



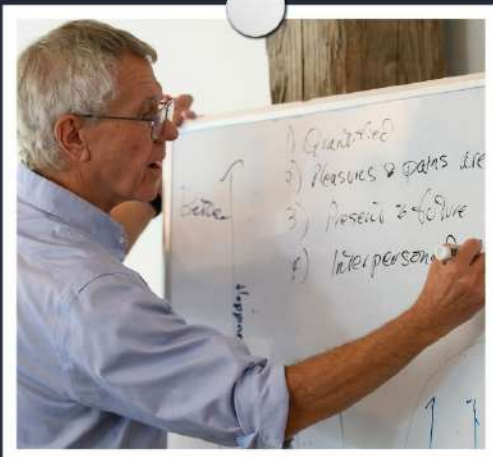
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Civic Leadership

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FORUM

EXPLORING IDEAS + INSTITUTIONS THAT SUSTAIN A FREE SOCIETY

Society of
Fellows



A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Inside

DEAN'S NOTE	4	SOCIETY OF FELLOWS	
DIRECTOR'S NOTE	5	Society of Fellows Summer Recap	14
FEATURES		Society of Fellows Summer Honors Symposium	16
Q+A with new SCL faculty		SCL AND CIVITAS FACULTY AND FELLOWS 2024-2025	
Carola Binder	6	SCL Faculty	18
Alex Duff	7	SCL Visiting Professors	22
Raúl Rodríguez	8	Civitas Fellows	
CIVITAS COMMUNITY EVENTS		Distinguished Fellows	23
Freedom and Virtue High School Seminars	10	Senior Fellows	23
SCL Information Session	11	Non-Resident Senior Fellows	26
Texas Preview Day	11	Visiting Fellows	27
Summer Institute on the American Political Tradition	12	Senior Research Fellows	29
		Research Fellows	30
		Postdoctoral Fellows	30
		Predoctoral Fellows	32
		Dissertation Fellows	33
		Summer Research Fellows	34
		BACK COVER	
		Upcoming Events	



DEAN'S NOTE

Justin Dyer

Dean, School of Civic Leadership

Recently the School of Civic Leadership began accepting applications for an inaugural cohort of pioneering students who will enter UT Austin as civics honors majors. Together these students will undertake a quest for wisdom about how to live well and how to sustain our civic life. This quest involves a deep engagement with the greatest works of the Western tradition and a careful study of our state and nation's founding principles, constitutional history, and economic system. Because civic education aims to conserve what is worth preserving in our civilization, it demands that we approach our studies with gratitude for the legacy we have inherited and a sense of responsibility for stewarding and improving that inheritance for future generations.

Western Civilization is a mixed bag, of course. It gave us philosophy, penicillin, and the concept of religious liberty, but it also gave us the 20th century's totalitarian ideologies, the atomic bomb, and the Thirty Years' War. What among those things is worthy of conservation? That is one of civic education's core questions. I'll venture here my own preliminary answer to what in our tradition is worth preserving: a collective belief in each individual's dignity and worth; protection for the rule of law rather than the rule of the strong; personal responsibility and self-government in local communities and civil society; scientific and technological progress tempered by our religious traditions' wonder and awe; and the tremendous creation of wealth and poverty reduction that our economic system has enabled.

Higher education plays a role in preserving knowledge and cultivating wisdom about these things. When I was last in America's capital city, my morning walk took me by the James Madison Memorial Library at the Library of Congress. One familiar quotation, phrased as a question and etched in marble on the building's exterior, struck me: "What spectacle can be more edifying than that of liberty & learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual & surest support?" Madison wrote those words in an 1822 letter to the Kentucky state senator William T. Barry just after the Kentucky legislature had adopted a plan for a general system of education in the state. "A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it," Madison observed in the same letter, "is but a prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both."

Civics Honors majors at UT Austin will encounter the distinct inheritance of Western civilization and the American Founding in preparation for vocations in law, entrepreneurship, public service, and in their own families and communities. If you are interested in joining us or supporting this effort, we are eager to hear from you.

“Because civic education aims to conserve what is worth preserving in our civilization, it demands that we approach our studies with gratitude for the legacy we have inherited...”

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Ryan Streeter

Executive Director, Civitas Institute

Arguing in 1786 for a publicly funded university, Benjamin Rush wrote, "Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men are incapable of knowing their rights, and where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal nor universal."

Often overshadowed by other American Founders, Rush was an early advocate of abolishing the slave trade and allowing women in institutions of higher education. He wrote one of the first books on mental illness, advanced prison reforms, and helped start numerous educational and medical organizations. He put into practice his view that liberty cannot be universal if learning is accessible only to an elite few.

Like other signatories of the Declaration of Independence, Rush believed in human agency's centrality. He and other Founders may have not used that expression, but liberty as they understood it depends upon people's ability to improve their lives and seek opportunity—to "pursue happiness," in other words.

Some critics of the ideal of liberty believe that American culture overrates individual agency. It is more important, they believe, that the state provide security against structural inequalities. Other critics argue that the Founders' conception of individual liberty is too powerful and has led to the morally corrosive individualism that is splitting America apart.

