

Benjamin Laing McKean

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Employment

Ohio State University

Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, August 2013 to present

Affiliated with the Center for Ethics and Human Values, the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the Department of History's thematic Constellation in "Power, Culture, and the State," and the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures

University of Chicago

Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows with appointment as Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences, September 2010-August 2013

Affiliated Faculty, Department of Political Science

Education

Princeton University

MA, Department of Politics, May 2006

PhD, Department of Politics, August 2010

Examination Fields: Political Theory; International Relations; Modern Social Theory

Dissertation Title: Political Dispositions and Global Justice: Understanding the Duties of Individuals in an Unjust World

Committee: Charles Beitz (Politics), Jan-Werner Müller (Politics),
Stephen Macedo (Politics), & Melissa Lane (Politics)

Harvard University

BA, Summa Cum Laude, Social Studies, June 2002

Primary Teaching and Research Interests

Global Justice

Liberalism & its Critics

Race and Politics

Critical Theory

Human Rights

Populism

Research Projects and Publications

Books

Resisting Neoliberalism's Chains: Solidarity at the Outer Limit of Freedom

(forthcoming in 2020 from Oxford University Press)

Political Freedom and Resentment

This research project expands the dispositional approach to analyze the sources, effects, and possible responses to populist resentment of perceived elites in democracies. While several parts of this project have been drafted, completion is not anticipated until after the publication of *Resisting Neoliberalism's Chains*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Ideal Theory After Auschwitz? The Practical Uses and Ideological Abuses of Utopia in Rawls and Adorno”
Journal of Politics Vol. 79, No 4 (October 2017)

“Toward an Inclusive Populism? On the Role of Race and Difference in Laclau’s Politics”
Political Theory Vol. 44, No. 6 (December 2016): 797-820

“What Makes a Utopia Inconvenient? The Advantages & Disadvantages of a Realist Orientation to Politics”
American Political Science Review Vol. 110, No. 4 (November 2016)

“Kant, Coercion, and the Legitimation of Inequality”
Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy (forthcoming)
published OnlineFirst August 24, 2019. doi:10.1080/13698230.2019.1658481

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Populism, Pluralism, and the Ordinary”
in *Mapping Populism: A Guide to Understanding and Studying Populism* Eds. Amit Ron and Majja Nadesan (forthcoming in 2020 from Routledge)

Works Undergoing Peer Review

“Populism and Global Justice: A Sibling Rivalry?”

Works in Preparation

“Ethical Gymnastics and Ethological Training: Kant and Mill on Habit, Self-Cultivation, and Immaturity”

“Visions of a Different Politics: Acknowledgement and Equality in Terrence Malick’s *The New World*”

“Can Civic Friendship Reconcile Equality and Difference?”

“Populism and the Anxiety of Equality”

Teaching & Advising

Ohio State University, Assistant Professor

Political Science 2400H – Honors Introduction to Political Theory (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016)

International Studies 2800 – Introduction to Peace Studies (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)

Political Science 3460 – Global Justice (Fall 2014, Spring 2019)

Political Science 4894H – Honors Seminar in Political Theory: “Politics of Evil” (Fall 2014, Fall 2017)

Political Science 5414 – 20th Century Political Thought (Spring 2017, Spring 2015 with concurrent graduate and undergraduate sections taught as Political Science 4414/6414)

Political Science 7499 – graduate seminar on Global Justice (Fall 2016, Fall 2018)

Ohio State University, Graduate Advising

Political Science 7193.04 – Independent Study in Political Theory (Fall 2014, Summer 2016)

oral examiner, general examination for degree candidacy (Fall 2015, Summer 2016, Fall 2017)

member, dissertation committees of 3 political science graduate students, 1 philosophy graduate student

Ohio State University, Undergraduate Advising

Political Science 4999 – supervised undergraduate thesis research (Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

Sexuality Studies 5191 – supervised field experience internship (Spring 2014)

Member, 3 undergraduate thesis defense committees

Mentor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Post-Baccalaureate Preparation Program Second Year Faculty-Lead Mentoring Program (SFLMP) (Autumn 2017 to present)

University of Chicago, Collegiate Assistant Professor

Social Sciences – SOSC 15100: Classics of Social & Political Thought

two concurrent year-long seminars in the Core Curriculum (Fall 2010-Winter 2013)

Political Science – PLSC 22112: Political Theory After Catastrophe (Spring 2012)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Invited Talks

“Socialism after Populism” conference organized by International Political Science Association’s Research Committee on Political Philosophy, University of California Riverside, November 14-16, 2019

