

Emily (Sal) Salamanca
Curriculum Vitae – Fall 2025
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University, Stanford Civics Initiative Post-doctoral Fellow

September 2025–Present

EDUCATION

Princeton University, September 2020–June 2025

Ph.D., Politics

Fields: Political Theory (major)

Political Philosophy (Classics, minor)

Comparative Politics (minor)

Thesis: *Legitimizing Luxury: Sumptuary Laws and Democratic Aesthetics in Athens, Rome, and Venice*

My dissertation develops an account of the role that sumptuary laws, or legislation regulating the *display*, but not actual *holding*, of wealth played in securing, legitimizing, and defining the position of the political elite in self-proclaimed self-governing societies. I argue that sumptuary laws, often overlooked as merely archaic anti-luxury measures, were actually a consistent strategy used by political elites throughout time to secure their affluence and power in the face of popular pressure to renounce luxurious lifestyles, though this often came at the expense of the freedom of non-citizens, especially women.

Dissertation committee: Melissa Lane (chair), Jan-Werner Müller, Harriet Flower (Classics), Greg Conti (Fourth Reader)

The University of Chicago, 2016–2020

B.A., *summa cum laude* Political Science (with distinction)

Romance Language and Literature (Italian) (with distinction)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Ancient political thought, Renaissance and early modern political thought, intellectual history, classical reception, history of democratic theory, aristocratic institutions, political aesthetics

RESEARCH

Refereed Journal Articles

(*Forthcoming*) “Natasha Piano’s Democratic Elitism in Retrospect” *Review of Politics*

2025 “Reimagining Political Legitimacy: Ancestral *imagines* in the Contional Speeches of

Marius and Cicero” *Polis: Journal of Greek and Roman Political Thought*, 42(2): 305-338.

- 2024 “Reconstructing Religion-*contra*-Democracy in Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*”
American Political Thought, 13(4): 423-448.
- 2023 “Pruning the People: Ostracism, Exile, and the Protection of the Political Space in
Ancient Athens” *Philosophies* 8(5)
- 2022 “Il Giardino Tradotto: da Memoriale a Responsabilità nel Giardino dei Finzi-Contini
di Bassani (1963) e De Sica (1970),” *La Fusta* XXVIII
- 2021 “Singulis Etruriae populis’: The Political Mobilization of the Etruscan Foundation
Myth in the Self-Conception of Renaissance Florence,” *Carte Italiane*, 13(1).

Working Papers

- (Under review) “A Revolutionary *Tumulto*: Recontextualizing the Ciompi Revolution of 1378”
- In preparation “Order and Exclusion: Rethinking the Democratic Ideal of Civic Order Through
Athenian Sumptuary Law”
- In preparation “Redemptive Exemplarity and Popular Deference: The Role of Exile in Machiavelli’s
Political Thought”

Other Publications and Media

- 2025 “Recap: Alison McQueen’s Moffett Lecture ‘Better to be a Traitor? Hobbes on Betrayal,’”
University Center for Human Values News & Events
- 2025 Interviewee, “Does American Democracy Need More Religion?” (Boston Globe)
- 2024 Translator, “Visit to an Extinct City” (R&Company Gallery)
- 2022 “Human Nature, Political Behavior: Ideal Representation in Federalist and Anti
Federalist Thought,” *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*
- 2020 Translation of Luigi Capuana’s “Gli ‘Americani’ di Rabbato” (1912) from Siculo-Italian
into English; Translator’s preface, “Between Dialect and Dialogue”

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIP, AND HONORS

- 2024 Laurence F. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship (Princeton University)
- 2023 Travel Grant, Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel (Princeton University)
- 2022-2023 William S. Carpenter Fund in Politics Graduate Fellowship (Princeton University)
- 2022 Political Philosophy Graduate Travel and Research Grant (Princeton University)
- 2020-2021 Center for Human Values Merit Grant (Princeton University)
- 2020 President’s Fellowship (Princeton University)
- 2020 Georgiana Simpson Scholar (University of Chicago)
- 2020 Gary Becker Scholar (University of Chicago)
- 2020 Hertog Foundation Fellow
- 2019 Student Marshal (University of Chicago)

- 2019 Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (University of Chicago)
- 2019 Samuel T. Fleck Prize in Italian Studies (University of Chicago)
- 2019 Phi Beta Kappa, Junior Inductee
- 2019 Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Grant (University of Chicago)
- 2019 Owl and Serpent Research Society inductee (University of Chicago)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2026 “Fashioning Piety: Women, Sumptuary Law, and the Sacred Myth of Venice,” Invited Presenter to Panel organized by Patricia Fortini-Brown (Princeton, *emerita*) and Sarah Blake McHam (Rutgers, *emerita*), Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- 2025 “Cultivating a Culture: Anti-Corruption as *Ethos* in Athens, Rome, and Venice,” Rethinking the Anti-Corruption Toolkit Conference (organized by Samuel Bagg and Kevin Elliot), Yale University, Institution for Social and Policy Studies
- 2025 Panelist, Author-meets-Critics Panel devoted to Natasha Piano’s *Democratic Elitism*, organized by Prof. Larry George (California State University), Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2023 “Jeong Yak-Young (정약용) and Niccolò Machiavelli: Political Realism, Catholicism, and Reform,” Forum for the History of Political Thought, A Symposium on Methods and Current Controversies, Princeton University
- 2022 “Representation Reframed: Federalists’ Republicanism and Anti-Federalists’ Calls for Resemblance,” Cambridge Graduate Workshop in Political Thought and Intellectual History
- 2020 “‘Singulis Etruriae populis:’ The Political Mobilization of the Etruscan Foundation Myth in the Self-Conception of Renaissance Florence,” International Machiavelli Society, Inaugural Conference (*cancelled, due to COVID-19*)

