

Joan Eleanor O'Bryan

William James Hall
33 Kirkland St
Cambridge, MA 02138

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)
Assistant Professor, Political Science (deferred start, Fall 2026)

Harvard University
Lecturer, Social Studies (2024-2026)

Deep Springs College
Visiting Faculty Member, Political Theory (Fall 2022)

EDUCATION

Stanford University
Ph.D., Political Science (2024)
Dissertation Topic: *On Patriarchy: Origin Stories in Feminist Thought*
Committee: Professors Alison McQueen, Emilee Chapman, Josh Ober, & Abigail Favale

University of Cambridge
M.Phil., Public Policy (June 2018)

Swarthmore College
B.A., Political Science & German Studies (June 2013)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“The only thing I want is for people to stop seeing me naked’: Consent, Contracts, & Sexual Media” in *Hypatia*. (2024). Available [online](#).

“Commercial Pornography and Sexual Autonomy: A Case for Sex Exceptionalism in Contract Law” (under review).

OTHER WRITING

“AI in Politics” in the *Encyclopedia of Artificial Intelligence*, eds. Philip L. Frana and Michael J. Klein (forthcoming 2026, Bloomsbury Press).

“Reading across the Atlantic: Simone de Beauvoir in France and America. Review of *Sex, Love, and Letters* by Judy G. Coffin” in *Tocqueville 21* ([link](#)).

On “Democracy” and “Gender” for the Stanford Basic Income Lab’s *UBI Visualization Project* ([link](#)).

“Review of *Feminist Trouble: Intersectional Politics in Postsecular Times* by Éléonore Lépinard” in the

American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy ([link](#)).

“Analysing Data: CIPFA Statistics and the Future of England’s Libraries” report for the United Kingdom’s Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport ([link](#)).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

[The Governance of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Social Studies 10A & 10B

Harvard University (2024-2026)

The Ethics of Sex, Gender, & Reproduction

Deep Springs College (Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant

Ethics on the Edge, Dr. Susan Liautaud

Stanford University (Spring 2022)

Ethics for Activists, Prof. Emilee Chapman

Stanford University (Winter 2019, Winter 2021)

Justice, Dr. Brian Coyne

Stanford University (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

Citizenship, Dr. Brian Coyne

Stanford University (Summer 2021)

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, & INVITED TALKS

“All I Want is for People to Stop Seeing Me Naked: Consent, Contracts, and Media”

- Stanford Workshop in Political Theory (October 2020)
- Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (April 2021)

“A Case for Sex Exceptionalism: Pornography & Contract Law”

- Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (April 2023)
- Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Annual Meeting (November 2023)

“Beauvoir’s Ontology of Patriarchy”

- Contexts Graduate Conference in Political Theory at Sciences Po (November 2021)
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Annual Meeting (March 2022)
- Arizona Feminist Philosophy Graduate Conference at the University of Arizona (March 2022)
- Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (April 2022)
- 27th Conference of the International Simone de Beauvoir Society (June 2022)

“Patriarchy as Class Division: Varieties of Materialism in Second Wave Feminist Thought”

- London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought (June 2022)
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (August 2023, moved online)

“Origin Stories as Methodology in History of Feminist Thought”

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (September 2022)
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Annual Meeting (April 2023)

“The Evolution of ‘Patriarchy’ in the Thought of Catharine MacKinnon”

- Institute of Historical Research’s Early Career Seminar in the History of Political Ideas (February 2023).
Due to strike action, this became a public lecture at the Marx Memorial library.

“Female Equality in Plato and Aristotle”

- Critical Perspectives in Philosophy hosted by Stanford Minorities and Philosophy (December 2019)

Lecture on “The Gender Wars”

- Invited faculty lecture for the Deep Springs College community (November 2022)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Stanford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, co-founder

With Joseph Cloward and Avshalom Schwartz, began an annual conference in political theory in which we invite nine students, domestic and international, to present their work to the Stanford Department of Political Science. Past keynote speakers include Wendy Brown, Daniela Cammack, and Desmond Jagmohan.

- 2022 Discussant for Jacob Hoerger (Harvard University)
“Lived Experience” and Its Critics
- 2021 Discussant for Ophelia Vedder (Princeton University)
Political Liberalism and Feminist Public Policies
- 2020 Discussant for Christy Brandly (University of Chicago)
Rethinking the Political and Familial in Ivan Turgenev’s Shakespearean Works

Stanford Workshop in Political Theory

- 2023 Discussant for Bernardo Zacka (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Designing a More Hospitable Welfare State
- 2022 Discussant for Valerie Soon (Stanford University)
An Ecological Conception of Freedom of Association
- 2021 Discussant for Robin Dembroff (Yale University)
Beneath the Binary
- 2019 Discussant for Kate Vredenburg (London School of Economics)
The Right to an Explanation

Stanford Basic Income Lab, Graduate Research Fellow

2019 – 2021. Researched the impact of contemporary empirical work on UBI for gender equality and democratization.

Politeia (formerly Society for the Dirty Leviathan), chair

2019 – 2022. Generously funded by the McCoy Center for Ethics. Politea organizes political theory retreats for Stanford graduate students and postdocs, hosts the annual Stanford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, and runs the graduate student workshop.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Crisis Counselor at the YWCA

Certified in California via the 75-Hour Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking Counselor Training. 2021-2022.

Guest Lecturer for the Women's Empowerment Ambassadors Club

Invited to speak at Homestead High School, Cupertino CA. April 2022.

Head Community Associate, Rains Residence Complex, Stanford University.

Organize weekly events for resident mental health and well-being. Fall 2019 - Spring 2022.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern

Effective Institutions Project. Summer 2024.

Graduate Student Researcher

Stanford Basic Income Lab. 2019 - 2021.

Research Work Placement

Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport *Libraries Taskforce*. Spring 2019.

Research Consultant

Institute for the Study of War. 2016-2017.

Teaching Fellow

Match Education. 2014-2016.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Gerald J. Lieberman Fellowship (2023) - Stanford University

One of Stanford's most prestigious fellowships, awarded to graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments, the potential for leadership roles within the academic community, and promising careers in university teaching and research. By departmental nomination only.

Centennial Teaching Assistant Award (2022) - Stanford University

Awarded to outstanding graduate student teachers for their dedication to teaching and excellence in the classroom.

Marilyn Yalom Prize (2022) - The Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University

Awarded in support of original research in the humanities on issues concerning women and gender.

Ethics Center Small Grant (2021) - McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society

Awarded to organize a reading group in Queer Theory.

Graduate Student Fellowship (2020) - McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society

Competitive fellowship awarded to ten graduate students a year to examine ethical questions specific to their research and that more broadly relate to their roles as scholars and as citizens.

Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement Grant (2019-22) - Stanford University

Funds awarded in support of graduate student initiatives that develop activities to expand the intellectual community. Co-received with Joseph Cloward and Avshalom Schwartz

Maroulis Family Graduate Student Support Fund (2018-23) - Stanford University

Graduate award for PhD study at Stanford University.

YouGov Bursary (2017) - University of Cambridge

Award by the Department of Politics and International Studies for graduate study.

Hannah A. Leedom Fellowship (2017) - Swarthmore College

For the pursuit of advanced study, awarded on the recommendation of the Swarthmore Committee on Fellowships and Prizes.

STEM Education Grant (2017) - Boston Girls Leadership & Organized Women (GLOW)

Awarded for encouraging girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Fulbright Grant (2013)

Fully funded residence in Germany to promote mutual understanding among nations through educational engagement.

REFERENCES

On request