

Alison E.J. McQueen

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science (February 2020-present)
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (2012-present)
Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics in Society (2013-present)
Assistant Professor (Subject to PhD), Department of Political Science (2011-2012)

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PhD in Government, 2012

MA in Government, 2009

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

MA in Political Science and International Relations, 2005

University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

BA in International Development/Political Economy (with distinction), 2003

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Modern Political Theory
History of Political Thought
Political Realism
History of International Relations Thought
Religion and Politics

BOOKS

Political Realism in Apocalyptic Times (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

From climate change to nuclear war to the rise of demagogic populists, our world is shaped by doomsday expectations. This book shows why three of history's greatest political realists feared apocalyptic politics. Niccolò Machiavelli in the midst of Italy's vicious power struggles, Thomas Hobbes during England's bloody civil war, and Hans Morgenthau at the dawn of the thermonuclear age all saw the temptation to prophesy the end of days. Each engaged in subtle and surprising strategies to oppose apocalypticism, from using its own rhetoric to neutralize its worst effects to insisting on a clear-eyed, tragic acceptance of the human condition.

Reviewed in: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Theory*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *American Political Thought*, *Hobbes Studies*, *Reading Religion* (American Academy of Religion), *H-Diplo*, *Real Clear Defense*.

Selected interviews and coverage: *The Show* (NPR Phoenix), *New Books in Political Science*, *Entitled Opinions*, *Philosophy Talk*, *New Work in Intellectual History Podcast*.

Absolving God: Religion and Rhetoric in Hobbes's Political Thought (in progress)

This book accounts for dramatic changes in Thomas Hobbes' strategies of religious and scriptural argument across his political works. While there is a growing literature on the importance of Hobbes' religious arguments to his political and philosophical project, there has been virtually no work on the changes in the content and structure of these arguments over time. This book will seek to account for three such changes—Hobbes' increasing focus on Scriptural and religious questions, his turn toward the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), and his adoption of an increasingly multi-pronged argumentative strategy on religious questions. In accounting for these changes, the book will use tools of automated text analysis to identify themes and shifts in religious discourse in the pamphlet literature of seventeenth-century England. It will also situate Hobbes' changing approaches within broader debates about the political response to religious ideals and interests.

PUBLISHED OR FORTHCOMING PAPERS

"The Wages of Fear?: Toward Fearing Well About Climate Change," in *Philosophy and Climate Change*, eds. Mark Budolfson, Tristram McPherson, and David Plunkett, Oxford University Press, 2021.

"What (if Anything) is Wrong with Positive Liberty?" *Critical Review*, vol. 32, 2020. [Published online March, 2021].

"Hobbes's Convergent Strategy," *Hobbes Studies* 33, no. 2 (2020).

"*A Rhapsody of Heresies': The Scriptural Politics of On the Citizen*," in *On the Citizen: A Critical Guide*, eds. Robin Douglass and Johann Olsthoorn, Cambridge University Press, 2019.

"Mirrors for Princes and Sultans" (with Lisa Blaydes and Justin Grimmer), *Journal of Politics* 80, no. 4 (2018): 1150-1167.

"Mosaic Leviathan: Religion and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes," in *Hobbes on Politics and Religion*, eds. Robin Douglass and Laurens van Apeldoorn (Oxford University Press, 2018).

"The Case for Kinship: Political Realism and Classical Realism," in *Politics Recovered: Essays in Realist Political Thought*, ed. Matt Sleat (Columbia University Press, forthcoming in 2018).

"Tocqueville in Jacksonian Context: American Expansionism and Discourses of American Indian Nomadism in Democracy in America" (with Burke Hendrix), *Perspectives on Politics* 15, no. 3 (2017): 663-667.

"Political realism and moral corruption," *European Journal of Political Theory* (OnlineFirst, 2016; forthcoming in print).

"Political Realism and the Realist 'Tradition,'" *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 20, no. 3 (2017): 291-305.

"Salutary Fear: Hans Morgenthau and the Politics of Existential Crisis," *American Political Thought* 6, no. 1(2017): 78-105.

"Politics in Apocalyptic Times: Machiavelli's Savonarolan Moment," *Journal of Politics* 78, no. 3 (2016): 909-24.

"A Groupthink Perspective on the Invasion of Iraq," *International Affairs Review* 14, no. 2 (2005), 53-79.

ESSAYS, REVIEWS, AND SHORTER PIECES

“Author’s Reply,” in Roundtable Forum on *Political Realism in Apocalyptic Times*, *H-Diplo* (October 11, 2019).

“Taming the President of Pride: Here’s what Hobbes and Locke can tell us about Trump,” *Foreign Policy* (web), September 27, 2018.

“How to be a Prophet of Doom,” *New York Times*, online on May 11, 2018; in print on May 13, 2018.

