

Aaron R Kushner

April 5, 2026

School of Civic and Economic Thought & Leadership
Arizona State University
Coor Hall, 6628
Tempe, AZ 85287-0602

arkushne@asu.edu
c: (480) 415-9875

Academic Employment

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Assistant Professor, Arizona State University | 2025— |
| Adjunct Instructor 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 Dyer | |
| M.A., Political Science, Northern Illinois University | 2015 |
| B.A., Politics, Saint Vincent College | 2013 |

Administrative Experience

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Director of Undergraduate Studies | 2023-2025 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|

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

"Consent, Revolution, and the End of the World: America's Apocalyptic Fixation as Politics,"
Perspectives on Political Science 55 (2026): 1-14 (with Trevor Shelley)

"Swords into Plowshares: A Catholic Solution to America's Hero Problem,"
Catholic Social Science Review 30 (2025): 117-133

"John Wick in Purgatorio," in Jonathan Ashbach, ed., *Winning the Crowd: The Politics of Popular Films* (Lexington Books, 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 Books, 2024): 159-174

“We Ain’t the Walking Dead,” in Stephen Clouse and Aaron Kushner, eds., *A Hero in All of Us? Heroism and American Political Thought as Seen on TV* (Lexington Books, 2024): 79-94

“Citizenship and the Good Life: Cherokee and American Regimes in Conflict,” *Political Science Reviewer* 48 (2024): 238-271 (with Stephen Clouse)

“Conservative Progressivism? Michael Cunniff, Federalism, and the Founding of Arizona,” *American Political Thought*, 12 (2023): 552-580 (with Sean Beienburg)

***Winner:** APSA Award for Best Article Published in *American Political Thought*, 2024*

“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 (2021): 1-15

“Caso McGirt v Oklahoma: el Cumplimiento de los Tratados Indígenas y los Titulos Colectivos a la Tierra.” *Revista de Derecho Universidad de Concepción*, 89 (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

“Disputatio in the Classroom”
Prepping for submission to *Conversatio*

“‘Triumphs of Unrighteous Power’: Theodore Frelinghuysen’s Defense of Public Morality”
Prepping for submission to *Perspectives on Political Science*

“The Fault in Our Founders? The Declaration of Independence and the Indian Removal Crisis”
Prepping for submission to *American Political Thought*

“Theodore Frelinghuysen’s Forgotten Faith: A Christian Statesman’s Defense of Liberty”
Prepping for submission to *American Political Thought*

Impetuous Vortex: Congress and the Indian Removal Act of 1830
Book Manuscript Targeting Princeton University Press

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.

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

Popular Commentary

[“Pope Leo XIV’s Papacy”](#)

Arizona’s Family Morning Show Interview

9, May, 2025

[“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, Apr, 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 Monkey Cage

8, May, 2018

Conference Presentations

“The Fault in Our Founders? The Declaration of Independence Controversy in the Indian Removal Crisis” Association for Core Texts Conference (Tempe, AZ), March 2026

“‘Triumphs of Unrighteous Power’: Theodore Frelinghuysen’s Defense of Public Morality” Association for Core Texts Conference (Tempe, AZ), March 2026

“Swords into Plowshares: The Catholic Answer to 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
- “John Locke’s Natural Right to Immigration” (with Luke Perez)
Shawnee Trail Regional conference (Columbia, MO), March 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

- “Faculty Debate Night: The Second Amendment”
Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ), March 2026
- “A Hero in All of Us? American Heroism from George Washington to Luke Skywalker”
Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, PA), March 2026
- “Stakeholder Perspectives: From Resident to President” (Panelist)
Longevity Innovations in Higher Education Summit (Tempe, AZ), March 2026

- “Cherokee Nation Citizenship: A Political History”
Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society (Columbus, OH), September 2025
- “Liberty: A Contested Idea from Magna Carta to the Articles of Confederation”
National Constitution Center Workshop (Chandler, AZ), October 2025
- “The American Founding and the Civil War”
Center for American Civics Summer Civics Boot Camp (Tempe, AZ), May 2025
- “The American Founding and the Civil War”
Center for American Civics Workshop (Chandler, AZ), April 2025
- “Homeschooling and Civic Education”
AFHE Homeschool Day at the Capitol (Phoenix, AZ), February 2025
- “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

| | |
|--|--|
| Classical Political Thought | F 2026 |
| 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 2026, F 2024, S 2024, F 2023, F 2022, F 2021, F 2020 |
| Great Debates in American Politics (Honors) | F 2026, S 2026 |
| 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 2026, S 2025, S 2024 |
| Catholic Studies Tutorial I: Faith and Reason | F 2024, F 2023 |

University of Missouri

| | |
|--|--------|
| Freshmen Interest Group: Campaigns & Elections | F 2017 |
|--|--------|

Northern Illinois University

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| American Government and Politics | S 2016 |
|----------------------------------|--------|

Elgin Community College

Upward Bound Program

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Political Science I: Freshmen Seminar | Summer 2016, 2015 |
| Political Science II: Sophomore Seminar | Summer 2016, 2015 |
| Political Science IV: Senior Seminar | Summer 2015 |

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Advisory Committee, School of Civic & Economic Thought and Leadership | 2025-2026 |
| 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 |
| Director, The Arizona Constitution Project | 2019-2023 |
| Editor, <i>Starting Points: A Journal of American Principles and American Practices</i> | 2017-2024 |
| 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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Best Article Published in American Political Thought Award, \$400 | 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