

Mika LaVaque-Manty

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[University of Michigan](#)

[Department of Political Science](#)

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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|-----------|---|
| 2016–2024 | Director, Honors Program College of Literature, Science, and the Arts University of Michigan |
| 2016–2017 | Presidential Bicentennial Professor University of Michigan |
| 2014–2015 | Director Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics University of Michigan |
| 2012–2013 | Faculty Associate for Online Learning Center for Research on Learning and Teaching University of Michigan |
| 2011– | Arthur F. Thurnau Professor University of Michigan |
| 2011–2015 | Senior Fellow Michigan Society of Fellows |
| 2008– | Associate Professor (by courtesy), Department of Philosophy University of Michigan |
| 2007– | Associate Professor, Department of Political Science University of Michigan |
| 2004–2005 | A. Bartlett Giamatti Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities University of Michigan |
| 2001–2007 | Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science University of Michigan |
| 1999–2001 | Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy University of Washington |
| 1998–2001 | Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science University of Washington |

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. | University of Michigan. Philosophy. 1998 |
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Thesis: *No Secret Agents: A Liberal Theory of Political Action*

Elizabeth Anderson, chair; Stephen Darwall, Don Herzog, David Hills, Peter Railton

B.A. University of Southern California. Philosophy. 1990
Magna cum laude. Philosophy Honors. Phi Beta Kappa (1989).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2015. *Writing in Political Science: A Very Brief Guide*, with Danielle LaVaque-Manty. Oxford University Press.

2009. *The Playing Fields of Eton: Equality and Excellence in Modern Meritocracy*. University of Michigan Press. Winner of the 2010 University of Michigan Press Book Award.

2002. *Arguments and Fists: Political Agency and Justification in Liberal Theory*. Routledge.

Articles

2011. "Our Kant," *Political Theory* 39:2 (April). (Solicited article)

2006. "Dueling for Equality: Masculine Honor and the Modern Politics of Dignity," *Political Theory* 34:6 (December).

2006. "Kant's Children," *Social Theory and Practice* 32:3 (July).

2006. "Bentley, Truman, and the Study of Groups," *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (June).

2005. "Equal Opportunity to Meaningful Competitions: Disability Rights and Justice in Sports," *Disability Studies Quarterly* 25:3 (June).

2001. "Food, Functioning and Justice: From Famines to Eating Disorders," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 9:2.

Book Chapters

2017. "Universalizing Dignity." in Debes, ed., *Dignity: A Philosophical Concept*, Oxford University Press.

2013. "Implementing Metacognitive Interventions in Disciplinary Writing Classes," with E. Margaret Evans, in Kaplan, LaVaque-Manty, Meizlish & Silver, *Reflection and Metacognition in College Teaching*.

2012. "Kant on Education," in *Kant's Political Theory*, Elisabeth Ellis, ed. Penn State University Press.

2009. "Finding Theoretical Concepts in the Real World: The Case of the Precariat" in *New Waves in Political Philosophy*, Boudewijn de Bruin and Christopher Zurn, eds. Palgrave.

2008. "Johnny Cash and the Ring of Truth," with Robert W. Mickey, in *Johnny Cash and Philosophy*, ed. John Huss and David Werther. Open Court.

Book Reviews

2023. *Rationalism in Politics* by Peter J. Steinberger. *Perspectives on Politics*.

2011. *Gaming the World* by Andrei S. Markovits and Lars Rensmann. *Perspectives on Politics*.

2010. Kansakunta kilpasilla by Jouko Kokkonen. *American Historical Review*.

2007. "The Road to Abu Ghraib Goes Through Königsberg." Review of *The Kantian Imperative* by Paul Saurette. *Theory & Event* 10:2.

2006. *Imagining the American Polity* by John G. Gunnell. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 42:3.

2000. *An Ethics of Remembering* by Edith Wyschogrod, *Human Rights Review* 1:3.

Other Publications

2017. "[From 'Skyrim' to School: How Game Principles Can Improve Student Learning.](#)" *Brown Center Chalkboard*, January 27.

2012. "Teaching in the Cloud: Leveraging Online Collaboration Tools to Enhance Student Engagement." With Chad Hershock. *Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Occasional Papers* 31.

