

Curriculum Vitae

Alexander Batson

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2025- Assistant Professor, School of Civic Leadership, University of Texas at Austin

2024-5 Postdoctoral Fellow, Civitas Institute at the University of Texas at Austin

EDUCATION:

2024 PhD, Yale University, History (Early Modern Europe)
Dissertation Title: "Classical Greece in the European Imperial Imagination, 1500-1700."
Committee: Bruce Gordon, James Whitman, Lauren Benton, Ayesha Ramachandran
Exam fields (all with distinction): 1) European Political Thought, 1500-1800, 2) Roman Law in Europe, 1100-1800, 3) Greek and Roman Historians, 4) Colonial Latin America

2018 M.A.R., Yale Divinity School (New Haven, CT)
Thesis: "The Reformations and the Sword." Bruce Gordon, Adviser
Concentration: History of Christianity

2016 BA, Clemson University (Clemson, SC)
BA in Economics, *summa cum laude* (2016)
BA in Religious Studies, *summa cum laude* (2016)

PUBLICATIONS

Book under contract:

Philip Melanchthon: The Summary of Moral Philosophy and Writings on Politics, Ethics, and Law. Under contract with Brill. Final Manuscript (125,000 words) delivered Dec 20, 2024. This is the first English translation of Melanchthon's *Philosophiae Moralis Epitome* as well as other untranslated works, with introductory essays and critical notes.

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"Isocrates and the Persian Turks: Ottoman Invasions and Confessional Conflict in the Classical Scholarship of Hieronymus Wolf (1516-1580)." In press at *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*.

with T. Lomas, B. Case, and F. Cratty. "The Dance of East and West: A Brief History of an Unstable but Enduring Conceptual Partnership". *East-West Studies* 13 (2025).

“*Mare Tutum*: Thucydides, King Minos, and the Concept of the ‘Secure Sea’ in Seventeenth-Century Maritime Law.” *Grotiana* 45.1 (2024): 1-31.

“Sinai and the Areopagus: Philip Melanchthon, Natural Law, and the Beginnings of Athenian Legal History in the Shadow of the Schmalkaldic War.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 85.4 (2024): 713-48.

“Acquisitive Prescription in Early Modern International Law.” *Journal of the History of International Law* 24.3 (2022): 1-31.

“Philip Melanchthon’s Humanist Politics: Greek Scholarship in a Time of Confessional Crisis” *Reformation and Renaissance Review* 24.1 (2022): 23-43.

White, Benjamin L. and Alexander Batson. “Paul’s Collection through the Saints: Romans 15:31 in Papyrus 46.” *Journal for the Study of Paul and his Letters* 6, no. 1 (2016): 99-114.

Book Chapters:

“Philip Melanchthon’s Forgotten Protestant Civic Humanism” in *Classical Reformations*, ed. Lucy Nicholas and Micha Lazarus (Brepols), Forthcoming 2025.

“On Ecclesiastical Discipline: A 1626 Transylvanian Unitarian Confession.” Translation of “De disciplina ecclesiastica Radechiana.” In *Antitrinitarianism and Unitarianism in the Early Modern World* ed. Kazimierz Bem and Bruce Gordon. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2024.

“Calvin and Equity” in *The Oxford Handbook of Calvin and Calvinism*, ed. Bruce Gordon and Carl Trueman. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

In Preparation:

“The Origins of Ancient Greek Legal History, 1541-1650”

Book Reviews:

“Jus Gentium in Humanist Jurisprudence: On Justice and Right”, by Susan Longfield Karr. *Grotiana* 45.2 (2024).

“Framing the World: Classical Influences on Sixteenth-Century Geographical Thought”, by Margaret Small. *Sixteenth Century Journal* 53.3 (2022), pp. 777-8.

INVITED LECTURES

“Seapower and Global Conflict: Historical and Modern Perspectives.” Clements Center for National Security, University of Texas at Austin. April 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Reconsidering Aristotle in the Reformation: Melanchthon’s Political Philosophy” American Political Science Association, Vancouver, 2025.

Panel Chair and Discussion, “The Roman Law Foundations of Early Modern Political Thought” American Political Science Association, Vancouver, 2025.

Panel Chair, Association for the History of Political Thought Conference, Austin, TX. March 2024.

Panel Moderator, “Gestures, Emotions, and Cross-Cultural Encounter in the Early Modern World” Renaissance Society of America, San Juan 2023

“American Scythians: Essentializing Race and Barbarism in Genealogies of American Peoples” Renaissance Society of America, San Juan 2023

“Philip Melanchthon: The First Modern Historian of Greek Law?” at Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Minneapolis, 2022.

“Ancient Greek Law in the Renaissance” at Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Dublin 2022.

