

Naomi Ellis  
(September 2026)

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Education

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| <b>Dec. 2026 (expected)</b> | Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles      |
| <b>Mar. 2019</b>            | B.A. International Relations, University of Tokyo                   |
| <b>Aug. 2016-May 2017</b>   | 1-year-exchange program, Political Theory, Johns Hopkins University |

Publications and Works in Progress

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“Rousseau’s Lawgiver and Nascent Societies: Rethinking ‘Contingency’ in Agonistic Democracy” (*Polity*, 57(3) July 2025)

“From Universalism to Situated Universality: Reconfiguring Kantian Pacifism” (*Contemporary Political Theory*, forthcoming)

“Foreign-authored Democracy: Rethinking Constitutional Authorship through Post-defeat Japan” (*Political Theory*, revision submitted)

Translations

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“Katō Norihiro in Wonderland: A Delayed Response to English-Language Critiques of *Haisengoron*” by Katō Norihiro, GUNZO, Sep, 2026.

Honors & Awards

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| <b>2025-2027</b> | Sumitomo Life Woman Researcher Encouragement Prizes, Sumitomo Life (\$13,000)<br><a href="https://www.sumitomolife.co.jp/about/csr/community/mirai_child/women/bosyu.html">https://www.sumitomolife.co.jp/about/csr/community/mirai_child/women/bosyu.html</a> |
| <b>2025-2026</b> | Dissertation Year Award, UCLA (\$30,000 in addition to tuition coverage)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2025</b>      | The Hiroshi Wagatsuma Memorial Fellowship, UCLA (\$3,500)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>2024-2025</b> | The Baerwald Graduate Fellowship, UCLA (\$10,000)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>2023-2024</b> | The George and Sakaye Aratani Field Experience Scholarship, UCLA (\$25,000)                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2023</b>      | Keck Humanistic Inquiry Graduate Research Award, UCLA (\$8,000)                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>2022</b>      | Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$6,000)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2021</b>      | Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$6,000)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2020-2023</b> | Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, UCLA (\$21,000)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>2019-2022</b> | Graduate Study Abroad Scholarship, Yoshida Scholarship Foundation (\$65,000)<br>Selected as one of the five recipients nationally <a href="https://www.ysf.or.jp/englishpage/">https://www.ysf.or.jp/englishpage/</a>                                          |
| <b>2016-2019</b> | Global Education for Innovation and Leadership Program, University of Tokyo                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2016-2017</b> | Tobitate Study Abroad Initiative, Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology (\$10,000) <a href="https://tobitate.mext.go.jp/about/english.html">https://tobitate.mext.go.jp/about/english.html</a>                                        |

Employment

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| <b>Sep. 2025-present</b> | Visiting fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of |
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|                            | Tokyo                                                            |
| <b>Jan. 2024-Mar. 2024</b> | Adjunct Professor, International University of Japan             |
| <b>Sep. 2022-Dec. 2023</b> | <b>Assistant Editor</b> , <i>The Journal of Political Theory</i> |