One of the things I admire about the Civitas Institute's community of scholars and students is their willingness to take such critiques seriously. We don't always agree with each other on every big question or take the same side in every debate. But we do share commitments to enduring principles, one of which is this idea of human agency's importance in a free society. The very idea of liberty at the core of our mission stems from a time-honored tradition of enquiry into the fundamentals of human dignity, flourishing, and improvement.

Civitas Fellows are shaping public debates in which liberty is central. Economist Scott Carrell's work on competition in education is relevant to debates about school choice. Legal scholar John Yoo is in the middle of debates about protecting our core constitutional freedoms. Social scientist Arthur Brooks is globally recognized as an expert in unpacking what the pursuit of happiness means in daily life. Economist Kadeem Noray studies upward mobility for low-income and overlooked young people, and historian Rowena He defends the idea of liberty against its communist Chinese opponents. I could go on. Numerous others in our growing community are making essential contributions to how policymakers, academics, media professionals, and business leaders think about how to expand liberty for all in our public life.

As we enter a new academic year, we look forward to partnering with you and other friends of Civitas who, like Benjamin Rush, believe firmly that our "society of knowledge" matters a great deal to freedom's preservation and expansion in our world.

“We don't always agree with each other on every big question or take the same side in every debate. But we do share commitments to enduring principles, one of which is this idea of human agency's importance in a free society.”

NEW FACULTY Q & A



What is your hometown?

I grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. I moved to Dallas, Texas when I was a junior in high school.

What about living in Austin are you most looking forward to?

I am looking forward to great colleagues and collaborations in the School of Civic Leadership and economics department. I'm also excited to raise my kids here and enjoy our pool and backyard together. It will be nice to be a lot closer to family members in other parts of Texas.

Introduce yourself to a non-academic audience. Who are you and what is the focus of your work?

I am an economist working on monetary policy, central banking, economic history, and inflation. I have studied how central banks try to communicate with the general public, and how people form their expectations of inflation. I have also researched the politics of central banking and the pressures that politicians exert on monetary policymakers. Recently, I published *Shock Values: Prices and Inflation in American Democracy*, a book about the history and politics of price stabilization efforts in the United States since the Revolutionary War.

Tell us about your personal background. What drew you to your field of study?

I studied math at Georgia Tech, and grew interested in economics and policy through an internship at the Georgia Senate Budget

and Evaluations Office. When I was a Ph.D. student at Berkeley from 2010 to 2015, the U.S. economy was recovering slowly from the Great Recession. With interest rates near the “zero lower bound,” policymakers at the Fed hoped to strengthen the economy by steering inflation expectations. I thought that relatively little was known about how the general public forms their inflation expectations. I like studying this topic because it requires a lot of creativity and an interdisciplinary approach with psychology, political science, and history.

What three books have most influenced your thinking?

First, my grad school professor, Barry Eichengreen, is the author of *Golden Fetters: The Gold Standard and the Great Depression*. Reading it one summer with some classmates taught me a lot about the Great Depression and helped spark my interest in studying economic history. Second, my fourteen years of listening to Russ Roberts’s EconTalk podcast has influenced my thinking about economics and philosophy more than anything else, so I would pick his book *How Adam Smith Can Change Your Life*, which includes some of the podcast’s ideas. Third, *Technopopulism: The New Logic of Democratic Politics*, by Christopher Bickerton and Carlo Invernizzi Accetti, influenced my thinking about the politics of central banking when I read it a few years ago.

What brought you to the School of Civic Leadership? How does your work connect to the School’s focus on the ideas and institutions that make free, prosperous societies possible?

I bring a macroeconomic perspective to the School of Civic Leadership. The Federal Reserve is one of the country’s most powerful institutions, and its policies have large implications for stability and prosperity. The Fed is “politically independent”—its policymakers are not elected, and are largely insulated from the political process. So I think it is important for future civic leaders to understand how the Fed fits into the American system and how to hold it accountable to its Congressional mandate.

What big question or idea are you excited about right now?

I am interested in understanding more about the recent high inflation surge in the United States and other countries and what it might mean for institutions and policies in the coming years. I am also interested in the economic causes and consequences of political polarization.

NEW FACULTY Q & A



What is your hometown?

Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

What about living in Austin are you most looking forward to?

I love the outdoors, the livable mix of water and woods, strewn here among the neighborhoods. I’m happy to live in a town that brings the country into the city.

Introduce yourself to a non-academic audience. Who are you and what is the focus of your work?

I study the big ideas the animate some of the the late modern period’s most terrifying ideologies. I look at the animating grievances that express themselves in these ideologies, and then try to understand them and how we can answer them with a healthier understanding of human politics and the human soul. My work focuses on the deepest books that articulate these views and the arguments against them: much of my work focuses on Martin Heidegger’s thought, but I draw from the tradition of earlier modern and classic wisdom to provide a better understanding of human political life.

What three books have most influenced your thinking?

For better or worse, I think I’d have to say Heidegger’s *Being and Time*, as troubling as his work oftentimes is; I’ll add as a kind of counterweight Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. And then let me also say Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*.

What brought you to the School of Civic Leadership? How does your work connect to the School’s focus on the ideas and institutions that make free, prosperous societies possible?

Knowing how powerful collectivist ideologies have been in shaping the catastrophic politics of the past century and more—and seeing how similar ideologies continue to draw young people toward a ruinous understanding of their communities and their lives—inspires my teaching. I want students to see that their greatest fulfillments will come from a mission informed by self-exploration and seeking self-knowledge, where humility chastens and intellectual daring leavens their curiosity and which culminates in the illumination the truest love of justice requires. When this happens, their explorations of the enduring interplay of virtue and freedom in the human soul can blossom as mature civic judgment.

