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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University

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

CURRENT BOOK PROJECTS

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

This book traces the responses of three canonical political realists—Niccolò Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, and Hans Morgenthau—to eruptions of apocalyptic rhetoric, imagery, and politics. I treat apocalypticism as a very particular kind of utopianism that is premised on a belief in the imminent end of the known world and the arrival of a radically new future. Contemporary realists tend to position their pragmatic approaches to politics against “utopian” alternatives, which they reject for being at best unrealizable and at worst profoundly dangerous. However, in tracing the historical engagement between political realism and apocalypticism, I find a more complex and troubled relationship. Through an historical and textual analysis of the work of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Morgenthau, I argue that these thinkers’ responses to apocalypticism take one of two forms. The first is *rejection*—a principled and considered turn away from apocalypticism and toward a tragic worldview that emphasizes the ease with which virtuous actions can produce terrible consequences, insists on the limits to effective political action, and warns of the impossibility of final and enduring political settlements. This is the approach taken by Machiavelli in his later work and Morgenthau in

his earlier work. The second response is *redirection*—an attempt to draw on the rhetorical, visual, and imaginative resources of apocalypticism to combat its enthusiastic excesses. This approach fights apocalypse *with apocalypse*. This is the tack taken by Hobbes in order to make his case for the Leviathan state and by Morgenthau in his later writings on nuclear weapons. Taken together, Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Morgenthau's responses to hopes and fears about the end of the world offer us a series of meditations on how best to respond to ongoing and prospective catastrophes.

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

My second book will explain changes in Thomas Hobbes's (1588-1679) strategies of religious argument across his major political works. While there is a growing literature on the importance of Hobbes's religious arguments to his political project, there has been virtually no work on *how* his persuasive strategy changes over time. My book will show that Hobbes changes his strategy in three major ways—with an increasing focus on Scripture, with a turn toward the Old Testament, and with the embrace of a multi-layered religious argument—directly in response to patterns of popular religious and political discourse in England. Hobbes was not merely an armchair philosopher engaged in abstract debates with scholars. He was a polemicist who wanted to make religious faith safe for political order and civil peace. To make this case, the book will use a methodology that is new to this area of political theory. I will use the tools of automated text analysis (e.g. topic modelling and meme tracking) to identify shifts in religious discourse in the pamphlet literature of seventeenth-century England.

PUBLISHED OR FORTHCOMING PAPERS

"Mirrors for Princes and Sultans" (with Lisa Blaydes and Justin Grimmer), *Journal of Politics* (forthcoming).

"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, forthcoming in 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

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, forthcoming in 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.

- An extended version of this essay will appear in Thom Brooks (ed.), *Political Emotions: Towards a Decent Public Sphere* (Palgrave MacMillan, under contract).

“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

“The Wages of Fear and the Possibility of Hope: How Should We Feel When We Talk About Climate Change” (for inclusion in *Philosophy and Climate Change*, eds. Mark Budolfson, Tristram McPherson, and David Plunkett, under contract with Oxford University Press).

“On the Citizen’s scriptural arguments” (for inclusion in *On the Citizen: A Critical Guide*, eds. Robin Douglass and Johann Olsthoorn, under contract with Cambridge University Press).

“Absolving God’s Laws: Thomas Hobbes’s Scriptural Strategies” (under review).

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Presenter

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

- 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”

- 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

“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

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

- 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

“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 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

Workshop co-organizer (with Jonathan Gienapp), Geballe Research Workshop in the History of Political Thought, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford, CA, 2017-2018.

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

Discussant

Discussant, “Realism and Realpolitik: Limits and Possibilities,” Western Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, September 2017.

Discussant, “Apocalyptic Influences in Contemporary Politics,” American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016.

Discussant, “Morgenthau in America,” International Studies Association, Toronto, ON, March 2014

Discussant, “Society Through Contemporary Lens,” American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 2013

Discussant for Martha Nussbaum’s “Tragic and Comic Festivals,” Political Theory Workshop, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, February 2012

Discussant, “Judgment and (In)Security,” American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, September 2011

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

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

Mellon Fellowship, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2010-2011

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

LaFeber Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2008

Summer Language Training Grant, Cornell University School of Graduate Studies, 2008

Travel Grant, Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University, 2008

Sage Fellowship, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2005-2006

TEACHING

Department of Political Science, Stanford University

POLISCI 31N: Political Freedom (2016, 2017)

POLISCI 131L: Modern Political Thought (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017)

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

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

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 Convenor (2011-2012, 2015-2016)

McCoy Center for Ethics in Society

Faculty advisory board (2014-present)

Program in Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford University

Faculty committee (2012-present)

Department of Government, Cornell University

Organizer, Political Theory Workshop (2010-2011)

Anonymous Journal Review

American Political Science Review, American Political Thought, European Journal of Political Theory, 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

Manuscript and Proposal Review

Harvard University Press, Chicago University Press

REFERENCES

References available upon request.