

## Candice K. Travis, Ph.D. Candidate

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Department of Political Science  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Massachusetts Amherst**, Amherst MA  
Political Science (expected May 2022)  
Examination fields: History of Political Thought; Contemporary Social and  
Political Theory

Dissertation: *The Violence of Nostalgia: Conspiracy Theorism, White  
Nationalism, and Restoring American Exceptionalism*  
Committee: Roberto Alejandro (chair); Thomas Dumm (outside member,  
Amherst College); Justin Gross; Jesse Rhodes

M.A. **Lehigh University**, Bethlehem PA  
Political Science (2015)

Master's Thesis: *Recovering 'The Feeling of Existence'*  
Advisor: Richard Matthews, Political Science

B.A. **Lehigh University**, Bethlehem PA  
Philosophy (departmental honors) and Political Science (2014)  
*Summa cum laude*

Undergraduate Thesis: *Liberal Consent: Charade or Freedom?*  
Advisor: Robin Dillon, Philosophy

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical theory, democratic theory, American political thought, history of  
political thought, existential philosophy, nations/nationalism, race/ethnicity,  
political violence and extremism, philosophy of education, critical pedagogy

### FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Amherst Program in Critical Theory Fellowship	March 2016 – Present
Dept. of Political Science Research and Writing Grant	Summer 2020
Dept. of Political Science Research and Writing Grant	Summer 2019
Dept. of Political Science Conference Grant	Fall 2018
Dept. of Political Science Research and Writing Grant	Summer 2018
Dept. of Political Science Conference Grant	Spring 2018
Dept. of Political Science Research and Writing Grant	Summer 2017

### HONORS

Distinguished Teaching Award Finalist, UMass	February 2018
Haynes Prize Winner, Lehigh University	Spring 2014
Presidential Scholar, Lehigh University	Spring 2014
Williams Scholar, Lehigh University	Spring 2012 & Spring 2013

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

**First Year Seminar Program Assistant** Fall 2021  
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA

**Instructor**, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA

*First Year Seminar: SBS Pathways* Fall 2021  
Introduction to making the most of the college experience.

**Instructor**, Residential Academic Programs  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA

*First Year Seminar: Connect to Social & Behavioral Sciences* Fall 2021  
Residential oriented introduction to Social/Behavioral Sciences.

**Instructor**, Department of Political Science  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA

*Conspiracy Theory & the American Imagination* Summer 2021  
Analysis of the role of conspiracy in American politics.

*Interpretation & Analysis* Spring 2021  
Writing intensive & methods requirement for Political Science majors.

*First Year Seminar: Power and Politics in the University* Fall 2020  
Introduction to college, pedagogy, politics, and individuality. Fall 2019

*Modern Political Thought* Spring 2019  
Focus on the production of an 'Other' in modern thinking.

**Teaching Assistant**, Political Science Sept 2015 – May 2020  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst MA

*Introduction to Political Theory*  
*American Politics through Film*  
*American Political Thought*

**Teaching Assistant**, Political Science Aug 2014 – May 2015  
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

*American Political Thought*  
*Introduction to Political Ideology*

**CONFERENCE  
PAPERS**

*Problematizing Political Nostalgia: Conspiracy Theory & White Nationalism*  
American Political Science Association  
Seattle, WA  
September 2021

*For Mad People Only: Imagination and Irrationality in Political Science*  
(co-author: Sean D. Harris, Temple University)  
Northeastern Political Science Association  
Philadelphia, PA  
November 2019

*For Mad People Only: The Importance of Suspending Reason through the  
Study of Literature in Politics*  
(co-author: Sean D. Harris, Temple University)  
Western Political Science Association  
San Diego, CA  
April 2019

*Narrative as Mirror: Finding Meaning in Loss*  
Western Political Science Association  
San Diego, CA  
April 2019

*Literature and Political Theory: Accessing a World Beyond Reason*  
(co-author: Sean D. Harris, Temple University)  
American Political Science Association  
Boston, MA  
September 2018

*Modernity and the Critique of Authenticity as Nationalist Nostalgia*  
Western Political Science Association  
San Francisco, CA  
March 2018

**INVITED TALKS  
AND LECTURES**

*Feminism as Self-Transcendental Ideology*  
Guest lecture for Introduction to Political Ideology  
Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA  
April 2018

**ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE**

Coordinator, Political Theory Workshops  
Department of Political Science  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
2017 – 2018

Conference Organizer, “Violent Times, Violent Spaces”  
Political Science Graduate Student Association  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
2016 – 2017

**SERVICE**

Representative, Graduate Studies Committee  
Political Science Graduate Student Association  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2018 – 2019

Co-Chair  
Political Science Graduate Student Association  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2016 – 2017

**PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

American Political Science Association  
Western Political Science Association  
Association for Political Theory  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society)