Keynote speaker, “Global Justice and Populism” workshop, organized by *Global Justice: Theory Practice Rhetoric* journal and the Global Justice Network, hosted by the Max Weber Programme, European University Institute, June 3-4, 2019

Washington University of St Louis Workshop on Politics, Economics, and Society (WPES), February 1st, 2019

Raymond C. Baumhart SJ Chair Research Workshop Series, Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University of Chicago, April 9, 2018

University of Michigan Department of Political Science Rubin Speaker Series on "Polarization, Populism, and the Future of Freedom", March 22nd, 2018

“New Direction in the Study of Populism” workshop, Arizona State University, March 16th, 2018

George Mason University Politics Philosophy & Economics Speaker Series, April 18th, 2017

UC San Diego Political Theory Workshop, March 28th, 2016

George Washington University Political Theory Workshop, March 11th, 2016

“Multinational Corporations as Political Entities” workshop, Harvard University Labor and Worklife Program, January 16, 2016

Georgetown University Political Theory Workshop, November 5th, 2015

Paper Presentations

“Populism, Pluralism, and the Ordinary”

Midwest Political Science Association, April 5-8, 2018

American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 30-September 2, 2018

Association for Political Theory conference, October 18-20, 2018

“Kant and Neoliberal Legitimizations of the State”

Association for Political Theory conference, October 12-14 2017

American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 31-September 3 2017

“When is an Injury to One an Injury to All?”

Dartmouth College Moral, Social, and Political Philosophy Workshop July 27-28, 2016

“Violence and Legitimacy in the Global Economy”

Western Political Science Association annual meeting March 24-26 2016

American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 1-4 2016

“Democratizing Global Supply Chains”

Western Political Science Association annual meeting April 2-4 2015

American Political Science Association annual meeting September 2-6 2015

Association for Political Theory Annual Conference October 22-24, 2015

“The Outer Limit of Freedom”

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting April 3-5, 2014

“The Economy of Populist Resentment”

- Association for Political Theory Annual Conference October 16-18, 2014
 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 28-30, 2013
 "Disposing Individuals to Solidarity in the Theory and Practice of Global Justice"
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting August 29 - September 1, 2013
 Association for Political Theory Annual Conference October 10-12, 2013
 "Political Theory After Auschwitz? The Practical Uses and Ideological Abuses of Utopian Thought"
 workshop on "The Political Uses of Utopia" York University April 18-19, 2013
 "Ethical Gymnastics and Ethological Training: Kant and Mill on Habit, Self-Cultivation, and Immaturity"
 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 22-24, 2012
 Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, October 11-13, 2012
 "Who Needs Rights? Justice and the Precariousness of Social Order in the Political Realism of Raymond
 Geuss and Bernard Williams"
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting September 1-4, 2011
 "Political Freedom and Resentment: Equality, Difference, and Civic Friendship in Aristotle"
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting September 2-5, 2010
 "Hegel and Du Bois on Identity, Institutions, and the Global Economy"
 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 1-3, 2010
 New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 22-24, 2010
 "Close Encounters? Power and Recognition in Terrence Malick's *The New World*"
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting September 3-6, 2009
 "The Holocaust and the Politics of Reconciliation: Rawls and Adorno on Historical Trauma and the Methods
 of Theory"
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting August 28-31, 2008
 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting March 19-21, 2009
 "Global Justice & the Perils of the Social Contract Tradition"
 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference April 3-6, 2008
 New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting April 25-6, 2008
 Global Studies Association National Conference June 6-8, 2008

Other Conference Roles

- Respondent for Author Meets Critics Roundtable on "Injustice: Political Theory for the Real World" by
 Michael Goodhart, Western Political Science Association, April 18-20, 2018
 Discussant, "Populism and Authoritarianism" panel, Western Political Science Association, April 18-20, 2018
 Discussant, "The Politics of Visibility" panel, Association for Political Theory conference, October 18-20, 2018
 Discussant, "Language and Politics" panel, American Political Science Association annual meeting, August
 30-September 2, 2018
 Discussant, "Ideal Theory and Its Critics," Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting April 5-8,
 2018
 Discussant, "Populisms: Local and Global" Association for Political Theory conference, October 12-14 2017
 Discussant, "Corporations and Capitalism: Historical and Legal Perspectives" and Chair, "New Directions in
 Human Rights" American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 31-September 3
 2017
 Discussant, "Labor and Commerce" and Chair, "Human Rights and Foreign Policy" American Political
 Science Association annual meeting, September 1-4 2016
 Discussant and Chair, "Inclusions and Exclusions in Social Justice Movements" Western Political Science
 Association annual meeting March 24-26 2016