2007. Reply to Leah Soroko and Alex Livingston, "From Honor to Dignity and Back Again: Remarks on LaVaque-Manty's 'Dueling for Equality.'" *Political Theory* 35:4.

2007. Entry "Finland." *Global Perspectives on the United States*. Congressional Quarterly Press.

1999. "Kiltti kaupunki riehaantui" ("A Well-behaved City Goes Wild" — solicited feature article on WTO protests in Seattle), *Helsingin Sanomat* (Finnish newspaper), December 5.

Translations

1992. Raimo Tuomela & Marja Leena Toukonen, "Kaila's Notion of Terminal Causality," in *Eino Kaila and Logical Empiricism*, Ilkka Niiniluoto, Matti Sintonen & G.H. von Wright, eds., Societas Philosophica Fennica. (From Finnish.)

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

The Games We Play: The Incentive Regimes of Higher Education in the Age of the Internet.
Book manuscript.

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

Guest Lectures

"Gameful Pedagogy." Online webinar. Yellowdig.co; January 2021; Department of Health Learning Sciences, Michigan Medicine, April 2021.

"Campus of the Future: Higher Education that is Lifelong and Life-wide." Keynote address at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Annual Kickoff, Ypsilanti, Michigan, September 9, 2017.

"The Unquantified Life is Not Worth Living." New York University Political Philosophy Workshop, March 27, 2015.

"Campus of the Future and the Traditional University Structure." Keynote at the TEDxUofM Salon, April 3, 2014.

"The American Scholar 2.0." Keynote address at the Phi Beta Kappa induction, University of Michigan, April 2013.

"Food, Functioning, and Justice." Siena Heights University, February 2013.

"Teaching in the Cloud." Keynote address at the Provost's Seminar on Teaching, November 2012.

"For the Must Be Force': Fostering Autonomy in Educational Hierarchies." Columbia University, March, 2011, and Oakland University, April, 2011.

"How students are learning at the University of Michigan." Camp Michigania, June, 2011.

"The Political Theory of Doping." Camp Michigania, June, 2011.

"Scandinavia's Hegelian Experiments and Hegelian Hangovers." Departments of Political Science, Scandinavian Studies, and Philosophy, University of Washington, February, 2007.

"Are Finns Europeans Now, and Were They Before?: Finnish Identity and the EU." Finnfest '99, University of Washington, July 1999.

"Liberalism Grown Pale & Königsbergian." University of Washington, Department of Philosophy. May 1999.

Presentations

"For the Unquantified Life is Not Worth Living: Reflective Agency and the Digitization of Self." Western Political Science Association Meeting, Seattle, Washington, April 2014.

"Universalizing Dignity," at "Dignity: A Philosophical Concept," University of Memphis, March 2014.

"The Teaching Evaluation Project." With David Cottrell. Seminar on Learning Analytics at Michigan, September 2013.

"GradeCraft: Metrics for Motivation." With Barry Fishman. Seminar on Learning Analytics at Michigan. April 2013.

"Avatar Agency." With Benjamin Peterson. Western Political Science Association Meeting, Los Angeles, California, March 2013.

"Increasing Student Motivation with Gamification." With Benjamin Peterson. American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2012. Meeting canceled; presentation shared as poster.

"Instructor Perspective on Implementing Metacognitive Interventions in an Upper-Level Political Theory Course." Writing Research Across Boundaries, Fairfax, Virginia, February, 2011.

"Some Reflections on What It Means to be a Non-normative Theorist." American Political Science Association Meeting, Toronto, September 2009.

"Kant's Children." Department of Germanic Studies, University of Michigan, February, 2009.

"Violent Equality: Dueling in Post-*Aufklärung* Germany." German Studies Association Meeting, San Diego, October, 2007.

"American Exceptionalism, part 42: The Case of the Missing Precariat." Western Political Science Association Meeting, Las Vegas, March, 2007 and American Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, September, 2007.

“Almost Humean: Kant and Rawls.” Association for Political Theory meeting in Bloomington, IN, November, 2006.

“The Political Theory of Doping.” Western Political Science Association Meeting, Albuquerque, March 2006.

“The New Biological Turn: Nature’s Constraints on Social Action and Social Inquiry.” Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, April 2005.

“Mature Kantians.” American Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, September 2004.

