

CURRICULUM VITAE

Samuel Neil McChesney

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Research interests

Ancient Greek political thought, concepts of courage, critical antiquities, hermeneutics, feminist receptions, Hannah Arendt.

Teaching competencies

History of political thought, interpretation of texts, critical theory, Ancient Greek political thought (esp. Plato and Thucydides), early modern political thought (esp. Montaigne), twentieth century political thought (esp. Arendt, Gadamer, and Foucault), ethics.

Education

PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, 2018–present.

Dissertation: “Political courage.” Committee: Mary G. Dietz (chair), S. Sara Monoson, Loubna El Amine, Ryan K. Balot (University of Toronto).

Certificates: Graduate Student Teaching Certificate, Critical Theory Certificate, Graduate Certificate in Ancient Greek.

Master of Arts in Political Science from Northwestern University, 2020.

Research paper: “Talking to the ‘elite’: The Western reception of Afghānī’s ‘Answer to Renan’.” Readers: Zekeria Ahmed Salem, Loubna El Amine.

Master of Arts with Distinction in Politics from the University of Otago, 2019.

Dissertation: “Eclipse of courage: Technical reason and the limits of self-affirming bravery.”

Bachelor of Arts with Honors (First Class) in Politics from the University of Otago, 2012.

Dissertation: “Freedom with purposes: Reconciling liberalism and neo-Aristotelianism.”

Publications

Articles

McChesney, Sam. "Hermeneutic courage: What Gadamer (and Arendt) can tell us about political thinking." *Labyrinth* 24, no. 2 (2022): 44–68.

McChesney, Sam. "The meaning of courage in Montaigne's *Essays*." *The European Legacy* 26, no. 2 (2021): 131–48.

Book reviews

McChesney, Sam. "Rehearsals of Manhood: Athenian Drama as Social Practice, by John J. Winkler." *The European Legacy* (2023).

Work in progress

"Discovering the other's voice: Arendt and world-traveling." Manuscript under preparation.

Long-form journalism

McChesney, Sam. "What's the Frequency, Steven? How a politician built a radio empire." Pantograph Punch. Published June 16, 2016. <https://www.pantograph-punch.com/posts/steven-joyce-radio-empire>.

Service

Service to the department

Co-organizer of the Northwestern Graduate Student Political Theory Conference, 2022.

Co-chair of the Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop, 2021–23.

Graphic designer for the Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop, 2020–23.

Member of the Teaching Committee, 2021–22.

Discussant at the following department events:

- February 2023. Valentina Moro (University of Verona/DePaul University), "Staging tragic agonism: Language, aesthetics, and the bodies in Sophocles' Theatre." Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.
- May 2021. Daniela Cammack (UC Berkeley), "Representation in Ancient Greek democracy." Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.
- October 2020. Lucien Ferguson (Northwestern University), "The care crisis in contemporary political theory." Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

- October 2019. Andrew Day (Northwestern University), “Hobbes and the hermeneutics of sincerity.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

Service to the discipline

Discussant at the following events:

- March 2024. Panel: “Problems of political founding.” Western Political Science Association Conference. Vancouver, BC.
- April 2021. Gaye Ilhan Demiryol (Bogazici University), “Truth-telling as world-building.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

Conferences and workshops

April 2024. “Parrhēsia and the matter of listening in Foucault.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

March 2024. “Parrhēsia and the matter of listening in Foucault.” Western Political Science Association Conference. Vancouver, BC.

April 2023. “Tearing the roof off: Political courage and the problem of *stasis*.” Western Political Science Association Conference. San Francisco, California.

March 2023. “‘Words had to change their ordinary meanings’: Political courage and *stasis*.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

March 2023. “Discovering the other’s voice: Arendt and world-traveling.” Hannah Arendt Center: Judgment, Pluralism, and Democracy Conference. Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

November 2022. “Hermeneutic courage: Gadamer and Arendt on political thinking.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

October 2021. “Political courage as self-overcoming.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

April 2021. “Soldier, citizen, wanderer: Hannah Arendt and the paradigms of courage.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

January 2021. “Soldier, citizen, wanderer: Hannah Arendt and the paradigms of courage.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

May 2019. “Talking to the ‘elite’: The Western reception of Afghānī’s ‘Answer to Renan’.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

November 2018. “The Delphic task: Courage and self-knowledge in Montaigne’s *Essays*.” Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop. Evanston, Illinois.

November 2017. “Montaigne’s concept of courage.” New Zealand Political Studies Association Conference. Dunedin, New Zealand.

Professional experience (academic)

Teaching assistant, Northwestern University (2018–)

Spring 2022. Introduction to Political Theory. Instructor: Shmulik Nili.
 Spring 2021. National Security. Instructor: Jeff Rice.
 Winter 2021. Ancient Greek History and Culture. Instructor: Jonah Radding.
 Fall 2020. Introduction to Political Theory. Instructor: Julia Brown.
 Spring 2020. Roman History and Culture. Instructor: Taco Terpstra.
 Winter 2020. Ancient Greek History and Culture. Instructor: Jonah Radding.
 Fall 2019. Introduction to Political Theory. Instructor: Loubna El Amine.

Instructor of record, University of Otago (2017–18)

Summer 2018. Power and Liberty.
 Summer 2017. Power and Liberty.

Teaching assistant, University of Otago (2009–13)

2016, 2012, 2010, 2009. Political Philosophy—Basic Problems. Instructors: Carla Lam and James Flynn.
 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010. Justice, Race, and Class. Instructor: James Flynn.
 2012, 2011. Power and Liberty. Instructor: Vicki Spencer.
 2011. Theories of Justice. Instructor: Vicki Spencer.
 2011. The Good Society and the Market. Instructor: James Flynn.

Research assistant, University of Otago (2010–12)

2011–12. To Vicki Spencer, Politics Department. Editing a book manuscript and researching for a journal article on integrity.
 2011. To Carla Lam, Politics Department. Researching for a journal article on Hobbes.
 2010–11. To Mark Henaghan, Faculty of Law. Researching for a journal article on the New Zealand Supreme Court.

Other professional experience

Victoria University Wellington Students' Association (2015)

Managing editor of news magazine *Salient*. Wellington, New Zealand.

Ministry of Social Development (2014–15)

Technical writer and official information professional. Wellington, New Zealand.

Planet Media Dunedin Ltd (2012–13)

Managing editor (2013) and sub-editor (2012) of news magazine *Critic Te Arohi*. Dunedin, New Zealand.

Awards and scholarships

Didem Yaman Memorial Prize for the best MA thesis, University of Otago, 2018.

University of Otago Postgraduate Publishing Bursary, 2018–19.

University of Otago Master's Scholarship, 2016–17.

William Kennedy Prize for the best 400-level Politics dissertation, University of Otago, 2012.

Summer research scholarship with the Faculty of Law, University of Otago, 2010–11.

Joseph Pullar Scholarship for the top first-year Philosophy student, University of Otago, 2007.

Other skills

High level of skill in graphic design.

Fluent in HTML and CSS; competent in PHP and JQuery.

Intermediate ability in French, Ancient Greek.

Last modified May 12, 2024.