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CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC HISTORY

Ph.D., Texas A&M University, expected May 2017

Fields: Political Theory, American Politics

Dissertation: *Rousseau against Republicanism: Political Community and Human Order at the Edge of a Discourse*

Committee: Cary J. Nederman (chair), Diego A. von Vacano, Joseph D. Ura, Jennifer R. Mercieca

B.A., Rhodes College, *summa cum laude*, 2007

PUBLICATIONS

"Machiavelli against Method: Feyerabend's Anti-Rationalism and Machiavellian Political 'Science.'" (with Cary J. Nederman) *History of European Ideas* 42, no 3 (2016): 430-445.

WORKING PAPERS

"The Triumph of Wisdom in Rousseau's Reception of Cicero."

"Rousseau's Augustinian Republicanism."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Triumph of Wisdom in Rousseau's Reception of Cicero." Paper presented at the American Political Science Association 2016 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 1-4 September 2016.

"Longing for the Republic: Rousseau's Social Contract in Service of Civic Republicanism." Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association 2016 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 7-10 April 2016.

"Rousseau's Augustinian Republicanism." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association 2015 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 16-19 April 2015.

"The First Convention: Political Community between Natural and Artificial." Presented at the American Political Science Association 2014 Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 28-31 August 2014.

"Empire, Order, and Fortune." Paper presented at Machiavelli Between Past and Future: On the 500th Anniversary of The Prince, Texas A&M University, 8-9 February 2014; the Midwest Political Science Association 2014 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 16-19 April 2014.

"Rousseau against Virtue Republicanism." Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association 2013 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 11-14 April 2013.

"Machiavelli against Method: Feyerabend's Anti-Rationalism and Machiavellian Political 'Science.'" (with Cary Nederman). Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association 2012 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 12-15 April 2012.

"The Politics of Science and the Science of Politics: Feyerabend, Pluralism, and Democratic Challenges." Paper presented at the Western Political Science Association 2011 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. 21-23 May 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Sole responsibility for course design, teaching, grading, writing instruction, and student advising.

Modern Political Thought, Texas A&M University: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013.

American National Government, Texas A&M University: Spring 2016, Fall 2014, Spring 2014.

State and Local Government, Texas A&M University: Fall 2016.

Modern Political Thought (writing intensive section), Texas A&M University: Spring 2014.

Teaching Assistant

American National Government, multiple sections, Texas A&M University: Spring 2015.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Theory

History of Political Thought, Classical and Early Political Thought, Modern Political Thought, American Political Thought, Democratic Theory, Religion and Politics, Liberalism, Environmental Political Theory

American Politics

American National Government, Constitutional Law, Judicial Politics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Civic Republicanism, Early Modern Political Thought, History of Political Thought, The Enlightenment, Philosophy of Science, Political Economy and Statecraft

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Fall 2009-Spring 2013, Cary J. Nederman: *co-authorship of scholarly work; copy editing; conference organization.*

Research Assistant, Fall 2009-Spring 2012, Elisabeth H. Ellis: *manuscript editing, copy editing, bibliography compilation, and indexing for Elisabeth Ellis, ed. Kant's Political Theory: Interpretations and Applications (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2012); exploratory research; working group organization and coordination.*

Participant, Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Grant Writing Workshop.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Panel Chair and Conference Assistant, Comparative Democratic Theory Workshop, Texas A&M University, 11-12 October 2013.

Administrative Assistant, Interdisciplinary Program for Social, Cultural and Political Thought, Texas A&M University, Fall 2010-Spring 2012.

Facilities Coordinator, Association for Political Theory 2009 Annual Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 22-24 October 2009.

RESEARCH & TEACHING SKILLS

French

reading (full professional proficiency)

speaking (professional working proficiency)

Certified Researcher, Texas A&M Institutional Review Board, 2011-present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Foundations of Political Theory
Association for Political Theory
Midwest Political Science Association

AWARDS & HONORS

Regents Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2009-2010.
Senior Seidman Award in Political Science, Rhodes College, 2007.
Phi Beta Kappa, Rhodes College, 2006.
Pi Delta Phi, National French Honor Society, Rhodes College, 2006.
First-Year Seidman Award in Political Science, Rhodes College, 2004.

REFERENCES

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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

In my research, I am interested in broad questions of citizenship and the forces sustaining political and social order in a free state, and I approach such questions by examining historical and theoretical accounts of political community. In particular, I examine competing conceptions of republican liberty and civic virtue. In the last few decades, republican thought has come to prominence alongside attempts to revive civic life and ideals of active citizenship in a liberal-democratic polity. Concern for the civic capacity of modern individuals regularly features alongside the opinion that these are not particularly heady days for self-government, and republicanism has been embraced as a tradition that addresses these challenges better than most. Scholarly accounts of republicanism, however, have been less attuned both to the diverse character of republican thought and to its more challenging and even theoretically unstable aspects.

My current work focuses on different lineages of republican thought and the various accounts of political liberty and order articulated therein. In keeping with this focus, my dissertation project examines Jean-Jacques Rousseau's thought through the lens of civic republicanism. I argue that Rousseau's own republicanism not only critiques some of the more problematic features of republican thought but also attempts to offer an account of the republic satisfying the most unsettling objections to such theories of political liberty. Rousseau's relationship to the republican tradition is fairly ambiguous; many scholars instead see a transformative politics or even an account of totalitarian democracy. I focus on how Rousseau engages a diversity of republican lineages by exploring his ideas alongside various accounts of the republic found in early modern political thought: a traditional, classical and Christian idea of the republic, the republican imperialism of Machiavelli, and the then burgeoning idea of the commercial republic. Through their considerations of problems of moral knowledge and true community, human order and power, and the passions as source of human sociability, these comparisons draw out important features of Rousseau's republicanism. Subsequently, I discuss Rousseau's own robust yet judicious account of the goods of human association and the benefits of a common life, and I conclude with an examination of his demand, in the face of all human limitation, that all true republics be constituted according to justice and right. In reclaiming Rousseau's republicanism, this work acknowledges a more circumspect approach to the virtuous society: an account of the republic appreciative of the tenuous nature of political community and attentive to the troubling intimacy of religion and politics, militarism and imperialism, and closeness of money and power that often feature in republican thought.