“Law, Property, and Empire: John Locke in Conversation with Continental Jurisprudence.” At “John Locke and England’s Empire,” a workshop hosted at the Folger Shakespeare Library. November 2021.

“Hieronymus Wolf (1516-1580), Isocrates, and the Turks: From Pan-Hellenism to Pan-Germanism.” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, October 2021.

“Philip Melanchthon’s Civic Humanism: Teaching Greek in a Time of Confessional Conflict.” Classical Reformations: Beyond Christian Humanism. Hosted by the Warburg Institute, September 2021.

“Francisco Suarez’ Political Theory and the Problems of Absolutist States and Protestant Rulers.” Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary Historical Conference, Boulder, Colorado (October 8, 2017).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

“Piecing together the Past: How Renaissance Scholars Reconstructed Ancient Athenian Law”. *Not Even Past* (notevenpast.org), Oct. 31, 2024. [Link](#)

TEACHING:

Instructor of Record

HIS 343, “The Age of Reformation”, UT Austin, Spring 2025.

UGS 302, “Democracy: The History of an Idea”, UT Austin, Fall 2024.

Graduate Teaching Fellowships:

HIST 107, “Introduction to American Indian History”, Yale University, Professor Ned Blackhawk, Spring 2023.

REL 714, “History of Early Modern Christianity: Reformation to Enlightenment.” Yale University, Professor Bruce Gordon, Fall 2022.

HIST 215, “Reformation Europe, 1450-1650.” Yale University, Professor Carlos Eire, Spring 2022.

SERVICE:

Curriculum Coherence Subcommittee, UT Austin SCL, Spring 2025

Hiring Committee, Recruiter/Civic Education Coordinator, UT Austin SCL, Spring 2025

Writing Tutor, Yale Graduate Writing Lab. Fall 2022 – Spring 2024

Organizer, “Race before 1800”, AY 2022-23

Graduate student coordinator, working group on premodern race studies.

Co-organizer, “Early Modern Studies: The Crisis and the Opportunity,” Spring 2022

Colloquium with 3 events and 6 invited speakers on the future of EMS.

Member, Graduate Student Advisory Council, Spring 2021.

PEER REVIEW

I have served as a peer reviewer for *The Sixteenth Century Journal*

LANGUAGES:

Latin: Reading proficiency

Spanish: Reading proficiency and conversational speaking

German: Reading proficiency and intermediate speaking

Classical Greek: Reading proficiency

French: Reading proficiency

HONORS & AWARDS

Folger Shakespeare Empire, participant in “Atlantic Empires: Slavery, Race, and War” yearlong colloquium, AY 2024-5.

Jack Miller Center Summer Institute Fellow, Summer 2024.

Junior Fellow, Veritas Scholars Summit, Summer 2024.

Marsh’s Library, Dublin. Maddock Research Fellowship (2 weeks). Spring 2024.

Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration. Travel Research Grant, Spring 2024.

Yale MacMillan Center, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Summer 2023.

Grant Recipient, Yale GSAS Dean’s Fund for Colloquia and Symposia for “Race before 1800” seminar, AY 2022-23.

Wittenberg Fellow, Wittenberg Center for Reformation Studies, Summer 2022.

Co-recipient with Thomas Santa Maria, Yale GSAS Dean’s Fund for Colloquia and Symposia for “Early Modern Studies: The Crisis and the Opportunity”. Spring 2022.

Folger Shakespeare Library, funded travel to “Reading Scotland Seminar” at University of St. Andrews. May 2022.

Folger Shakespeare Library, “Researching and Writing the Early Modern Dissertation.” AY 2021-22.

Beinecke Research Grant, Fall 2021

Marquand Scholar

Full-tuition merit scholarship and stipend at Yale Divinity School, Fall 2016-Spring 2018

Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Programme in Manuscript Studies

Summer 2018 and 2019, received funding for advanced training in medieval Latin paleography.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2022. Yale University, Professor Bruce Gordon

Research for chapter on empire and postcolonialism in upcoming global history of the Bible.

2017-18. Yale University, Professor Bruce Gordon

Read and summarized Huldrych Zwingli’s Latin letters *Zwingli: God’s Armed Prophet* (Yale, 2022).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Laborer, WorkMill Trees

Easley, SC, 2018-2019

Foreman, Palmetto Surface Solutions

Powdersville, SC, Summer 2016

Laborer, King Asphalt, Inc.

Liberty, SC, Summer 2014 and 2015

REFERENCES

Bruce Gordon, Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Yale Divinity School,

bruce.gordon@yale.edu

James Whitman, Ford Foundation Professor of Comparative and Foreign Law, Yale Law School.

james.whitman@yale.edu

Lauren Benton, Barton M. Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law, Yale University

lauren.benton@yale.edu

Ayesha Ramachandran, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Yale University

ayesha.ramachandran@yale.edu