Roundtable Forum on Nicolas Guilhot’s *After the Enlightenment: Political Realism and International Relations in the Mid-Twentieth Century* (2017), *H-Diplo*, 2018.

Entries on “classical realism,” “E.H. Carr,” and “Hans Morgenthau,” *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics and International Relations*, 4th edition, ed. Garrett Brown (Oxford University Press, 2018).

“Apocalyptic Thought in the Age of Trump,” *Foreign Affairs* (web), November 20, 2016.

“The Apocalypse in U.S. Political Thought,” *Foreign Affairs* (web), July 18, 2016.

- Selected by *Foreign Affairs* as one of the best pieces of 2016.

“On Hans Morgenthau’s ‘The Twilight of International Morality,’” *Ethics* 125, no. 3 (2015), 840-842.

“Compassion and Tragedy in the Aspiring Society,” *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 13 (2014), 651-657.

“Responsible Cosmopolitanism” [Review essay on Gregory Claeys’ *Imperial Sceptics* and Iris Marion Young’s *Responsibility for Justice*], *Political Theory* 40, no. 6 (2012): 839-846.

Review of John Gray’s *Black Mass: Apocalyptic Religion and the Death of Utopia*, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 37, no. 2 (2008), 522-524.

WORKING PAPERS

“Absolving God’s Laws: Thomas Hobbes’s Scriptural Strategies” (revise and resubmit)

“Christian Burlesque? Thomas Hobbes’s Scriptural Strategies” (with Jackie Basu) (draft)

“Machiavelli and Democracy” (in progress), for inclusion in *Cambridge History of Democracy*

“Treason in Seventeenth-Century Political Thought” (in progress)

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Presenter

“Christian Burlesque? Thomas Hobbes’s Scriptural Strategies” (with Jackie Basu)

- Conference in celebration of Quentin Skinner’s “Meaning and Understanding” after 50 years, British Academy (online), July 2021
- Political Theory Workshop, MIT, March 2021
- Association for Political Theory Conference, Irvine, CA, October 2019
- American Political Science Association Conference, Washington, DC, August/September 2019

“The Wages of Fear and the Possibility of Hope: How Should We Feel When We Talk About Climate Change?”

- Department of Political Economy Workshop, King's College London, November 2019
- Western Political Science Association Conference, San Diego, CA, April 2019
- Safra Center Anniversary Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 2017 (invited)
- SSRC Anxieties of Democracy program, Working Group on Climate Change Workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, November 2016 (invited)

“Absolving God’s Laws: Thomas Hobbes’s Scriptural Strategies”

- Political Theory Workshop, Duke University, February 2021
- Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, February 2020
- Political Theory Workshop, UC-Berkeley, December 2019
- Political Theory Workshop, Georgetown University, November 2019
- Department of Political Science, Notre Dame University, September 2019
- University of California—Irvine, January 2019
- Western Political Science Association Conference, Vancouver, BC, March 2017
- Political Theory Workshop, UCSD, February 2017 (invited)
- American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016
- Princeton Graduate Political Theory Conference (keynote, invited), April 2016

“Politics in Apocalyptic Times: The Case of Machiavelli,” Keynote Address, How Will it End? Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the End of the World, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, November 2018

“‘A Rhapsody of Heresies’: The Scriptural Politics of Hobbes’s *De Cive*”

- Political Theory Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, September 2018
- American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, September 2018
- European Hobbes Society Conference, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, May 2018

Political Realism in Apocalyptic Times, Author-Meets-Critics Roundtable, American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, August 2018

“Mirrors for Princes and Sultans: A Case of Computational Methods in the History of Political Thought,” Political Theory in/as/and Political Science, McGill University, May 2018

“Thomas Hobbes: ‘At the Edge of Promises and Prophecies’”

- The Early Modern Mind Workshop, Oxford University, Oxford, May 2018
- Wars of Religion: Past and Present Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 2015 (invited)
- Harvard Political Theory Colloquium/Program on Constitutional Government, Cambridge, MA, February 2015 (invited)
- Political Theory Workshop, Columbia University, New York City, NY, December 2014

“Mosaic Leviathan: Religion and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes”

- Western Political Science Association Conference, San Diego, CA, March 2016
- Political, Legal, and Moral Theory Workshop, UC-Berkeley, September 2015
- American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, September 2015
- LSR Seminar, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 2015

“Hans Morgenthau and Nuclear Catastrophe”

- Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, April 2015 (invited)
- Climate Futures Initiative, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, February 2015 (invited)
- Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, May 2014 (invited)
- Permanent Catastrophe Workshop, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, April 2014 (invited)

Presenter/participant, “Rethinking Sovereignty,” Kandersteg Seminar, Remarque Institute (New York University), Kandersteg, Switzerland, March 2015 (invited)

“Machiavelli’s Savonarolan Moment”

- University of Calgary, Calgary, September 2018 (invited)
- University of California—Davis, Davis, CA, April 2014 (invited)

