

# Nathaniel Mull

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Colgate University  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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History of Political Thought (c. 1200-1700); Politics and Religion; Natural Law and Natural Rights; Democratic Theory; Global Justice

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Political Science, Columbia University, 2018  
Dissertation: *Natural Law and the Origins of Political Secularism in Early Modern Europe*  
Committee: Jean Cohen, Nadia Urbinati, David Johnston, Euan Cameron, Andrew Murphy (Rutgers University)

M.A., Political Science, Columbia University, 2012  
Exam Fields: Political Theory (major), International Relations (minor)

B.A., International Studies, Boston College, 2009

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Visiting Assistant Professor, Colgate University, Department of Political Science, 2023-present

Lecturer, Princeton Writing Program, 2018-2023

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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“Popular Sovereignty in Early Modern Jesuit Thought,” in William McCormick, S.J. and Matthew Baugh S.J., eds., *Jesuits and Politics* (Chestnut Hill, MA: Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies) (forthcoming)

“John Locke’s Early Tolerationism: A Critique of the Conversion Narrative,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 87, no. 1 (2026).

“Divine Law Divided: Francisco de Vitoria on Civil and Ecclesiastical Powers,” *Intellectual History Review* 31, no. 2 (2021): 201-223.

“Divine Right and Secular Constitutionalism: The Jesuit-Absolutist Debates, 1580-1620,” *History of Political Thought* 39, no. 4 (2018): 606-633.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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“Political-Theological Secularism” [under review]

*Secularism before Liberalism: A History of Early Modern Natural Law Theory* [book manuscript in preparation]

“Francisco de Vitoria,” in Stephen Boulter, ed., *Palgrave Handbook of Medieval Philosophy* [under contract]

“Alonso de Sandoval and the Theological Justification of Black Slavery” [article in preparation]

“The Secular Confessional State: A Theory of Territorialization” (with Benjamin Mueser) [article in preparation]

## COURSES TAUGHT

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“Theories of Democracy.” Colgate University. Fall 2025. Spring, 2025. Fall 2024. Spring 2024.

“Politics and Moral Vision.” [Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory] Colgate University. Fall 2025. Spring 2025.

“Foundations of Political Thought.” [History of Political Thought, Antiquity to Present] Colgate University. Fall 2024. Spring 2024. Fall 2023.

“Justice Beyond Borders.” Princeton University. 2018 – 2023.

“Modern Political Thought.” New York University. 2017.

“Church and State in Medieval and Modern Thought.” Columbia University. 2015.

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

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“Alonso de Sandoval and the Theological Justification of Black Slavery.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada. September 11-14, 2025.

“‘Christ Must Live and the Law Perish’: Martin Luther and the Problem of a Free Conscience.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 3-6, 2025.

“The Secular Confessional State: A Theory of Territorialization.” Association for Political Theory Annual Conference. Blacksburg, VA. November 21-23, 2024.

“Political Secularism Beyond Political Liberalism.” Association for Political Theory Annual Conference. Schenectady, NY. October 12-14, 2023.

“The Theocratic Logic of Early Modern Political Thought.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Montréal, Canada. September 15-18, 2022.

“John Locke’s Early Tolerationism.” John Locke Society Annual Conference. American University in Bulgaria. June 21-23, 2022.

“The Jesuit Theory of Popular Sovereignty.” Conference: “Jesuits and Politics: An Academic Reflection for the Ignatian Year.” Saint Louis University. June 1-3, 2022.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Theological Origins of Political Secularism.” Association for Political Theory Annual Conference. Irvine, CA. October 24-26, 2019.

“‘Heaven for Himself and Peace for His Country’: Reconciling Sovereignty and Conscience in Locke’s Early Works.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. 2019.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Theological Origins of Political Secularism.” International Society for Intellectual History Annual Conference. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. June 6-8, 2019.

“‘Heaven for Himself and Peace for His Country’: Reconciling Sovereignty and Conscience in Locke’s Early Works.” “Holy Wars and Sacred States: Religious Conflict, the State, and Sacred Power in Early Modern Europe.” Queen’s University Belfast, UK. July 3-5, 2019.

“Divine Right and Secular Constitutionalism in Jesuit-Royalist Debates, 1580-1620.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.

“Divine Right and Secular Constitutionalism in Jesuit-Royalist Debates, 1580-1620.” Duke University Graduate Conference in Political Theory. Durham, NC. February 23-24, 2017.

“Taking Conscience Seriously: The Conflict Between Religious Belief and Political Obligation.” Brown Legal Studies Graduate Conference. Providence, RI. April 22, 2017.

“Natural Law and the Foundations of Political Secularism.” 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference at The New School for Social Research: “Secularism and Its Discontents.” New York, NY. April 7, 2017.

“Popes, Pagans, and Apostates: Natural and Supernatural Foundations of Political Authority in Vitoria’s Thought.” Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History. Cambridge, UK. May 13, 2016.

“Natural Law and the Foundations of Secularism in Early Modern Thought.” Sciences Po Political Theory Graduate Conference. Paris, France. June 11-12, 2015.

“Toleration in Context: Understanding Locke’s Secular Project.” Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory. Princeton, NJ. April 11, 2014.

***As Discussant:***

Panel: “Founders, Lawgivers, and Reformers.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 3-6, 2025.

Panel: “Liberalism Reconsidered.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. April 3-6, 2025.

Panel: “New Directions in Ancient Thought.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. August 31-September 3, 2023.

Tom White, “Secularism après la lettre: Locating values and merit in Fiji’s Faith-based Schools.” Workshop on “Secularism as a Value.” Princeton University. May 3-4, 2023.

Georgina Clarke and Renae Barker, “Faith, Society and the State: Towards a (Re)Definition of the Secular.” Workshop on “Secularism as a Value.” Princeton University. May 3-4, 2023.

Philip Gorski, *American Covenant*. Columbia Political Theory Workshop. April 26, 2017.

Bryan Garsten, “From Popular Sovereignty to Civil Society in Post-Revolutionary France.” Columbia Political Theory Workshop. November 11, 2015.

Axel Honneth, “The Idea of Social Freedom: On the Intellectual Roots of Socialism.” Columbia Political Theory Workshop. October 8, 2014.

Nicolas Guilhot, “The First Modern Realist: Felix Gilbert’s Machiavelli and the Making of the Realist Tradition in International Relations.” Columbia International Politics Seminar. April 3, 2014.

Brandon Terry, “Critical Race Theory and the Tasks of Political Philosophy.” Columbia Political Theory Workshop. December 4, 2013.

## **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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“Secularism as a Value” (co-organized Farrah Ahmed). Princeton University Center for Human Values. Co-organizer. May 3-4, 2023.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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Manuscript Reviewer:

- *Constellations*
- *Perspectives on Politics*
- Cambridge Elements Series in International Relations.

Program Committee. Association for Political Theory. 2020.

Lecturer Search Committee. Princeton Writing Program. Spring 2019.

Graduate Coordinator. Columbia Political Theory Workshop. Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

## **GRANTS**

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Grant for Law-Related Programmatic Activities, Princeton University Center for Human Values and Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. 2023. (\$10,000)

Princeton University Committee for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Anonymous Undergraduate Research Fund. 2022. (\$3,200)

## **LANGUAGES**

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French: proficient

Korean: intermediate

German: elementary

Latin: elementary