

# ANTONG LIU

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Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708

## EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Research Associate, The Political Theory Project, Brown University  
(2019-Present)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Duke University (2019)  
*Subfields: Political Theory, Religion and Politics*

M.A., Department of Political Science, Duke University (2014)

LL.B., School of International Studies, Peking University (2012)  
*Majors: International Politics, Sociology*

Visiting Ph.D. student, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin  
(2017)

Visiting Ph.D. student, Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong (2016)

## RESEARCH

### Interest and Expertise

Modern history of political thought, Political ethics, Contemporary democratic theory,  
Comparative political theory (China)

### Doctoral Dissertation

Title: “The Modernization of Honor in Eighteenth-Century Political Theory”

Abstract: I investigate the efforts in eighteenth-century political theory to modernize the sense of honor. Contrary to the belief that influential thinkers of this century—Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, and Immanuel Kant, in particular—deviate from the tradition of honor and transform honor from a public matter of defending one’s reputation in the face of disrespect and injustice to a private matter of maintaining one’s integrity, I argue that they faithfully inherit the medieval legacy of chivalric honor passed down to them via Thomas Hobbes, Bernard Mandeville, and Montesquieu but significantly democratize and secularize it and improve its compatibility with the modern state characterized by equal citizenship, centralized government, and the rule of law. Honor is understood as a uniquely structured motivation, which combines an individual’s sensitivity to social

opinion and one's independence precisely therefrom into an integral whole. In modernizing honor, eighteenth-century thinkers attempt to transform it into a political motivation for modern individuals to balance their spirits of resistance and law-abidingness so as to stand up to injustice without themselves becoming unjust in the process. Thus, honor can help citizens of liberal democracies today to fulfill their civic responsibility.

Committee: Ruth W. Grant (Chair, Political Science, Duke University), Michael A. Gillespie (Political Science, Duke University), Alexander S. Kirshner (Political Science, Duke University), and Sharon R. Krause (Political Science, Brown University).

### **Working Projects**

"The Constant Companion of Virtue: Kantian Honor and Its Political Implications for the Fight against Disrespect"

"The Antinomy of Rousseauian Pity"

"Adam Smith, Public Reason, and the Cultivation of Civility in a Pluralist Society"

"Rousseau's Images of Youthfulness and the Dilemma of the Legislator"

"The Political Implications of Praiseworthiness and Resentment in Adam Smith's Honor Ethics"

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

The Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Fellowship, 2018-2019.

Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship, 2018-2019.

Dissertation Support Award (Political Science, Duke University), 2017-2018.

Wilson Endowment Research Grant (Political Science, Duke University), 2017-2018.

Institute for Humane Studies Ph.D. Scholarship, 2017-2018.

Conference Travel Award (Duke University), 2016-2019.

Summer Research Fellowship (Duke University), 2014-2017.

Earhart Fellowship, 2014-2015.

Master's Scholar (Political Science, Duke University), 2012-2013.

The Best Senior Honors Thesis Award (Peking University), 2011-2012.

AEON Scholarship, 2011-2012.

Hong Kong Engineer Scholarship, 2010-2011.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "Adam Smith, Public Reason, and the Cultivation of Civility in a Pluralist Society," Association of Political Theory (APT) Annual Conference, 10/2019.
- "The Constant Companion of Virtue: Kantian Honor and Its Political Implications for the Fight against Disrespect," Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 04/2019.
- "The Political Implications of Praiseworthiness and Resentment in Adam Smith's Honor Ethics," Duke-Lyon Conference on Political Equality and Mass Democracy, 04/2019.
- "The Political Implications of Praiseworthiness and Resentment in Adam Smith's Honor Ethics," Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference, 01/2019.
- "Adam Smith on the Love of Praiseworthiness, Resentment, and Their Political Implications," Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Annual Conference, 11/2018.
- "The Constant Companion of Virtue: On the Use of Kantian Honor in the Fight against Disrespect," American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, 08/2018.
- "Rousseauian Honor in the Face of Disrespect," Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Annual Conference, 11/2017.
- "Rousseauian Pity Revisited: A New Justification for Its Naturalness and Moral Significance," Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 10/2017.
- "The Constant Companion of Virtue: Kant's Reform of Honor in the Fight against Disrespect," Association of Political Theory (APT) Annual Conference, 10/2017.
- "Kant, Love of Honor, and Sustaining Good Politics," Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, 04/2017.
- "Leo Strauss and Michael Sandel Go East: Western Political Thought in China", Duke Political Theory Workshop, 03/2014.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Instructor**

*Militant Democracy: Theory and Practice*, Humboldt University of Berlin (Summer 2017).

### **Teaching Assistant**

*The Ethics of War*, Duke University (Spring 2019).

*Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Duke University (Spring 2017, Fall 2018).

*Prisoner's Dilemma and Distributive Justice*, Duke University (Fall 2017, Spring 2018).

### **Qualification**

Certificate in College Teaching, Duke University (In progress).

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Assistant**

For Alexander S. Kirshner, Duke University, 2017-2018.

For Ruth W. Grant, Duke University, 2015-2017.

For Emerson M.S. Niou, Duke University, 2012-2013.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Academic Service**

Reviewer, *Journal of Politics*.

Discussant, Duke Political Theory Workshop: Michael Walzer (04/2016), Christopher Kennedy (01/2018), Andrew Sabl (11/2018)

Reviewer, Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory 2016-2019.

### **Organizational and Administrative Service**

Leading organizer, Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory 2016, 2018.

Organizing assistant, Duke Political Theory Workshop 2014-2015.

## **ACADEMIC SKILLS**

### **Language skills**

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (proficient), Classical Chinese (reading), French (reading), German (reading, limited)

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.

(Last updated: April 2019)