

# JONNY THAKKAR

Swarthmore College  
500 College Ave  
Swarthmore, PA 19081-1397

jthakka1@swarthmore.edu  
www.jonnythakkar.com  
+1 610 690 6813

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social and Political Philosophy; Ancient Philosophy; History of Social and Political Thought

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## 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

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## 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
	M.A. Committee On Social Thought, 2007
Oxford University	B.A. Philosophy, Politics & Economics, 2004 (First Class)

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## BOOKS

- *Plato as Critical Theorist*, Harvard University Press, 2018
  - Reviewed in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Political Theory*, *Review of Metaphysics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *The Caravan* (India), *Information* (Denmark)
  - Author-Meets-Critics Session at the Philosophy, Politics and Economics conference in New Orleans, 2019
  - Presentations at Johns Hopkins University, April 2019; Princeton University, December 2019; University of Pennsylvania, September 2019; Hunter College, April 2019; Dusquesne University, March 2019

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## ARTICLES

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

## CHAPTERS

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- “Public and Private Ownership in Plato and Aristotle” in *The Cambridge Handbook on Privatization* (forthcoming)
- “Plato and Marx on Moneymaking” in *Greek Philosophy and Moral and Political Issues*, ed. Maria Adam & Maria Veneti (Ionia Publications, Athens 2015)

## REVIEWS

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- Jill Frank, *Poetic Justice: Rereading Plato’s “Republic”* (*Political Theory*, 2018)
- C. D. C. Reeve, *Blindness and Reorientation: Problems in Plato’s Republic* (*European Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 23 Supp. S1, 2015)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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- “Neo-Socialism: A Sketch”
- “Institutions and Idealism”
- “Marx, Labour and Social Ontology”

## NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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*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 Agnes Callard, Christine Korsgaard, Martha Nussbaum, Raymond Geuss, Robert Pippin, Samuel Scheffler and Erik Olin Wright. I continue to co-edit the journal, and thus far I have written eleven longform essays.*

- “Quiet Time”, Issue 20, 2019
- “On Being an Arsehole”, Issue 16, 2018
  - “Notable Essay” in *Best American Essays 2019*
- “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

*Essays for Other Publications*

- “Putting the Political Back in Politically Correct”, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- “The Ugly Truth”, *Aeon*, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014
  - Follow-up interview with *The Times* (London), February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

### *Book Reviews*

- Sophia Rosenfeld, *Democracy and Truth (Tocqueville 21*, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019)
- Yascha Mounk, *The People vs. Democracy (Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

### **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

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- 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, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago, 2007
- Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2004-2007

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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

### **INVITED AND REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

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#### “Institutions and Idealism”

- MANCEPT Workshop in Political Theory, University of Manchester, September 2019

#### “Marx, Labour and Social Ontology”

- Workshop on the Philosophical Legacy of Marx, Swarthmore College, April 2019

#### “Plato As Critical Theorist”

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

#### “How To Do Things With Plato”

- American Political Science Association, Boston, September 2019

#### “Socialism and Joint Action”

- PPE Society, New Orleans, 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

**COMMENTARIES**

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- Bryan Reece, “Aristotle on Praise, Honor, and Activity”, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, January 2020
- Hamish Russell, “Role Morality for Political Liberals”, American Philosophical Association, Western Meeting, April 2019
- Joseph Heath, “On the Scalability of Cooperative Structures”, Workshop on Market Exchange and Community, Stanford University, September 2018

**TEACHING**

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*At Swarthmore College:*

- *Ancient Political Thought*, Spring 2019 (honours seminar)
- *Capitalism and Socialism*, Fall 2018 and Fall 2019 (upper-level lecture course)
- *Ancient Political Theory*, Fall 2018 and Fall 2019 (upper-level lecture course)
- *Ethics and Economics*, Spring 2018 & Spring 2019 (upper-level discussion course)
- *Modern Political Thought*, Fall 2017 & Spring 2018 (upper-level lecture 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**

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- Peer Review for Harvard University Press, Hackett, *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought*, *European Journal of Philosophy*
- Leader of Humanities trips to Greece, Princeton University, 2014 and 2015
- Coordinator of *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

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- Danielle Allen            Director, Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University  
617 495 1336  
danielleallen@fas.harvard.edu
- Mark Alznauer            Associate Professor of Philosophy, Northwestern University  
m-alznauer@northwestern.edu  
847-491-2559
- Melissa Lane             Class of 1943 Professor of Politics, and Associate Chair, Department of  
Politics, Princeton University  
609 258 4860  
mslane@princeton.edu
- Jonathan Lear            John U. Nef Professor of Social Thought & Philosophy,  
University of Chicago  
773 702 8407  
jlear@uchicago.edu
- Phillip Pettit            L.S. Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values,  
Princeton University  
609 258 4759  
ppettit@princeton.edu