

Stephanie M. Ahrens

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Academic Interests

History of political thought, political philosophy, democratic theory, deliberative democracy, U.S. political thought, and U.S. 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 Science, Classics, Great Texts), 2012

Thesis: “What Happened to Public Deliberation?”

Advisor: David D. Corey

Academic Positions

Princeton University, James Madison Program

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

Working Papers

Defining Democratic Trust

Rethinking Institutionalized Distrust (submitted for review)

Papers in Progress

Untangling the Webs of Trust and Distrust in *The Federalist*

Trusting in Things That Can Easily Deceive You: Machiavelli’s Use of Trust in *The Prince* and *Discourses*

Workshop and Conference Participation

“Rethinking Institutionalized Distrust”

American Political Science Association, October 2021

“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

Barry Center Fellowship, 2021-2022

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*, *American Political Science Review*

Mentor, University of Chicago Political Science Association, 2016-2017

Attendee, 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

*Indicates cancelation due to the pandemic