“The Hum(e)an Face of Kant’s Political Judgment” (with Beth Fleishman). American Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, September 2004.

“Liberal Feminism, Gender, and Montesquieu.” Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, April 2004.

“Kant, Kids and *Körperkultur*.” Western Political Science Association Meeting, Portland, OR, March 2004.

“Dueling in Montesquieu and Kant.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2003.

“How is Bowling Political? Leisure in Civil Society and the State.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, August 2002.

“Citizens as Cavemen, Children as Contraband: On Case Selection in Political Theory.” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California, March 2002.

“Can’t the Disabled Dream of World Championship: Why Anti-discrimination Statutes Aren’t Enough.” Critical Legal Conference, Helsinki, Finland, September 2000, and Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, March 2001.

“Anti-Racism and the Enlightenment: The Case of Montesquieu.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. September 2000.

“Critique of Emotional Politics.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., September 2000.

“Liberalism Grown Pale & Königsbergian.” American Political Science Annual Meeting, Atlanta, August 1999.

“Ethics and the Environment.” Symposium on “Environmental Values” sponsored by the University of Helsinki Department of Social Psychology, Helsinki, Finland, December 1991.

“Pragmatism in Environmentalism.” “Symposium on Environmental Politics” sponsored by the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Parliament, Helsinki, Finland, October 1991

Commentator

Panel, “Praxis.” Midwest Political Science Association conference, April 2009.

Panel, “Learning from Anthropology.” Midwest Political Science Association conference, April 2009.

Panel, “Political Agency.” Western Political Science Association, March 2006.

Kok-Chor Tan, "Cosmopolitanism and Partiality." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting, March 2001.

Panel, "Rethinking Freedom, Rethinking Rights" Western Political Science Association, March 2001.

Lewis Gordon, "Black Consciousness, Bad Faith and the Human Genome" and Howard McGary, "Assimilation and the Dilemma of Racially Defined Institutions," Black Identity in Theory and Practice Symposium, University of Washington, May 1999.

Nancy Fraser, "From Redistribution to Recognition: Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Post-Socialist' Age," University of Michigan Department of Philosophy Spring Colloquium, 1995.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

DEI Academic Innovation Fellow, University of Michigan Office of Academic Innovation, 2015.
Summer salary.

Gameful Assessment in Michigan Education (GAME), Transforming Learning for a Third Century grant, University of Michigan. Co-PI
\$1.89 million

Teaching with Technology Initiative faculty grant, University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, to develop a "location-independent" way of teaching political science courses, 2010.
\$2,500

American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship, 2008-2009.
\$40,000.

Ford Faculty Fellows, year-long program on "Religious Pluralism and the Research University." University of Michigan, 2006–2007.
Research support. \$4,000.

Institute of the Humanities, A. Bartlett Giamatti Faculty Fellowship, The University of Michigan, 2004–2005.
Full salary.

Horace H. Rackham Faculty Grant for Research, 2002.
Summer fellowship. \$7,000.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Grant (Office of Undergraduate Education, University of Washington), 1999.
\$1,500.

Horace H. Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship (University of Michigan), 1997–1998.
Twelve-month fellowship paying tuition and \$14,000 stipend.

Horace H. Rackham One-term Graduate Fellowship (University of Michigan), 1996.
Fellowship paying tuition and stipend.

The University of Michigan Regents' Fellowship, 1992–1995.

Fellowship paying tuition and stipend.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Individual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan. 2024

American Political Science Association–Congressional Quarterly Teaching Innovation Prize. 2014

The Provost’s Teaching Innovation Prize. University of Michigan. 2013

Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship, for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education at the University of Michigan. 2011

University of Michigan Press Book Award, to a University of Michigan faculty or staff member for a book that has produced the greatest distinction to the Press’s list over the two previous years. October 2009. \$1,500.

University Undergraduate Teaching Award, for excellence in undergraduate education. University of Michigan, March 2009. \$1,000.

American Political Science Association/Pi Sigma Alpha Teaching Award , for excellence in teaching in Political Science, August, 2007.

Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, College of Letters, Sciences and the Arts, University of Michigan, 2007, for outstanding teaching of undergraduates. \$2,500.

