2026 Book proposal: Routledge
- 2025 Article manuscript: The Review of Politics
- 2024 Article manuscript: Political Research Quarterly
- 2024 Article manuscript: Classical Quarterly
- 2024 Article manuscript: The Review of Politics
- 2023 Book manuscript: SUNY Press
- 2023 Article manuscript: American Political Science Review
- 2019 Research grant applications: National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program
- 2018 Article manuscript: Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought

2016 Article manuscript: Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought

Editor

2008–09 Assistant Editor, St. Antony's International Review

Service to the Department

2024– Committee member, Political Science Dept. Peer Committee

2019– Chair of the UMaine Attorney General Internship Committee

2018– Chair of the Bebek and Gratton prize committees; member of the Mawhinney and Nickerson scholarship committees

2018– Academic advisor to ~ 40 political science majors

Service to the College

2025– CLAS representative, UMaine Cultural Affairs and Distinguished Lecture Committee

2021–22 Acting member, UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Council

Service to the University

2025– Committee member, McGillicuddy Humanities Center Student Awards Committee

2024 Faculty representative, Honors College Dean Review Committee

2023–24 Faculty fellow, General Education Assessment Pilot

2021–22 Advisor to the Maine Policy Scholars Program

2018–24 Occasional lecturer in the UMaine Honors College (HON 111 & 112)

Other Professional Service

2023 Undergraduate Review Committee, New England Political Science Association Annual Conference

2019–21 Political Theory Section Head, New England Political Science Association Annual Conference

2013 Co-convener & Panel Chair, Centre for Ethics Graduate Conference, University of Toronto

2012–14 Speaker Series Organizer, Graduate Association of Students in Political Science, University of Toronto

2010–11 Graduate Associate Co-chair, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto

2010–11 Dons' Representative, Trinity College Senate, University of Toronto

Public Service

2023– Board member, City of Bangor Board of Appeals

REFERENCES

Ryan K. Balot

Professor of Political Science and Classics, University of Toronto

Email: Ryan.Balot@utoronto.ca | Tel: 1 (416) 978 3291

Clifford Orwin

Professor of Political Science, Classics, and Jewish Studies, University of Toronto

Email: Clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca | Tel: 1 (416) 926 1300, ext. 3277

Stephen G. Salkever

Mary Katharine Woodworth Professor Emeritus in Political Science, Bryn Mawr College
Email: ssalkeve@brynmawr.edu | Tel: 1 (610) 526 5330

Harvey C. Mansfield

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Government, Harvard University
Email: hmansfield@gov.harvard.edu | Tel: 1 (617) 495-3333