

MERRICK ANDERSON

Ancient Philosophy · Political Thought · Social Philosophy

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EMPLOYMENT

2024–Present — Assistant Professor, University of Southern California
2021–2024 — British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, University College London
2019–2021 — Keeling Research Fellow, University College London
2018–2019 — Postgraduate Research Associate and Lecturer, Princeton University

EDUCATION

2013–2018 — Ph.D. in Philosophy, Princeton University (Program in Ancient Philosophy)
2012 — M.A. in Political Theory, University of Toronto
2011 — B.A. in Philosophy, University of Toronto, High Distinction

PUBLICATIONS¹

Monographs

1. *2024. *Just Prospering? Plato and the Sophistic Debate about Justice*
British Academy Monograph published by Oxford University Press
Reviewed by: (1) A. M. Bras, *Etudes Platoniciennes*, 2025
(2) K. S. Kingsley, *Polis*, 2025
(3) J. Mourcade, *The Review of Metaphysics*, 2025
(4) B. McDavid, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2025
(5) S. Peprah, *The Classical Review*, 2025
(6) R. Benitez, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2025
(7) H. Tell, *Ancient Philosophy*, 2026
(8) J.E. Sosa, *GNOMON*, 2026
2. *The Argument of Plato's Republic*, under contract with Cambridge University Press

Papers and Chapters

3. *Forthcoming. "The Tatters to Tyranny Observation and Plato's Final Response to the Appeal of Injustice in *Laws X*" at *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.
4. *2025. "Knock, Knock! Who's There? A Comic Immoralist with an Inclusive Account of Jokes," *The Journal of Aesthetic Education* 59.4: 28-45
5. *2025. "The Sophists, Human Nature, and the First Political Societies: A Reply to Robitzsch," *Polis* 42.3: 345-365.
6. 2025. "A New Role for the Philosopher Rulers: Situating 519c-521d in its Argumentative Context," in (eds.) M. M. McCabe and S. Trepanier, *Rereading Plato's Republic*. Edinburgh University Press, 172-187
7. *2025. "Towards a New Understanding of the Nature of the Virtues in the *Republic*," in (ed.) Carolina Araujo, *Plato's Power*. Brill, 275-294
8. *2024. "The Power of Courage in Plato's *Republic*," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy* 62.1: 1-23
9. *2020. "What are the Wages of Justice? Rethinking the *Republic's* Division of Goods," *Phronesis* 65.1: 1-26
10. *2019. "Legein to What End?," *Australasian Philosophical Review* 3.2: 176-82
11. *2019. "Immorality or Immortality? An Argument for Virtue," *Rhetorica* 37.2: 97-119

¹ * Indicates a peer-reviewed publication

12. *2016. “Thrasymachus’ Sophistic Account of Justice in *Republic* i,” *Ancient Philosophy* 36.1: 151-72

Commissioned and Written

13. “Ethical and Political Thought,” Commissioned and completed for (eds.) J. Bryan, L. Cantor, and S. Tor, *The Routledge Handbook of Presocratic Philosophy*
14. Translation of and Commentary on Part of Plato’s Protagoras (with Joshua Billings), commissioned and completed for (eds.) C. Moore, D. Napoli, and D. Williams, *Hippias of Elis: Texts, Translation, Commentaries*

Book Reviews

15. 2018. “Plato-Nietzsche: Philosophy the Other Way Translated by Kenneth Quandt,” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. [bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2018/2018.10.05]

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

At University College London

1. 2021-2024. British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship
Competitive Research Fellowship worth £325,655.94
2. 2019-20. Research Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies, London

At Princeton University

3. 2017-18. Mildred W. and Alfred T. Carton, Class of 1905 Fellowship
Competitive named fellowship for outstanding research in the Humanities
4. 2016-17. Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship
5. 2014-17. University Center for Human Values Travel Grant
6. 2013-18. Paul Elmer More Fellowship
7. 2013-18. Stanley J. Seeger Graduate Fellowship

At the University of Toronto

8. 2012. Hertog Political Studies Program Fellowship
9. 2010-11. Socrates Project Fellowship
10. 2011. New College Registrar’s Graduation Award in the Humanities
For having the highest GPA in the Humanities of New College’s Graduating Class