Discussant and Chair, "Democracy and the 'White Problem'" American Political Science Association Annual meeting September 2-6 2015
Discussant and Chair, "Resistance and Rebellion" Western Political Science Association Annual meeting April 2-4 2015
Chair, "Political Utopia: Promise or Peril?" Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy at Bowling Green State University, April 25-26, 2014
Chair, "Democratic Citizenship and the Duty to Participate" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting August 29-September 1, 2013
Discussant, "Freedom and Republicanism in Modern Political Thought," Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 28-30, 2013
Discussant, "Schmitt, Althusser, and the Limits of the Political," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting September 2-5, 2010
Discussant and Chair, "Achieving Justice" Session, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting March 19-21, 2009
Discussant, "Dilemmas in Establishing Collective Responsibility" session, Oxford/Princeton Research Collaboration on Global Norms and Global Justice, October 30-31, 2008
Discussant, "Rationalism and Relativism" panel, Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 11-12, 2008; also served as conference co-organizer
Discussant and Chair, "New Perspectives on International Politics" Session, Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, April 3-6, 2008

Professional Activity

Service to the Discipline

Section chair, Contemporary Political Theory, Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting 2019
Member, Siting and Engagement Committee, American Political Science Association, 2015-2018
Host Committee, Association for Political Theory annual meeting, 2016

University and Department Service

Member, Diversity Committee, OSU Political Science Department (2019-present)
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, OSU Political Science Department (2019-present)
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Political Science Department, Ohio State University, 2013-present
Co-organizer, "Populism and Race in the Age of Trump" workshop, sponsored by Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability, November 9-10, 2018
Co-coordinator, "Migration and Global Justice" speaker series, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 2014-2016
Co-coordinator, Political Theory Workshop, Ohio State University, 2013-2018
Member, Selection Committee, William Jennings Bryan Prize for best paper in American politics or political theory by undergraduate, 2014-2018
Member, Selection Committee, Henry R. Spencer Award for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis in Political Science, 2019
Judge, Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, 2015, 2016, 2018
Elected Collegiate Faculty Co-Chair of the University of Chicago Society of Fellows, 2011-2012

For a General Audience

Featured Guest, Flyover Folk Podcast, "Understanding Populism with Dr. Benjamin McKean" July 10, 2019 (episode 20); <https://www.buzzdsprout.com/94324/1395880>

Speaker, "The Rise of Populism in Europe," Great Decisions Discussion Program sponsored by Ohio Wesleyan University, March 29, 2019

Interviewed on NPR's Marketplace for "How socialism became the talk of the midterms" segment; September 11, 2018 <https://www.marketplace.org/2018/09/11/why-socialism-became-talk-midterms/>

Guest on "Cultural Insight for the Soul" with host Dr. Linda James Myers, WVKO 1580AM Columbus, Ohio; December 16th 2017

"'Blood Money' and Mass Membership" on understanding the NRA as a social movement in *Jacobin Magazine* February 20th, 2018 <https://jacobinmag.com/2018/02/national-rifle-association-members-florida-school-shooting>

"A Venezuela of the North?" in the blog of *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas* October 19th, 2017; <https://democracyjournal.org/arguments/a-venezuela-of-the-west/>

"Is It Possible to Have Populism Without Racism?" *The Monkey Cage* blog, May 18th, 2016; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/18/is-it-possible-to-have-populism-without-racism/>

Manuscript Reviewer Service

Harvard University Press
Edinburgh University Press
American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Constellations
Contemporary Political Theory
Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy
European Journal of Political Theory
International Theory
Journal of Applied Philosophy
Journal of Global Ethics
Journal of Politics
Perspectives on Politics
Political Research Quarterly
Political Studies
Political Theory
Polity
Populism
Radical Philosophy Review
Review of Politics
Social Theory and Practice
Theoria

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
Association for Political Theory
Midwest Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association

Community and Public Service

Member, Governing Board, Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), 2008-2010

The WRC is a non-profit monitoring group that investigates wages and working conditions in the factories that produce collegiate apparel around the world.

Fellowships, Honors, and Grants

Seed Grant for manuscript workshop from OSU Democracy Studies Program, 2016-2017

At the workshop, held March 6 2017, attendees read and discussed a complete draft of *Disposed to Justice*. Participants from outside OSU included Joshua Cohen (UC Berkeley), Sharon Krause (Brown University,) and Stephen K. White (University of Virginia).

Faculty Workshop/Conference Grant from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 2014-16, 2018

Other Languages

Spanish (proficient reading and speaking); German (proficient reading, competent speaking)