

# Brian Palmiter

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## EDUCATION

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### Harvard University

Ph.D., Government, expected July 2024.

*Dissertation:* “On Gaming the System: A Theory of Institutional Manipulation”

*Committee:* Eric Beerbohm (chair), Eric Nelson, Chris Robichaud

### James Madison College (Michigan State University)

B.A. with High Honors, Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy, 2011.

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## EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

2016 – Present

- Led seminars for over a dozen courses in ethics, political theory, and American politics at Harvard College, the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Harvard Extension School.
- Received multiple Certificates of Distinction for undergraduate teaching from the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, as well as the 2020 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Student Teaching at Harvard Kennedy School.
- Courses Taught: Problems of the Post-Truth Era; Meritocracy and its Critics; Propaganda; Moral Leadership; The Ethics of Climate Change; Power and Responsibility; Ethics and Public Policy; Tech Ethics; American Constitutional Law; The Theory and Practice of Republicanism; Foundations of Political Theory; Ethics, Biotechnology, and the Future of Human Nature.

### FiVE Program Coordinator, Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics

2023 – Present

- Responsible for designing and leading the Safra Center’s new “Fellowship in Values Engagement,” a program aimed at fostering intellectual vitality on campus by promoting ethical reflection and a culture of civil disagreement in undergraduate community life.
- Recruited and trained 27 graduate fellows in the program. Currently supervising the civil discourse programming running this Spring semester.

### Curriculum Fellow, Scientific Citizenship Initiative

2019 – 2023

- Developed new, simulation-based curricula for programs in ethics, leadership, and communications training targeted at aspiring science policymakers.
- Led original ethics simulations for groups at Harvard, MIT, and Boston University.

### Associate Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Boston

2018 – 2020

- Instructor of record for five lecture and seminar courses in political science.
- Courses taught: Introduction to Political Theory, Modern Political Thought. Theories of International Relations.

### Secondary School Teacher, Teach for America

2011 – 2013

- 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher, Memphis, TN. 2011–2013.

## PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

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- “Gerrymandering, Corruption, and Democratic Legitimacy,” *Northeast Political Science Association*, Nov. 4, 2023.
- “On Gaming the System,” *Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, Feb. 9, 2023.
- “Gamesmanship: A Conceptual and Moral Analysis,” *Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, May 5, 2022; *University of Texas Public Law Conference*, Mar. 26, 2021.
- “Rule Morality,” *Northeast Political Science Association*, Nov. 11, 2021.
- “Fair Play and the Game of Politics,” *Midwest Political Science Association*, Apr. 11, 2021.
- “On Court Packing,” *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, Oct. 21, 2020.
- “Rule Following as Acting Together,” *Northeast Political Science Association*, Nov. 9, 2019.
- “Cheating, Gamesmanship, and the Concept of a Practice,” *Midwest Political Science Association*, Apr. 6, 2019.
- “The Architecture of Presidential Impeachment: Making Impeachment ‘Political in the Right Way,’” *Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism*, University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 8, 2017.
- “Political Gamesmanship and Legitimacy,” *Harvard American Politics Research Workshop*, Apr. 18, 2017; *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, Nov. 28, 2016.
- “Contraception, Complicity, and Freedom of Conscience,” *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, Feb. 3, 2016.

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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- Frankel M., Palmiter B. in *Personalized Medicine: Prescriptions and Prospects*. FDLI Press, 2011.
- Contributions to *Professional Ethics Report*, Vol. XXIII, No. 4, Fall 2010.
- “Let Sleeping Scandals Lie? T.H. White and the Consequences of Executive Accountability.” *A Dialogue on Presidential Challenges and Leadership*. CSPC, Washington, D.C., 2010.

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

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- Values Engagement and Pedagogy Fellow of the Design Studio at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, 2022 – 2024.
- Research mentor to high schoolers, Polygence, 2021 – present. Supervised projects in American politics, political psychology, philosophy of law\*, bioethics, and history. \*Advisee took first prize in the Junior category of the 2021 John Locke Essay Contest.
- Dudley House Tutor, Harvard College, 2018 – 2020. Advised a dozen undergraduates each semester.
- Research assistance for Profs. Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, Harvard University, 2017, on the manuscript *How Democracies Die* (Crown, 2018).
- Research assistance for the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C., Fall 2010.
- Research assistance for Prof. Yael Aronoff, Michigan State University, 2008 – 2009, on the manuscript *When Hard-Liners Opt for Peace: The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime Ministers the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process* (Cambridge, 2014).
- Research assistance for Prof. Eric Petrie, Michigan State University, 2007 – 2008.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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- Scientific Citizenship Program Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2022 – 2023.
- Wilson Carey McWilliams Best Graduate Student Paper in Political Theory, NPSA 2021.
- GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2020 – 2021.
- Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard Kennedy School, 2020.

- Ethics Pedagogy Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2018 – 2020.
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 2016, 2017, 2022.
- Hertog Political Studies Fellowship, Washington, D.C., 2013.
- Featherstone Award Commended Finalist, Most Outstanding Graduating Senior at Michigan State University, 2011.
- Jack Chapin Memorial Award, Outstanding Senior in Political Theory, James Madison College, 2011.
- Presidential Fellowship, Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, 2009 – 2010.
- LeFrak Forum Lincoln Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2008 – 2010.

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## SERVICE

- *Political Science Prep Advisor*, Harvard Government Department, 2022. (PS Prep is a workshop to help students from historically minoritized groups with their applications to graduate school in political science.)
- *Senior Honors Thesis Examiner*, Harvard University, 2017 – 2019.
- *Graduate Student Coordinator*, Political Theory Research Workshop and Speakers Series, 2015 – 2017.
- *Organizing Committee*, Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2016.
- *Referee*, Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2015 – 2019; *Discussant* 2015, 2016, 2018.
- *Session Chair*, NPSA 2023, MPSA 2023, 2021, APA Eastern Division 2018.
- *Member*, American Political Science Association, American Philosophical Association, Association for Political Theory

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## REFERENCES

### **Eric Beerbohm** (Committee Chair)

Professor of Government, Harvard University;  
Faculty Director, Edmond & Lily Safra Center  
for Ethics

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### **Eric Nelson**

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### **Christopher Robichaud**

Senior Lecturer in Ethics and Public Policy,  
Harvard Kennedy School

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### **Michael Sandel**

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