

# ALEXANDER S. KIRSHNER

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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)

Roundtable: American Political Science Association, 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

“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

“Why Political Philosophy Should be Robust: The Case of Open Borders” w/Jeff Spinner-Halev  
Under Consideration--Revise and Resubmit.

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

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS and MEETINGS

- Robustness, Common Sense and the Justification of Democracy, (2023)  
University of California, San Diego Political Theory Workshop
- Workshop for Benjamin Schupmann’s new book:  
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 (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

- Robustness and the Justification of Democracy  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics Conference (2022)
- Roundtable Participant on Extremism  
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
- Master's Committees: Jake Charles, Scott Bennett, Lyndsey Haas, Tyler Buckner, Hyeonseo Cho

## **DEPARTMENTAL and UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science: 2022-
- DUS Exec Board: 2022-
- Payne Chair 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
- 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)