

# Mary K. Ryan

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Blacksburg, VA 24060

## **AREAS OF INTEREST**

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White Supremacy & Critical Race Studies | Civics | Social Movements | Moral Philosophy | Governance | Democratic Theory | Surveillance Studies | Public Service | Domination |

## **EDUCATION**

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### **Virginia Tech**

Blacksburg, VA

Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought

May 2019 (Anticipated)

- Dissertation: *The Democratic Kaleidoscope in the United States: Vanquishing Structural Racism in the U.S. Federal Government*
- Committee: David Brunsma, Sociology (Chair); Mauro Caraccioli, Political Science/ASPECT; Kwame Harrison, Sociology/Africana Studies; and Michael Moehler, Philosophy/ASPECT
- Concentrations in Social and Ethical Thought
- Cumulative GPA: 3.97
- ABD as of September 2017

### **Marquette University**

Milwaukee, WI

M.A. in Public Service

August 2011

- Specialization in Leadership Studies

### **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Milwaukee, WI

B.A. in Political Science

December 2004

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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| 2018      | Outstanding Doctoral Graduate Student Award in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech Graduate School |
| 2018      | Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Inducted at Yale University on April 27, 2018                                      |
| 2015-2017 | Diversity Scholar Fellowship, Virginia Tech Graduate School  |
| 2013      | Milwaukee's Finest Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation-Wisconsin Chapter                  |
| 2001      | Outstanding Student Leader of the Year, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  |

## **TEACHING (Instructor of Record)**

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### *Department of Political Science*

- POLSCI 2024 Research Methods. Undergraduate Seminar. Virginia Tech. Fall 2016. Spring 2017.
- POLSCI 3414 Public Administration. Undergraduate Seminar. Virginia Tech. Spring 2016.
- POLSCI 3434 Urban Politics. Undergraduate Seminar. Virginia Tech. Fall 2015.

### *Department of Philosophy*

- PHIL 2304 Global Ethics. Undergraduate Seminar. Virginia Tech. Fall 2017. Spring 2018. Fall 2018. Spring 2019.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

1. Ryan, M. (2017). Imagining utopia in an unfree world: Rick Turner on morality, inequality, and existentialism. *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, Volume 64(2), 40-46.
2. Ryan, M. (2013). The moral vortex. *Nomadic Sojourns Journal*, Volume 2, 99-108.
3. Ryan, M. (2012). Help: Promise and power. *Nomadic Sojourns Journal*, Volume 1, 81-94.
4. Ryan, M. (2010). The future of the global prison industrial complex. *Journal for the Study of Peace and Conflict*, 2009-2010, 1-13.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES**

1. Ryan, M. (In progress). Civic obligations of whiteness: Toward liberatory democracy. In H. Ramadan and J. Shantz (Eds.), *Causes and resistance to social phobias*. Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press.
2. Ryan, M. (In progress). Protesting dystopia: The Women's March on Washington and visual testimonies for utopian democracy. In B. Brodman and J. Doan (Eds.), *Utopia and dystopia in the age of Trump: Image from literature and visual arts*. Vancouver, BC: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.
3. Brunsma, D. and Ryan, M. (Under review). Sincerity in anti-racist activism. In J.S. Carter, D. Embrick, and C. Lippard (Eds.), *Whitelash: White Resistance to Racial Equality in the Trump Era*, University of Washington Press.
4. Ryan, M. (Forthcoming Spring 2019). A place to see: Poverty in American theater from 1935-2015. In W. Lenz (Ed.), *The Representation of Poverty in Popular Culture*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
5. Ryan, M. (Forthcoming) The Kerner Commission and the domination of white supremacy in the US federal government. In A. Merali (Ed.), *The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights*. London, UK: Islamic Human Rights Commission Ltd.
6. Ryan, M. (2018). Government surveillance: Racism, and civic virtue in the United States. In S. Flynn and A. Mackay (Eds.), *Surveillance, Race, Culture*. (pp. 43-59) London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
7. Ryan, M. (2017). Surveilling to Remember: The Impact of Technology on American Democracy and Good Government, Community, and Policing: Police Brutality and Civic Peace. In L. Kirakosyan and M. Stephenson (Eds.), *RE: Reflections and Explorations-A Forum for Deliberative Dialogue* (pp. 255-261 and 293-299). Blacksburg, VA: VT Publishing.
8. Ryan, M. (2017). Sousveillance as a tool in US civic polity. In S. Flynn and A. Mackay (Eds), *Spaces of Surveillance: States and Selves* (pp. 211-229). London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
9. Ryan, M. (2017). Haunting America: Racial identity and otherness in civic society. In C.A. Varlack (Ed.) *Critical Reflections: Civil Rights Literature, Past & Present* (pp. 53-72). Amenia, NY: Salem Press.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

