

ALEXANDER S. KIRSHNER

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Department of Political Science
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APPOINTMENTS

Duke University—Department of Political Science

- Associate Professor, 2019-
- Assistant Professor, 2012-2019
- Senior Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics

New York University, Abu Dhabi—Division of Social Science

- Global Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011-2012

EDUCATION

Yale University

- PhD, Political Science (Political Theory), May 2011
- Dissertation: A Theory of Militant Democracy: The Ethics of Combatting Political Extremism
- Dissertation Awarded Department and University Distinction
- Committee: Ian Shapiro (Chair), Bruce Ackerman, Bryan Garsten, Susan Stokes

Cambridge University -- M.Phil, Political Thought and Intellectual History, 2002

Yale University -- B.A., History, 1999

HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

- French American Cultural Exchange—Thomas Jefferson Grant—with Genevieve Rousseliere—funding for two conferences on challenges to democracy, 2018 (\$20,000)
- Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellow, University Center for Human Values, Princeton, 2015-16 (\$50,000)
- ACLS/Mellon New Faculty Fellowship (declined), 2012 (\$56,500)
- Dissertation Nominated for Leo Strauss Award in political philosophy, 2011
- Dissertation awarded University Distinction, Yale University, 2011
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2011-2012

- Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Program in Ethics, Politics and Economics, Yale University, 2009-2011
- Leylan Prize Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Yale University, 2008-2009
- Enders Graduate Research Grant, Yale University, Summer 2008
- “Young Trans-Atlantic Leader” awarded by the German Marshall Fund, 2007
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Language Grant, Summer 2007
- Foreign Language Areas Studies Intensive Language Grant (German), Summer 2007
- Leitner Fellowship for International Political Economy, Yale University, Summer 2006
- Macmillan Center for International Studies Pre-Dissertation Grant, Yale University, 2006

BOOKS

Legitimate Opposition

New Haven: Yale University Press (2022)

Roundtables: American Political Science Association Conference, 2023;
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Association Conference 2023

Podcasts: [New Books in Philosophy](#); [The Future of with Owen Bennett-Jones](#)

A Theory of Militant Democracy: The Ethics of Combating Political Extremism.

New Haven: Yale University Press (2014)

Book Symposium: *Perspectives on Politics* (2015)

Reviews: *Political Theory* (2016); *Journal of Politics* (2015); *Redescriptions* (2016), *Choice* (2015);
Australian Journal of Political Science (2015); *Newsletter of the ECPR Standing Group on
Extremism and Democracy* (2015)

Translations: Turkish

ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS

“Why Political Philosophy Should be Robust” w/Jeff Spinner-Halev
American Political Science Review (Forthcoming)

“Can liberal integrity handle disagreement? Perhaps not.”
Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy (2020)

“Why no good, very bad, elitist democracy is an achievement, not a failure.”
NOMOS: Democratic Failure—Melissa Schwartzberg and Daniel Viehoff, Editors—New York, NYU
Press—(2019)

“Militant Democracy Defended”

Militant Democracy and its Critics—Anthoula Malkopoulou and Alexander Kirshner, Editors—
Edinburgh University Press (2019)

“Non-ideal Democratic Authority: The Case of Undemocratic Elections”

Politics, Philosophy and Economics (2018)

“Compromise and Representative Government: A Skeptical Perspective”

NOMOS: Compromise—Jack Knight, Editor—New York, NYU Press—(2018)

“Legitimate Opposition, Ostracism, and the Law of Democracy in Ancient Athens”

Journal of Politics 78/4, (2016)

“Proceduralism and Popular Threats to Democracy”

Journal of Political Philosophy, 18/4, (2010).

EDITED BOOKS

Militant Democracy and its Critics, Co-editor with Anthoula Malkopoulou.

—Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press (2019)

Political Representation. Co-editor with Ian Shapiro, Susan Stokes and Elisabeth Wood. Cambridge,
Cambridge University Press, (2010)

INVITED PUBLICATIONS

“Review: What Is Christian Democracy? Politics, Religion and Ideology. *Perspectives on Politics* 18
(3), 938-939 (2020)

“Does Donald Trump Pose a Special Threat to Democracy? Probably Not.”

