

Aaron R Kushner

May 27, 2025

School of Civic and Economic Thought & Leadership
Arizona State University
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Academic Employment

Assistant Professor, Arizona State University	2025 –
Adjunct Professor of Catholic Studies, Mary College at ASU	2023-2025
Assistant Teaching Professor, Arizona State University	2022-2025
Postdoctoral Fellow, Arizona State University	2019-2022

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Missouri	2019
Dissertation: <i>"Ruling or Being Ruled? The Development of Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation"</i>	
Advisor: Justin Buckley Dyer	
M.A., Political Science, Northern Illinois University	2015
B.A., Politics, Saint Vincent College	2013

Administrative Experience

Director of Undergraduate Studies	2023-2025
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Books

Cherokee Nation Citizenship: A Political History (University of Oklahoma Press, 2025)

A Hero in All of Us? Heroism and American Political Thought as Seen on TV (Lexington Press, 2024)
(co-edited with Stephen Clouse)

Academic Publications

"Swords into Plowshares: A Catholic Solution to America's Hero Problem,"
Catholic Social Science Review FORTHCOMING

"Consent, Revolution, and the End of the World: America's Apocalyptic Fixation as Politics,"
Perspectives on Political Science FORTHCOMING (with Trevor Shelley)

"John Wick in Purgatorio," in Jonathan Ashbach, ed., *Winning the Crowd: The Politics of Popular Films* (Lexington Press, 2025): 207-220

"Forgotten Founder: The Short Life of Michael Cunniff, Arizona's First Legislative Leader,"
Journal of Arizona History 65 (2024): 429-643 (with Sean Beienburg)

"Madmen in a Boring World: *The Boys* and a World Without Heroes," in Stephen Clouse and Aaron Kushner, eds., *A Hero in All of Us? Heroism and American Political Thought as Seen on TV* (Lexington Press, 2024): 159-174

"Citizenship and the Good Life: Cherokee and American Regimes in Conflict," *Political Science Reviewer* 48, no. 1 (2024): 238-271 (with Stephen Clouse)

"Conservative Progressivism? Michael Cunniff, Federalism, and the Founding of Arizona," *American Political Thought*, 12, no. 4 (2023): 552-580 (with Sean Beienburg)
*Winner: Best Article Published in *American Political Thought*, 2023*

"The Imposition of Freedom: Tribal Citizenship and the Case of the Cherokee Freedmen," in Steve Pittz and Joseph Postell, eds., *American Citizenship and Constitutionalism in Principle and Practice* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2022): 83-108

"Cherokee Political Thought and the Development of Tribal Citizenship" *Studies in American Political Development*, 35, no. 1 (2021): 1-15

"Caso McGirt v Oklahoma: el Cumplimiento de los Tratados Indígenas y los Títulos Colectivos a la Tierra." *Revista de Derecho Universidad de Concepción*, 89, no. 249 (2021): 397-408 (with Katherine Becerra Valdivia)

In Submission

The Pennsylvania State Constitution (under advance contract with Oxford University Press)
(with Sean Beienburg and Joseph Wachtel)

In Preparation

"Adaptation: Liberal Institutions, Indigenous Practices" (with Katherine Becerra Valdivia)
Prepping for submission to American Journal of Political Science

Impetuous Vortex: The Indian Removal Act of 1830
Book Manuscript targeting Princeton University Press

Tyranny Loves Company: The American Fascination with the Game of Thrones (with Stephen Clouse)
Book Manuscript targeting the University Press of Kentucky

Book Reviews

"Kristofer Ray: Cherokee Power: Imperial and Indigenous Geopolitics in the Trans-Appalachian West, 1670-1774. (University of Oklahoma Press, 2023)." *Western Historical Quarterly*, 2025, FORTHCOMING

"Eric W. Cheng: Hanging Together: Role-Based Constitutional Fellowship and the Challenge of Difference and Disagreement. (Cambridge University Press, 2022)." *The Review of Politics*, 2023, 1-3