Tronstein Award. Department of Political Science, the University of Michigan, 2005, for outstanding undergraduate teaching. \$5,000.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service to the profession

- Editorial board, *Political Research Quarterly*, 2015-2018
- German-American Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, 2009. Member of the organizing committee
- Midwest Political Science Association. 2008–2009 division chair for contemporary political theory
- Association for Political Theory, 2007 and 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Service to the University of Michigan

- Subcommittee Chair, Advisory Committee on the University of Michigan's Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression, 2024
- Chair, “Grand Challenges” subcommittee of the LSA Curriculum Committee, 2024
- Co-Chair, Search committee for Assistant Dean of LSA Opportunity Hub, College of LSA, 2021

- Search Advisory Committee, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, 2020-2021
- Co-Chair, Search committee for Assistant Dean of Student Academic Affairs, College of LSA, 2018
- Chair, Provost's Summer Capacity Task Force, 2017–2018
- Academic Innovation Steering Committee, 2015–2019
- Course Evaluation Instrument Review Committee, winter 2016
- Chair, Developing Tools and Technologies Subcommittee of the Digital Innovation Advisory Group, 2014–
- Internal Review Committee for the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, Summer, 2014.
- ADVANCE-LSA Faculty Advisory Committee, 2014–2018
- Provost's Learning Analytics Task Force, 2012–2015
- Faculty Advisory Committee, ADVANCE "Transition to Associate Professor" program, 2011–
- Faculty Advisory Committee, Independent Concentration Program, College of LSA, 2011–
- Executive Committee, Sweetland Center for Writing, 2011–
- Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, 2011–2014 (chair: 2013–2014)
- Chief Marshal of the University, 2008–2023
- Organizing committee (with Andreas Gailus and Silke-Marie Weineck) of "Idealism Matters" conference, September 2009.
- Curriculum Committee, College of LSA, 2008–2011
- SACUA Tenure Committee, University Senate Assembly, 2008–2011
- Executive Committee, Institute for the Humanities, 2007–2010
- Faculty Advisory Board, Letters, Sciences and the Arts Honors Program, 2007–2009
- Advisory Committee for the University's Information Technology Steward in the domain of learning and teaching, 2010-2011

Departmental Committees/Activities, University of Michigan

- Chair, PPE search committee (Department of Philosophy) (2014)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies (2013–2017)
- Executive Committee (2003–2004, 2007–2010)
- Curriculum Committee, chair (2010–2011)
- Graduate Admissions Committee (member 2002–2008, 2011; chair 2011-2013)
- Graduate Affairs Committee (2003–2004, 2011)
- Advisory Committee on Information Technology (2004–2005, 2010-2011)
- Subfield coordinator. Political theory (2004–present)
- Political theory search committee (2006, 2007)
- Co-organizer. Political Theory Workshop.
- Co-organizer. Michigan Colloquium in Political Theory
- Organizer. Reading group "Political Theory and Its Methods"
- Webmaster. Political Theory Program. (2002–2009)

Departmental Committees/Activities, University of Washington

- Chair. Undergraduate Program Committee (2000–2001)
- Political Science Executive Committee (2000–2001)
- Graduate Admissions Committee (1999–2000)

- Organizer. “Political Theory Reading Group” (1998–2001)

Referee Activities

Oxford University Press, Prentice Hall, Yale University Press, Broadview Press; *American Political Science Review*, *Political Theory*, *PS*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Polity*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Politics*, *Global Environmental Politics*, *Social Philosophy Today*, *Politics & Gender*, *Contemporary Political Theory*.

Teaching

Teaching Philosophy

My goal in teaching undergraduate and graduate students is to stress the *skills for inquiry* into political ideas as much as the knowledge of political thought. The skills I focus on are the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of political concepts, arguments and ideas. This requires much practice, most of which is writing. It also requires attention to the way in which academic inquiry is a professional practice, with specific disciplinary norms and conventions. I try to reach these goals by making my objectives and approach very clear to students and by being available to students also outside formal classroom instruction.

Teaching fields

Political theory, social and political philosophy, philosophy of social science, environmental politics

Dissertation Committees

Year of completion in parentheses.