What big question or idea are you excited about right now?

I’m inspired by the perpetually renewed challenge of understanding the irreducible holism of our humanity in its tension with the ever-more-staggering discoveries and accomplishments of modern science and technology. Holding these together, thinking about them clearly—this is the challenge that needs to inform a healthy civic-spiritedness in our century.

“I want students to see that their greatest fulfillments will come from a mission informed by self-exploration and seeking self-knowledge, where humility chastens and intellectual daring leavens their curiosity and which culminates in the illumination the truest love of justice requires.”

NEW FACULTY Q & A



“My work focuses on fundamental human questions: What is justice? What is happiness? What is freedom? By writing and teaching on these subjects, I help students know themselves and their political community.”

What is your hometown?

St. Louis, Missouri and Los Alamos, New Mexico

What about living in Austin are you most looking forward to?

I'm most looking forward to warmer winters and good restaurants.

Introduce yourself to a non-academic audience. Who are you and what is the focus of your work?

My work focuses on fundamental human questions: What is justice? What is happiness? What is freedom? By writing and teaching on these subjects, I help students know themselves and their political community. I explore these topics through close textual readings of classic works of political philosophy. I also research and teach foundational documents of American democracy, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Tell us about your personal background. What drew you to your field of study?

I have always been interested in politics and I was fortunate enough to take a very good political philosophy course as an undergraduate. My professor and the classic texts he had us read fundamentally changed my life. I realized that many of the questions and concerns I had were discussed and debated by great thinkers of the past and that I could learn a lot from their writings. Reading these profound works of literature

helped me understand myself better. I realized that I had a passion to share and discuss the ideas articulated by the past's philosophers and statesmen.

What three books have most influenced your thinking?

Plato's *Republic*, Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, and Michel de Montaigne's *Essays*

What brought you to the School of Civic Leadership? How does your work connect to the School's focus on the ideas and institutions that make free, prosperous societies possible?

The School of Civic Leadership's ambition to educate the next generation of citizens and leaders is extremely important. I share the SCL's commitment to teaching Western Civilization and the American constitutional tradition as part of a larger quest for wisdom. I firmly believe that the classic works of the Western tradition are vital to making excellent education accessible to all students. UT Austin has made a serious commitment to this form of education and for that reason I want to join the School of Civic Leadership.

What big question or idea are you excited about right now?

Right now, I am interested in the question of civic education. In other words, what type of education is most fitting for citizens and leaders? I've come to believe that the classic works of the Western tradition are a crucial part of contemporary civic education. I am, therefore, interested in making the great works of the human mind relevant and accessible to all students.

MAJOR IN CIVICS HONORS

MINOR IN CIVICS MINOR IN PPE

Fall 2025 admissions to the School of Civic Leadership is now open.

The new School of Civic Leadership is home to a community of scholars on a mission to find out what it means and what it takes to be free and to live well.

The SCL prepares students for lives of significance and for successful careers in education, government, business, the arts, medicine, culture, law, diplomacy, and the military, among other fields.

The proposed Civics Honors Program introduces students to the intellectual inheritance of Western Civilization and to the American constitutional tradition. Students develop competence across three major areas of coursework: Constitutionalism, Western Civilization, and Civic Leadership. From the first intellectual foundations through a capstone thesis and internship, students gain experience that will inform a life of service.

*While approval is pending for the proposed Civics Honors Program, students can apply to the School of Civic Leadership as undeclared majors. We anticipate that the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Civics Honors will have final approval prior to the 2025-2026 academic year.

For more info, contact Sarah Beth V. Kitch at sb.kitch@utexas.edu or Antonio Sosa at antonio.sosa@austin.utexas.edu or visit civicleadership.utexas.edu



In a time of diminished interest in civics in American high schools, students from around Texas gathered at Littlefield Home on July 25 to listen to lectures on the American political tradition at SCL's Freedom and Virtue High School Seminar. UT Austin philosophy professor Dan Bonevac began the seminar with arguments in favor of freedom of speech and against censorship in John Milton's *Areopagitica*. Following a discussion of censorship's "dulling" effect on citizens' minds and its assumption that the censor is omniscient, Bonevac explored Locke's doctrines of the state of nature and natural rights. After a brief lunch filled with lively discussion, SCL associate director Antonio Sosa explained Tocqueville's concept of the tyranny of the majority and its malicious effects in American democracy. Students gave lively responses to questions throughout the day. They were especially excited by Bonevac's treatment of free speech, which involved a discussion of contemporary controversies about current political and media institutions' reliability. The students came away from the day with a greater appreciation for the authors discussed and compelling cause for reflection on the status of free speech, natural rights, and majority rule.



