

Civic Virtue and the Domestic Sphere: Examining the Role of Women in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Émile* and Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*

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This summer, I received a ten-week Surdna Research Fellowship to begin research for my Honors thesis in Political Philosophy. In this thesis, I am comparing the role of women in Jean-Jacques *Émile* and Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. Although both of these works are major components of Political Philosophy courses at Bowdoin, and their treatment of women is an essential aspect of their projects, no political theory concentrator at Bowdoin has completed an Honors thesis exploring this topic. In this way, my research project this summer has been the initial stage of an original contribution to Political Philosophy at Bowdoin and to the field as a whole.

This summer, I continued research initiated by my first reading of *Émile* in Professor [redacted] in the spring. I began extended secondary literature readings on Tocqueville and Rousseau. Because an Honors project requires situating my own thesis within the context of a larger debate, I compiled a bibliography for this project which explores multiple facets of and critical positions on these two thinkers. I used the first six weeks of my research of women in the *Émile* and elsewhere within the context of my Honors thesis. During this time, I read the sections of Allan Blo [redacted] *Love and Friendship* that deal with the *Émile*. I also read, among other sources *Friend of Virtue* and *The Sexual Politics of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. *The Natural Goodness of Man: On the System of Rousseau's Thought*. During this exploration of the secondary literature, I was led to [redacted] by Rousseau himself

which [redacted] on women. This translation of source texts for use in my Honors thesis is an exciting opportunity for original scholarship.

For the remaining four weeks of my fellowship, I returned to the secondary literature on Tocqueville. Here I concentrated on writings by Pierre Manent, Harvey Mansfield, and Delba Winthrop. I focused specifically on [redacted] or democratic customs central to Toc [redacted] women in democracy. These are essential [redacted] treatment of women.

Here, I found works by Peter Augustine Lawler and Catherine Zuckert helpful. I also read extensively on the hotly- [redacted] Augustine Lawler. This influence will be a central focus of my thesis. While I have come to accept

[redacted] description of the gendered division of labor in the United States