Political Science

Elizabeth Ben-Ishai (chair) (2008)
 Ruth Nicole Brown (2004)
 Jenny Diamond Cheng (2007)
 Juan Espindola Mata (co-chair) (2011)
 Ryan Hudson
 Neveser Köker (2017)
 Eric Kos (2004)
 Patrick Lagua
 Roger Michalski (2009)
 Monicka Patterson-Tutschka (2008)
 Benjamin Peterson (2016)
 Damien Picariello (2014)
 Joshua Shipper (2017)
 Kathleen Tipler (chair, 2012)
 Jeremy Shine (chair)
 Bonnie Washick (2015)
 Brendan Wright (2014)

Other departments at the UM (discipline and year of completion in parentheses)

Matthew Bellamy (English, 2017)

Vanessa Carbonell (Philosophy, 2009)
 David Dick (Philosophy, 2009)
 Christopher Dodsworth (Philosophy, 2007)
 Robert Gressis (Philosophy, 2007)
 Soraya Gollop (Philosophy, 2007)
 Caitlin Holman (Information, 2017)
 Jonah Johnson (Comparative Literature, 2008)
 Susanna Linsley (History, 2012)
 Eleni Manis (Philosophy, 2009)
 Blain Neufeld (Philosophy, 2002)
 Clare Penlington (Education, 2006)
 Benjamin Plummer (Education)
 Glen Shadbolt (Philosophy)
 Matthew Silverstein (Philosophy, 2007)
 Noam Wiener (Doctoral Program in Law)
 David Wiens (Philosophy, 2010)

University of Washington

Louis Angel Cabrera (Political Science, 2001)
 Glenn Mackin (Political Science, 2005)
 Andrew Nestingen (Scandinavian Studies, 2001)

Teaching experience

University of Michigan, Department of Political Science (2001–present)

- Honors Social Science: Wellness (Large lecture course for the Honors Program; in-person and remote modalities)
- Introduction to Political Theory (Large lecture course)
- The Games We Play: An Introduction to Social Science Inquiry (Large lecture course for LSA Honors Program)
- Leadership and Democracy (First-year seminar)
- Twentieth-Century Political Thought (Upper-division lecture course)
- Political Science Research Design
- Junior Honors Promiseminar
- Senior Honors Seminar
- Philosophy of Social Science (Graduate seminar)
- The Political Philosophy of Immanuel Kant (Graduate seminar)
- Modern Political Thought (Undergraduate lecture course and graduate seminar)
- Liberalism and Its Critics (Graduate and undergraduate seminars)
- Religion and Secularism (Undergraduate seminar)

University of Washington, Department of Political Science (1998–2001)

- Introduction to Political Theory (Large lecture course)
- History of Western Political Thought: Early Modern Period (Upper-division lecture course)
- Theories of Social Explanation (Undergraduate honors seminar)
- Contemporary Issues of Justice (Upper-division lecture course)
- American Political Thought (Upper-division lecture course)

- Democratic Theory (Upper-division lecture course)
- Seminar on Political Agency (Graduate seminar)
- Political Theory Research Seminar (Graduate seminar)
- Political Theory Core Seminar (Graduate seminar)

University of Michigan, Department of Philosophy (1993–1997)

Independently designed and taught:

- “Contemporary Moral Problems” (Upper division introduction to questions of race and gender)
- “Introduction to Philosophy” (Course organized around philosophical topics)

Served as a section leader for faculty-taught courses:

- “Contemporary Moral Problems” (Stephen Darwall)
- “Problems and Principles” (twice: Sally Haslanger, Louis Loeb; introductory course organized around philosophical topics)
- “Law and Philosophy” (Elizabeth Anderson)

University of Helsinki, Department of Philosophy (1991):

Designed and taught:

- “Philosophical Issues in Social Ecology” (Intermediate-level introduction to environmental philosophy)

Ministry of Labour Training Centre, Leivonmäki, Finland (1990–1991):

- Taught social sciences and politics to conscientious objectors

University of Southern California, Thematic Option Honors Program (1990):

Section leader:

- “Process of Change in Science” (Christopher Gould, Physics; honors general education introduction to philosophy of science)

Professional affiliations

American Political Science Association
 Western Political Science Association
 American Philosophical Association
 Association for Political Theory
 American Society for Legal and Political Philosophy

Languages

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| Finnish | Native tongue |
| French | Functional speaking and writing, proficient reading |
| German | Proficient |
| Latin | Functional reading with a dictionary |
| Swedish | Proficient |

Revised 31 March 2025