

# Robert A. Ballingall

University of Maine  
Department of Political Science  
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## APPOINTMENTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- 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

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Classical political philosophy, liberalism and its critics, constitutionalism and the rule of law, religion and politics, American political thought

## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

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

### Book Chapters & Journal Articles

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 & 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

- “Children of Pride: Lawlessness and Humiliation in Modern Political Thought.” Book manuscript in preparation.
- “Hume’s Critique of Humility and the Origins of Modern Constitutionalism.” Article manuscript in preparation.
- “Prosthetic Virtue: Aristotle on the Ambiguity of *Aidôs*.” Article manuscript in preparation.

## 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

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### 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: 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)

Trinity College, University of Toronto

Rolph-Bell Don in Political Science & International Relations

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

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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

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

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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

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### Discussant

- 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

- 2024 Article manuscript: Political Research Quarterly
- 2024 Article manuscript: Classical Quarterly
- 2024 Article manuscript: 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

- 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

- 2024 Faculty representative, Honors College Dean Review Committee
- 2023–24 Faculty fellow, General Education Assessment Pilot
- 2021– Advisor to the Maine Policy Scholars Program
- 2018– 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

#### Service to the Public

- 2023– Board member, City of Bangor Board of Appeals
- 2022– Volunteer, Abraham Lincoln School PTA

#### REFERENCES

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##### Ryan K. Balot

Professor of Political Science and Classics, University of Toronto  
Email: [Ryan.Balot@utoronto.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ssalkeve@brynmawr.edu) | Tel: 1 (610) 526 5330

##### Harvey C. Mansfield

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Government, Harvard University  
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