

Eastern Michigan University  
Student Center, Third Floor

## "Dissolving Political Dirty Hands Dilemmas"

Saturday, March 19//12:30-1:30 pm

### **Abstract:**

Many people think that political leaders—even those of good will and especially those with good ends in view—must ‘dirty their hands’ in order to successfully navigate the political world. On this view, the politician will often be required to engage in action-types that appear, at least *prima facie*, to be less than moral, or even to be wrong: manipulation, slander, strong-arming, deception and outright lying, and sometimes using violence. I argue that in such cases, the politician need not be acting wrongly. Rather, moral theory can account for some such actions being right, when they occur within nonideal circumstances.