“Political Realism and Moral Corruption”

- Political Philosophy Colloquium, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 2014 (invited)
- Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, April 2014
- Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, September 2013 (invited)
- Classical Realism Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, May 2013 (invited)
- Political Philosophy Workshop, Brown University, Providence, RI, March 2013 (invited)

“Mirrors for Princes and Sultans” (with Lisa Blaydes and Justin Grimmer)

- Political Methodology Society, Athens, GA, July 2014
- American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 2013

“Hans Morgenthau and the Postwar Apocalyptic Imaginary”

- Central European University Summer Lecture Series on Realism and Religion, Budapest, July 2013 (invited)
- Department of Political Science Workshop, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, March 2013 (invited)
- Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 2012

“Figures of Sovereignty: Thomas Hobbes’ Biblical Typology,” Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

“Thomas Hobbes and Seventeenth-Century Philosemitism,” Association for Political Theory, Columbia, SC, October 2012

“Feigning the World to be Annihilated: Thomas Hobbes and the Apocalyptic Imaginary”

- Political Theory Workshop, Stanford University, December 2011
- American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, September 2010
- Canadian Political Science Association, Montreal, QC, June 2010
- Association for Political Theory, College Station, TX, October 2009

Speaker, “Roundtable: Realism and Rights,” American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, September 2011

Organizer

Organizer, Author-Meets-Critics Panel for Eileen Hunt’s *Artificial Life After Frankenstein*, American Political Science Association, September 2021.

Workshop co-organizer (with Jonathan Gienapp, David Como), Geballe Research Workshop in the History of Political Thought, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford, CA, 2017-2022.

Workshop co-organizer (with David Plunkett), “Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop,” Stanford University, Stanford, CA, October 2016.

Roundtable co-organizer (with Daniel Levine) and participant, “Why does Morgenthau Matter Now?” International Studies Association, Toronto, ON, March 2014

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Hoffman-Yee Research Grant for “An AI ‘Time Machine’ for Investigating the History of Concepts” (Co-PI), \$1,000,000.

Schuck Faculty Fellowship, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University, 2019-2022

Internal Faculty Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2017-18

Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellow, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2014-15

Brown Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University, 2013

Dean’s Award for Achievement in the First Years of Teaching, Stanford University, 2013

American Political Science Association’s Leo Strauss Award for the best doctoral dissertation in Political Philosophy, 2012

Janice N. and Milton J. Esman Graduate Dissertation Prize, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2012

Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, 2008-2009

TEACHING

Department of Political Science, Stanford University

ETHICSOC 190: Ethics in Society Honors Seminar (2021, 2022)

POLISCI 31N: Political Freedom (2016, 2017)

POLISCI 131L: Modern Political Thought (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

POLISCI 432R: Selections in Modern Political Thought (2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

POLISCI 333M: Research and Methods in Political Theory (2020)

POLISCI 238T/ INTNLREL 136: History of International Relations Thought (2014)

POLISCI 237M: Politics and Evil (2013)

POLISCI 435R/PHIL 372R: Political Realism (2011)

Department of Government, Cornell University

GOVT 100.03: Evil in International Politics (instructor) (2007)

DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department of Political Science, Stanford University

Director of Graduate Studies (2019-2022)

Member, Policies and Programs Committee (2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022)

Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020-21)

Faculty Committee, Stanford Civics Initiative (2019-present)

Chair, Committee on Reform to the Graduate Program (2019)
Member, Senior Political Theory Search Committee (2015-2016)
Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee (2014)
Co-organizer (with Josh Cohen), Political Theory Workshop (2011-2013)
Political Theory Field Convener (2011-2012, 2015-2016, 2018-19)

McCoy Center for Ethics in Society

Faculty Director, Undergraduate Program (2020-present)
Faculty advisory board (2014-present)

Program in Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford University

Faculty committee (2012-2019)

Anonymous Journal Review

American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Political Theory, American Political Thought, European Journal of Political Theory, History of European Ideas, International Studies Quarterly, International Theory, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Politics, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Polity, Political Ideology, Republic of Letters, Review of International Studies

Manuscript and Proposal Review

Harvard University Press, University of Chicago Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press

Manuscript and Proposal Workshops

Book Manuscript Workshop for Wendy Salkin's, *Not Just Speaking for Ourselves* at Stanford University (December, 2021)

Book Manuscript Workshop for Amy Gais's *Bound By Belief: Rethinking Liberty of Conscience in Early Modern Political Thought* at Washington University in St. Louis (October, 2019)

Book Manuscript Workshop for Brianna McGinnins's *Exile in America: Political Expulsion and the Limits of Liberal Government* at the Association for Political Theory Conference at UC-Irvine (October 2019)

Book Proposal Workshop for Kye Barker's *Of Wonder: Theorizing the Power of Wonder in Modernity* at the Association for Political Theory Conference on Zoom (November 2020)

REFERENCES

References available upon request.