1. Ryan, M. (2017). Review of *Freedom and Limits / John Lachs*. *William James Studies*, 13(1), 120-122. Retrieved from <http://williamjamesstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/7Notes-Lachs-Freedom-and-LimitsWJS-Vol-13no-1Spring-2017pp-120-22.pdf>
2. Ryan, M. (2016). Finding a Better Society: The Work of Lauren Berlant's *Cruel Optimism*. *SPECTRA: The Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives*, 5(1). Retrieved from <https://spectrajournal.org/SPECTRA/article/view/347/225>

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

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### **PEER REVIEWED CREATIVE WRITING**

1. Ryan, M. (2018). Insider Job. In *Oasis: An Anti-Capitalist Journal of the Desert*, Holum Press, 13-16.
2. Ryan, M. (2018). Regeneration. In H. Fischman (Ed.), *Draw Write Here*, Volume 5, 32-35, 61-62, 88-89.
3. Ryan, M. (2017). Purpose. In S. Cedeno (Ed.), *Clockhouse*, Volume 5, 129.
4. Ryan, M. (2016). On the Strength of an Eyelid. In M. Eck (Ed.), *Lehigh Valley Vanguard Collections: Precarity Tales*, Volume 10, 21-22.
5. Ryan, M. (2015). Resurrection. In H. Fischman (Ed.), *Draw Write Here*, Volume 2, 9-12, 75-78, 187-190.
6. Ryan, M. (2015). Minding Peacefulness. In H. Fischman (Ed.), *Draw Write Here*, Volume 1, 56-57, 92-93.

### **AUTHORED PLAYS & FILMS**

1. Chandrakala Arts, "*Veeram: Macbeth*," English Dialogue Writer, 2017. Honors: Preliminary Oscar qualification for Best Picture and Best Song
2. Manhattan Repertory Theater (Off-Off-Broadway), Playwright, *Fault Lines*, 2014.
3. Alchemist Theater (Regional), Playwright, *Use No Place Soon*, 2014.
4. MATC Cooley Auditorium (Regional), Playwright, *Diary of an Urban Food Goddess*, 2014.
5. Independent film, "*Rhizome: A Contemporary Adaptation of The Cradle Will Rock*," Co-Writer (with J.K. Fowler), 2012
6. Urban Anthropology, Inc., *Can We Become Homeless? A Social Experiment with Marquette Graduate Students*, 2010.
7. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (Regional), Playwright, *The Difference Dies*, 2009.

## **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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### **INVITED TALKS**

1. (Forthcoming) "The State and Democracy," Introduction to Sociology-Undergraduate Lecture (Prof. David Brunsma), Virginia Tech, November 2018.
2. (Forthcoming) "Intro to Discourse Analysis," Critical Methodologies-Graduate Seminar (Prof. Audrey Reeves), Virginia Tech, October 2018
3. (Forthcoming) "Race, Democracy, and Social Movements," Prison Scholars Program (Prof. Joshua Miller), Georgetown University, September 2018.
4. (Forthcoming) "Navigating the PhD," ASPECT Professional Development-Graduate Seminar (Prof. Brett Shadle), Virginia Tech, September 2018.
5. "The Kerner Commission and the Domination of White Supremacy in the US Federal Government," *The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights*, London, February 2018.
6. Dissertation Presentation for Research Colloquium, HBCU Summit at Virginia Tech, October 2017.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

1. (Forthcoming) "(Re)Collecting US Democracy: Riots, Race, and the State of the Republic Through the Lens of the Kerner Commission," *Spectres of Domination: Politicizing the Terms of Resistance*, Northwestern Graduate Student Conference in Political Theory, Evanston, IL, November 2018.
2. (Forthcoming) "Harvesting US Democracy: The Kerner Commission on police brutality, white supremacy, and race," Northeastern Political Science Association, Montreal, November 2018.
3. (Forthcoming) "Cloudy Mirrors of Democracy: Documenting the Kerner Commission's Uprisings, Riots, and Protests in the Face of Structural Racism," *Losing Our Words: Transformations in Language and Culture*, Humber College, Toronto, October 2018.