Popular Commentary

["Conservative Progressivism?"](#)

Law & Liberty

6, January, 2025

["Homeschooling and Civic Education"](#)

Homeschool Arizona

October, 2022

["The Power of the Dog' Messages the Urgent Need for Civic Education"](#)

Popmatters

30, March, 2022

["Removing 'by blood': Context and Politics in the Cherokee Supreme Court Decision to Alter the Constitution"](#)

Starting Points Journal

5, April, 2021

["Who gets Cherokee citizenship has long been a struggle between the tribe and the US"](#)

The Conversation

25, March, 2021

["Holding the Government to its Word: McGirt v. Oklahoma and Tribal Sovereignty"](#)

Starting Points Journal

15, July, 2020

["Parasites: Montesquieu on the End of Civic Virtue in a Republic"](#)

PopMatters

29, April, 2020

["Republicanism – A Going Concern"](#)

Starting Points Journal

3, Sep, 2019

["No, Term Limits Won't #DrainTheSwamp. We did the Research."](#) (with Jordan Butcher)

The Washington Post

8, May, 2018

Conference Presentations

"Swords into Plowshares and Heroes into Saints: On the Ancient and Modern Hero Problem"

Society of Catholic Social Scientists Conference (Latrobe, PA), October 2024

"Madmen in a Boring World: *The Boys* and a World without Heroes"

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2023

"The Western Madison: Michael Cunniff and the Founding of Arizona" (with Sean Beienburg)

Policy History Conference (Tempe, AZ), June 2022

"Consent, Revolution, and the End of the World" (with Trevor Shelley)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2022

"The Good Life: Cherokee and American Regimes in Conflict" (with Stephen Clouse)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2022

"Aniyvwiya in America: The Paradox of Liberal Citizenship" (with Stephen Clouse)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2021

"Adaptation: Liberal Institutions, Indigenous Political Practices" (with Katherine Valdivia)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2021

“Toward the Sitting Sun: Congress and the Development of Cherokee Citizenship”
Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2019

“Written in Blood: The Cherokee Freedmen and Developing Views of Citizenship”
Southern Political Science Association Conference (Austin, TX), January 2019

“The Imposition of Freedom: Why Cherokees Resisted Citizenship for their Former Slaves”
Shawnee Trail Regional Conference (Colorado Springs, CO), April 2018

“Chutes and Ladders: Ambition in Term-Limited Legislatures” (with Jordan Butcher)
Southern Political Science Association Conference (New Orleans, LA), January 2018

“On the Same Soil: How Religion and Party Coexist for the Sake of Public Discourse”
Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2017

“The Fault in Our Founders: Political Parties and Participation in America”
Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago, IL), April 2016

Invited Talks & Public Lectures

“The American Founding and the Civil War”
Center for American Civics Summer Boot Camp (Tempe, AZ), May 2025

“The American Founding and the Civil War”
Center for American Civics Workshop (Chandler, AZ), April 2025

“Civic Leadership Institute: Lincoln, Douglass, and American Principles”
Civic Leadership Institute Summer Camp (Tempe, AZ), June 2024

“Federalism and the Separation of Powers”
Center for American Civics Workshop (Tempe, AZ), April 2024

“The American Founding and the Civil War”
Center for American Civics Workshop (Tempe, AZ), April 2024

“Westward Expansion and Indian Removal”
Civic Leadership Institute Workshop Series (Tempe, AZ), March 2024

“Citizenship and the Good Life”
Defiance College (Defiance, OH), November 2023

“Civic Leadership Institute: The First Amendment”
Civic Leadership Institute Summer Camp (Tempe, AZ), June 2023

“Western Expansion and Indian Removal”
Civic Leadership Institute Workshop Series (Tempe, AZ), April 2023

“Western Expansion and Indian Removal”

Civic Leadership Institute Workshop Series (Tempe, AZ), July 2022

“US Federal Indian Policy: An Outside Perspective”

