

**Dr. Ross Carroll**  
School of Law and Government  
Dublin City University  
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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2023- Dublin City University  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

2020- 2023 University of Exeter  
Senior Lecturer in Political Theory

2015-2020 University of Exeter  
Lecturer in Political Theory

2013-2015 The College of William & Mary  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Government

2009-2012 *Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy*  
Assistant Editor

## EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D. in Political Science  
Northwestern University  
*Dissertation:* “The Politics of Enthusiasm in Shaftesbury, Hume, and Burke”  
*Committee:* Mary G. Dietz (Chair), James Farr, and Sara Monoson

2007 M.A. in Political Science  
Northwestern University

2004 M.Sc. in International Relations (with Distinction)  
London School of Economics and Political Science

2003 B.A. in Politics and Philosophy (double first-class honours)  
University College Dublin

2002 Diplôme du Programme International des Sciences Politiques et Sociales  
Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early modern political thought; Hume; Burke; Wollstonecraft; Tocqueville; the politics of ridicule; emancipation and abolition; women’s intellectual labour.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Monographs

2021 *Uncivil Mirth: Ridicule in Enlightenment Britain* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2021)

Winner of the Morris D. Forkosch prize for the best first book in intellectual history

Reviewed in the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *History Today*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Intellectual History Review*, *European Review of History*, *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *English Historical Review*, *LSE Review of Books* blog  
Podcasts: *New Books in Political Science*, *Podopticon*, *Institute for Intellectual History (St Andrews)*

#### **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

- 2019 “How Contempt Became a Passion,” *History of European Ideas* 45, no. 3 (2019): 346-362
- 2019 “Wollstonecraft and the Political Value of Contempt” *European Journal of Political Theory* 18, no. 1 (2019): 26-46
- 2018 “The Hidden Labors of Mary Mottley, Madame de Tocqueville,” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 33, no. 4 (2018): 643-662
- 2018 “Ridicule, Censorship, and the Regulation of Public Speech: The Case of Shaftesbury,” *Modern Intellectual History* 15, no. 2 (2018): 353-380
- 2014 “Revisiting Burke’s Critique of Enthusiasm” *History of Political Thought* 35, no. 2 (2014): 317-344

#### **Peer Reviewed Book Chapters**

- “Hume on Eloquence and the Failings of English Political Oratory” in Felix Waldmann and Max Skjonsberg eds. *Hume’s Essays: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)
- 2021 “The Hidden Labors of Mary Mottley, Madame de Tocqueville” in Jennifer Forestal and Menaka Philips eds. *The Wives of Western Philosophy: Gender Politics in Intellectual Labor* (Routledge, 2021): 127-146 [Republication of 2018 *Hypatia* article]
- 2019 “Epistolary and Historical Writings” in Sandrine Bergès, Eileen Hunt-Botting, and Alan Coffee eds. *The Wollstonecraftian Mind* (Routledge, 2019): 145-158.

#### **Book Reviews, Review Essays, and Symposia**

- 2023 “Why the Socialist Mill will not alarm his Liberal Readers: A Reflection on Helen McCabe’s *John Stuart Mill, Socialist*,” *History of European Ideas* 29, no. 1 (2023): 179-181
- 2022 Review of Paul Sagar, *The Opinion of Mankind: Sociability and the Theory of the State of from Hobbes to Smith* (Princeton, 2018). *Global Intellectual History* 7, no. 1 (2022)
- 2018 “Burke as Ideologue?” Symposium on Daniel O’Neill, *Edmund Burke and the Conservative Logic of Empire* (Berkeley, 2016). *Political Science Reviewer* 42, no.1 (2018)
- 2018 Review of Jill Locke, *Democracy and the Death of Shame: Political Equality and Social Disturbance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016). *Contemporary Political Theory* 17, no. 3 (2018), 160-163.
- 2017 Review of Richard Bourke, *Empire and Revolution: The Political Life of Edmund Burke* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015). *History of Political Thought* 38, no. 4 (2017): 779-785

