

Robert A. Ballingall

University of Maine
Department of Political Science
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APPOINTMENTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018– 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, constitutionalism and the rule of law, religion and politics, liberalism and democratic theory, American political thought

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Plato's Reverent City: The Laws and the Politics of Authority (Under contract at Palgrave MacMillan, Recovering Political Philosophy Series).

Book Chapters & Journal Articles

- Forthcoming. "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).
2022. "The Rule of Law & 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

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 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 Freedon" (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 Political Thought*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 350–353.

Manuscripts Under Review or in Preparation

- "Prosthetic Virtue: Aristotle on the Ambiguity of *Aidôs*." Article manuscript in preparation.
- "The (Utopian) City in Greek Political Thought." Invited chapter contribution to *The Blackwell Companion to Cities in the Greco-Roman World*, eds. Andries Zuiderhoek & Miko Flohr.

Journalism & Occasional Publications

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 301: Classical Political Thought
- POS 303: Early Modern Political Thought
- POS 305: Late Modern Political Thought
- POS 383: American Constitutional Law
- POS 498: Independent Study: 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)

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)

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

Divine Law and Human Founding in Plato's *Laws*

2022, NPSA, Boston MA

Classical Thought & The Birth of the Political

2022, APSA, Montreal QC

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

- 2022 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
- 2011–15 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto
- 2013 C. B. Macpherson Dissertation Fellowship, University of Toronto
- 2009 C. B. Macpherson Graduate Admission Award, University of Toronto
- 2007 Canada Graduate Scholarship, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), declined
- 2003 Hu Harries Memorial Entrance Leadership Award, University of Alberta
- 2003 Class Valedictorian, École Secondaire John Peterson

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Discussant

- 2022 Conference Panel: "Ancient Politics: Leadership and Knowledge," NEPSA, Bretton Woods NH
- 2021 Conference Panel: "Greek Political Thought," NEPSA (virtual)
- 2019 Conference Panel: "Limits of Political Rationalism: Ancient and Modern," NEPSA, Portland ME
- 2018 Conference Panel: "Leo Strauss Read from France and Canada," NPSA, Montréal QC
- 2018 Conference Panel: "Pedagogy & Politics," APSA, Boston MA
- 2016 Public Lecture: "Thucydidean Reflections on Democratic Imperialism" by Seth N. Jaffe, University of Toronto Political Theory Workshop
- 2016 Public Lecture: "Deconstructing the Ancients/Moderns Trope in Historical Reception" by John R. Wallach, Conference for the Study of Political Thought (CSPT), Toronto ON

Reviewer

- 2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program
- 2018 Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought
- 2016 Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought

Editor

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

Service to the Department

- 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 ~ 60 political science majors

Service to the College

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

Service to the University/broader public

- 2023– Board Member, City of Bangor Board of Appeals
- 2022– Volunteer, Abraham Lincoln School PTA
- 2021– Advisor to the Maine Policy Scholars Program
- 2018– Occasional lecturer in the UMaine Honors College (HON 111 & 112)

Other Professional Service

- 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

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