Aaron R Kushner

August 14, 2026

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

Assistant Professor, Arizona State University	2025—
Adjunct Instructor of Catholic Studies, Mary College at ASU	2023-2026
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: "*Ruling or Being Ruled? The Development of Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation*"
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

"*Disputatio*: Modeling Civil Discourse in the Classroom"
(forthcoming at *Conversatio*)

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

"Theodore Frelinghuysen's Forgotten Faith: American Christian Statesmanship in Defense of Liberty" (under review at *American Political Thought*)

In Preparation

"A Law of Nations? Emer de Vattel and the Dispossession of the Cherokee Nation"
Prepping for submission to *American Political Thought* (with Megan Brand)

"The Fault in Our Founders? The Declaration of Independence and the Indian Removal Crisis"
Prepping for submission to *Perspectives on Political Science*

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

"Selu Contra Locke: The Case for Communal Landholding in a Republican Government"
Prepping for submission to *Studies in American Political Development*

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

"The Socialists' Institutionalism—Tried and Failed" 10, August, 2026
Law & Liberty

"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

"Superman, Heroism, and the Natural Law"
Society of Catholic Social Scientists Conference (Cleveland, OH), October 2026

"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

"From Idea into Law: The Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation"
Veritas Preparatory Academy Civics Day (Scottsdale, AZ), September 2026

"America at 250"
Children of the American Revolution Civics Day (Chandler, AZ), August 2026

"Civic Leadership Institute: America 250"
Civic Leadership Institute Summer Camp (Tempe, AZ), June 2026

"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 (Pheonix, AZ), February 2025

"Civic Leadership Institute: Lincoln and Douglass"
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

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, *iCourse*	S 2024, S 2022, S 2021, F 2020

Utah Valley University

American Political Development (Graduate)	Summer 2026

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

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

Principle Investigator, *Free Society Undergraduate Programming*: $4,000 grant awarded by the Institute for Humane Studies	2026
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* U.S. DOE GREER II	2023
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, *Starting Points: A Journal of American Principles and American Practices*	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
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  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