Freedom and Virtue Seminars

On June 13 and 26, the School of Civic Leadership hosted its first two Freedom and Virtue Seminars, an ongoing series of one-hour seminars that aim to give high school juniors and seniors a taste of taking a class in the School of Civic Leadership. On June 13, students had the opportunity to attend three seminars. UT philosophy professor **Dan Bonevac** delved into the work of W.B. Yeats, offering a profound analysis of the poet's contributions to literature and philosophy; Civitas Institute executive editor **Lindsay Eberhardt** followed with an engaging discussion of the allegory of the cave in Plato's *Republic*; and UT philosophy professor **Rob Koons** highlighted Robert Nisbet's arguments about communal bonds' vital role in fostering a healthy society. On June 26, Bonevac led students in a discussion of natural rights in Locke's *Second Treatise* and of freedom of speech in Milton's *Areopagitica*. **Antonio Sosa**, associate director at the School of Civic Leadership, closed the day's session with a seminar on Tocqueville's view of the problem of majority tyranny. The seminars gave students a rich and immersive experience and showcased the depth and rigor in the School of Civic Leadership's curriculum.



Texas Preview Day

UT Austin hosted a Preview Day on July 26 to showcase the university's various colleges to prospective high school students. **Sarah Beth Kitch**, SCL's director of academic programs, gave a presentation on the School of Civic Leadership's majors and minors to parents and students at Littlefield Home's open house event. Kitch, quoting Mirameau Lamar, explained that the mission of the new school is to promote the "cultivated mind" which serves as "the guardian genius of Democracy." Students and parents with diverse backgrounds and interests afterwards expressed enthusiasm for SCL's project. Parents of one student noted that, while their son had an interest in business, SCL's degree plan would be a good fit for pursuing his goals in enterprise.

... the mission of the new school is to promote the "cultivated mind" which serves as "the guardian genius of Democracy."



SCL Information Session

On June 26, the School of Civic Leadership hosted an information session in Dallas at the McCombs Executive MBA facility. SCL Dean **Justin Dyer** opened the event, which introduced rising high school juniors, seniors, and their parents to the School of Civic Leadership and its major and minor offerings. Following Dyer's presentation, **Janine Turner** joined him for a discussion on the value of civic education, our responsibilities as citizens, and the importance of the American project. In addition to her successful acting and directing career, Turner is an author, political activist, and founder of Constituting America, an educational non-profit that informs Americans about the Constitution and the rights and liberties it provides and protects. An opportunity for students and parents to mingle with SCL faculty and staff followed the event's formal portion, which concluded with a Q&A session. During the formal Q&A and informal discussions, students and parents shared excitement and interest in an education that provides an environment to explore ideas freely in an intimate community setting with an honors program's rigor. Faculty and staff not only enjoyed the opportunity to communicate the application of a civic education across post-graduation professional endeavors, they also got to know future students and their hopes for a university education.



Summer Institute on the American Political Tradition

The 2024 Summer Institute on the American Political Tradition, hosted by the School of Civic Leadership and the Jack Miller Center, consisted of three days of seminars on America's political principles. A distinctive Institute feature and part of what makes the event so much fun for instructors, is that the participants are high school teachers. On the seminar's first day, **Justin Dyer**, dean of the School of Civic Leadership, explored the American Founding and *The Federalist Papers*. On the second day, University of Dallas professor **David Upham** led seminars on Abraham Lincoln's political legacy. **Antonio Sosa**, associate director at the School of Civic Leadership, focused on Alexis de Tocqueville's Introduction to *Democracy in America* and his criticism of the excesses to which democracy is prone on the final day. The teachers who attended actively engaged with the material throughout the seminar. Their participation, discussions, and reflections were lively and engaged.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Webber Family Foundation

What is the Webber Family Foundation's mission?

The Foundation's mission is to encourage excellence by expanding education opportunities for young people and by normalizing the notion that there is no one way to think about a problem—rather, that the most creative and durable solutions emerge when we honor individuals' strengths, welcome diverse views, practice curiosity, and embrace complexity.

Why does the Foundation support the Civitas Institute's Society of Fellows?

We are passionate about creating spaces where students can question and debate ideas, and we see the university as an especially important place for open inquiry and the exchange of ideas. The Society of Fellows offers students a unique opportunity on UT's campus to immerse themselves in that sort of learning environment. We were excited to be the Society's first philanthropic partner because the foundation has a history of early stage funding that reflects our founder's roots as a tech entrepreneur. Some funders prefer to fund programs that already have a strong track record, but we appreciate the opportunity to help organizations build capacity so they can attract more supporters down the road.

What does the Foundation hope students take away from their participation in the Society of Fellows?

We hope the Fellows experience being part of an intellectual community that has fun playing with big ideas. In addition to gaining a deep understanding of our country's founding principles, we hope Fellows leave UT feeling curious and confident when faced with complex challenges. And we hope they have an amazing time in Europe and make wonderful memories!

The Foundation and the Society of Fellows are both oriented toward creating opportunities for students

to engage openly with a variety of viewpoints. Why does pluralism matter, and what is the best way to foster it?

