

# JONNY THAKKAR

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

## EMPLOYMENT

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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

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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)

## BOOKS

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- *Plato as Critical Theorist*, Harvard University Press, 2018
  - Reviewed in *Philosophical Review*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *Political Theory*, *Polis*, *Review of Metaphysics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *The Caravan* (India), *Information* (Denmark)
  - Author-Meets-Critics Sessions at the American Political Science Association conference in 2020 and the Philosophy, Politics and Economics conference in New Orleans, 2019
  - Presentations at University of California, Berkeley, October 2020; Johns Hopkins University, April 2020; Colgate University, February 2020; Princeton University, December 2019; University of Pennsylvania, September 2019; Hunter College, April 2019; Duquesne University, March 2019

## ARTICLES

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- “Moneymakers and Craftsmen: A Platonic Approach to 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* (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
- “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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- Paul Ludwig, *Rediscovering Political Friendship: Aristotle's Theory and Modern Identity, Community, and Equality* (Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, 2021)
- Paul Schollmeier, *Rewriting Contemporary Political Philosophy with Plato and Aristotle* (Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought, 2020)
- 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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- “Working for the Common Good”
- “Neo-Socialism: A Sketch”
- “Institutions and Idealism”
- “Truthfulness and Civility”
- “Plato and Class Conflict”

## NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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*In 2009 I co-founded a literary journal, The Point, which aims to question received ideas regarding contemporary life and culture. I continue to co-edit the journal.*

*Edited Anthology*

- *The Opening of the American Mind* (University of Chicago Press, 2020)

*Essays for The Point*

- "Elite Education", Issue 25, 2020
  - Syndicated in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- “On Birthrights”, Issue 22, 2020
- “On Making an Exception for Oneself”, Quarantine Journal, 2020
- “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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- Fowler Hamilton Visiting Research Fellowship, Christ Church College, University of Oxford, 2022
- Swarthmore Second Semester Sabbatical Funding, 2021-2022
- Regional Faculty Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2020-2021
- 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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“Ideals as Myths: Plato, Rawls and the Social Imaginary”

- Force of Myth Conference, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, June 2021

“Plato’s *Republic* for Today”

- Ancient Philosophy Society, April 2021

“Working for the Common Good”

- Wolf Humanities Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, October 2020
- MANCEPT Workshop in Political Theory, University of Manchester, September 2020

“Plato and Class Conflict”

- PPE Society, New Orleans, March 2020

“Truthfulness and Civility”

- James Madison University, February 2020
- Colgate University, February 2020

“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

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**COMMENTARIES**

- 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:*

- *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Spring 2021 (discussion course)
- *Markets and Morality*, J-Term 2021 (discussion course co-taught with Mark Kuperberg)
- *Ancient Political Thought*, Spring 2019 and Spring 2020 (honours seminar)
- *Capitalism and Socialism*, Fall 2018 and Fall 2019 (discussion course)
- *Ancient Political Theory*, Fall 2018, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 (lecture course)
- *Ethics and Economics*, Spring 2018, Spring 2019 and Spring 2020 (discussion course)
- *Modern Political Thought*, Fall 2017, Spring 2018 and Fall 2020 (lecture course)
- *The Future of Work*, Fall 2017 (freshman seminar)

### *At the University of British Columbia:*

- *Introduction to Philosophy*, Spring 2017 (lecture course as part of PPE stream)
- *Social and Political Philosophy*, Spring 2017 (lecture course)
- *Power and Oppression*, Fall 2016 (lecture course)
- *Joint Action and Associative Obligations*, Fall 2016 (seminar)

### *At Princeton University:*

- *Social Philosophy*, Fall 2015 (lecture course)
- *Ideal Theory in Plato, Marx and Rawls*, Spring 2015 (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 (seminar)
- *Human Being & Citizen*, Fall 2010-Spring 2011 (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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- Coordinator of Lunch with Faculty series, Department of Political Science, 2020-
- Swarthmore Committees: Provost's Advisory Group (2020); Aydelotte Foundation (2019-2021); Prizes & Fellowships (2018-2019)
- Peer Review for Harvard University Press; Hackett; Oxford University Press; Palgrave MacMillan; *Political Theory*; *Constellations*; *European Journal of Philosophy*; *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought*
- 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  
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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