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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, University of California, Davis, expected June 2010
Major Field: Political Theory
Secondary Fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations

M.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis, 2006
Thesis Title: The Problem of Religion in Rousseau's Emile

B.A., *summa cum laude* with highest honors in Political Science, English minor, Florida
International University, 2003

DISSERTATION

Title: *Creating Community: Locke's Secular Theory of the Non-Secular State*
Committee: John T. Scott (Chair), Robert S. Taylor, Josephine T. Andrews

What binds citizens together into a community? How are individuals transformed into citizens? My dissertation returns to the origins of liberal thought to examine these questions at their source, particularly focusing on religion as the element that binds individuals. I examine the extent to which religion plays a role in Locke's political theory, analyzing both the founding principles of the theory and its concluding institutional relationship between religion and the state. I argue that, while Locke ultimately builds his argument on non-religious grounds, religion performs an essential role in the state by countering human nature's tendency toward self-interest. I present a unique method of interpreting Locke. Moreover, my interpretation that religion fosters friendship and creates a durable bond between citizens and the state resolves a long-disputed problem in liberal rights-based political systems of how to adequately balance individual and community interests. Locke's carefully designed argument merges community interest with self-interest while being built on the foundation of individual consent.

WORKING PAPERS

"Losing My Religion: The Secular Basis of Locke's Political Theory"

"Nearly Separation of Church and State: An Analysis of Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration*"

"From Individual to Citizen: Enhancing the Bonds of Citizenship through Religion"

“Natural Right of Immigration? Locke, Religious Liberty, and the American Founding,” in progress

“Pleasure, Friendship, and the Virtuous Human Life in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

John Locke

Early modern political thought

Individual and society (community, citizenship, education)

Religion in politics (secularism, toleration)

TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Political Thought:

Early Modern

Ancient & Medieval

Late Modern and Contemporary

Religion in politics

Persecution & toleration

Education in political thought

American political thought

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Instructor, University of California, Davis (Summer 2007, Summer 2008, Winter and Summer 2009):

Basic Concepts in Political Theory, introductory course, organized around the theme of the relationship between individuals and the community and toleration

Early Modern Political Thought, advanced undergraduate course

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis (2004-Present):

Courses in Political Theory:

Basic Concepts in Political Theory

Ancient Political Philosophy

Early Modern Political Thought

Late Modern Political Thought

Topics in Political Theory: Power

American Political Thought

Courses in Comparative Politics & International Relations:

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Latin American Politics

Introduction to International Relations

Research Experience, University of California, Davis (2004-2006):

Graduate Research Assistant:

John T. Scott, 2004-2006

Gabriella Montinola, Summer 2006

AWARDS, HONORS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

Religion & Politics section

Foundations of Political Thought section

Western Political Science Association

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Political Science, Florida International University, 2003

Book Award in Political Science, nominated by Professor Brian Nelson, Florida International University, 2003

Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Florida, inducted 2003

Phi Kappa Phi, honor society for academic achievement, inducted 2003

Golden Key International Honor Society, inducted 2003

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Professor John T. Scott, Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis,
email jtscott@ucdavis.edu

Assistant Professor Robert S. Taylor, Department of Political Science, University of
California, Davis, email rstaylor@ucdavis.edu

Associate Professor Josephine T. Andrews, Department of Political Science, University of
California, Davis, email jtandrews@ucdavis.edu