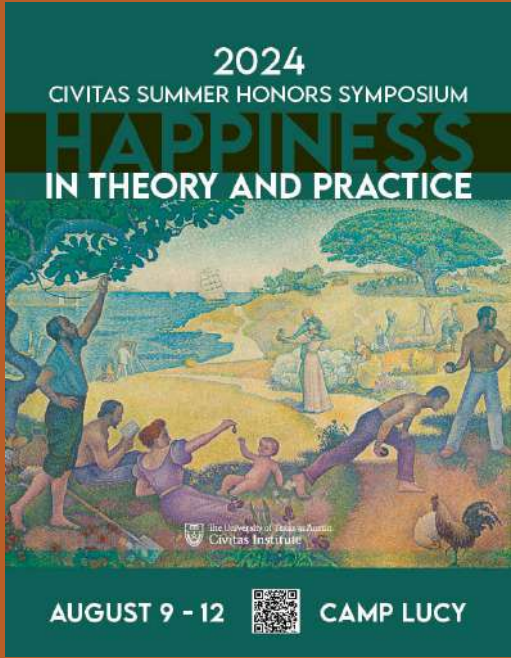
Pluralism provides a positive response to the binary thinking and polarization that is prevalent in today's culture. It asks us to honor differences between people, resist oversimplification, stay curious, and work for positive change with people who don't look or think like us. We haven't landed on a "best" way to foster pluralism, and we don't imagine we will—we're inspired by the idea that there is "no one way" to do it well.

The Civitas Institute is part of UT Austin's School of Civic Leadership, which is launching its first academic programs this fall. Does the Foundation have any words of encouragement for students who are about to embark on their journeys through college?

Whether you're the first in your family to get a college degree or following in the footsteps of siblings or parents, being new on a campus as big as UT can be intimidating. Be brave. Practice being a citizen of UT in the same ways you'll be a citizen after you graduate—get involved in student organizations, share your opinions, listen to learn, volunteer in the community, and build relationships. You're going to make UT and the world a better place!

What would you say to others who might be considering supporting Civitas's student programs?

Ultimately we invest in people, not programs, and the people at Civitas—from the dean to the directors, faculty and students—are top-notch: brilliant, hard-working, intellectually curious, and effective. If you haven't attended a Civitas lecture, we encourage you to come listen, participate, and talk to students about the effect of this program on their learning and leadership skills. It's been our pleasure to learn alongside them.



The 2024 Summer Honors Symposium

Civitas held its 2024 Summer Honors Symposium at Camp Lucy from August 9-12. The symposium featured six in-depth seminars looking at happiness as a concept. Three of the seminars treated philosophers' views and the other three social scientists' views.

Civitas doctoral fellow **Reid Comstock** delved into Aristotle's treatment of happiness in the first seminar. He explored Aristotle's view that happiness (or "eudaimonia") is the highest good and human life's ultimate purpose, achievable through virtue's cultivation.

Rob Koons led the day's second seminar. He focused on Boethius's account of happiness's metaphysical foundations. Koons led the group in a discussion of Boethius's argument that contemplating the divine's eternal and unchanging nature and contrasting it with this world's fleeting pleasures and imperfect happiness is the only path to true human happiness.

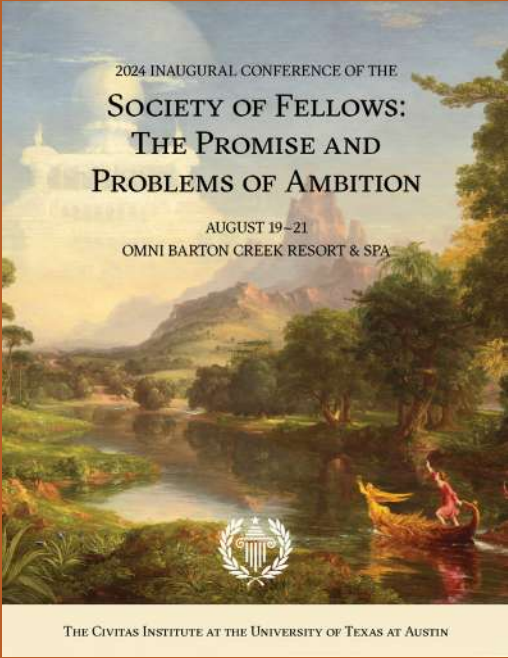
Dan Bonevac led the third seminar, which examined happiness through John Stuart Mill's utilitarian view. According to that view, a certain quantity and quality of pleasure constitutes happiness. He highlighted Mill's belief that higher pleasures—those of the mind—are more valuable than mere physical satisfaction, making the pursuit of intellectual and moral development essential to true happiness.

Antonio Sosa, associate director of the School of Civic Leadership, began the second day with a discussion centered on Frankl's claim that the search for meaning is human life's primary drive and that enduring suffering can lead to profound personal growth if that suffering leads an individual to find a deeper purpose.

Bonevac returned for the fifth seminar, focusing on Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's theory of mental state "flow." When deeply focused and immersed in an activity, one can experience high levels of enjoyment and fulfillment, often losing track of time. Flow occurs when there is a perfect balance between the task's challenge and the individual's skill level, creating an optimal experience of engagement and productivity.

The symposium concluded with a seminar on two chapters from Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone*, which examines post-war America's social capital decline and the effect that decline has had on communal happiness. The discussion highlighted social bonds' importance in fostering a sense of belonging.





The Inaugural Conference of the Society of Fellows, 2024-2025

Austin's Barton Creek Resort & Spa hosted the Inaugural Conference of the 2024-2025 Society of Fellows on August 19-22. The conference's theme, "The Promise and Problems of Ambition," provided a rich framework for our fellows to explore ambition's complexities.

The first day opened with a seminar on Tocqueville. **Antonio Sosa**, associate director of the School of Civic Leadership led the discussion, which centered on Tocqueville's views of historical determinism, democratic honor, and the status of great ambition in democratic times. Tocqueville's insights into the tension between individual ambition and a democratic society's demands set the tone for the conference's exploration of this complex virtue.

