

YING TIANHONG

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Academic Appointment

Northern Michigan University

Marquette, US

Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2024 – May 2025

EDUCATION

Michigan State University

East Lansing, US

PhD 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

TRAINING

Salesian Pontifical University

Rome, Italy

Latin

July 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

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

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

BOOK PROJECTS

The Beginning of Locke's Liberalism

Locke, China, and Liberalism

WORKING PAPERS

"Locke and the Problem of Liberalism" (under review)

"Locke and the Problem of Law"

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

"Locke, China, and Liberalism"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

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

Teaching Assistant

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

ACADEMIC PRESENTATION

- "America, China, and Locke's Skeptical Foundation of Liberalism,"
Global Political Thought Association Annual Conference 2025. Washington D.C., April 2025
- "Locke, China, and Liberalism,"
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2025. Chicago, April 2025
- "Female Virtue versus Female Right: Feminism's Challenge to Confucianism in China,"
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference 2024. Philadelphia, September 2024
- "'The Only Compass and Star': Locke on Reason, Passion, and Desire,"
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2024. Chicago, April 2024
- "From Absolutism to Liberalism: Locke on the Political Problem of Christianity,"
Michigan Political Science Association (MIPSA) Annual Conference 2023. Flint, October 2023
- "Locke on God, Morality, and Law,"
Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2023. Chicago, April 2023

“Indifferent Things, Conscience, and ‘Freedom vs. Security’ Dilemma,” Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2022.	Chicago, April 2022
“Indifferent Things, Conscience, and ‘Freedom vs. Security’ Dilemma,” American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference 2021.	Online, October 2021
“Locke’s Teaching of Natural Law,” Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2021.	Online, April 2021
“Absolutism and Religious Toleration,” Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) Annual Conference 2020.	Online, November 2020
“Religious Toleration, National Church, and State Building,” Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2019.	Chicago, April 2019

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

Dustin Sebell

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