

JONNY THAKKAR

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

History of Social and Political Thought; Normative Political Philosophy; Social Theory

EMPLOYMENT

Swarthmore College	Assistant Professor, 2017-
University of British Columbia	Assistant Professor (without review), 2016-2017
Princeton University	Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, 2013-2016

EDUCATION

University of Chicago	Ph.D. Committee on Social Thought, 2013 Title: <i>Can There Be Philosopher-Kings in a Liberal Polity?</i> Supervisors: J. Lear, D. Allen, R. Pippin and D. Brudney
Oxford University	B.A. (Hons., First Class), Philosophy, Politics & Economics, 2004

BOOKS

- *Plato as Critical Theorist*, Harvard University Press (Spring 2018)

ARTICLES

- “Moneymakers and Craftsmen: Plato on Privatization”, *European Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 23, Issue 4, 2016

CHAPTERS

- “Plato and Marx on Moneymaking” in *Greek Philosophy and Moral and Political Issues*, ed. Maria Adam & Maria Veneti (Ionia Publications, Athens 2015)

REVIEWS

- C. D. C. Reeve, *Blindness and Reorientation: Problems in Plato’s Republic*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 23 Supp. S1

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Neo-Socialism: A Sketch”
- “Hegel and Plato on Ideal Theory”

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- “The Ugly Truth” in Aeon Magazine, February 12th, 2014
 - Interview with *The Times* (London), February 22nd, 2014

In 2009 I co-founded a twice-yearly journal, The Point, which aims to question received ideas regarding contemporary life and culture. Contributors have included Christine Korsgaard, Martha Nussbaum, Raymond Geuss, Robert Pippin, Slavoj Žižek and Erik Olin Wright. I continue to co-edit the journal, and thus far I have written nine essays.

- “To Fellow Travellers”, Issue 10, 2015
- “Mobilizing Mutual Learning”, Issue 8, 2014
- “No Such Thing?”, Issue 7, 2013
- “Socialism We Can Believe In”, Issue 6, 2012
- “Hail Mary Time?”, Issue 4, 2011
 - “Notable Essay” in *Best American Essays 2012*
 - “Special Mention” in *Pushcart Prize 2013*
 - Portuguese translation in *Forma da Vida*, 2, 2013
- “Why Conservatives Should Read Marx”, Issue 3, 2010
 - Interview with ABC Radio (Australia), September 2010
- “What Is Popular Philosophy?”, Issue 2, 2010
- “The Withering of Narcissus”, Issue 1, 2009
- “Obama: Philosopher-King?”, Issue 1, 2009

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship for Research in Greece, Princeton University, 2014 & 2015
- Cone-Haarlow-Cotsen Fellowship, Society of Fellows, Princeton University, 2013-2016
- Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2007-2010 (Division-wide competition)
- Distinction in Qualifying Exams, 2007
- Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2004-2007

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- Co-organizer of Franco-American Conference on Wars of Religion, Princeton, 2015

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Socialism and Joint Action”

- PPE Society, March 2018
- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, January 2017
- Moral, Social, and Political Philosophy Workshop, Dartmouth College, July 2016
- Association for Political Theory, Boulder, October 2015
- Conference on Ethical & Political Intentionality, University of Patras, June 2015

“The Role of Ideals in Society”

- American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2015

“Materialism and Idealism: Plato and Marx versus Hegel”

- International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Lisbon 2014

“Forms as Formal Causes in Plato’s Republic”

- Weissbourd Conference, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, University of Chicago, 2013

“Plato As Critical Theorist: Craftsmanship and Moneymaking in Adam Smith, Karl Marx and Michael Mann”

- Tri-Co Political Theory Workshop, December 2017
- Northwestern University, November 2017
- Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, 2013
- International Association for Greek Philosophy, Athens 2014

TEACHING

At Swarthmore College:

- *Ethics and Economics*, Spring 2018 (upper-level lecture/discussion course)
- *Modern Political Thought*, Fall 2017 & Spring 2018 (upper-level lecture/discussion course)
- *The Future of Work*, Fall 2017 (freshman seminar)

At the University of British Columbia:

- *Introduction to Philosophy*, Spring 2017 (freshman lecture course)
- *Social and Political Philosophy*, Spring 2017 (upper-level lecture course)
- *Power and Oppression*, Fall 2016 (upper-level lecture course)
- *Joint Action and Associative Obligations*, Fall 2016 (upper-level seminar)

At Princeton University:

- *Social Philosophy*, Fall 2015 (upper-level lecture course)
- *Ideal Theory in Plato, Marx and Rawls*, Spring 2015 (upper-level seminar)
- *Approaches to Western Culture from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, Fall 2013 & Fall 2014 (team-taught freshman course; lectures on Homer, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Genesis & Exodus, the New Testament, Anselm & Aquinas)
- *Approaches to Western Culture from the Renaissance to the Modern Period*, Spring 2013 (lectures on Montaigne, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche)

At the University of Chicago:

- *Plato’s Republic*, Fall 2012 (upper-level undergraduate seminar)
- *Human Being & Citizen*, Fall 2010-Spring 2011 (freshman humanities core, Homer to Nietzsche)
- *Classics of Social and Political Thought*, Fall 2008 (social sciences core, Plato to Machiavelli)

Pedagogical Training at the University of Chicago:

- Workshop on Teaching in the College, September 2008
- Seminar on Course Design, June 2012

Other Teaching Experience:

- *Virtue and Vice*, summer course for the Embark Liberal Arts Institute in Shanghai, 2016
- Teacher of English Literature and Mathematics at Masitise High School, Lesotho, 2001

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Peer Review for Harvard University Press
- Leader of Humanities trips to Greece in Fall Breaks of 2014 and 2015
- Sequence Coordinator for *Humanistic Studies: Approaches to Western Culture*, Princeton University, 2013-2014
- Coordinator of the *Fundamentals: Issues and Texts* major, University of Chicago, 2011-2013
- Editorial and Manuscript Assistance for *The Force of Argument: Essays in Honor of Timothy Smiley*, eds. Jonathan Lear and Alex Oliver, 2009 and *The Persistence of Subjectivity: On The Kantian Aftermath*, Robert Pippin, 2005
- Graduate Recruitment Assistant for the Committee On Social Thought, 2009-2013
- Colloquium Coordinator for the Committee On Social Thought, 2007-2009

REFERENCES

- Jonathan Lear
(dissertation chair) John U. Nef Professor of Social Thought & Philosophy
University of Chicago
773 702 8407
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- Danielle Allen Director, Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics
Harvard University
617 495 1336
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- Daniel Brudney Professor of Philosophy, University of Chicago
773 702 7546
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- Mark Johnston Henry Putnam University Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University
609 258 4298
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- Melissa Lane Class of 1943 Professor of Politics, and Associate Chair, Department of
Politics, Princeton University
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- Alexander Nehamas Edmund N. Carpenter II Class of 1943 Professor in the Humanities,
Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Literature, Princeton University
609 258 4309
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- Phillip Pettit L.S. Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values,
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609 258 4759
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- Robert Pippin Evelyn Stefansson Nef Professor of Social Thought & Philosophy,
University of Chicago
773 702 5453
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- Michael Wachtel
(teaching reference) Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature, Princeton University
609 258 0114
wachtel@princeton.edu