

ROBINSON WOODWARD-BURNS

Department of Political Science
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Howard University, 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

Hidden Laws: How State Constitutions Stabilize American Politics, Yale University Press, 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

“Republicans’ Supreme Court Gambit May Backfire. Here’s How.” *Washington Post*, September 24, 2020

“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

“Reflections on the Voting Rights Act”

Black History Month Lecture, Dept. of History and Government, Bowie State University, Feb. 2020

“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

“Permanent Constitutional Hardball: Evidence from the Article V Amendment Process”

International Forum on the Future of Constitutionalism Conference, expected January 2021

American Political Science Association Meeting, September 2020

“The Lost Clause: Reinterpreting the Declaration’s Silence on the Atlantic Slave Trade”

Association for Political Theory Meeting, November 2020

American Political Thought Workshop, Claremont College, July 2020

“For the Punishment of Crime: The Antebellum Northern Foundation of Convict Leasing”

Western Political Science Association Meeting, May 2020

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 Meeting, 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 Antislavery 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, Spring 2021, Fall 2018, 2019
- Nature and Uses of Political Theory, Spring 2018, Fall 2020

Undergraduate Courses

- Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2019, 2021, Fall 2019, 2020
- Constitutional Law I: Government Powers, Summer 2020, Fall 2017, 2019
- Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties, Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, Summer 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 Science Review*, *Review of Politics*, *American Political Thought*,
Publius: The Journal of Federalism, Law and Policy, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century
Americanists*

University Service

Howard University

Graduate Dissertation Advisor, one student, 2018-present
Graduate Dissertation Committee Member, six students, 2018-present
BA-JD Program Committee Member, 2020-present
Faculty Search Committee Member, Department of Political Science, Fall 2020-Spring 2021
Awards Committee Member, Department of Political Science, 2018
Faculty Advisor, College Democrats, 2020-present
Faculty Advisor, Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society, 2017-present
Pre-Law Advisor, Department of Political Science, 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

REFERENCES

Rogers M. Smith
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Mark Graber
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