Part of a Critical Exchange in *Contemporary Political Theory* (2018)

“Review: Democracy Disfigured: Opinion, Truth, and the People by Nadia Urbinati”

Political Science Quarterly (2015)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“What kind of achievement is democratic competition and how would we know?” to be published in

*Democracy and Competition: Rethinking the forms, purposes, and values of competition in
democracy* eds Sam Bagg and Alfred Moore (Oxford University Press, Oxford) 2024.

“Robustness, Common Sense and the Justification of Democracy” w/Jeff Spinner-Halev

“The Distinctive Value of History for Political Philosophy”

INVITED PRESENTATIONS and MEETINGS

- The Distinctive Value of History for Political Philosophy
American University of Paris (2023)
- Why Political Philosophy Should be Robust
University of California, San Diego Political Theory Workshop
- Manuscript Workshop for Benjamin Schupmann's: Constitutionalism and Militant Democracy
Yale University, (2023)
- Key Note: Democracy under Duress
University of Uppsala, Conference on Democracy under Duress, (2022)
- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy
Humboldt University Berlin Political Theory Workshop, (2022)
- Why Political Philosophy Requires Robust Arguments
Yale Political Theory Workshop, (2022)
- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy
American University in Paris, (2022)
- A Theory of Militant Democracy
Sciences Po Political Theory Seminar, Paris (2022)
- Why Political Philosophy Requires Robust Arguments
Spot Seminar, Sciences Po Paris (2022)
- Why Political Philosophy Requires Robust Arguments
University of Rotterdam, (2022)
- Why populism threatens legitimate opposition not democracy
Aarhuss University, (2022)
- Why Political Philosophy Requires Robust Arguments
Normative Political Philosophy Workshop, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris (2022)
- Why Political Philosophy Requires Robust Arguments: The Case of Open Borders
Duke Political Theory Workshop (2020)
- Opposition, Partisanship and the Failure of the Separation of Powers
Yale University, International Conference for the Study of Political Thought (2019)
- Legal Responses to Extremist Parties
University of Michigan Law School, The Role of Law in Combatting Extremism Conference (2018)
- Populism and Opposition
Columbia University/CIDE-Mexico City, Democracy at the Crossroads Conference (2018)
- Participant in symposium on Democratic Failure
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy Annual Meeting (NOMOS)(2018)
- Populism and Opposition
Northwestern Political Theory Works (2018)

- A Democracy Without Opposition: Sieyès, Condorcet and the First French Republic
Dartmouth—Political Economy Project (2017)
- The Value of Legitimate Opposition
North Carolina State University, Political Science Workshop (2017)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections
NYU Abu Dhabi, Political Science Workshop (2017)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections
Berkeley Workshop in Moral, Political and Legal Theory (2016)
- The Self-Limiting Theory of Militant Democracy
Princeton, University Center for Human Values—Meeting on Militant Democracy (2016)
- Democracy, Autocracy, and the Value of Political Competitiveness
Princeton, University Center for Human Values--LSR Fellows' Presentation (2016)
- Invited Speaker—Symposium on Samuel Issacharoffs' *Fragile Democracy*
Yale Law School (2015)
- Opposition, Ostracism, and the Law of Democracy in Ancient Athens
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Political Theory Workshop (2014)
- Opposition, Ostracism, and the Law of Democracy in Ancient Athens
Duke University, Political Theory Workshop 2014
- Antidemocrats and the Right to Participate
New School for Social Research (2014)
- Antidemocrats and the Right to Participate
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ethics, Law and Politics Seminar (2014)
- A Theory of Militant Democracy
CIDE-Mexico City (2014)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections
University of North Carolina, Carolina Seminar—Democracy in the Age of Global Capital (2014)
- A Theory of Militant Democracy
Franklin Humanities Center, Duke University (2013)

Conference Participation—Papers and Roundtables

- Author Meets Critics Roundtable on *Legitimate Opposition*
American Political Science Association (2023)
- Author Meets Critics Roundtable on *Legitimate Opposition*
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Association (2023)
- Robustness and the Justification of Democracy
American Political Science Association (2023)
- Robustness and the Justification of Democracy
Politics, Philosophy and Economics Conference (2022)
- Roundtable Participant on *Extremism* by Quassim Cassam

American Political Science Association (2022)

- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy Legitimate Opposition European Consortium for Political Research (2021)
- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy Manchester Centre for Political Theory (2021)
- Political Competition is Under Attack. Does it merit defense? American Political Science Association (2020)
- Political Competition is Under Attack. Does it merit defense? European Consortium for Political Research (2020)
- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy Politics, Philosophy and Economics Conference (2020)
- Roundtable with Thomas Christiano on Julia Maskivker's *The Duty to Vote* Politics, Philosophy and Economics (2020)
- Opposition, Populism and the Specter of Electoral Autocracy American Political Science Association (2019)
- A Democracy Without Opposition: Sieyès, Condorcet and the First French Republic American Political Science Association (2018)
- A Democracy Without Opposition: Sieyès, Condorcet and the First French Republic Association of Political Theory (2017)
- Roundtable Participant—Political Ethics and Political Action in the age of Trump American Political Science Association (2017)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections American Political Science Association (2016)
- Roundtable Organizer and Participant—Lotteries and the Transformation of Democratic Theory American Political Science Association (2016)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections Midwest Political Science Association (2016)
- The Moral Authority of Non-Democratic Elections Manchester Centre for Political Theory (2016)
- Opposition, Ostracism, and the Law of Democracy in Ancient Athens European Consortium for Political Research (2015)
- Opposition, Ostracism, and the Law of Democracy in Ancient Athens Association of Political Theory (2015)
- The Ethics of Voting (in Non-Democratic Elections) American Political Science Association (2014)
- Antidemocrats and the Right to Participate Association of Political Theory (2013)

- Religious Parties, Credible Commitment and Electoral Competition in Egypt and Tunisia with M. Chacon
Midwest Political Science Association (2013-presented by Chacon)
- Religious Parties, Credible Commitment and Electoral Competition in Egypt and Tunisia with M. Chacon
American Political Science Association (2012)
- Tilting the Playing Field Toward Democracy: Political Regulation and Democracy's Defense
American Political Science Association (2010)
- Tilting the Playing Field Toward Democracy: Political Regulation and Democracy's Defense
New England Political Science Association (2010)
- Proceduralism and Popular Threats to Democracy
Midwest Political Science Association (2009)

TEACHING

- Undergraduate Lectures:
 - Introduction to Political Philosophy (60+ students) (Duke)
 - The Ethics of Violence and War (60+ students) (Duke)
- Graduate Seminars:
 - Injustice, Domination and Exploitation (Duke)
 - Democracy and Constitutionalism (Duke)
 - Dissent, Disobedience and Revolution (Duke)
- Undergraduate Seminars:
 - Democracy and the Politics of Opposition (Yale)
- Doctoral Committee: Isak Tranvik, Antong Liu, Lucy Britt (UNC), Charles Nathan, Elliot Mamet (Chair), Somia Youssef, Judah Buckner, Jihyun Jeung (Chair), Wanning Seah, Jacob Little, Yi-Hsuan Huang (UNC)
- Master's Committees: Jake Charles, Scott Bennett, Lyndsey Haas, Tyler Buckner, Hyeonseong Cho

DEPARTMENTAL and UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science: 2022-
- DUS Exec Board: 2022-
- Payne Chair of Ethics Search, School of Public Policy: 2022-2023
- Political Theory Search Chair: 2019-2020
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee: 2020-2021

- Special Departmental Planning Committee: 2020-2021
- Political Theory Search Committee: 2016-2017
- Undergraduate Affairs Committee: 2012-2013, 2013-2014
- Graduate Affairs Committee: 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2019-2020, 2020-2021
- Coordinator, Political Theory Workshop: Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- Interviewer for A.B. Duke Fellowships: 2016; 2018; 2019

FIELD SERVICE

- Reviewer:
American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, European Journal of Political Theory, Global Constitutionalism, Journal of Politics, Law and Humanities, Perspectives on Politics, Philosophy and Social Criticism, Political Studies, Political Theory, Politics Philosophy and Economics, Polity, Social Theory and Practice
Oxford University Press
- Member:
American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Association of Political Theory, American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
- Mentor—Association for Political Theory’s grad-faculty mentorship program
- Award Committees: Best Article Award—Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (2015)
- Section Organizer: Normative Theory Section—American Political Science Association Meeting (2022)