

Sophie Pangle

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Academic Appointments

Middlebury College, Department of Political Science
Assistant Professor

2026-present

Princeton University, Department of Politics
John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Fellow, James Madison Program

2025-2026

Education

Harvard University

PhD in Government

April 2025

Major Field: Political Theory; Minor Field: International Relations

Dissertation:

“Dignity and Indignation, Ancient and Modern: Plato’s *Thumos* and Rousseau’s *Amour-propre*”

Committee: Harvey Mansfield, Eric Nelson (co-chairs), Christopher Kelly, Michael Rosen

The University of Chicago

Bachelor of Arts in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts (Honors)

2017

Research and Teaching Interests

- Modern political philosophy (with a focus on 18th-century French thought)
- Ancient political philosophy
- Liberalism and its critics
- African American political thought

Publications

Book

Under contract at Harvard University Press: *The Root of Indignation: Plato’s Thumos and Rousseau’s Amour-propre*

Articles

“Natural Innocence and the Psychology of Indignation in the *Dialogues* of Rousseau,” *History of Political Thought* 45:4 (2024), 709-734.

“In Defence of Pride: Rousseau’s Challenge to the Augustinians,” *History of Political Thought* 45:2 (2024), 305-326.

“Plato on the Subversion of Law in Homeric Poetry,” *The Political Science Reviewer* 45:1 (2021), 135-64.

Invited Lectures & Conference Presentations

- “*Amour-propre* and the Philosophic Life in Rousseau’s Response to Plato.” Invited Lecture at the Boston College Department of Political Science. April 2026.
- “Rousseau’s Response to Locke’s Education for Freedom.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2025.
- “Vice is Ignorance: Rousseau’s Response to Socrates.” American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA. September 2024.
- “*Amour-propre* and the Sentiment of Injustice in the *Dialogues* of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2023.
- “Autonomy and *Amour-propre* in Rousseau’s *Emile*.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference. Boston, MA. November 2022.
- “*Thumos* in Plato’s Epistemic Critique of the Arts.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference. Online. November 2021.
- “The Socratic Diagnosis in Nietzsche’s *Twilight of the Idols*.” Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA. November 2019.
- “Plato on the Subversion of Law in Homeric Poetry.” American Political Science Association Conference, Washington, DC. August 2019.

Teaching

Middlebury College:

- Introduction to Political Philosophy
- The Politics of Indignation
- Gender and Political Philosophy
- Politics, Philosophy, and Education

Harvard University:

Instructor: Dignity and Indignation in the History of Political Theory (Spring 2023)

Teaching Fellow:

- History of Modern Political Philosophy (Spring 2022, Spring 2021)
- Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy (Fall 2021)
- African American Political Thought (Fall 2020)

Selected Fellowships & Honors

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2023-2024
Publication Accelerator Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2022-2023
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education	2022

Wilson Carey McWilliams Best Graduate Student Paper in Political Theory, Northeastern Political Science Association Conference	2021
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago	2017
Merit Scholarship: University Scholar Award, University of Chicago	2013-2017

Languages

French (reading and speaking), Ancient Greek (reading), German (reading)

References

Christopher Kelly
Professor of Political Science
Boston College
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William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Government
Harvard University
hmansfield@gov.harvard.edu

Eric Nelson
Robert M. Beren Professor of Government
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