

# THOMAS ROBINSON BA (OXON)

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## EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OCTOBER 2016 – PRESENT

### **MPhil in Politics: Comparative Government**

*Research focus: cooperation across institutional boundaries within US state policymaking*

Papers (first year): Comparative Government, Applied Statistics for Political Scientists, Intermediate Social Statistics, Research Design, Experimental Research, [auditing: Formal Analysis].

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OCTOBER 2013 – JUNE 2016

### **BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

First in Preliminary Examinations; 2:1 Final Classification.

Thesis: '*Marijuana legalisation at the ballot box: iteration and interactivity in the ballot initiative process*'.  
Awarded 76 at Finals.

Papers: Comparative Government, Government and Politics of the United States, Sub-Saharan African Politics, British Politics since 1900, Ethics, Knowledge and Reality, Philosophical Logic.

THE COLLEGE OF RICHARD COLLYER

SEPTEMBER 2010 – JUNE 2012

**A levels:** Maths, History, Politics, Philosophy, Extended Project Qualification - A\*.

**AS level:** Physics – A.

WARDEN PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2005 – AUGUST 2010

**GCSEs:** 10 A\*s, 3As, Free Standing Mathematics Qualification A.

**AS level:** Music – A.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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CANNABIS COALITIONS: COOPERATION ACROSS INSTITUTIONAL BORDERS

American Politics Group Annual Conference, January 2017, Leicester.

*Awarded the Richard E. Neustadt prize for the best paper in the field of US government and politics presented by a postgraduate student.*

MARIJUANA LEGALISATION AT THE BALLOT BOX: ITERATION AND INTERACTIVITY IN THE BALLOT INITIATIVE PROCESS

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2016, Chicago [presented as poster].

## EMPLOYMENT

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CENTRE FOR EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCES (CESS)

DECEMBER 2016 - CURRENT

Working as a research assistant, primarily sorting data replication files and producing LaTeX presentations.

MYBNK (DANSON INTERNSHIP)

JUNE-JULY 2015

Helped to develop new financial education activities based around sport, alongside automating aspects of the quality-monitoring process. I also assisted the co-CEO in winning teaching contracts and helped deliver sessions to students.

I worked for the Financial Services Research Group assisting in the analysis and ratings of banks, insurance companies and ILS bonds. I specialised in building interactive simulation models and algorithms that stress-tested organisations' credit ratings. These models were used globally and have been turned into publically-released apps.

I also created a research-tracking database that was implemented across FI, Corporate, Sovereign, IPF, Structured Finance and the Macroeconomics teams. I was then part of the team that turned this mechanism into an official IT application.

I worked closely with managing directors and senior employees as well as analysts based in India who were part of S&P's sister company: CRISIL. In 2014 I was particularly involved in the rating of North African and Nigerian banks and insurance companies.

## AWARDS

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*The Richard E Neustadt Essay Prize* (2017) – for the best postgraduate paper presented at the annual APG conference.

*St Anne's College Undergraduate Travel Award* (2016) – to fund MPSA conference attendance in Chicago.

*Rothermere American Institute Travel Award* (2015) – to conduct fieldwork research in Oregon.

*Scholarship of the University of Oxford* (awarded in 2014 and renewed 2015) – for results in Preliminary Examinations.

*Danson Foundation Mentoring Programme* (2015) – four week paid internship and mentoring.

## EXPERIENCE

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DEPUTY EDITOR, CHERWELL NEWSPAPER

MARCH 2015 – JUNE 2015

(Comment Editor December 2014 – March 2015; Deputy Comment Editor June 2014 – December 2014)

My role included copyediting articles and setting the overall layout of the paper, coordinating with section editors, and ensuring the quality of the paper. I conducted interviews with high-profile figures including violinist Nicola Benedetti, historian Sir Richard Evans and chief executive of the London Stock Exchange Xavier Rolet. My writing received upwards of 100 000 hits online.

STUDENT COORDINATOR, READING PLUS

OCTOBER 2013 – 2014

As student coordinator for the Reading Plus Secondary scheme, I tutored 12-13 year olds who were struggling to read and liaised with school teachers and student volunteers to help keep the scheme running.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### CODING

Proficient in Visual Basic for Applications; working knowledge of Python.

### APPLICATIONS

Competent in STATA, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign.

## INTERESTS

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I am a keen road cyclist, enjoy long distance sportives and hill-climbing and am an avid American sports fan. I also enjoy playing the piano – in particular, jazz standards and the works of Rachmaninov.