Papers Presented

- 2025 “Redemptive Exemplarity and Learned Republican Deference: The Role of Exile in Machiavelli’s Political Thought,” Berkeley Graduate Conference on Early Modern Political Thought
- 2025 “Perfect Imperfect Laws: The Paradox of Roman *leges sumptuariae*,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2025 “Exemplarity and Exile: Machiavelli and the Institution of Civic Banishment,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2025 “Redemptive Exemplarity and Learned Republican Deference: The Role of Exile in Machiavelli’s Political Thought,” Notre Dame Political Theory and Constitutional Studies Conference

- 2025 “Perfect Imperfect Laws: The Paradox of Roman *leges sumptuariae*,” Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting
- 2024 “Democratic *Eukosmia* and Athenian Sumptuary Legislation,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2024 “At the Limits of Ostracism: Reform, Recall, and Return of Expelled Individuals in Athens and Rome,” Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory
- 2023 “Pruning the People: Ostracism, Exile, and the Protection of the Political Space in Ancient Athens,” Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory
- 2022 “Pruning the People: Ostracism, Exile, and the Protection of the Political Space in Ancient Athens and Rome,” Center for Ancient Studies Graduate Student Conference, The University of Pennsylvania
- 2022 “Representation Reframed: Federalists’ Republicanism and Anti-Federalists’ Calls for Resemblance,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2022 “Toward a Public Theology? Religion’s Relationship with Democracy in Tocqueville’s Democracy in America and American Religious Culture Today,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2025 Panel Organizer, “Founders, Lawgivers, Reformers,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2025 Panel Organizer, “Law and Legitimacy in the Ancient World,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2025 Panel Organizer, “Democratic Threats and Threats to Democracy,” Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2024 Conference Organizer, “Of Marble and Mines: The Politics of Architecture, Freedom, and Oppression in the Roman World,” Conference, Forum for the History of Political Thought, Princeton University
- 2024 Panel Organizer, “Ancient Greek Democracy, Aesthetics, and the Cultivation of the Political,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2025 Ethics and Public Policy (POL 307 CHV 308 WWS 370) – Prof. Stephen Macedo (2 sections)
Lecture: “Abortion and Surrogacy” (April 10, 2025)

- 2024 Political Theory (POL 210) – Prof. Rahul Sagar, *Head Teaching Assistant* (2 sections)
*Lecture: “Machiavelli’s Deep Cuts – Exemplarity in *The Prince*” (Sept. 26, 2024)*
- 2023 Political Theory, Athens to Augustine (POL 301 /CLA 301 /HLS 303) – Prof. Melissa Lane,
Graduate Student Assistant
- 2022 The Roman Republic (CLA 218/HIS 218) – Prof. Dan-el Padilla Peralta, *Teaching Assistant*
Lecture: “Roman Sumptuary Laws and Gender Relations” (Nov. 10, 2022)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present Research Assistant, Prof. Melissa Lane (Princeton University)
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant, Prof. John P. McCormick, June 2019-June 2020 (UChicago)
- 2018-2020 Research Assistant for Prof. Michael Albertus and Dr. Victor Gay (Toulouse School of Economics), (Becker Friedman Institute at UChicago)

LANGUAGE AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

- 2024 *Fonte Aretusa: Greek for Philosophers Summer Seminar on Plato’s *Meno** (Syracuse, Italy)
- 2024 DILIT, Intensive Italian Language School (Rome, Italy)
- 2023 Ancient Inscriptions Workshop, Princeton University
- 2019 Federico II Centro Studi Lingua Italiana, Italian Language School (Catania, Italy)
- 2018 ItaliaIdea, Italian Language School (Rome, Italy)

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2024-2025 Graduate Student Committee (Princeton University)
- 2024 Early Careers for the Languages Event, Panelist (University of Chicago)
- 2023-Present European Cultural Studies Program (Princeton University)
- 2022-2024 Panelist, Princeton Undergraduate Workshop in Political Theory
- 2020-Present Grad Scholars Program (GSP) (Princeton University)
- 2020-Present Princeton Political Theory Graduate Student Conference
- 2020 Hertog Foundation Statesmen & Philosophers Seminar

REVIEWER

Journal of Politics

LANGUAGES

English (*native*)

Italian (*professional working proficiency, CILS-certified C.I*)

French (*reading*)

Latin (*reading*)

Ancient Greek (*reading*)

Korean (*advanced*)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Western Political Science Association

Society for Classical Studies
Renaissance Society of America

REFERENCES

Melissa Lane
Class of 1943 Professor of Politics
Princeton University
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Jan-Werner Müller
Roger Williams Straus Professor of Social Sciences
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Andrew Fleming West Professor of Classics
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Dan-el Padilla Peralta
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