University of Dallas professor **Dan Burns** led the day's second seminar, which focused on the portions of Xenophon's *Memorabilia* in which Socrates talks to and advises ambitious men. Burns highlighted how Xenophon's Socrates provides timeless lessons on ambition's nature, emphasizing the ethical challenges and potential pitfalls those driven by a desire for greatness face.

Arizona State University's **Paul Carrese** examined ambition's status during the Founding and its influence on constitutional design in the day's third session. He explored the Framers' desire to channel and regulate ambition to serve the public good.

UT government professor **Lorraine Pangle** began the second day by delving into Aristotle's views on ambition as articulated in his *Politics*. She discussed how Aristotle's reflections on ambition could provide guidance to a young American currently navigating the tension between personal aspirations and the common good.

Burns returned for the fifth seminar, shifting his focus to Xenophon's own ambition as he depicts it in *The Anabasis of Cyrus*. The seminar explored how the text's recounting of Xenophon's leadership during the military expedition reveals ambition's value in safeguarding the common good.

Washington's ambition and its effect on his legacy concluded the conference. Carrese, who led the final seminar, highlighted how Washington's tempered ambition established a leadership model that balanced personal aspiration with public responsibility, serving as an example of republican virtue for more than a century.





CHARITY-JOY ACCHIARDO
DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION (FREE) PROGRAM | AFFILIATED FACULTY | SENIOR FELLOW

Charity-Joy Acchiardo is associate professor of instruction in UT Austin's Department of Economics. She is the faculty lead for UT's OnRamps microeconomics course for high school students and is director of the Financial Responsibility and Economic Education program, both joint projects of the Civitas Institute and the Department of Economics. She is an economic educator fellow at the Fraser Institute, Canada's top-ranked think tank, and has served as the executive director of the *Journal of Economics Teaching*. Her websites econkahoots.com and econshark.com are dedicated to making the economics classroom more engaging. Acchiardo's passion is sharing her joy about economics with others, and she is a frequent speaker, both domestically and internationally, at workshops for educators and students. She completed her Ph.D. in economics at George Mason University.



CAROLA BINDER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carola Binder is a macroeconomist and economic historian. She is the author of *Shock Values: Prices and Inflation in American Democracy* and numerous articles on monetary policy and inflation expectations. She is on the editorial board of the *American Economic Review* and an associate editor at the *Review of Economics and Statistics* and the *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*. She is a research associate in the monetary economics program at the National Bureau of Economics Research, a non-resident scholar at Brookings, and a senior affiliated scholar at the Mercatus Center. She also serves on the advisory panel of the Catholic Research Economists Discussion Organization. Before joining the School of Civic Leadership, she taught at Haverford College. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.



DANIEL BONEVAC
AFFILIATED FACULTY | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

Daniel Bonevac is professor of philosophy and human dimensions of organizations in the College of Liberal Arts, where he teaches and does research in logic and ethics, especially organizational ethics. His book *Reduction in the Abstract Sciences* received the Johnsonian Prize from *The Journal of Philosophy*. His other books include *Deduction, Simple Logic, Worldly Wisdom, and Historical Dictionary of Ethics*. Among his edited volumes are *Today's Moral Issues* and *World Philosophy*. Bonevac's articles have appeared in such journals as *Philosophical Review, Mind, Noûs, The Journal of Philosophy, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Synthese, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Ethics, Philosophical Studies, and Erkenntnis*. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh.



SCOTT CARRELL
PROFESSOR | ASSOCIATE DEAN | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

Scott Carrell is professor and associate dean in the School of Civic Leadership. He also holds an appointment in the Department of Economics, where he writes and teaches on public and labor economics. His early work focused on ways to improve military retention through local labor market forces, while his recent work specializes in the economics of education. He previously served as an Air Force lieutenant colonel and as the senior economist for public finance and labor economics on the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President. Carrell also serves as a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor, and a co-faculty director of the California Education Lab. He is the author of twenty-seven peer-reviewed journal articles. He received his B.A. from the U.S. Air Force Academy, an M.A. in economics and an M.S. in management from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Florida.



SHEENA CHESTNUT GREITENS
AFFILIATED FACULTY | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

Sheena Chestnut Greitens is associate professor in the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs. She also directs UT's Asia Policy Program, a joint initiative of the Clements Center for National Security and the Strauss Center for International Security and Law. In 2022, she was a Jeane Kirkpatrick Visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Greitens's teaching and research focus is on American national security, East Asia, and the politics of democracy and dictatorship. She is the author of *Dictators and their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence*. Her current book projects focus on authoritarianism and diaspora politics in North Korea, and on internal security as a driver of Chinese grand strategy. She completed her Ph.D. in government at Harvard University.



ALEXANDER DUFF
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | SENIOR FELLOW

Alexander Duff is associate professor in the School of Civic Leadership. He writes widely in the history of political philosophy, and his publications on classical, modern, and contemporary political philosophy have appeared in both scholarly and popular publications. He has held fellowships from the Civitas Institute, the Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and American Public Life at the University of Notre Dame, and from the Program for the Study of the Western Heritage at Boston College. He is the author of *Heidegger and Politics: The Ontology of Radical Discontent*. He is a co-founder of the Association for the History of Political Thought, an academic organization devoted to the study of the history of political theory. He received an M.A. from Carlton College and Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame.



