

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.
- 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 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 educational frameworks for cultivating judgment that focus 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.

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 Exempla." *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*)
"Pity, the Sense of Injustice, and the Problem of Inequality in Judith Shklar's Moral Psychology," with Michelle Schwarze. (*Under Review*)
"Critique of Autonomy as an Educational Ideal in Liberal Theory."

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

Best Dissertation Prize in Political Theory, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Fall 2025
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

Brown University

Instructor of Record, “Education and Citizenship in Modern and Contemporary Political Thought” (PS 1826E), Fall 2025

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Instructor of Record, “Contemporary American Political Thought” (PS 361), Spring 2025

Instructor of Record, “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

Discussant, Political Theory Workshop, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018-2025

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

Tel. 608.263.9429, Email: djkapust@wisc.edu

Michelle Schwarze, Associate Professor of Political Science, UW-Madison

Tel. 608.358.7228, Email: mschwarze@wisc.edu

Richard Avramenko, Director of SCETL, Arizona State University

Tel. 480.965.0155, Email: avramenko@asu.edu

Adam Nelson, Professor of Educational Policy Studies and History, UW-Madison

Tel. 608.236.2929, Email: adam.nelson@wisc.edu