

## ROBINSON WOODWARD-BURNS

Department of Political Science  
Locke Hall 110, Howard University  
2441 Sixth St. NW, Washington, DC 20059

202-806-9390  
robinson.woodward@howard.edu  
woodwardburns.com

### EMPLOYMENT

---

Assistant Professor, Howard University, Department of Political Science, 2017-present

### EDUCATION

---

- Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, Political Science, 2017  
Committee: Rogers Smith (chair), Mark Graber, Anne Norton
- M.A. University of Pennsylvania, Political Science, 2014
- M.A. University of Maryland, Government and Politics, 2012
- B.A. College of William and Mary, *magna cum laude*, 2010  
Visiting Student, University of Oxford, Hertford College, 2009

### PUBLICATIONS

---

#### Books

*The Uniting States: How State Constitutions Stabilize American Politics*, under contract, Yale University Press, expected 2021

#### Articles

“Rethinking Self-Reliance: Emerson on Mobbing, War, and Abolition.” *The Journal of Politics* 83.1 (2021)

“Solitude before Society: Emerson on Self-Reliance, Abolitionism, and Moral Suasion.” *Polity* 48.1 (2016): 29–54

#### Review Essays

“The State Constitutions’ Influence on American Political Development.” *The Journal of Politics* 81.4 (2019)

“The Critical Minute: Recording and Remembering Early American Political Thought.” *The Tulsa Law Review* 54.2 (2019): 367-73

#### Other

“The Person Who Changes the Constitution.” *The Atlantic*, January 17, 2020

“D.C. Statehood is Back on the House’s Agenda. Here’s Why It Faces an Uphill Battle.” *Washington Post*, September 19, 2019

“Trump Wants to Change the Rules of Citizenship. Here Are Three Reasons His Proposal Might Be Unconstitutional.” *Washington Post*, October 31, 2018

“The Equal Rights Amendment Is One State from Ratification. Now What?” *Washington Post*, June 20, 2018

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

---

- “State Constitutions, Railroads, and Prohibition: 1870-1920”  
Discussion Group on Constitutionalism, University of Maryland School of Law, March 2019
- “Emerson on Self-Reliance, Mobbing, and Constitutional Reform”  
Political Theory Workshop, Department of Government, Georgetown University, September 2018
- “For the Punishment of Crime: The Antebellum Northern Foundation of Convict Slavery”  
Discussion Group on Constitutionalism, University of Maryland School of Law, February 2018

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- “For the Punishment of Crime: The Antebellum Northern Foundation of Convict Leasing”  
Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, November 2019
- “A Durable Shift in Article V Constitutional Politics” with David Bateman, Stephan Stolher  
University of Toronto Political Development Workshop, October 2019  
Law and Society Association Meeting, May 2019  
State Politics and Policy Conference, May 2019
- “Laboratories of Democracy? State Antecedents to Federal Rights” with David Bateman, Stephan Stolher  
American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2018  
Law and Society Association Meeting, June 2018  
Western Political Science Association Meeting, April 2017
- “‘When All Uniters Are Isolated:’ Emerson’s Antislavery Constitutionalism”  
Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, November 2017  
American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2017  
Western Political Science Association Meeting, April 2017  
Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship Conference, Johns Hopkins University, March 2017  
Graduate Political Theory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, March 2017  
Association for Political Theory Conference, October 2016
- “From the States to the Nation with the Nineteenth Amendment” with Dawn Teele  
American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2017  
Law and Society Association Meeting, June 2017  
State Politics and Policy Conference, June 2017  
Southern Political Science Association Meeting, January 2017
- “‘The Union Indissoluble:’ Suffrage, Federalism, and Jacksonian Constitutional Stability”  
Graduate Conference in Public Law, University of Texas, October 2016  
American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2016  
Western Political Science Association Meeting, March 2016
- “‘Experience Must Be Our Only Guide:’ Constitutional Instability at the American Founding”  
Penn Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism Graduate Workshop, September 2015  
Graduate Conference in Public Law, University of Texas, September 2015
- “American Reconstitution: Federal and State Constitutional Development since 1776”  
American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2015  
Western Political Science Association Meeting, April 2015  
Graduate Political Science Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February 2015

“Rousseau and Emerson on Solitude, Sympathy, and the American Indian”

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2014

Western Political Science Association Meeting, March 2014

“Violence and Moral Suasion in David Walker’s *Appeal*”

Graduate Political Science Conference, University of Pennsylvania, March 2013

“Emerson on Solitude and Conversation”

