

Stephanie M. Ahrens

sahrens@uchicago.edu | stephanie-ahrens.com

Academic Interests

History of political thought, political philosophy, political virtue, democratic theory, American political thought, and American politics

Education

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Political Science, August 2020

Dissertation: "Democratic Trust and the Limits of Distrust"

Committee: Nathan Tarcov (chair), William Howell, and James Wilson

M.A., Political Science, 2014

Baylor University

B.A., University Scholar (Political Science, Classics, Great Texts), 2012,
magna cum laude

Thesis: "What Happened to Public Deliberation?"

Advisor: David D. Corey

Academic Appointments

Princeton University, James Madison Program

John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2020-2021 [deferred to
2021-2022 due to COVID-19]

Work in Progress

Defining Democratic Trust

The Limits of Distrust

Political Faith: Putting Faith in the Devil in Machiavelli's *Discorsi*

Workshop and Conference Participation

Trust in the Government, Distrust Each Other: A Democratic Dilemma

American Political Science Association, September 12, 2020

Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy, Shawnee Trail Conference, April 2020*

What Is Democratic Trust?

Western Political Science Association, May 22, 2020

The Diminishing Returns of Relying on Distrust to Protect a Democracy

Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory, February 6-7, 2020

The Trust That Democracy Demands

Southern Political Science Association, January 2020 [did not attend due to earthquakes]

Foundations of Distrust: The State of Political Trust in *The Federalist*
Midwest Political Science Association, April 4, 2018
Southern Political Science Association, January 4, 2018

Distrust and *The Federalist*
University of Texas Graduate Conference on Public Law, November 4, 2017

Trusting in a Thing That Can Easily Deceive You: Political Faith in Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*
Midwest Political Science Association, April 17, 2015

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago
The American Presidency, Winter 2019
Introduction to Political Theory, Winter 2019, Spring 2016
Political Leadership: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, Autumn 2015
Introduction to American Politics, Autumn 2015

Fellowships and Awards

SPSA, Prestage-Cook Travel Award, 2020 [declined due to earthquakes]
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Chicago Division of Social Sciences, 2019-2020
Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship, 2018-2019
Honorarium for University of Texas Graduate Conference on Public Law, 2017
Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2012-2017

Academic Service, Professional Development, and Editorial Experience

Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, 2019
Mentor, University of Chicago Political Science Association, 2016-2017
Attended, Workshop on Teaching in the College, Chicago Center for Teaching, 2014
Editorial Assistant, Leo Strauss Center, 2013-2016
Member, Social Sciences Minority Graduate Student Development Program, 2012-2014

Languages

Spanish: reading, non-fluent speaker
Latin: reading, together with Spanish gives me a base for reading in Italian with the help of a dictionary
Attic Greek: beginner

*Indicates cancelation due to the pandemic