

Mary Jo Mac Donald

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Research Fields Early Modern Political Thought, Women in the History of Political Thought
Teaching Fields History of Political Thought, Democratic Theory, Feminist Theory, Black Political Thought

EMPLOYMENT

University of Jyväskylä

Postdoctoral Researcher, Gender in Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy Feb 2024 - Jan 2025

University of Jyväskylä

Postdoctoral Researcher, Extending New Narratives in Philosophy Feb 2025 -

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

PhD, Political Science Toronto, ON
March 2024
Dissertation Title: *The Meaning of Equality*
Committee: Torrey Shanks (chair), Emily Nacol, Andy Sabl

Queen's University

M.A., Philosophy Kingston, ON
2018

McGill University

B.A., Joint Honors with Distinction in Political Science Montreal, QC
& Philosophy, Gold Medal for Philosophy. 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. "Persons of the Sex are True Wonders": Gabrielle Suchon on Difference and Political Wonders" in *Political Theory*, vol 52, issue 3, (2024).
2. "Equality, Modernity, and Inclusion in Judith Drake's *Essay in Defence of the Female Sex*" in *Polity* (Forthcoming).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Papers

1. “Hobbes’ and Cavendish’s Amazons” (Under Review).
2. “Women and Monsters in the Querelle des Femmes” (Invited chapter in *Continuities in the History of Feminist Thought*).

Book Manuscripts

1. *Dangerous Equals*. Manuscript draft completed.
2. *Marriage as Slavery: The Influence of Oroonoko on Early Feminist Thought*. Manuscript in preparation.

REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

1. “Review: Antigone’s Example, Early Modern Women’s Political Writing in Times of Civil War from Christine de Pizan to Helen Maria Williams” in *Politics and Gender*, (July 2023): pp. 1-3.
2. (Co-authored with Torrey Shanks) “Property Rights”, in *Cambridge Dictionary of Political Theory* (forthcoming).
3. “Locke, Property, and the Poor Law,” in *Liberty Matters* (September 2021).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2024	SSHRC Connections Grant for the project “Women in the History of Political Thought” Co-Investigators: Prof. Torrey Shanks and Dr. Geertje Bol (\$25,000)
	Strategic Institutions Partnerships for “Women in the History of Political Thought” Co-Investigators: Prof. Torrey Shanks and Dr. Geertje Bol (10,000€)
2023	Doctoral Completion Award (\$4,500)
	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000) (Declined)
	Strategic Institutions Partnerships for “Women in the History of Political Thought” Co-investigator: Dr. Geertje Bol (2800 €)
2022	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (\$20,000)
	Sansom Scholarship for the History of Ideas (\$10,000)
2021	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)

2020	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
2019	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000)
2018-2023	University of Toronto Fellowship (\$19,500 per year)
2017	Queen's University Senator Frank Carrel Fellowship (\$15,000) McGill Prince of Wales Gold Medal for Philosophy (Top award for a graduating student) Research Group on Constitutional Studies Fellowship (\$500)
2013-2017	McGill's Annette Hill Memorial Scholarship (\$6,000 per year)

PRESENTATIONS

May 2025	"Two Concepts of Slavery in Early English Feminist Thought" Women in History of Political Thought Conference, Ghent Belgium.
Jan 2025	"Civility and Conversation in Judith Drake and Mary Astell" Britain and Ireland Association for Political Theory Conference, York.
Oct 2024	"Aphra Behn's Anti-Republican Abolitionism" Philosophy Seminar, University of Jyväskylä.
Sept 2024	"Hobbes's and Cavendish's Amazons" American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia.
May 2024	"Hobbes's and Cavendish's Amazons" <i>Invited:</i> Institute for the Study of Women in the Nordic Enlightenment, University of Copenhagen.
Mar 2024	"Gender as a Monstrosity in the History of Feminist Thought" Academy of Finland Workshop, University of Jyväskylä.
Feb 2024	"Judith Drake on Empiricism and Equality" Vice, Sin, and Gender in Philosophy Seminar, University of Jyväskylä.
May 2023	"John Locke and Sarah Chapone on the Role of Inheritance in Political Education" <i>Invited:</i> Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, Classical Liberal Institute, New York University.
Dec 2022	"John Locke on the Role of Inheritance in Political Education" Political Theory Reading Workshop, University of Toronto.
Sept 2022	"Women and Wonders in the History of Political Thought" American Political Science Association, Montreal QC.
Jun 2022.	"Negative Equality in Locke, Montaigne, and Gournay" <i>Invited:</i> Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, King's College London.

