

ROBINSON WOODWARD-BURNS

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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

Peer-Reviewed 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 Best Way to Secure the Capitol is to Make D.C. a State.” *Washington Post*, January 13, 2021

“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

- “Hidden Laws: Understanding the Resilience of the American Constitution”
Colloquium Series, Kinder Institute, University of Missouri, January 2021
- “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, 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

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Fellowships

Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress, 2021
 Fellowship, Jack Miller Center, 2015, 2017
 Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-17
 Graduate Assistantship, University of Maryland, 2010-12

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

Grants

Summer Faculty Research Grant, Howard University, 2018
 Summer Institute Stipend, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2018
 Faculty Startup Grant, Howard University, 2017-9
 Dean’s Travel Grant, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-7
 Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2013, 2016
 Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Association, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-6

Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, 2015
Travel Grant, School of Arts and Sciences Grad. Student Gov., University of Pennsylvania, 2014
Jacob K. Goldhaber Grant, Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2012
Travel Grant, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, 2012

Invited Participant

Antislavery Constitutionalism Seminar, Institute for Constitutional History, Fall 2018
Institute on Slavery and the Constitution, National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer 2018
Institute for Civic Studies, Tufts University, Summer 2013

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

SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

Disciplinary Service

Discussant/Chair, 2021 Western Political Science Association Meeting, 2020 American Historical Association Meeting, 2018 Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, 2012 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting
Reviewer, *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*, Peter Lang Publishers
Legal Taskforce member, Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, 2019-present
Consultant to Brennan Center on U.S. Supreme Court amicus curiae brief in *Evenwel v. Abbott*, 2016

Howard University Service

Graduate dissertation advisor (one student), committee member (five students)
BA-JD Program Committee member, College of Arts and Sciences
Pre-Law Advisor, Department of Political Science
Faculty Advisor, Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society
Faculty Advisor, College Democrats, 2020-2021
Faculty Search Committee member, Department of Political Science, 2020-2021
Awards Committee member, Department of Political Science, 2018-2019

Memberships

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