

Stephanie M. Ahrens

sahrensphd@gmail.com | stephanie-ahrens.com

Academic Interests

History of political thought, political philosophy, political virtue, democratic theory, deliberative democracy, US political thought, and US political development

Education

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Political Science, August 2020

Dissertation: “Democratic Trust and the Limits of Distrust”

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

M.A., Political Science, 2014

Baylor University

B.A., University Scholar (Political Theory, Classics, Great Texts), 2012

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 Machiavelli’s *Prince*”

Western Political Science Association, April 2021

“Care for Each Other in Ideal Democratic Constitutions”

Western Political Science Association, April 2021

“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

Introduction to Political Theory, Autumn 2020, Winter 2019, Spring 2016

The American Presidency, Winter 2019

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

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

Attic Greek: beginner

*Indicates cancelation due to the pandemic