

Madeline Ahmed Cronin

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Education

University of Notre Dame • Notre Dame, IN
Ph.D. in Political Science, January 2016
M.A. in Political Science, May 2013

Areas of Specialization: Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy
Areas of Competence: Early Modern Philosophy, Applied Ethics

Loyola College in Maryland • Baltimore, MD
B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy, *Summa Cum Laude*, May 2009
Thesis: “The Voice of Jean-Jacques Rousseau on Contemporary Commerce”

Dissertation

“The Politics of Taste: Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Austen on the Cultivation of Democratic Judgment”

Committee: Eileen Hunt Botting (Chair), Ruth Abbey, Catherine Zuckert, Michael Zuckert

Is taste—an inclination to take pleasure in certain objects—a part of moral and political judgment? By extension, is taste a relevant component of an egalitarian civic education? Proponents of the “politics of taste,” such as David Hume and Edmund Burke, suggested fostering existing standards of taste as a palliative to the modern democratic ills they diagnosed. Mary Wollstonecraft however, proposes dramatic revision of the extant model of taste driven by the spread of rational education. In this way she attempts to rescue “true taste” from its gendered and class-based contexts and include it in her educational ideal. In

order to deepen and evidence Wollstonecraft's abstract argument, I bring her texts together with Jane Austen's exploration of the moral psychology of ladies and gentlemen of taste. This argument has implications for contemporary debates about the value of a liberal arts education, the politics of food, and about what constitutes civil discourse.

Publications

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed, "Thinking about Doing Rather than Telling: The Purpose of Philosophy via Experiential Learning," in *Innovations in Teaching Philosophy: A Toolkit for the 21st-Century Classroom*, ed. Brynn F. Welch (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2026), 39-48.

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed. "Everyone's a Critic: Democratized Taste and Judgement in Emily Dumler-Winckler's *Modern Virtue*," *Sydicate* (June 19, 2024).

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed. "Pluralistic Presentations of Ignatian Goods, Cultivating Deeper Engagement with Jesuit Mission," *Explore* (Fall 2023).

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed. "Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation." *Perspectives on Political Science* (August 26, 2022): 1-2.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10457097.2022.2112885>.

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed. "Prudent is the New Pretty: the Influence of Mary Wollstonecraft in Jane Austen's Novels" in *The Wollstonecraftian Mind*, ed. Sandrine Bergès et. al. (New York: Routledge, 2019), 224-235.

Cronin, Madeline Ahmed. "Mary Wollstonecraft's Conception of 'True Taste' and its Role in Egalitarian Education and Citizenship." *European Journal of Political Theory*. (December 12, 2016): 1-21.

Cronin, Madeline. "Biographical Directory for Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*," in Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, ed. Eileen Hunt Botting (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014), 291-307.

Cronin, Madeline and Eileen Hunt Botting. "The Life and Times of Wollstonecraft and her Family, 1688-1818," in Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, ed. Eileen Hunt Botting (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014), 308-314.

Hunt Botting, Eileen and Madeline Cronin. "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman within the Women's Human Rights Tradition, 1739-2015," in Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, ed. Eileen Hunt Botting (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014), 315-322.

Cronin, Madeline and Paul Seaton. "A Review of *Magnanimity and Statesmanship*." *Perspectives on Political Science* 39, no. 3 (6, 2010): 177-179.

Under Review/Working Papers

"Liberatory Spectating Spectatorship: Adrian Piper's Immanent Critique of Taste"

"Independence Through Attachment: The Value of Mary Wollstonecraft's Philosophy of Parenting for Feminist Revisions of Contemporary Attachment Parenting Discourse."

Invited Presentations

Rodell Fellowship Moderator, August 15-17th, 2025

Faculty Collaborative for Teaching Innovation CAFÉ, Panel Discussion on Ignatian Pedagogy, October 23, 2023.

Panel Discussion, "Election Ethics in a Time of Crisis," October 23, 2023.

"The Ethics of Taste: Classism, Taste, and Aesthetic Judgment in the Political Thought of Mary Wollstonecraft and Hannah Arendt," Sacramento State University, October 2018.

"Gender and Politics Roundtable Discussion," Sobrato Dorm Lecture Series, February 2017.

"David Hume on Taste and Gallantry," public lecture sponsored by the Loyola Catholic Social Thought Lecture with Graham McAleer, October 2015.

"Mary Wollstonecraft on the So-Called Sexual Virtues" in Program of Liberal Studies Political Theory Seminar (Professor Ruth Abbey), University of Notre Dame, April 2015.

Academic Awards/Fellowships

Marc Sanders Foundation, Philosophy in Media Fellow, Summer 2025

Santa Clara University Lecturer Professional Activity Grant, "Philosophy Podcast Pilot, *Serial Philosophy*, Season 1: Ethics of Taste," 2024-2025.

Graduate Fellowship, Earhart Foundation, 2010-12.

Select Conference Presentations

"Evidence of Original Engagement in the Age of AI," APA Pacific, March 2024

"Descartes is Not Our Father? Student-Driven Critical Considerations of Canonical Narratives, APA Pacific, March 2023

"Independence Through Attachment: The Value of Mary Wollstonecraft's Philosophy of Parenting for a Revision of Contemporary Attachment Parenting Discourse," APSA, Sep. 2020.

Brookings Panel Discussant for "Empire and Equal Opportunity: Audre Lorde on the U.S. Invasion of Grenada." American Political Science Association (APSA), Sep. 2018.

"Mary Wollstonecraft and Intersectional Feminism," APSA, Sep. 2017.

"Machiavelli's Politics of Shame: Holding up the Mirror in Private and Public," Midwest Political Science Association, Apr. 2015.

"Un'Sex'd or Unchaste: Mary Wollstonecraft on Humean Female Modesty," APSA, Aug. 2014.

"Charles Taylor on Defending Liberal Arts Education: Tradition and Multiculturalism in the Education of Citizens," Northeast Political Science Association, Nov. 2012.

"Wollstonecraft as a Care Ethicist?" Oxford Graduate Political Theory Conference, Apr. 2012.

“Ways and Means of Inculcating Duty: Cicero and Rousseau on Education for Civic Duty,”
Association for Political Theory, Oct. 2011.

Service to the Department

Philosophy Department Undergraduate Poster Session and Reception, Spring 2025

Prior Conference Organizer, Spring 2025

Research and Professional Development Standards Committee, Fall 2024-Present

AYAL Search Committee, Spring 2023

Undergraduate Writing and Research Committee, Fall 2020-Present

Assessment Committee, Fall 2019-Present

First-Generation Mentorship Program, Fall 2020- Spring 2022

Philosophy Table for the Office of Multicultural Learning, Fall 2020

Service to the University

Ignatian Faculty Forum, Fall 2024-present

Fulbright Review Committee, Fall 2023

Civic Engagement Core Review Committee, 2023-present

Miller Center Faculty Fellow, Summer 2023-present

Elected At-Large Representative for Lecturers on Faculty Senate Council, 2020-2022, and
2023-2024

SALU Contract Action Team, Summer 2022-present

Catholic Intellectual Tradition Faculty Seminar, Fall 2022

Ethics Core Norming, Fall 2017.