

# ZACHARIAH BLACK

University of Toronto  
zak.black@mail.utoronto.ca

## EDUCATION

---

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, Ph.D., Political Science (in progress)

Dissertation: *Minding the Mundane: Rabelais, Montaigne, and Hobbes on the Ordinariness of Politics*

Committee: Ronald Beiner (supervisor), Ryan Balot, and Teresa Bejan (Oxford)

*Exam fields:* Political Theory; Canadian Politics

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, M.A., Political Science, 2013

CARLETON UNIVERSITY, B.A., Humanities (Minor in English Literature), 2012

Awarded the Senate Medal for Academic Excellence

## PUBLICATIONS

---

1. "Laughing with the Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes on Laughter in Theory and Practice," *Political Theory*. Forthcoming.
2. "Jesting with Giants: Rabelais's Education for Kings," *Political Science Reviewer*. Forthcoming.

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

1. "Wheat or Tare? Roger Williams in the History of Political Thought," *Review of Politics* 80, no. 3 (2018): 517-20.  
—Review of Teresa M. Bejan, *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Toleration*.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

1. "Seeing Like a Leviathan: Legibility in Hobbes's Theory of the State," Revise and resubmit.
2. "Montaigne, Party of One: The Critique of Partisanship in the *Essais*"
3. "Republicanism's Rival: Monarchical Humanism in Early Modern France and England"

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

---

1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Research Award (\$105,000 CAD), 2015-18

2. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000), 2019-20
3. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000), 2018-19
4. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Foreign Study Supplement (\$6,000), 2017-18, award to study at Paris-Sorbonne IV under the supervision of Céline Spector
5. University of Toronto Doctoral Scholarship (\$15,000), 2014-15
6. Senate Medal for Academic Excellence, Carleton University, 2012
7. Wilgar Memorial Award for Essay Writing, Carleton University, 2012

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### **COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

"Introduction to Political Theory," Fall 2020, University of Toronto - Mississauga  
 "Introduction to Political Theory," Summer 2018, University of Toronto

### **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Lead Writing T.A. for the Department of Political Science, 2016-17 & 2018-19, University of Toronto

"Introduction to Political Theory," 2020-21, University of Toronto  
 "Introduction to Political Theory," 2019-20, University of Toronto - Mississauga  
 "Introduction to Political Theory," 2019, University of Toronto - Scarborough  
 "Introduction to Political Science," 2018-19, University of Toronto  
 "Emotions in Political Theory," Fall 2017, University of Toronto (Grading)  
 "Modern Political Thought," 2016-17, University of Toronto  
 "Introduction to Political Theory," 2015-16, University of Toronto (Head Teaching Assistant)  
 "Introduction to Political Theory," 2014-15, University of Toronto  
 "Classical Mythology," 2011-12, Carleton University

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

"Republicanism's Rival: Monarchical Humanism in Early Modern France and England"  
 • Association for Political Theory, Annual Meeting (November 2020)  
 "Laughing with the Leviathan: Thomas Hobbes on the Political Potential of Laughter"  
 • Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory (February 2020)  
 "Jesting with Giants: Rabelais on the Political Uses of Laughter"  
 • American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (September 2019)  
 "Montaigne, Party of One: The Critique of Partisanship in the *Essais*"  
 • Canadian Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (June 2019)  
 • Northeastern Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (November 2018)  
 — nominated for the McWilliams Best Graduate Student Paper in Theory Prize  
 "Free from Scorn? Hobbes's Paradoxical Use of Laughter"

- American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (September 2018)
- "Mundane Monsters: The Politics of Ordinary Life in Rabelais' *Gargantua et Pantagruel*"
- Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (November 2018)
  - Canadian Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (June 2018)
- "Read Thyself": Legibility and Legitimacy in Hobbes's *Leviathan*"
- American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (September 2017)
  - Midwestern Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (May 2017)
- "Unbinding Prometheus: Thomas Hobbes's Interpretation of Christianity"
- International Society for Intellectual History, Annual Meeting (May 2016)
- "As a Bird in Lime Twigs: Hobbes and the Sovereign Right of Interpretation"
- London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought (June 2015)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

### JOURNALS

Referee for *Review of Politics*, *Hobbes Studies*

### CONFERENCES

Panel Organizer, "Literary Form in the Political Thought of Hobbes," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2018.

- Panel included Arlene Saxonhouse, Teresa Bejan, Alison McQueen, Emma Planinc, and Rebecca Ploof.

Discussant, *European Hobbes Society's* "Hobbes After Leviathan" conference, Padova, Italy, February 15-16, 2018

Panel Co-Organizer, "Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Teresa Bejan's *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Toleration*," Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, June 2017.

- Roundtable included Simone Chambers, Paul Downes, Jacob Levy, Melissa Williams.

Conference Co-Organizer, "Imagining 150: The Ethics of Canada's Sesquicentennial," Centre for Ethics (University of Toronto) Annual Graduate Conference, May 2017

- with funding from the Centre for Ethics, the Department of Political Science, and the University of Toronto's Canada 150 grant

### UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Co-Organizer, Political Theory Research Workshop, University of Toronto, 2017-18 & 2018-19

Graduate Representative, Contemporary Political Theory Hiring Committee, Fall 2016

Graduate Associate Coordinator, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, 2016-17

### MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

Canadian Political Science Association

European Hobbes Society

### LANGUAGES

---

English (fluent); French (fluent); Spanish (basic reading)

## REFERENCES

---

**Ronald Beiner (Supervisor)**

Professor of Political Science  
University of Toronto  
rbeiner@chass.utoronto.ca

**Ryan Balot**

Professor of Political Science  
University of Toronto  
ryan.balot@utoronto.ca

**Teresa M. Bejan**

Associate Professor of Political Theory  
University of Oxford  
teresa.bejan@politics.ox.ac.uk