- 2015 “Radical Moderates,” review of Aurelian Craiutu, *A Virtue for Courageous Minds: Moderation in French Political Thought, 1748-1830* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012). *Eighteenth Century Life* vol. 39, no. 3, (September 2015): 87-91
- 2014 Review of David Bromwich, *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke: From the Sublime and Beautiful to American Independence* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014). *Studies in Burke and his Time* vol. 24 (2014): 88-94.
- 2012 “Extended Sentiments and Enlarged Interests: Hume’s Politics” *Political Theory* vol. 42, no. 3 (2014): 377-384. Review essay on Marc Hanvelt, *The Politics of Eloquence: David Hume’s Polite Rhetoric* (Toronto, 2012) and Andrew Sabl, *Hume’s Politics: Coordination and Crisis in the History of England* (Princeton, 2012).
- 2012 Review of Christopher Brooke, *Philosophic Pride: Stoicism and Political Thought from Lipsius to Rousseau* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012). *Journal of Intellectual History and Political Thought* Vol. 1, no. 1 (2012).

#### **Encyclopedia Entries and Occasional Pieces**

- 2020 “de Tocqueville, Alexis” in *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* (Springer: published online August 2020)

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2017 Fellow of the Higher Education Academy  
(<https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/>)

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2022 European Network Fund (internal grant at University of Exeter)
- 2022 Morris D. Forkosch prize for best first book in intellectual history
- 2018 Visiting Scholar, SPIRE, University College Dublin
- 2017 OMF Mobility Grant to Fudan University, Shanghai
- 2012-13 Graduate Writing Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2008 R. Barry Farrell Award for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University
- 2007 Language Acquisition Travel Grant, French Interdisciplinary Group (FIG), Northwestern University
- 2007 R. Barry Farrell Award for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University
- 2006 Research Travel Grant, Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS), Northwestern University.
- 2005-2009 University Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2005-2006 Fulbright Scholarship from Dublin to Northwestern University
- 2001 Patrick Semple Medal (Philosophy, University College Dublin)
- 2000 Brian Farrell Medal (Politics, University College Dublin)

#### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023 “A Holy War: Elizabeth Heyrich and the Critique of Gradual Emancipation” at “Imagining Emancipation in the Atlantic World: 1750-1880” (Exeter), June 2023
- 2023 “Pressing Slavery into the Service of Freedom: Partial Emancipation in British Abolitionist Thought” Renaissance Society of America (San Juan), March 2023
- 2022 “Academia Now: Ivory Tower or Iron Cage?” “The Examined Academic Life: Educating, Researching, Publishing, Leading, Administering,” Exeter, May 2022
- 2021 “Edmund Burke, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and the Two Faces of Abolition” American Political Science Association (Seattle), September 2021 [online]
- 2021 “An Ambiguous Heritage: Republican Argument in British Debates on the Abolition of the Slave Trade” Conference on ‘Republics and Republicanism,’ Venice International University, June 2021 [online]
- 2020 First book manuscript workshop on *Uncivil Mirth: The Politics of Ridicule from Shaftesbury to Wollstonecraft*, Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought (St Catherine’s College, Oxford), January 2020
- 2019 “Democracy in Ireland?: Beaumont, Tocqueville, and the Colonial Origins of English Democracy,” Political Studies Association of Ireland (Maynooth), October 2019
- 2019 “Democracy in Ireland?: Beaumont, Tocqueville, and the Colonial Origins of English Democracy,” American Political Science Association (Washington D.C), August 2019
- 2019 “Laughter and Sociability in the Scottish Enlightenment” Institute for the Study of Scottish Philosophy (ISSP) Conference on ‘Tolerance, Sociability and Solidarity in Scottish Philosophy,’ University of Lausanne (Lausanne, Switzerland), March 2019
- 2018 ““More Political Than Alexis Himself:” Mary Mottley, Madame de Tocqueville, ‘Bridging the Gap Through Time: How Women Philosophers of the Past Contributed to Today’s Thought’ (London), February 2018
- 2017 “Why Paris Must Crumble: Commerce and the City in Wollstonecraft’s Political Thought” American Political Science Association (San Francisco), September 2017
- 2016 ““More Political Than Alexis Himself:” Mary Mottley, Madame de Tocqueville, American Political Science Association (Philadelphia, PA), September 2016
- 2016 ““Leaving what is afar off to the care of chance and fortune: Hume on Concern for Future Generations”” Workshop on ‘Intergenerational Justice: Historical Perspectives,’ University of Exeter (Exeter), June 2016
- 2015 “Locke’s Pupil: A Study in Political and Philosophical Mentorship” Shaping Enlightenment Politics: The Social Political Impact of the First and Third Earls of Shaftesbury, Wimborne St. Giles (Dorset, United Kingdom), July 2015
- 2014 “Raising a ‘Horse Laugh’: Ridicule in Wollstonecraft’s Politics” Association for Political Theory Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Madison, WI), October 2014
- 2014 “A Polite Diogenes?: Shaftesbury’s Cynics,” American Political Science Association (Washington, DC), August 2014