#### Individual Paper Presentations

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| <b>Sep. 2026</b> | “Foreign-authored Democracy: Rethinking Constitutional Authorship through Post-defeat Japan.” American Political Science Association ( <b>APSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                                    |
| <b>Apr. 2026</b> | “Problematizing Democratic Founding from the Perspective of Defeat: The Potential and Limits of the ‘August Revolution’ Theory.” Japanese Conference for the Study of Political Thought Annual Conference. |
| <b>Nov. 2025</b> | “Foreign-Authored Declarations: Problematizing Revolutionary Beginnings of Democracy.” Association for Political Theory ( <b>APT</b> ) Annual Conference.                                                  |
| <b>Sep. 2025</b> | “Inventing or Fabricating a ‘People’?: Problematizing Revolutionary Origins of Democracy.” American Political Science Association ( <b>APSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                                       |
| <b>Apr. 2025</b> | “Reading Katō Norihiro in a Global Context.” East Asian Academy for New Liberal Arts (EAA) Symposium: “After the Defeat Discourse”: Towards the Centre of Possibility, hosted by University of Tokyo.      |
| <b>Jan. 2025</b> | “Does a Kantian Techne for Peace Work?” Winter Institute: Techne and the Human Sciences in the 21st Century, hosted by University of Tokyo.                                                                |
| <b>Oct. 2023</b> | “Theorizing Antiwar Pacifism: The Possibility of a Defeated Perspective.” Association for Political Theory ( <b>APT</b> ) Annual Conference.                                                               |
| <b>Apr. 2023</b> | “Japan’s ‘Impenitence’ and the Problem of Authorship After Defeat.” Landscape of Political Memory: A Series of Events Featuring Mihaela Mihai, Mini-Conference, hosted by UCLA.                            |
| <b>Apr. 2023</b> | “The Law in the Middle: The Place of Rousseau’s Legislator.” Midwest Political Science Association ( <b>MPSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                                                                      |
| <b>Apr. 2023</b> | “The Law in the Middle: The Place of Rousseau’s Legislator.” Western Political Science Association ( <b>WPSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                                                                      |
| <b>Sep. 2022</b> | “The Authority of the Dead in the Unauthorized Nation: The Politics of Mourning in Post-defeat Japan.” American Political Science Association ( <b>APSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                           |
| <b>Mar. 2022</b> | “The (Im)Possibility of Apology: Japan’s Impenitence and the Problem of Mourning After Defeat.” Annual Graduate Symposium in Memory Studies, hosted by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.         |
| <b>Mar. 2022</b> | “Politics After Crisis: Envisioning a “Democracy with the Dead.” Western Political Science Association ( <b>WPSA</b> ) Annual Conference.                                                                  |
| <b>Mar. 2021</b> | “Narrative of Defeat: Examining the Yasukuni Shrine through the ‘Debate on the Historical Subject.’” Association for Asian Studies ( <b>AAS</b> ) Annual Conference.                                       |

#### Discussant Roles

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| <b>Apr. 2024</b> | Joint review meeting on Paulina Ochoa Espejo, Leigh Jenco, Murad Idris’s <i>Political Theory: A Global and Comparative Approach</i> at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo. |
| <b>Apr. 2022</b> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Political Theory, Panel “Decay, Death, and Beyond.”                                                                                        |
| <b>Oct. 2021</b> | Joint review meeting on Nobutaka Otobe’s <i>Stupidity in Politics</i> at the Society for the                                                                                                          |

History of Social Thought (Japan).

**Apr. 2021** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Political Theory, Panel “State Violence and Human Suffering: The Paradoxes of Resistance and Peace.”

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Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant

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| <b>Spring 2022</b> | Laws of War and Peace, Anthony Pagden, UCLA                                            |
| <b>Winter 2022</b> | Introduction to Political Theory, Joshua Foa Dienstag, UCLA                            |
| <b>Fall 2021</b>   | Introduction to Political Theory, Davide Panagia, UCLA                                 |
| <b>Spring 2021</b> | Elementary Modern Japanese, Yumiko Kawanishi, UCLA                                     |
| <b>Winter 2021</b> | Introduction to Political Theory, Giulia Sissa, UCLA                                   |
| <b>Fall 2020</b>   | Introduction to Political Theory, Davide Panagia, UCLA                                 |
| <b>Spring 2019</b> | Reading E.H. Carr <i>The Twenty Years' Crisis</i> , Tomohito Baji, University of Tokyo |

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Academic Services

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| <b>Jan. 2020–Sep. 2021</b> | Translation of public lecture reports for the Global Studies Initiative website (from Japanese to English), University of Tokyo   |
| <b>Nov. 2020</b>           | Organizer of 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Japan studies Graduate Conference at UCLA                                                    |
| <b>Sep. 2017-Jul. 2019</b> | Study Abroad Advisor at the Globalization Office, University of Tokyo                                                             |
| <b>Sep. 2018-Nov. 2018</b> | Transcription of interviews with Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors (supervised by Professor M · G Sheftall at Shizuoka University) |

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Languages

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Japanese (native); English (fluent); German (advanced); Chinese (reading); French (reading)