4. "The Women's March on Washington As a Testimony for Utopian Democracy," Society for the Study of Social Problems, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018.
5. "Democracy, Race, and the Kerner Commission," Master Class with Wendy Brown, University of Lucerne, Switzerland, May/June 2018.
6. "The Kerner Commission, White Supremacy, and Lingering Democratic Dystopia," International Social Theory Consortium, Chicago, May 2018.
7. "Imperial (Con)quest: Police Brutality, Riots, and Race in U.S. Structural Racism," Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2018.
8. "An Ever-Present Whiteness: The Kerner Commission in a Racialized State," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 2018.
9. "Struggles for Sincerity in Anti-Racist Activism," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 2018.
10. "21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Movements and the (False?) Promise of White Resistance," ASPECT Graduate Conference, Virginia Tech, March 2018.
11. Lightning Rod Dissertation Presentation, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2018.
12. Theories of the Human Condition: Factoring Race, Social Position, and Value, Advancing the Human Condition Symposium, Virginia Tech, November 2017.
13. "Housing Change: Social Progress Through Two 1960's Families in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*," Film & History Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2017.
14. "50 Years Later: The Kerner Commission, White Supremacy, and Police Brutality," The State of (In)Equality: Social Justice Under Siege, Toronto, October 2017.
15. "Racial Capitalism in the U.S. Federal Government," Managing Racial Capital Symposium, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, June/July 2017.
16. "Theater as a Civic Space," International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2017.
17. "Child Rape and the Death Penalty," Virginia Humanities Conference, Shenandoah University, April 2017 (*also panel organizer*).
18. "Social Imagination, Poverty, and the Role of the American Theater," Virginia Tech ASPECT Conference, April 2017.
19. "Social Haunting: Civil Rights, Racist Ideology, and Cultural Constructions of Pain and Liberation," Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World panel at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting, Birmingham, March 2017.
20. "Sousveillance, Sovereignty, and Civics: Broadening Governance in the 21st Century," Association for Moral Education 2016 Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, December 2016.
21. "Social Death and the White Devil in August Wilson's *Fences*," An August Occasion: A National Conference on the Life and Legacy of August Wilson, Howard University, October 2016.
22. "Dissertation-In-Progress Presentation on Structural Racism in the U.S. Federal Government," Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University of Oregon, July 2016.
23. "Shame and Austerity in the Global Prison Industrial Complex," London Conference on Critical Thought, University of London, June 2016.
24. "Child Rape and the Death Penalty in the United States," Virginia Tech Interdisciplinary Conference on Sexual Violence, April 2016.
25. "Surveillance in American Democracy," Virginia Tech ASPECT Conference, April 2016.
26. "Filming Change: Social Progress Through the Lens of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*," Virginia Tech Bertoti History Conference, March 2016.
27. "Political Responsibility and the Global Prison Industrial Complex," American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference, Las Vegas, February 2016.

## Pre-Doctoral Studies

1. "Introduction to Community Organizing," Institute of Civic Studies, Tufts University, June 2015.
2. "Politics in the Global Prison Industrial Complex," Virginia Tech ASPECT Conference, March 2015.
3. "Building Thriving Community: Beyond Segregation in Milwaukee," Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, Milwaukee, WI, 2014.
4. "Becoming a Community Leader," Family Enrichment Center, Grafton, WI, 2014.
5. "Beyond the Band-Aid: A Deep Conversation on Poverty in Milwaukee," Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, Milwaukee, WI, 2013.
6. "Nonprofit Collaboration 101," Wisconsin LGBT Leadership Conference, Milwaukee, WI, 2013.
7. "Developing a Generation of Collaborative Leaders," Nonprofit Center, Milwaukee, WI, 2011.
8. "Liven Up: How Electoral Reform Can Rejuvenate American Democracy," Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2006.