- 2014 “Public Spheres and the Regulation of Ridicule: the Case of Shaftesbury,” Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL), April 2014
- 2013 “A ‘Wholesome Regimen of Self-practice’: The Making of Shaftesbury’s Modern Stoic Ethos,” American Political Science Association (Chicago, IL), September 2013
- 2012 “The ‘Test of Ridicule’ in Shaftesbury’s *Letter Concerning Enthusiasm*,” Harvard Political Theory Conference, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) October 2012
- 2012 “The ‘Test of Ridicule’ in Shaftesbury’s *Letter Concerning Enthusiasm*,” Association for Political Theory Conference, University of South Carolina, (Columbia, SC), October 2012
- 2011 “Hume and the Politics of Contagion,” Association for Political Theory, University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN), October 2011
- 2011 “Burke, Enthusiasm, and the Limits of the Imagination,” Western Political Science Association Conference (San Antonio, TX), April 2011
- 2010 “The Scottish Tacitus: Character and Despotism in Hume’s *History of England*,” Western Political Science Association Conference (San Francisco, CA) April 2010
- 2009 “The Politics of Culpability: Apology and Forgiveness in International Society,” International Studies Association Conference (New York, NY), February 2009
- 2008 “The Politics of Culpability: Apology and Forgiveness in International Society,” World International Studies Conference, Ljubiana (Slovenia) July 2008

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Burke and the Colonial,” SPA-ing with Politics: Equality, Difference, and Division (University of Exeter), May 2023
- 2022 “A *Code Noir* for the British West Indies: Placing Edmund Burke’s *Sketch for a Negro Code* in Context,” ODSECS seminar, May 2022
- 2022 “From Slavery to Servitude: Edmund Burke and the Reform of the British Slave Trade,” PSAI All-Island Political Theory Seminar, January 2021 [online]
- 2020 “That ‘Inhuman Traffick:’ Burke and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade,” Department of Political Economy seminar (Kings College London), November 2020 [online]
- 2019 “Did Aristophanes Kill Socrates? An Enlightenment Debate” Department of Classics and Ancient History Research Seminar (Exeter), March 2019
- 2018 “An Education in Contempt: Ridicule in Wollstonecraft’s Political Thought” Dublin Political Theory Workshop (Dublin), November 2018
- 2018 “Mere Laughing is no Argument: Ridicule in the Scottish Enlightenment” Centre for Early Modern Studies, University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI), November 2018
- 2018 “Too Solemn for Laughter? Ridicule in Scottish Enlightenment Polemics Against Slavery,” Political Theory Workshop, University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI), November 2018