French-Italian Graduate Society Conference, University of Pennsylvania, March 2013

Graduate Political Theory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, January 2013

“Egalitarian Duties and Emersonian Citizenship”

New England Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012

“Divided Liberalism: Tocqueville and Emerson on the Jacksonian Democrats”

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012

Western Political Science Association Meeting, March 2012

Political Theory Workshop, University of Maryland, November 2011

## TEACHING

---

### Howard University

#### Graduate Courses

Approaches to the Study of Public Law, Spring 2020

American Political Thought, Fall 2018, 2019

Nature and Uses of Political Theory, Spring 2018

#### Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Constitutional Law I: Government Powers, Fall 2017, 2019

Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties, Spring 2018, 2019, 2020

### University of Pennsylvania

#### Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to American Politics, Summer 2016, 2017

Modern American Constitutional Law, teaching assistant, Spring 2015

Early American Constitutional Law, teaching assistant, Fall 2014

American Political Thought, teaching assistant, Spring 2014

Modern Political Thought, teaching assistant, Fall 2013

### University of Maryland

#### Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Political Theory, teaching assistant, Fall 2010, 2011, Summer 2011, Spring 2012

Introduction to American Politics, teaching assistant, Spring 2011

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

---

### Awards

McWilliams Award for Best Faculty Paper in Political Theory, NPSA, 2018

Tom Carsey Award, American Political Science Association, 2017

Prestage-Cook Award, Southern Political Science Association, 2017

Best Graduate Student Poster in Law and Courts, American Political Science Association, 2015

## Fellowships

Summer Fellowship, Jack Miller Center, 2015, 2017  
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-17  
Graduate Assistantship, University of Maryland, 2010-12

## Grants

Summer Faculty Research Grant, Howard University, 2018  
Summer Institute Stipend, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2018  
Faculty Startup Grant, Howard University, 2017-9  
School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-7  
Departmental Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2013, 2016  
Graduate and Professional Student Association Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-6  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant, 2015  
School of Arts and Sciences Grad. Student Gov. Travel Award, University of Pennsylvania, 2014  
Jacob K. Goldhaber Grant, University of Maryland, 2012  
Departmental Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2012

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### Co-Investigator

American State Constitutions Project, an analytically-coded repository of provisions in all American state constitutions, with startup funding from Cornell University, SUNY – Albany, and Howard University. With David Bateman and Stephan Stohler, 2016-present

### Invited Participant

Institute for Constitutional History, Antislavery Constitutionalism Seminar, 2018  
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Slavery and the Constitution, 2018  
Jack Miller Center Summer Institute, 2015, 2017  
Discussion Group on Constitutionalism, University of Maryland School of Law, 2012-3, 2017-9  
Summer Institute for Civic Studies, Tufts University, 2013

### Research Assistant

Assistant to Stephan Stohler, Summer 2016  
Center for American Politics and Citizenship, University of Maryland, Summer 2010

### Other

Legal Taskforce Advisor, Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, 2019-present  
Writer covering DC politics for *Petworth News*, 2018-present  
Consultant to Brennan Center on U.S. Supreme Court *amicus curiae* brief, *Evenwel v. Abbott*, 2016  
Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, 2015

## SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

---

### Professional Service

Discussant and/or Chair  
American Historical Association Meeting, January 2020  
Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, November 2018  
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, April 2012  
Reviewer for *American Political Thought*, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

## University Service

### Howard University

Graduate Dissertation Advisor, one student, 2018-present  
Graduate Dissertation Committee Member, four students, 2018-present  
Awards Committee Member, 2018  
Faculty Advisor to Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society, 2017-present  
Pre-Law Advisor, 2017-present

### University of Pennsylvania

Graduate Student Organization Chair, 2013-14

### University of Maryland

Graduate Admissions Committee, 2011-12

## Memberships

American Political Science Association  
Northeastern Political Science Association  
Western Political Science Association  
National Capital Area Political Science Association  
Association for Political Theory  
Law and Society Association

## REFERENCES

---

Rogers M. Smith  
Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
133 S. 36th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
rogerss@sas.upenn.edu

Anne Norton  
Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
133 S. 36th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
anorton@sas.upenn.edu

Jeffrey Green  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
133 S. 36th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
jegr@sas.upenn.edu

Mark Graber  
Professor of Law and Government  
School of Law  
University of Maryland  
500 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
mgraber@law.umaryland.edu

John Dinan  
Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
Wake Forest University  
Kirby Hall 314A, P.O. Box 7568  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109  
dinanjj@wfu.edu