TEACHING

At the University of Southern California

1. Fall, 2026. PHIL 515: Studies in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
2. Fall, 2026. PHIL 103: Philosophy, Politics and Economics in Europe, from Renaissance to Enlightenment
3. Fall, 2026. HUM 123: The Philosophy of Comedy and Humor
4. Spring, 2026. PHIL 168: The Meaning of Life
5. Spring, 2026. PHIL 315: History of Western Philosophy, Ancient Period
6. Fall, 2025. PHIL 515: Studies in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
7. Summer, 2025. PHIL 424: Nineteenth Century Philosophy
8. Spring, 2025. PHIL 515: Studies in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
9. Spring, 2025. PHIL 415: Aristotle
10. Fall, 2024. PHIL 315: History of Western Philosophy, Ancient Period

At University College London

11. Fall, 2021. PHIL 0186: Advanced Topics in Plato’s Philosophy
12. Fall, 2020. PHIL 0186: Advanced Topics in Plato’s Philosophy
13. Fall, 2019. PHIL 0001: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

At Princeton University—Primary Instructor

14. Fall, 2018. PHI/CLA 205: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

At Princeton University—Assistant Instructor

15. Fall, 2017. PHI 385: Practical Ethics
16. Fall, 2016. PHI 300: Plato and his Predecessors
17. Fall, 2014. PHI 306: Nietzsche

SELECTED TALKS (full list available on request)

1. 03.2027. “Some Problems with the Account of Justice in *Laws IX*” — Duke-UNC Workshop, Duke University
2. 09.2026. “Rethinking *Akrasia*, Education, and More, Or: The Importance of *Republic* 412-414” — Keeling Colloquium *Plato On Learning to be Good, Part 1*, University College London
3. 04. 2026. “The Tatters to Tyranny Observation and Plato’s Final Response to the Appeal of Injustice” — Department of Classics, University of Southern California
4. 03. 2026. “The Opening of *Laws* Book III” — *Aristotle Bash*, University of California, Los Angeles
5. 12.2025. “The Tatters to Tyranny Observation and Plato’s Final Response to the Appeal of Injustice”— Keynote Address of the *First International Graduate Conference*, University of Ghana.
6. 11.2025. “Is There a Power of Temperance in Plato?”— *Florida Ancient Philosophy Workshop*, University of Florida
7. 05.2025. “The Tatters to Tyranny Observation and Plato’s Final Response to the Appeal of Injustice”—*History of Philosophy Roundtable*, University of California San Diego
8. 04.2025. “Plato, The “Rags to Riches Observation,” and his Final Response to the Appeal of Injustice”— *Ancient Political Philosophy Workshop*, University of Toronto
9. 06.2024. “Protagoras’ Politics”— *Protagoras in Siracusa*, Italy
10. 06.2024. “Three Platonic Responses to the Appeal of Injustice” — Department of Philosophy, University College London
11. 01.2023. “On Glaucon and Adeimantus’ Real Challenge and Socrates’ Response” —Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida
12. 03.2023. “On Glaucon and Adeimantus’ Real Challenge and Socrates’ Response” — Department of Philosophy, University of Southern California

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek, Latin, German (reading), French (beginner)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewed for

Oxford University Press, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Ancient Philosophy*, *Apeiron*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Classical Quarterly*, *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Phronesis*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, *Philosopher’s Imprint*, and *Classical Philology*

At The University of Southern California

2026-27. Recording Secretary; Area Editor of *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; Climate Committee
2024-26. Recording Secretary; Area Editor of *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*

At University College London

2022-23. Organizer, Keeling Workshop in Ancient Philosophy
2021-22. M.A. dissertation supervisor for Kesara Ariyapongpaiboj
2020-21. Director of *How to be an Antiracist* Reading Group

At Princeton University

2018-19. Senior thesis supervisor for Simeon Lane and Elizabeth Jobson
2014-19. Resident Graduate Student, Butler College

REFERENCES

- Hendrik Lorenz — Princeton University — hlorenz@princeton.edu
- Melissa Lane — Princeton University — m lane@princeton.edu
- Benjamin Morison — Princeton University — bmorison@princeton.edu
- Rachel Barney — University of Toronto — rachel.barney@utoronto.ca
- Fiona Leigh — University College London — fiona.leigh@ucl.ac.uk