PATRICIO A. FERNANDEZ
AFFILIATED FACULTY | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

Patricio A. Fernandez is associate professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts. Before joining UT Austin, he taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2022-23, he was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, and he previously held a Humboldt research fellowship at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. He has published in ancient philosophy, action theory, ethics, and the economic analysis of law. His research focuses on ancient and contemporary approaches to practical reasoning, human action, and the normative standards that apply to them. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy and economics from Harvard University.



JIM HACKETT
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

James T. Hackett Sr. is president of Tessellation Services L.L.C., a consulting business focused on business governance, leadership, and ethics. He serves on the board of directors of three Fortune 500 companies and chairs an advanced nuclear power company. He also serves on the board of trustees of the Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University. He has extensive experience in the energy industry, including as chairman and C.E.O. of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., and in finance, having served as the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. Hackett holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he graduated with high honors after attending the U.S. Air Force Academy, an M.A. in theology from Harvard Divinity School, and an M.B.A. from Harvard.



ROB KOONS
AFFILIATED FACULTY | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

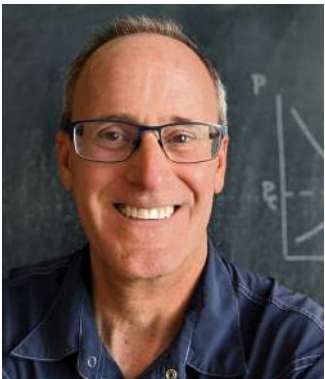
Rob Koons is a professor of philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, where he has taught for thirty-five years. He is the author or co-author of five books, including *Realism Regained*, *The Atlas of Reality: A Comprehensive Guide to Metaphysics*, *The Waning of Materialism*, *Neo-Aristotelian Perspectives on Contemporary Science*, and *Neo-Aristotelian Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Nature*. He has been working recently on an Aristotelian interpretation of quantum theory, on defending and articulating Thomism in contemporary terms, and on arguments for classical theism. His forthcoming books include: *Is Thomas Aquinas's Philosophy of Nature Obsolete?* and *Classical Theism*, co-edited with Jonathan Fuqua. He completed his M.A. at Oxford University and his Ph.D. at the University of California at Los Angeles.



DAVID LEAL
DIRECTOR, BRITISH AND TRANSATLANTIC STUDIES PROGRAM | AFFILIATED FACULTY | SENIOR FELLOW

David L. Leal is a professor of government and professor (by courtesy) of Mexican American Studies and religious studies in the College of Liberal Arts. Since 2018, he also has been a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Professor Leal is a scholar of Latino politics, and his work explores the political and policy implications of demographic change. He has published over fifty journal articles and edited or co-edited a dozen scholarly books and journal symposia. He has been an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow,

a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in Japan, and an Associate Member of Nuffield College at Oxford University. In 2021, the Latina/o Caucus of the Midwest Political Science Association recognized him with the Distinguished Career Award. He completed his Ph.D. in government at Harvard University.



DIRK MATEER
DIRECTOR, MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (PPE) | PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTION | SENIOR FELLOW

Dirk Mateer is a professor of instruction in the Department of Economics. He helps to develop UT's OnRamps microeconomics course for high school students and is senior teaching fellow in the Financial Responsibility and Economic Education (FREE) program, both joint projects of the Civitas Institute and the Department of Economics. Prior to coming to UT, he received Penn State University's highest teaching award and was voted the best overall teacher in the Smeal College of Business. While at the University of Arizona, Dirk received the University's Koffler Teaching Prize, a quadrennial award for his contributions in economic education. While at UT Austin, he received the Kenneth G. Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award from the Southern Economic Association. He is the author of *Economics in the Movies*, *Essentials of Economics*, and *Principles of Economics*.



DAVID PUELZ
DIRECTOR, POLICY RESEARCH LAB | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTION

David Puelz is assistant professor of instruction in the School of Civic Leadership and director of the Policy Research Lab. Puelz's research explores computational methods for applied data analysis, especially in the economic, social, and behavioral sciences. His latest work focuses on experimentation, causal inference, and data generated from networks. Puelz previously was a clinical assistant professor at UT Austin's McCombs School of Business, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and an analyst for Goldman Sachs & Co. He received a B.A. in mathematics and physics from Wesleyan University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in statistics from UT Austin.



RAÚL RODRÍGUEZ
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Raúl Rodríguez is an assistant professor in the School of Civic Leadership. Rodríguez's research and teaching focus on the classic texts of political philosophy and constitutional studies. His writings have appeared in journals including the *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Thought*, *Political Science Reviewer*, and *Review of Politics*. His current book project is *Redeeming Democracy: Tocqueville's New Liberalism*. He received his his B.A. at Furman University and Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame.



DEVIN STAUFFER
AFFILIATED FACULTY | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | SENIOR FELLOW

Devin Stauffer is professor of government in the College of Liberal Arts. He specializes in classical and early modern political philosophy. Prior to coming to UT Austin in 2004, Stauffer taught at Kenyon College and St. John's College in Annapolis. During his time at Kenyon College, he received two awards for teaching excellence, and he has since received two more teaching awards at UT. His books include *Plato's Introduction to the Question of Justice*, *The Unity of Plato's Gorgias*, and *Hobbes's Kingdom of Light*. His articles have appeared in journals including *Review of Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, and *American Political Science Review*. He received his B.A. from Kenyon College and Ph.D. from Boston College.