- 2018 “Too Solemn for Laughter? Ridicule in Scottish Enlightenment Polemics Against Slavery,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), October 2018
- 2018 “Tocqueville on Individualism,” ‘Political and Philosophical Traditions in Comparison: Sino-European Dialogues on Liberty, Government and Community, University of Exeter (Exeter), May 2018.
- 2017 “The Critique of Party in the European Tradition” Conference on Global Discourse and the Chinese Experience, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (Shanghai), December 2017
- 2017 “Rousseau against the Populists: On the Distinction between Government and Sovereignty in the Social Contract” (Fudan University, Shanghai) April 2017
- 2017 “Hume on Ridicule in Religious Politics,” SPIRE seminar series (University College Dublin, Dublin), February 2017
- 2017 “A Sly Gravity: Ridicule in Hume’s *History of England*,” Institute for Historical Research (Senate House, London), February 2017
- 2016 “More than an Opinion: Contempt in Early Enlightenment Moral Psychology,” Oxford History of Political Thought seminar (University College, Oxford), November 2016
- 2016 “The Ultimate Insult: Contempt in Early Modern Moral Psychology” Workshop on the History of Moral Concepts (Westminster), September 2016
- 2016 “The Test of Ridicule in Shaftesbury’s Politics” Balzaan Skinner Symposium, Cambridge University (Cambridge), April 2016
- 2015 “The Best Way to Answer Dr Sacheverell?: The Limits of Shaftesbury’s Ridicule,” Exeter Political Theory Reading Group, September 2015
- 2015 “Wollstonecraft and the Political Value of Contempt” Georgetown Political Theory Workshop, Georgetown University (Washington DC) May 2015
- 2015 “Wollstonecraft, Ridicule, and the Redirection of Contempt” Government Department Colloquium, The College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA), February 2015
- 2014 “Thinking Before Learning: In Defence of Tocqueville’s Method,” Invited Address to Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, The College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA), February 2014
- 2013 “Publishing for Political Theorists,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) June 2013
- 2013 “The Best Way to Answer Dr Sacheverell?: The Limits of Shaftesbury’s Ridicule,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, April 2013
- 2013 “The Best Way to Answer Dr Sacheverell?: The Limits of Shaftesbury’s Ridicule,” “Life and Community” Conference co-organized with ENS-Lyon, Northwestern University, April 2013
- 2012 “The ‘Test of Ridicule’ in Shaftesbury’s *Letter Concerning Enthusiasm*,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, February 2012
- 2011 “Burke, Enthusiasm, and the Limits of the Imagination,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, June 2011
- 2010 “The Scottish Tacitus: Character and Despotism in Hume’s *History of England*,” Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University (June 2010)

- 2009 “Wars of Words: The Politics of Language in Ireland,” Invited lecture to The French Interdisciplinary Group, Northwestern University, March 2009
- 2008 “The Politics of Culpability: Apology and Forgiveness in International Society,” Northwestern Istanbul Faculty seminar: Sebançi University (Istanbul) July 2008

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2023 “Free Speech, Why the Obsession?” Public Roundtable at the Phoenix, Exeter (May, 2023)
- 2023 “Finding the unique theme of your book” Monograph Day, University of Exeter (May, 2023)
- 2022 ‘New Work in Intellectual History’ podcast with Robin Williams, University of St Andrews (July, 2022)
- 2022 “Ross Carroll, *Uncivil Mirth*” *New Books in Political Science* podcast hosted by Lilly J. Goren (January, 2022)
- 2021 “Don’t be Ridiculous: Discussing *Uncivil Mirth* with Ross Carroll,” *Podopticon* podcast hosted by Randal Hendrickson (October, 2021)
- 2021 “Is Comedy Bad for Democracy?” Lecture to the Bishop Wordsworth School Politics Society, Salisbury (May, 2021) [online]
- 2017 Exeter Salon, “Brexit, Trump, Hung Parliament: for better, for worse?” (July, 2017)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