Universidad Católica del Norte (Antofagasta, Chile), October 2021

“Tribal Citizenship: The Development of an Idea”

Mirabella at ASU Lecture Series (Tempe, AZ), July 2021

Teaching Experience as Instructor of Record

Arizona State University

Liberalism and Conservatism in America	F 2025
Lincoln: Rhetoric, Thought, Statesmanship	S 2025
American Constitution I	F 2022
Great Ideas of Politics and Ethics	F 2024, F 2023, S 2022
Great Debates in American Politics	F 2024, S 2024, F 2023, F 2022, F 2021, F 2020
Great Debates in American Politics, <i>iCourse</i>	S 2024, S 2022, S 2021, F 2020

Mary College ASU

Catholic Studies Tutorial IV: Catholic Social Teaching	S 2025, S 2024
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Catholic Studies Tutorial I: Faith and Reason	F 2024, F 2023
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University of Missouri

Freshmen Interest Group: Campaigns & Elections	F 2017
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Northern Illinois University

American Government and Politics	S 2016
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Elgin Community College

Upward Bound Program

Political Science I: Freshmen Seminar	Summer 2016, 2015
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Political Science II: Sophomore Seminar	Summer 2016, 2015
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Political Science IV: Senior Seminar	Summer 2015
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Research Skills

Programs

STATA

Microsoft Office Suite

WordPress

Quill Software (Oxford/Pembroke)

Languages

Latin (Elementary written and spoken)

Cherokee (Elementary written)

Professional Certifications

Yellowdig Instructor Certification, Yellowdig ICC 2021

Online Teaching Certification, Arizona State University 2020

Service & Professional Activities

Principle Investigator, *SCETL Civic Leadership Institute: \$100,000 grant awarded by the Office of the Governor: 2023 Summer Enrichment Programming* 2023
U.S. DOE GREER II

SCETL College Senate Representative, ASU 2023

Faculty Advisor, Thomistic Institute at ASU 2023 –

Junior Editor: Civic Education Curriculum, Arizona State University 2020-2021

Chair and Discussant, MPSA Panel: Comparative Political Theory 2021

Co-Director, The Arizona Constitution Project 2019-2023

Editor, *Starting Points: A Journal of American Principles and American Practices* 2017 –

Organizer, “(Re)Building American Identities” Conference, U. Missouri 2019

Member, Processes Committee, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy 2018

President, Graduate Association of Political Scientists, U. Missouri 2017-2018

President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, NIU 2015-2016

Fellowships & Awards

APSA Award: Best Article Published in American Political Thought 2024

JMC Fellow, Jack Miller Center Summer Institute 2019

Graduate Fellow, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy 2017-2019

Research Grant, \$800 (Travel and Archival Work: Kinder Institute) 2019

Dean L. Yearwood Scholar in American Politics 2019

Travel Grant, \$500 (University of Missouri) 2018-2019

Bryan L. Forbis Scholar in American Politics 2018

SPSA Scholarship 2018

Travel Grant, \$500 (University of Missouri) 2017-2018

Travel Grant, \$400 (Northern Illinois University) 2015-2016

Memberships & Associations

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Society of Catholic Social Scientists

Jack Miller Center

References

- Justin Buckley Dyer, PhD
Professor and Dean, School of Civic Leadership, University of Texas at Austin
Email: justin.dyer@austin.utexas.edu
Office Phone: 512-471-1232
- Paul O. Carrese, PhD
Professor, School of Civic and Economic Thought & Leadership, Arizona State University
Email: Paul.Carrese@asu.edu
Office Phone: 480-965-0155
- Karen Taliaferro, PhD
Associate Professor, Hamilton Center, University of Florida
Email: krupprecht@gmail.com
Office Phone: 352-273-3040
- Jason Jividen, PhD
Associate Professor and Chair, Politics Department, Saint Vincent College
Email: jason.jividen@stvincent.edu
Office Phone: 724-805-2825