

MICHAEL UHALL

uhall2@illinois.edu or muhall@iu.edu

<https://www.michaeluhall.com/>

[Google Scholar](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political theory; history of political thought; security studies; science and technology studies (STS); ancient political philosophy; conceptual engineering

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Ph.D., Political Science (May 2020)
 - *Dissertation*: “Biopolitics of creative darkness: freedom, subjectivity, and normativity in F. W. J. Schelling” (Winner of the Kathleen Burkholder Prize for Best Dissertation)
 - *Chair*: Samantha Frost
- M.A., Philosophy (May 2013)

University of Georgia

- B.A., Philosophy (*cum laude*) (December 2009)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Indiana University East (2021-present)

- Adjunct Professor, Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- [*Noir Materialism: Freedom and Obligation in Political Ecology*](#). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2024.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- “Dark laboratories of the soil: Bruno Latour and Aldo Leopold on cosmopolitics and crisis.” *Nature and Culture* 18:2 (2023): <https://doi.org/10.3167/nc.2023.180201>
- “Companion ecologies: a new theory of the subject.” *Contemporary Political Theory* 21 (2021): <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-021-00494-w>
- “Bleeding together: Caitlin Hackett and companion ecologies.” *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge* 37 (2021): <http://rhizomes.net/issue37/uhall/index.html>
- “The end of the affair with life: political theory and the corpse.” *Critical Horizons* 20:4 (2019): <https://doi.org/10.1080/14409917.2019.1672274>
- “Creaturely conditions: acknowledgement and animality in Kafka, Cavell, and Uexküll.” *Configurations* 24:1 (2016): <http://doi.org/10.1353/con.2016.0005>

Book chapters

- “Politics of the outside: a political theory of the alien” in *The Politics of UAP: Security, Science, and Society*, eds. Jacob Haqq-Misra, Alexander Wendt, and James Wirtz (under contract).
- “What do we lose when we become posthuman?” in *The Future Is Unwritten: Representations of Political Resistance and Emancipation in Science Fiction*, eds. Judith Grant and Sean Parson. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2022.

Selected reviews and popular writings

- “Spirals of reason: inhuman vitalism in Junji Ito’s *Uzumaki*.” *Gothic Nature* (forthcoming).
- “Past as prevarication: ancient Greece in modern science fiction.” *Extrapolation* (Summer 2024).
- “Rules of war and human rights in first contact scenarios.” *Limina: The Journal of UAP Studies* 1:1 (January 2024).
- “Cybergothic human typewriter: Kenji Siratori’s chronotopologies.” *3:AM Magazine* (Dec. 2023).
- “Geopolitics and marriage: on Andrzej Żuławski’s *Possession*.” *Vault of Culture* (Sept. 2023).
- “John Boyd’s entropy machine.” *SYNTHETIC ZERØ* (March 2021).
- “Augustine and institutional resilience.” *SYNTHETIC ZERØ* (October 2020).
- “Plato and political decay.” *SYNTHETIC ZERØ* (October 2020).
- “Astrozoetic cinema” series. *Vault of Culture* (April-May 2019).
- “From biocult to bioculture: the case of Ludwig Klages.” *Configurations* 27:1 (2019): 117-20.
- “Transformations in the terrain of science fiction.” *Extrapolation* 59:3 (2018): 319-21.
- “Material speculation as political praxis.” *Configurations* 25:4 (2017): 563-566.

Work in progress

- *Theory of the Alien: Astropolitics, Spacepower, and the Outside* (proposal under review).
- *How to Think Like an Apocalypse: Political Action and Climate Security at the End of the World* (in drafts).
- “The savage anomaly of Aldo Leopold: post-apocalyptic politics and strategies for rewilding.”
- “Storms and omens of life itself: political decay in Ludwig Klages and Gilles Deleuze.”
- “James Jesus Angleton and the politics of betrayal.”
- “Plato’s *Phaedo* and the vitalism of reason.”
- “Molotov’s cowboy hat: Alexandre Kojève and Carl Schmitt after the end of history.”

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Kathleen Burkholder Prize for Best Dissertation (2020)
- IPRH-Andrew W. Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Bio-Humanities (2017-2018)
- Nicholson Graduate Student Fellowship for the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University (2012)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Teaching honors**

- Named repeatedly on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students (2014, 2018, 2019, 2020).

