

YING TIANHONG

Address: 368 Farm Lane, Office 232, South Kedzie Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

MOBILE: 517-730-7407; Email: yingtian@msu.edu

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/tianhongying/home>

EDUCATION

Michigan State University

East Lansing, US

PhD's Degree in Political Science

September 2018 - Present

- Major: Political Philosophy; Minor: Comparative Politics
- Dissertation: “**Locke’s Rational Enlightenment and the Critique of Revelation**”
- Committee: Dustin Sebell (Chair), Arthur Melzer, Tobin Craig, J. Judd Owen (Emory)
- Abstract: I examine John Locke’s political philosophy regarding reason and revelation. I argue that Locke is a radical Enlightenment philosopher rather than a devout believer. While Locke appears to reconcile reason and revelation, he actually presents a rational critique of revelation to promote the pursuit of comfortable self-preservation in this world. Locke seeks to address the political challenges posed by Christianity through individualizing, moralizing, and de-politicizing it. He attempts to transform Christianity to be a civil religion that fosters peace within the state and serves morality. Moreover, religious toleration and the separation of church and state are Locke’s proposed institutional solutions to minimize potential conflicts between the two. However, when conflicts arise, Locke consistently prioritizes security over freedom of conscience.

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, Puritan Political Thought, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Benedict de Spinoza, Chinese Political Thought, American Political Thought, Comparative Political Thought.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Philosophy: History of Eastern and Western Political philosophy.

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

WORKING PAPERS

“Locke versus Bagshaw: Indifferent Things, Conscience, and the Choice between Freedom and Security”

“‘Absolute and Arbitrary Power’: Locke on Secular Legislative Absolutism”

“‘The Only Star and Compass’: Locke on Reason, Passion, and Desire”

“‘The True Ground of Morality’: Locke on Morality, Law, and Education”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

“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

EDITION AND TRANSLATION PROJECT

- Edward Bagshaw, *Writings on Politics and Religion*.
- Chinese translation of John Locke, *Two Tracts on Government*.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Graduate Student Assistantships of Michigan State University 2018 - 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

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

REFERENCES

Dustin Sebell

Associate Professor of Political Science
Michigan State University
Office #308 South Kedzie Hall,

Arthur Melzer

Professor of Political Science
Michigan State University
Office #309 South Kedzie Hall,

368 Farm Lane
East Lansing, MI 48823
sebell@msu.edu
Office Phone: (517) 353-3285

368 Farm Lane
East Lansing, MI 48823
melzer@msu.edu
Office Phone: (517) 355-6597

Raúl Rodríguez

Dean's Research Associate in Political Science
Michigan State University
368 Farm Lane
East Lansing, MI 48823
rodr1085@msu.edu
Office Phone: (517) 355-6592