Apr 2022	“Hobbes and Cavendish on Equality” Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago.
Dec 2020	“Gabrielle Suchon’s Feminism of Fear” Political Theory Reading Workshop, University of Toronto.
Nov 2020	“Gabrielle Suchon’s Feminism of Fear” New Narratives in History of Philosophy, Early Career Researcher Workshop.
Mar 2020	“ <i>Persons of the sex are true wonders: Gabrielle Suchon’s Approach to Sexual Difference</i> ” Cambridge University Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History.
Feb 2020	“ <i>Persons of the sex are true wonders: Gabrielle Suchon’s Approach to Sexual Difference</i> ” Duke University Graduate Conference in Political Theory.
Jan 2020	“Natural Equality and Conjugal Authority in Locke’s <i>Two Treatises</i> ” Stanford University Graduate Conference in Political Theory
Apr 2019	“Natural Equality and Conjugal Authority in Locke’s <i>Two Treatises</i> ” Oxford University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 2019.
May 2018	“Creating Democratic Boundaries: A Defense of Immigration Lotteries.” University of Toronto Center for Ethics Conference, May 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

◆ Indicates graduate-level course

University of Toronto, Toronto ON.

As Course Instructor:

2023 Women in the History of Political Thought

As Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023 Modern Political Thought (taught by Rebecca Kingston)

◆ Ethics and Public Policy (taught by Andrew Stark)

2022-2023 ◆ Ethics and Public Policy (taught by Andrew Stark)

Modern Political Thought (taught by Kavita Reddy)

2021-2022 Women in Western Political Thought (taught by Rebecca Kingston)

Feminist Political Thought (taught by Matthew Hamilton)

◆ Ethics and Public Policy (taught by Andrew Stark)

	Law, Justice, and Rights (taught by Peggy Kohn)
2020-2021	Feminist Political Thought (taught by Matthew Hamilton) Introduction to Political Theory (taught by Emily Nacol) Ideas and Ideologies (taught by Aslan Amani)
2019-2020	Introduction to Political Theory (taught by Rebecca Kingston)
2018-2019	Introduction to Political Science (taught by Courtney Jung & Prof. Ryan Balot)

Queen's University, Kingston ON.

As Teaching Assistant:

2017-2018	Ancient Philosophy and the Emotions (taught by Stephen Leighton) Philosophy of Math" (taught by Mark Smith)
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- *Research Assistant* to Torrey Shanks, researching the concept of impropriety in the history of political thought. September 2022 - Winter 2023.
- *Research Assistant* to Professor Emily Nacol, involved archival research about depictions of prostitution in the eighteenth century, Fall 2020 - Winter 2023.
- *Research Assistant* to Carla Norloff, researching economic statecraft and balance of power theories in the history of political thought, Summer 2021.
- *Research Assistant* to Professor Rebecca Kingston, helping design a syllabus for her new course POL 303: "Women in Western Political Thought", Summer 2020.
- *Research Assistant* for the Deparochializing Political Theory Project, writing teaching guides on marginalized philosophers from the Early Modern Period, Fall 2020.
- *Research Assistant* to Professor Carla Norrlof, researching history of liberalism and racial discrimination, Summer 2019.
- *Research Assistant* to Melissa Williams, preparing case studies on transnational citizen assemblies, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Conferences and Workshops Organized

May 2025	Women in the History of Political Thought Conference, Ghent Belgium (with Geertje Bol & Torrey Shanks).
Mar 2025	Monsters and Domesticity Workshop, University of Jyväskylä (with Elena Gordon).

Oct 2023 Women in the History of Political Thought Workshop, University of Toronto (with Geertje Bol).

Departmental Seminars and Working Groups Organized

2022-2023 Women in the History of Political Thought working group, University of Toronto.

2020-2022 Political Theory Reading Workshop, University of Toronto.

2019-2020 Contemporary Political Theory Reading Group, University of Toronto.

Discussant

Feb 2024 Prof. Patricia Sheridan's "Masham's Theory of Education" at the Extending New Narratives in Philosophy Conference, University of Jyväskylä.

Dec 2023 Prof. Menaka Philips's *The Liberalism Trap*, Book Launch, University of Toronto.

Sept 2021 Women in the History of Political Thought Panel, American Political Science Association, 2021.

LANGUAGES

English - Native

French - Reading knowledge.