

# ROBINSON WOODWARD-BURNS

Department of Political Science  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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

## EDUCATION

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- 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

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### 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), winner 2018 McWilliams Award for Best Faculty Paper in Political Theory, NPSA
- “Counter-Majoritarian Constitutional Hardball.” *University of Maryland Law Review*, 81 expected 2021-2022
- “Solitude before Society: Emerson on Self-Reliance, Abolitionism, and Moral Suasion.” *Polity* 48.1 (2016): 29–54

### Review Essays

- Review of *The Antebellum Origins of the Modern Constitution* by Simon Gilhooley, *Perspectives on Politics*, expected 2021-2022
- “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

### Commentary

- “Statehood, Partisanship, and the Constitution.” *The Constitutionalist*, May 14, 2021
- “Congress must fix a fatal flaw in the D.C. statehood bill.” *Washington Post*, April 13, 2021
- “Is the two-century battle for D.C. statehood finally near an end?” *Washington Post*, March 23, 2021
- “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*, Sept. 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

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“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

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“Permanent Constitutional Hardball: Evidence from the Article V Amendment Process”  
New England Political Science Association Meeting, April 2021  
Western Political Science Association Meeting, April 2021  
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 “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

“‘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

“‘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

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### 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

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### Graduate Courses

Approaches to the Study of Public Law, Spring 2020, Fall 2021  
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, Summer 2021, Fall 2019, 2020  
Constitutional Law: Government Powers, Summer 2020, 2021, Fall 2017, 2019  
Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties, Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, Summer 2020, 2021  
District of Columbia Government and Politics, Fall 2021  
Introduction to American Politics (U. of Pennsylvania), Summer 2016, 2017  
Modern American Constitutional Law, teaching assistant, (U. of Pennsylvania) Spring 2015  
Early American Constitutional Law, teaching assistant, (U. of Pennsylvania) Fall 2014  
American Political Thought, teaching assistant, (U. of Pennsylvania) Spring 2014  
Modern Political Thought, teaching assistant, (U. of Pennsylvania) Fall 2013  
Introduction to Political Theory, teaching assistant, (U. of Maryland) Fall 2010, 2011, Spring 2012  
Introduction to American Politics, teaching assistant, (U. of Maryland) Spring 2011

## SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

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### Discussant/Chair

2021 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, 2021 New England 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

### Howard University service

Graduate dissertation advisor (two students), committee member (four 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, 2021  
Awards Committee member, Department of Political Science, 2018-2019

### Other service

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

### Member

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Western Political Science Association, National Capital Area Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory