

## YING TIANHONG

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### EDUCATION

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**Michigan State University**

East Lansing, US

*PhD's Degree in Political Science*

*September 2018 - August 2024*

- Major: Political Philosophy; Minor: Comparative Politics
- Dissertation: “**The Beginning of John Locke’s Liberalism**”
- Committee: Dustin Sebell, Arthur Melzer, Tobin Craig, J. Judd Owen (Emory)
- Abstract: I examine the beginning of John Locke’s liberalism in *Two Tracts on Government* and *Questions Concerning the Laws of Nature*. I argue that the priority of reason over revelation and the priority of public security over individual freedom reflect the rational, skeptical, and realistic basis of Locke’s liberalism. Locke also follows Hobbes to be a liberal by lowering the end of politics to the pursuit of public security and establishing secular absolute state on the individual natural right of self-preservation. Furthermore, I argue for interpreting Locke’s liberalism in the context of global political thought, especially the clash between Confucian China and Christian Europe in the Age of Discovery. Although Confucianism differs from liberalism in whether right is prior to duty, Confucian China still offers a model of secular enlightenment and religious toleration to Locke. Understanding Locke’s liberalism in global political thought also enables us to rethink the intellectual interaction between Confucianism and liberalism.

*Master’s Degree in Political Science*

*September 2018 - June 2020*

**Renmin University of China**

Beijing, China

*Master’s Degree in Political Science*

*September 2015 - June 2018*

*Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science*

*September 2011 - June 2015*

**VU University Amsterdam**

Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Exchange Student in Political Science*

*September 2016 - June 2017*

### Academic Appointment

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**Norther Michigan University**

Marquette, US

Visiting Assistant Professor

*August 2024 – May 2025*

### TRAINING

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**Salesian Pontifical University**

Rome, Italy

Latin

*July 2019*

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Early Modern Political Philosophy, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Chinese Political Thought, Comparative and Global Political Thought, China in the Enlightenment, Confucianism and Feminism.

### TEACHING INTERESTS

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**Political Philosophy**: History of Eastern and Western Political philosophy. Contemporary Political Thought.

**Comparative Politics:** Chinese Politics, East Asian Politics, Authoritarian Politics.

## **BOOK PROJECTS**

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*The Beginning of Locke's Liberalism*

*Locke and China: How Confucianism Influences Liberalism*

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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"Locke, China, and Liberalism"

"America, China, and Locke's Modern Skepticism"

"Locke and the Problem of Liberalism"

"Locke and the Problem of Rule of Law"

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Instructor of Record**

- *Modern Political Philosophy*, MSU Spring 2024
- *Social Science Approaches to Law*, MSU Summer 2024
- *Ancient Political Thought*, NMU Fall 2024
- *American Political Thought*, NMU Fall 2024
- *Introduction to Political Science*, NMU Fall 2024

### **Teaching Assistant**

- *Classical Political Philosophy*, MSU Spring 2021 & Fall 2021
- *Modern Political Philosophy*, MSU Fall 2018 & Spring 2020 & Fall 2020 & Fall 2022
- *American Political Thought*, MSU Spring 2023
- *Liberal Democracy as a Way of Life*, MSU Spring 2022
- *Social Science Approaches to Law*, MSU Summer 2023 & Fall 2019
- *Introduction to American Politics*, MSU Spring 2019 & Summer 2020 & Summer 2022
- *Asia: Social Science Perspectives*, MSU Fall 2023

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATION**

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- "Religious Toleration, National Church, and State Building,"  
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2019. Chicago, April 2019
- "Absolutism and Religious Toleration,"  
Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Annual Conference 2020. Online, November 2020
- "Locke's Teaching of Natural Law,"  
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2021. Online, April 2021
- "Indifferent Things, Conscience, and 'Freedom vs. Security' Dilemma,"  
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference 2021. Online, October 2021
- Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2022. Chicago, April 2022
- "Locke on God, Morality, and Law,"  
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2023. Chicago, April 2023
- "From Absolutism to Liberalism: Locke on the Political Problem of Christianity,"  
Michigan Political Science Association (MIPSA) Annual Conference 2023. Flint, October 2023
- "'The Only Compass and Star': Locke on Reason, Passion, and Desire,"

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- Graduate Student Assistantships of Michigan State University 2018 – 2024
- Conference Travel Fellowship of Michigan State University 2019 – 2024
- Summer Research Fund of Michigan State University 2024
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship of Michigan State University 2024
- First-Prize Scholarships of Renmin University 2016 & 2015
- Second-Prize Scholarships of Renmin University 2014 & 2013
- Outstanding Graduate Award of Renmin University 2018 & 2015

### **LANGUAGES**

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Chinese (native), English (fluent), Latin (intermediate reading), Ancient Greek (elementary reading)

### **REFERENCES**

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#### **Dustin Sebell**

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Michigan State University  
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368 Farm Lane  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
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#### **Tobin Craig**

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#### **Raúl Rodríguez**

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