## **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

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2018	Scholarship for UC-Berkeley's Kerner Commission at 50 Conference, \$75
2017-18	Dissertation Research Grant in Support of Archival Research at Library of Congress and Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Virginia Tech Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention's Graduate Research on Violence Program, \$1,500
2017	Graduate Travel Grant, Virginia Tech Graduate Student Association (for attendance at the 2017 ICQI Conference), \$160
2017	Travel Grant, Virginia Tech ASPECT Department (for attendance at the 2017 ICQI Conference), \$200
2017	Travel Grant, Virginia Tech Political Science Department (for attendance at the 2017 ICQI Conference), \$200
2016	Travel Grant, Association for Moral Education (for attendance at the 2016 AME Conference), \$600
2016	Graduate Travel Grant, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (for attendance at the 2016 Summer Institute in American Philosophy), \$1,000
2015-2019	Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Virginia Tech, Full Tuition Coverage
2013	State Fiscal Policy Conference Scholarship, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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### **JOURNALS**

- Reviewer, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 2017
- Founding Editorial Board Member, *Community Change* (peer-reviewed academic journal housed in Virginia Tech Institute of Policy and Governance), 2016-Present
- Reviewer, *SPECTRA: The Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Theory Archives* (peer-reviewed academic journal housed in Virginia Tech ASPECT program), 2015-Present

### **CONFERENCES**

- Planning Committee Member, 2017 and 2018 VT ASPECT Graduate Conferences
- Planning Committee Member, 2016 VT Sexual Violence Conference

### **SERVICE AS CHAIR/DISCUSSANT/MODERATOR**

- (Forthcoming) "Undergraduate Panel on Women, Gender, and Politics," Chair and Discussant, 2018 Northeastern Political Science Association Conference

- (Forthcoming) “Discourse Analysis and the Politics of Inclusion,” Discussant, 2018 Northeastern Political Science Association Conference
- (Forthcoming) “Urban Governance,” Discussant, 2018 Northeastern Political Science Association Conference
- “Thinking Beyond the PhD,” Moderator, 2018 ASPECT Graduate Conference
- “Ethics and Normativity,” Chair and Discussant, 2018 ASPECT Graduate Conference

## **LEADERSHIP**

- Search and Screen Committee Member, ASPECT/Political Science Global Governance/International Policy Theory Assistant Professor Hire, Virginia Tech, 2017-2018
- Executive Officer, ASPECT Student Association, Virginia Tech, 2016-Present
- Co-Founder, Social and Political Philosophy Reading Group, Virginia Tech, 2016-Present
- Member, Virginia Tech Institute of Policy and Governance Community Voices Workgroup, 2015-Present
- Facilitator, Virginia Tech Intercultural Engagement Center, 2015-Present
- Search and Screen Committee Member, Chancellor Hire, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2003-2004

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association; Association for Political Theory; August Wilson Society; Cultural Studies Association; Northeastern Political Science Association; Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy; Southern Sociological Society; American Historical Association; and the William James Society.

## **TRAININGS & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- APSA Pedagogy Workshop, August 2018
- Master Class with Wendy Brown, University of Lucerne, May-June 2018
- Mentee, American Sociological Association-Racial and Ethnic Minority Mentorship Program, 2016-18
- Social Value International-Impact and Value Reports Analysis Certificate, December 2016
- Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University of Oregon, July 2016
- Institute of Civic Studies, Tufts University, June 2015
- Lincoln Center Theater Director’s Lab, New York, July 2014
- Public Conversations Project’s Constructive Conversations on Divisive Issues, Milwaukee, 2012
- Midwest Academy: Advanced Organizing Institute, Baltimore, 2011
- Midwest Academy Organizing for Social Justice, Chicago, 2010
- Mosaic Partnerships Racial Community Leadership Program, Milwaukee, 2008-9
- Future Milwaukee Community Leadership Program, 2006-7
- City of Milwaukee, WI, Gender Pay Equity Task Force Founding Chair, 2005-7

## **NONPROFIT EMPLOYMENT**

- Executive Director, Adult Literacy Center; Grafton, WI; 2014
- Managing Director, Wisconsin Voices; Milwaukee, WI; 2012-13
- Community Organizer/Lobbyist, Hunger Task Force; Milwaukee, WI; 2009-12
- Teen Educator-Racial Justice and Workforce Development, YWCA Southeastern Wisconsin; Milwaukee, WI; 2008-9
- Communications Specialist, Alliance for Children and Families; Milwaukee, WI; 2006-8
- Political Empowerment Project Fellow/Lobbyist, Fair Vote; Takoma Park, MD; 2005
- Assistant Director, Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities; Boston; 2004

## **REFERENCES**

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David Brunsmad  
Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Virginia Tech  
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Dean, College of Professional Studies  
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Marquette University  
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Michael Moehler  
Associate Professor, Department of  
Philosophy  
Director, Philosophy, Politics, and  
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