

# Timothy T. Tennyson

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## *Academic Positions*

2025-Present: *Brown University*

- Postdoctoral Research Associate, PPE Center

## *Education*

2020-2025: *University of Wisconsin-Madison* (Ph.D. May 2025)

- Political Science, Ph.D. Candidate
- Fields: Political Theory, American Politics

2018-2020: *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

- Political Science, M.A. (*Summa Cum Laude*)
- Minor in History

2014-2017: *Carthage College*

- Political Science, B.A. (*Summa Cum Laude*)
- Minor in History

2013-2014: *University of Wisconsin-Parkside*

- Political Science

## *Book Project*

### **Fostering Freedom: Judgment in Early-Modern Liberal Educational and Political Thought**

This project seeks to locate an alternative to personal autonomy—as a guiding standard of liberal education theory—that accommodates the limits of human cognition and the demands of liberal democratic citizenship. To do so, it addresses a neglected early-modern discourse on individual freedom that privileges *judgment* as a civic-educational outcome. I examine three thinkers—John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Adam Smith—who each develop an educational framework for cultivating judgment that focuses on the individual’s ability to make informed decisions under conditions of uncertainty in economic, moral, and political contexts. The theory of judgment and accompanying civic educational model developed in this study can serve as a more practical and empirically grounded alternative to personal autonomy in liberal education theory.

**Committee:** Daniel J. Kapust, Michelle Schwarze, Richard Avramenko, Adam Nelson

## *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Tennyson, Timothy T. 2025. “Adam Smith on Education, Inequality, and Class Division in Commercial Society.” Forthcoming in *Polity*.

- Tennyson, Timothy T. and Michelle Schwarze. 2024. "An Honest Man? Rousseau's Critique of Locke's Character Education." *European Journal of Political Theory*, Vol. 23, No. 4: 435-456.
- Tennyson, Timothy T. 2022. "Cicero's Romulus and the Crafting of Historical Exemplars." *History of Political Thought*, Vol. 43, No. 1: 1-30.

### ***Working Papers***

- "The 'Twilight of Probability': John Locke on Education for Judgment."
- "Rethinking Machiavelli's Civic Religion," with Daniel Kapust. (*Under Review*)
- "Critique of Autonomy as an Educational Ideal in Liberal Theory."
- "Pity, the Sense of Injustice, and the Problem of Inequality in Judith Shklar's Moral Psychology," with Michelle Schwarze. (*Under Review*)

### ***Conference Presentations***

- APT Panel Presenter, "Bringing the Vices Back In: Civic Vice and Democratic Citizenship." Fall 2025 (Accepted)
- APT Panel Presenter, "Adam Smith on Education, Inequality, and Class Division in Commercial Society." Fall 2024
- APSA Panel Presenter, "Adam Smith on Education, Inequality, and Class Division in Commercial Society," Fall 2024
- PPE Society Panel Presenter "Playing the Victim: Pity and Equality in Judith Shklar's Moral Psychology," Fall 2023
- APSA Panel Presenter "Critique of Autonomy as a Civic Educational Ideal in Liberal Theory," Fall 2023 (Virtual)
- APSA Panel Presenter "Victims and Cruelty: Shklar and Rousseau on Pity," Fall 2022
- IASS (International Adam Smith Society) Panel Presenter "Adam Smith on Education," Fall 2021
- APSA Panel Presenter "The Limits of a Liberal Education for Autonomy: Rousseau's Critique of the Lockean Model," Fall 2021 (Virtual)
- MPSA Panel Presenter "Adam Smith on Education," Spring 2020
- Carthage Celebration of Scholars Conference Presenter "On Hobbes's Treatment of Punishment in *Leviathan*," Spring 2017
- Carthage Celebration of Scholars Conference Presenter "Assessing the Effects of *Laissez-Faire* Political Economy on Irish Famine Relief: A Case Study Approach," Spring 2016

### ***Fellowships and Awards***

- Departmental Nomination for CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, Spring 2025
- Graduate Student Research Grant (SRGC), *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Fall 2024
- Scott A. Harris Graduate Writing Scholarship, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Summer 2024
- Institute for Humane Studies Graduate Sabbatical Grant, Fall 2022

Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2021  
Political Science Summer Initiative Scholarship, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, 2019-24  
Guy Black Political Science Graduate Fellowship, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, 2018-19  
Distinguished Senior Award (Commencement Speaker), *Carthage College*, 2017  
Political Science Department Senior Excellence Award, *Carthage College*, 2017  
Eric H. Olson and Anna Olson-Thom Scholarship, *Carthage College*, 2016  
Full Tuition Transfer Scholarship, *Carthage College*, 2014

### ***Teaching Experience***

University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Independent Instructor*, “Contemporary American Political Thought” (PS 361), Spring 2025  
*Independent Instructor*, “Education, Inequality, and Citizenship in the History of Political Thought” (PS 461) [Interdisciplinary Seminar in Political Economy, Philosophy and Politics], Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024  
*Head Teaching Assistant*, “Deception and Politics” (PS 463), Fall 2023, Fall 2024  
*Head Teaching Assistant*, “History of American Political Thought” (PS 360), Fall 2021  
*Head Teaching Assistant*, “Introduction to Political Theory” (PS 160), Spring 2021  
*Teaching Assistant*, “Introduction to Political Theory” (PS 160), Spring 2020

Additional Teaching Experience

*Independent Instructor*, Oral English and Western Culture at the Foreign Business and Trade College of *Chongqing Normal University*, China, 2017-18  
*Fellow*, Writing Center, *Carthage College*, 2015-17

### ***Research and Service Experience***

*Chair*, “New Directions in the Study of Locke,” APSA panel, Fall 2024  
*Assistant Organizer*, International Adam Smith Society (*IASS*) Meeting, Fall 2021  
*Project Assistant* for Dr. Michelle Schwarze (Researcher), Fall 2020  
*Project Assistant* for Dr. Michelle Schwarze (Indexer and Copyeditor), Fall 2019

### ***References***

Daniel J. Kapust, Professor of Political Science, UW-Madison  
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Michelle Schwarze, Associate Professor of Political Science, UW-Madison  
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Richard Avramenko, Director of SCETL, Arizona State University  
Tel. 480.965.0155, Email: [avramenko@asu.edu](mailto:avramenko@asu.edu)  
Adam Nelson, Professor of Educational Policy Studies and History, UW-Madison  
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