In Political Theory

*As Lecturer/Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter*

- POL1026: Early Modern Political Thought
- POL1043: Fresher Politics Seminar (introduction to Politics for first years)
- POL3198: Revolution and Modern Political Thought
- POL3258: The Politics of Humour
- POLM057: Understanding and Interpretation in Political Thought (MA module)
- POLM806: Problems and Texts in Social and Political Thought (MA module)

*As Visiting Assistant Professor at The College of William and Mary:*

- GOVT 303: Political Theory: the Ancient Tradition
- GOVT 304: Political Theory: the Modern Tradition
- GOVT 406: Tocqueville and Democracy
- GOVT 150W: Revolution and Modern Political Thought (freshman seminar)
- GOVT 406: The Politics of Conservatism: Hume, Burke, Oakeshott and their Critics (senior seminar)
- PUBL 609: Ethics and Public Policy (for the MA programme in the Jefferson School of Public Policy)

*As Teaching Assistant at Northwestern University:*

POLISCI 304: Critics of Modernity (with Mary Dietz), Spring 2009  
POLISCI 302: Modern Political Thought (with Theo Christov), Winter 2009  
POLISCI 302: Modern Political Thought (with James Farr), Spring 2008  
POLISCI 301: Moral Dilemmas and Political Theory (with Bonnie Honig), Winter 2007  
POLISCI 332: Constitutional Law (with Stephen Daniels), Fall 2007

### In International Relations

*As Teaching Assistant at Northwestern University:*

POLISCI 240: Introduction to International Relations (with Ian Hurd), Fall, 2008  
INT ST 201: Global History (with Frank Safford), Winter 2008  
POLISCI 341: International Political Economy (with Brian Hansen), Spring 2007  
POLISCI 240: Introduction to International Relations (with Hendrik Spruyt), Fall 2006

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES**

2021-22 Director of Doctoral Studies, Politics department  
2019- Coordinator, Political Theory Reading Group, University of Exeter  
2019-2021 Academic Misconduct Officer for Politics  
2016-2018 Coordinator for Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE) BA programme  
2016-2017 Convenor of the MA in Political Thought

### **OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2022 External examiner for a PhD viva at King's College London  
2022- Participation in Exeter Scholars, a widening participation programme  
2021- Communications Officer and Member of the Executive Committee of the Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought (BIAPT)  
2008-2011 Founder and Co-Organizer, Northwestern Political Theory Workshop  
2008-2009 Co-Chair of 'The Commune' (association representing the interests of PhD. students in Political Science at Northwestern University)

Book manuscript reviewer for Manchester University Press, *Polity*  
Article manuscript reviewer for the following journals: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Polity*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Historical Journal*, *History of Political Thought*, *Political Theory*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *International History Review*, *British Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Politics and Religion*

### **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

2005 European Commission, Brussels  
Directorate General for Enlargement  
Stagiaire (trainee responsible for researching compliance of Turkey with Copenhagen criteria pertaining to human rights)  
2004-2005 European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels



Stagiaire, Assistant to the Communications Director and Editor-in-Chief of *Challenge Europe* (a journal devoted to EU public policy)

## **LANGUAGES**

*English*: native; *French*: proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking; *Irish*: proficiency in reading, writing and speaking.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Britain and Ireland Association for Political Theory (BIAPT)

American Political Science Association (APSA)

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

## **REFERENCES**

Professor Robert Lamb

Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Exeter

[R.Lamb@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:R.Lamb@exeter.ac.uk)

Professor Daniel Kapust

Judith Hicks Stiehm Chair in Political Theory, University of Wisconsin

[djkapust@wisc.edu](mailto:djkapust@wisc.edu)

Professor Teresa Bejan

Professor of Political Theory and Fellow of Oriel College, University of Oxford

[teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk)