Mary Jo Mac Donald

215 Avard Dixon, 140 Main St, Sackville NB
mjmacdonald@mta.ca • www.maryjomacdonald.com

RESEARCH FIELDS Early Modern Political Thought, Women's Political Thought, Feminist Theory

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

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Mount Allison University — Sackville, NB
Assistant Professor of Political Theory — July 2026 - Present

University of Oxford — Oxford, UK
Associate Member of Oriel College — Jan 2026 - Present

University of Jyväskylä — Jyväskylä, Finland
Postdoctoral Researcher — Feb 2024 - Jan 2026
Gender in Renaissance and Early Modern Philosophy & Extending New Narratives

EDUCATION

University of Toronto — Toronto, ON
PhD, Political Science — 2024
Fields: Political Theory and Comparative Politics
Dissertation: The Meaning of Equality
Committee: Torrey Shanks (Chair), Emily Nacol, Andy Sabl

Queen's University — Kingston, ON
M.A., Philosophy — 2018

McGill University — Montreal, QC
B.A., Honors with Distinction in Political Science & Philosophy. — 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Forthcoming "Marriage as Slavery: *Oroonoko*, the Slave Trade, and the Origins of English Feminism" in ***American Political Science Review.***

Forthcoming "From Courtiers to Courtship: Tory Feminism and the Politics of Flattery" in ***Perspectives on Politics.*** (Co-authored with Geertje Bol)

2026 "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 Monstrousity in Seventeenth-Century France " in ***A History of Feminist Argument,*** ed. Marguerite Deslauriers and Martina Reuter, Oxford University Press.

Under Contract "The Developmental Logic of Lockean Feminism" in ***A Critical Guide to Locke's Two Treatises***, ed. Tim Stuart-Buttle and Felix Waldmann, Cambridge University Press.

Invited "Satire is the Heart of Moral Philosophy: Delariviere Manley's Defence of Gossip" in volume on genre and women philosophers, ed. Allauren Forbes.

WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

Books

In Preparation *Women and Traditions of Political Thought* (Co-edited with Torrey Shanks, Geertje Bol)
Edited volume under consideration with Cambridge University Press.

In Preparation *Tory Women/ Conservative Feminisms* (Co-edited with Geertje Bol)
Under consideration for "Cambridge Texts in History of Political Thought" Series.

In Preparation *Dangerous Equals: Women, Monstrosity, and the Origins of Equality.*
Accepted to Association for Political Theory Book Proposal Workshop (2025)

REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

2026 "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 Atack, 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

2026	British Academy International Fellowship for the project "Marriage as Slavery" Sponsor: Oxford University (£265,280.36) (Declined)
	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

2026 "The Female Slave Narrative: Captivity, Concubinage, and Chattel"

Refereed: American Political Science Association, Boston MA, September.

2025 "Oroonoko, the Slave Trade, and the Origins of English Feminism"

Invited: Oxford Political Thought Seminar, Oxford UK, October.

Refereed: Association for Political Theory Conference, Chicago, November.

"From Rationality to Monstrousity: 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

♦ Indicates graduate-level course

Mount Allison University, Sackville NB.
As Course Instructor:
2027 Foundations of Politics
Democratic Thought

2026 Women in the History of Political Thought
Modern Political Thought

University of Toronto, Toronto ON.
As Course Instructor:
2023 Women in the History of Political Thought

As Guest Lecturer:
January 2026 Feminist Theory

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

Conferences and Workshops Organized

May 2026	Women Across Political Traditions Workshop, Toronto ON (with Geertje Bol & Torrey Shanks)
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 & Kelsey Gordon).

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

2026	Eighteenth Century Proto-Feminist Thought, *British Historical Association*
2025	"Marriage, Monsters, and Equality" in *Race and Gender Through History: Philosophical Discussions*, Youtube Series.

LANGUAGES

English - Native
French - Reading knowledge.

REFERENCES

Professor Torrey Shanks
University of Toronto
torrey.shanks@utoronto.ca

Professor Teresa Bejan
Oxford University
teresa.bejan@oriel.ox.ac.uk

Dr. Martina Reuter
University of Jyväskylä
anna.m.reuter@jyu.fi

Professor Andy Sabl
University of Toronto
andrew.sabl@utoronto.ca

Professor Marguerite Deslauriers
McGill University
marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca

Professor Emily Nacol
University of Toronto
emily.nacol@utoronto.ca