

## BRITTANY PAGE BRAKE

Department of Political Science  
Manchester University  
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### **EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. Candidate, Western Michigan University (2016-Present)

*Subfields:* Political Philosophy, American Politics

*Dissertation committee:* Dr. Emily Hauptmann (chair), Dr. Jacinda Swanson, Dr. John Clark, Dr. Jil Larson

*Dissertation:* Utopianism Under Siege: What We Stand to Lose in American Political Discourse

M.A., Western Michigan University (2016) Kalamazoo, Michigan

*Thesis:* Political Utopias of the Renaissance: Political Purposes Behind Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, Johannes Valentinus Andreae's *Christianopolis*, and James Harrington's *The Commonwealth of Oceana*.

B.A., Wittenberg University (2013) Springfield, Ohio

*Major:* Interdepartmental European Studies (Political Science, German, History)

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS:**

Visiting Lecturer of Political Science  
Manchester University  
North Manchester, Indiana

Adjunct Faculty  
Eastern Gateway Community College  
Stubenville, Ohio

Instructor of Record  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

### **COURSES TAUGHT:**

Manchester University:

State and Local Politics  
American National Politics  
Supreme Court and the Constitution  
Political Ideologies and Concepts

Modern Political Thought  
Political Analysis (Methodology)  
Mock Trial

Eastern Gateway Community College:

American National Government  
Introduction to Succeeding in College

Western Michigan University:

American National Government  
Critical Thinking in Politics

Guest Lecturer:

Political Utopias and Dystopias, Moravian College, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Presented lecture on what political utopianism means to current political discourse and expressed personal research to students and faculty.

Contemporary Political Ideologies, Western Michigan University, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Presented lecture on what conservatism means to a variety of contemporary authors, specifically Patrick Buchanan and Michael Oakeshott.

Civil Liberties, Western Michigan University, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Presented on Marbury v. Madison and the implications of the case decision for modern politics.

Urban Politics, Western Michigan University, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Lectured on urban poverty and decay in inner-city Detroit and the roots of its cause in Michigan and the U.S.

Teaching Assistant:

Contemporary Political Ideologies  
Ancient Political Thought  
Introduction to Political Theory  
American National Government  
Civil Liberties/Constitutional Law  
Politics of Congress  
Urban Politics

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

*Research Assistant to Dr. Mark Hurwitz (2016-2017)* Compiled data from all 50 states on state and federal Supreme Court demographics.

*Research Assistant to Dr. Emily Hauptmann (2015)* Assisted with research on the creation of ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) and competitors such as the Roper Center at Williams College and a National Data Bank system.

## **TEACHING INTERESTS:**

### *Political Philosophy:*

American Political Thought, Ancient, Modern, Contemporary, Democratic Thought,  
History of Utopian Thought

### *American Politics:*

National Government, Constitutional Law/Civil Liberties, Congress, Presidency, State and  
Local Government

## **CURRENT RESEARCH:**

I am currently editing a conference paper, "Utopianism at the Turn of the American Revolution: How the Founding Fathers Perceived Utopian Thought," in preparation to send out for a journal review. This paper examines primary documents written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams, to reveal the role(s) utopianism played in terms of practice and as a definition during early American political thought, as well as during the Federalist and Anti-Federalists debates.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

Entry for "Mugwumps" in *Political Groups, Parties, and Organizations that Shaped America: An Encyclopedia and Document Collection*, ed. by Scott H. Ainsworth and Brian M. Harward, ABC-Clio Press. 2019.

## **PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES:**

"Utopianism at the Turn of the American Revolution: How the Founding Fathers Perceived Utopian Thought." Presented at the Society for Utopian Studies Conference, UC Berkeley in Berkeley, CA, November 2018.

"For All the Wrong Reasons: Why we Dismiss Utopian Thought in Political Science." Presented at the International Social Theory Consortium Conference, Loyola University in Chicago, IL, May 2018.

"The Rigors of a Rigged System? Delegate Allocation Rules in the 2008-2016 Presidential Primaries." Presented with John Clark (co-author) at the State of the Parties: 2016 and Beyond Conference, Akron, OH, November 2017.

"Searching for MacIntyre's Morality and the Common Good in Imagined Political Communities." Presented at the Southwestern Political Science Association Meeting, Austin, TX, April 2017.

"The Rigors of a Rigged System? Delegate Allocation Rules in the 2016 Presidential Primaries." Presented with John Clark (co-author) at the Southern Political Science Association Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2017.

### **EXTERNAL FUNDING AND AWARDS:**

State of Michigan Martin Luther King, César Chávez, Rosa Parks Future Faculty Fellowship Recipient, 2019-2020 (\$35,000)

WMU Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship Recipient, 2019-2020 (\$12,183)

WMU All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award, 2019

WMU Political Science Department Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award, 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (Full Tuition with Stipend) Department of Political Science, Western Michigan University, 2014-Present

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, 2017 (\$300)

WMU Political Science Department John R. Borsos Scholarship, 2019 (\$3,000)

WMU College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Practicum Scholarship, 2018 (\$500)

WMU Political Science Department DC Shilling Award for Graduate Academic Excellence, 2018 (\$250)

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, 2017 (\$300)

WMU Graduate College Conference Travel Grant, Western Michigan University, 2017 (\$1,200)

Woman of the Year Award Presented by Peers and Faculty, Wittenberg University, 2012

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/ACTIVITIES**

Constitution Day at Manchester University (Secured Senator Eddie Melton to speak to the community about African American challenges and the importance of voting, 2020).

Mock Trial Coach at Manchester University (2020-Present)

Pre-Law Advisor at Manchester University (2020-Present)

President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, Western Michigan University (2015-Present)

Peer reviewer for *The Hilltop Review: The Western Michigan University Graduate Research Journal* (2014-Present)

Political Science Instructor for Upward Bound (2012-2013)

Intern for former U.S. House Representative Steve Austria and Speaker of the House John Boehner (2011-2014)

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for Political Theory

Southern Political Science Association

American Political Science Association

Midwestern Political Science Association

Society for Utopian Studies  
Pi Sigma Alpha