Courses as Instructor

- *Indiana University East* (2021-present)
 - PS105: Introduction to Political Theory
 - PS381: Ancient Political Thought
 - PS382: Modern Political Thought
 - PS384: American Political Thought
 - PS392: Special Topics in Political Philosophy
- *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign* (2015-2020)
 - PS101: Introduction to American Politics
 - PS199: Environmental Political Theory
 - PS224: Politics of Natural Resources
 - PS241: Politics in Developing Nations
 - PS270: Introduction to Political Theory

Courses as Graduate Teaching Assistant

- *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign* (2011-2020)
 - AAS100: Introduction to Asian American Studies
 - PHIL101: Introduction to Philosophy
 - PHIL105: Introduction to Ethics
 - PHIL412: Modern Philosophy
 - PHIL441: Contemporary European Philosophy
 - PS100: Introduction to Political Science
 - PS270: Introduction to Political Theory
 - PS302: The United States Constitution
 - PS356: International Political Economy

Pedagogy development

- Reviewer for General Education Assessment criteria compliance and requirements for Indiana University East (2022-present).
- Ongoing participant in numerous Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning workshops at both Indiana University East and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2011-present).
- Faculty mentorship and teaching evaluation and training sessions with Dr. Kristoffer Rees at Indiana University East (2021-2022).
- Recipient of the Graduate Teacher Certificate from the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2015).
- Invited attendee at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Center for Writing Studies "Writing across the Curriculum" seminar (2015).

PRESENTATIONS**Selected conference papers**

- "Existentially weighted time decay: on speculative fragmentation and political immunology." *Diffractions Collective: Wyrđ Patchwork 5* (November 28, 2020).
- "Morbid opportunism: on ecopessimism, ends, and exits." Western Political Science Association (April 18, 2019).
- "Strange new forests: nine strategic recommendations for the age of extinction." Western Political Science Association (March 30, 2018).
- "Gray sky thinking: decathexis as a mode of futural projection." 31st Annual Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference (November 11, 2017).
- "Savage anomalies: Aldo Leopold, companion ecologies, Herakut." Western Political Science Association (April 14, 2017).
- "The politics of creative darkness: Schelling and the ecological crisis." North American Schelling Society 5: Crisis and Critique (February 21-25, 2017). Accepted.
- "The roots of creative darkness: Blackwood, Milner, Schelling." 30th Annual Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference (November 3, 2016).
- "Anthropocene futures, object use, and post-apocalyptic forms of life." Western Political Science Association (March 25, 2016).
- "Conserving Area X: cosmopolitics and landscape in the Southern Reach." 29th Annual Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference (November 13, 2015).
- "The end of the affair with life: corpses as figures of loss and vitality." Western Political Science Association (April 3, 2015).
- "Singular creatures: animality, the Anthropocene, and encounters with unbearability." Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (February 20, 2015).
- "Rethinking politics in the face of the corpse." Northwestern Graduate Student Conference in Political Theory (November 7, 2014).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Member of the Advisory Board of the Society of UAP Studies 501 (c)(3) (2023-present).

- Member of numerous professional committees in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, including the Staff Advisory Committee and CEE THRIVES, the department's climate and diversity committee (2022-present).
- Humanities Research Institute (formerly Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities) chair for sponsored research groups on various topics, including Alain Badiou, Machiavelli's political psychology, the ontological turn, the political realism of Henry Kissinger, special topics in the philosophy of science, and various texts by Nietzsche and Plato (2011-present).
- Referee and reviewer for various academic journals and presses (2013-present).
- UIUC Political Science GSA Mentor for Incoming Ph.D. Students (2018-2020).
- Research assistant for Dr. Samantha Frost (2013-2015, 2017-2018).
- Chair for "Crafting Functional Ecopessimisms" at Western Political Science Association (2018).
- Chair for "Collective Manifestations: Thinking Environmental Futures beyond the Dark Mountain" panel at the 31st Annual Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference (2017).
- Invited chair for "New Materialisms" panel at Western Political Science Association (2017).
- Chair for "Weird Evolutions: Nature, Creativity, Vitality" panel at 30th Annual Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference (2016).
- Chair of the New Materialisms Research Unit (2014-2016).

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association
- Association for Political Theory
- Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory Affiliate
- Western Political Science Association

FACULTY REFERENCES

- Dr. Samantha Frost, Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
frost@illinois.edu
- Dr. Robert Pahre, Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
pahre@illinois.edu
- Dr. Scott Lee, Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science
Indiana University East
scottle@iue.edu
- Dr. Kristoffer Rees, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Indiana University East
kmrees@iu.edu
- Dr. Benjamin Miller, Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
bm50@illinois.edu