

# Mary Jo Mac Donald

+1 438-351-7882 • [mary.j.macdonald@jyu.fi](mailto:mary.j.macdonald@jyu.fi) • [www.maryjomacdonald.com](http://www.maryjomacdonald.com)

**RESEARCH FIELDS** Early Modern Political Thought, Women's Political Thought

**TEACHING FIELDS** Democratic Theory, History of Political Thought

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### University of Oxford

Associate Member of Oriel College

Oxford, UK

Jan 2026 -

### University of Jyväskylä

Research Team Member

*Gender in Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy*

Jyväskylä, Finland

Jan 2026 - Dec 2026

Postdoctoral Researcher

*Gender in Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy*

Feb 2024 - Jan 2026

## EDUCATION

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### University of Toronto

PhD, Political Science

Fields: Political Theory and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: The Meaning of Equality

Committee: Torrey Shanks (Chair), Emily Nacol, Andy Sabl

Toronto, ON

2024

### Queen's University

M.A., Philosophy

Kingston, ON

2018

### McGill University

B.A., Honors with Distinction in Political Science &

Philosophy.

Montreal, QC

2017

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

2025

“Equality, Modernity, and Inclusion in Judith Drake’s *Essay in Defence of the Female Sex*” in *Polity*, 58 (1), 57-83.

2025 “Acknowledging Sexual Equality: Hobbes’s and Cavendish’s Amazons” in *Hobbes Studies* 38 (1): 64-87.

2024 “Persons of the Sex are True Wonders’: Gabrielle Suchon on Difference and Political Wonders” in *Political Theory*, 52 (3): 490-516.

### Book Chapters

*Under Contract* “Women’s Monstrosity in Seventeenth-Century France” in *A History of Feminist Argument*, ed. Marguerite Deslauriers and Martina Reuter, Oxford University Press.

*Under Contract* “Slavery, Tyranny, and Natural Subjection” in *Critical Guide to Locke’s Two Treatises*, ed. Tim Stuart-Buttle and Felix Waldmann, Cambridge University Press.

### WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

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#### Articles

*Revise & Resubmit* “Oroonoko, the Slave Trade, and the Origins of English Feminism” at *American Political Science Review*.

*Under Review* (Co-authored with Geertje Bol) “From Courtiers to Courtship: Tory Feminism and the Politics of Flattery” at *Journal of Politics*.

#### Books

*In Preparation* *Dangerous Equals: Women, Monstrosity, and the Origins of Equality*. Accepted to Association for Political Theory Book Proposal Workshop.

### REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

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*Forthcoming* “Review: *Early Modern Philosophy: An Inclusive Introduction with Readings* by Jonathan Head and John Grey” in *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.

*Forthcoming* (Co-authored with Torrey Shanks) “Property Rights”, in *Cambridge Dictionary of Political Thought*, ed. Richard Bellamy, Carol Attack, Christopher Brooke, and Leigh Jenco.

2023 “Review: *Antigone’s Example, Early Modern Women’s Political Writing in Times of Civil War* by Mihoko Suzuki” in *Politics and Gender*, pp. 1-3.

2021 “Locke, Property, and the Poor Law,” in *Liberty Matters* (September 2021).

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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2025	Strategic Institutions Partnerships Grant for “Women in the History of Political Thought” Co-Investigators: Prof. Torrey Shanks and Dr. Geertje Bol (10,000€)
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 (Awarded to top graduating student) Research Group on Constitutional Studies Fellowship (\$500)

## PRESENTATIONS

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2025	“Oroonoko, the Slave Trade, and the Origins of English Feminism” <i>Invited:</i> Oxford Political Thought Seminar, Oxford, October. <i>Refereed:</i> Association for Political Theory Conference, Chicago, November.
	“From Rationality to Monstrosity: Montaignian Alternatives to Cartesian Feminism”

*Invited:* Cartesian Feminism Conference, Humboldt University, Berlin, October.

“Oroonko and the Slave Trade in Astell’s *Reflections Upon Marriage*”

*Invited:* Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, Chapman University, July.

*Refereed:* Extending New Narratives Conference, McGill University, June.

Monsters and Domesticity Workshop, University of Jyväskylä, March (organizer).

“From Courtiers to Courtship: Feminism and Flattery in Astell and Drake” (with Geertje Bol)

Women in History of Political Thought Conference, Ghent Belgium, May (organizer).

“The Virtue of Civility and Women’s Conversation in Judith Drake and Mary Astell”

*Refereed:* Britain and Ireland Association for Political Theory Conference, York UK, January.

2024 “Hobbes’s and Cavendish’s Amazons”

Philosophy Seminar, University of Jyväskylä, October.

*Refereed:* American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, September.

*Invited:* Institute for the Study of Women in the Nordic Enlightenment, Copenhagen, May.

“Judith Drake on Empiricism, Modernity, and Equality”

*Invited:* Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, University of York, June.

Vice, Sin, and Gender in the History of Philosophy Seminar, University of Jyväskylä, February.

“Gender as a Monstrosity in the History of Feminist Philosophy”

Academy of Finland Workshop, University of Jyväskylä, March.

2023 “John Locke and Sarah Chapone on the Role of Inheritance in Education”

*Invited:* Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, New York University, May.

Political Theory Reading Workshop, University of Toronto, January.

2022 “Gabrielle Suchon on Sexual Difference and Political Wonders”

*Refereed:* American Political Science Association, Montreal QC, September.

“Negative Equality in Locke, Montaigne, and Gournay”

*Invited:* Locke and Lockeanism Workshop, King’s College London, June.

2020 “Gabrielle Suchon’s Approach to Sexual Difference”

Political Theory Reading Workshop, University of Toronto, December.

*Refereed:* Extending New Narratives in Philosophy Online Workshop, November.

*Refereed:* Cambridge University Graduate Conference in Political Thought, March.

*Refereed:* Duke University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, February.

“Natural Equality and Conjugal Authority in Locke’s *Two Treatises*”

*Refereed:* Stanford University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, January.

2019 “Natural (In)Equality and the Subjection of Wives in Locke’s *Two Treatises*”

*Refereed:* Oxford University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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◆ Indicates graduate-level course

**University of Toronto**, Toronto ON.

*As Course Instructor:*

2023 Women in the History of Political Thought

*As Guest Lecturer:*

January 2026 Feminist Theory

November 2023 Modern 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)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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*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 2026                      Prof. Susanne Sreedhar's *Hobbes on Sex*, Author Meets Critics.  
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.

*Reviewer*

Locke Studies (2024), Journal of Politics (2025), Journal of Modern Philosophy (2025), Journal of Modern Philosophy (2026).

*Public Facing Scholarship*

Forthcoming                      Eighteenth Century Radical Thought, *British Historical Association*  
2025                              "Marriage, Monsters, and Equality" in *Race and Gender Through History*:

## **LANGUAGES**

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English - Native

French - Reading knowledge.

## **REFERENCES**

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Professor Torrey Shanks  
University of Toronto  
[torrey.shanks@utoronto.ca](mailto:torrey.shanks@utoronto.ca)

Professor Teresa Bejan  
Oxford University  
[teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk)

Dr. Martina Reuter  
University of Jyväskylä  
[anna.m.reuter@jyu.fi](mailto:anna.m.reuter@jyu.fi)

Professor Andy Sabl  
University of Toronto  
[andrew.sabl@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.sabl@utoronto.ca)

Professor Marguerite Deslauriers  
McGill University  
[marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca](mailto:marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca)

Professor Emily Nacol  
University of Toronto  
[emily.nacol@utoronto.ca](mailto:emily.nacol@utoronto.ca)