VINCENT PHILLIP MUÑOZ
DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR | NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW

Vincent Phillip Muñoz is distinguished fellow of the Civitas Institute and the Tocqueville Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, where he is the founding director of the Center for Citizenship & Constitutional Government. He writes and teaches across the fields of constitutional law, American politics, and political philosophy with a focus on religious liberty and the American Founding. He won a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to support his most recent book, *Religious Liberty and the American Founding: Natural Rights and the Original Meanings of the First Amendment Religion Clauses*. Muñoz's first book, *God and the Founders: Madison, Washington, and Jefferson*, won the American Political Science Association's Hubert Morken Award for the best publication on religion and politics. He completed his Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate School.



JOHN YOO
DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR | SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

John Yoo is the Emanuel Heller Professor of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. He is also a nonresident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Yoo has published eleven books and over one-hundred academic journal articles on national security, constitutional law, international law, and the Supreme Court, and regularly contributes to major editorial pages such as *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*. Yoo has served in all three branches of government. He was an official in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked on national security and terrorism issues after the 9/11 attacks. He served as general counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and has been a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and federal appeals Judge Laurence Silberman. Yoo supervises Berkeley's Public Law and Policy Program, the Korea Law Center, and the California Constitution Center. He is also a winner of the Federalist Society's Paul M. Bator Award. He graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School.

Civitas Distinguished Fellows



ARTHUR BROOKS
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Arthur C. Brooks is the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Public and Nonprofit Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School and professor of management practice at Harvard Business School, where he teaches courses on leadership, happiness, and social entrepreneurship. He is also a columnist at *The Atlantic*, where he writes the popular "How to Build a Life" column. He has published sixty peer-reviewed articles and thirteen books, including *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life* and *Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier* with co-author Oprah Winfrey. In 2009, Brooks became the president of the American Enterprise Institute. He earned an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in public policy analysis from the Rand Graduate School.



PAUL CARRESE
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Paul Carrese is a distinguished fellow of the Civitas Institute and is the founding director of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University. For nearly two decades he was a professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he co-founded a new honors program blending liberal arts education and leadership education. His teaching and research interests are in political theory, constitutionalism, and civic education. His most recent book is *Democracy in Moderation: Montesquieu, Tocqueville, and Sustainable Liberalism*. He also is author of *The Cloaking of Power: Montesquieu, Blackstone, and the Rise of Judicial Activism* and co-editor of three other books. He has held fellowships at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, Harvard University, the University of Delhi (as a Fulbright fellow), and in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. He co-led a national study funded by N.E.H. and the U.S. Department of Education, *Educating for American Democracy*, on improving American history and civics education in K-12 schools with partners from Harvard and Tufts Universities and iCivics. He completed his Ph.D. in political science at Boston College.

Civitas Senior Fellows



J. BUDZISZEWSKI
SENIOR FELLOW

J. Budziszewski is a professor of government and philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, where he also teaches courses in the law school and the religious studies department. He specializes in political philosophy, ethical philosophy, legal philosophy, and the interaction of religion with philosophy. Among his research interests are classical natural law, virtue ethics, conscience and moral self deception, human happiness or fulfillment, the institution of the family in relation to political and social order, religion in public life, and the problem of toleration. Budziszewski is the author of nineteen books, including his recent four-part commentary on the works of Thomas Aquinas: *Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's Treatise on Law*; its free online partner volume,

Companion to the Commentary; Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's Virtue Ethics; Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's Treatise on Happiness and Ultimate Purpose; and Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's Treatise on Divine Law.



CARLOS CARVALHO
SENIOR FELLOW

Carlos M. Carvalho is the La Quinta Centennial Professor of Business in the McCombs School of Business. He is also executive director of the Salem Center for Policy, a research center that draws from multiple disciplines and empirical methods to help navigate the trade-offs of public policy decisions in pursuit of human flourishing and the preservation of a free society. Originally from Brazil, Carvalho received his Ph.D. in statistics from Duke University in 2006 and was assistant professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business before joining UT Austin in 2010. His research, which focuses on Bayesian statistics in complex, high-dimensional problems with applications ranging from economics to genetics, has been published widely in top journals including *Bayesian Analysis* and *Annals of Applied Statistics*.



KISHORE GAWANDE
SENIOR FELLOW

Kishore Gawande is Century Club Professor and chair of the Business, Government and Society Department in the McCombs School of Business. Gawande was previously a professor of international economics and development at Texas A&M University. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank and has been a visiting associate professor at the Stigler Center, University of Chicago. His areas of research include international trade policy, international political economy, and conflict and development. His research has been published across disciplines in economics, political science and management. He holds an M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles.



ADAM KLEIN
SENIOR FELLOW

Adam Klein is director of the Robert Strauss Center on International Security and Law at UT Austin. He also serves as senior lecturer at the University of Texas School of Law, where he teaches courses on national security, intelligence, and counterterrorism. Before joining the Strauss Center, Adam served as chairman of the United States Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the independent, bipartisan federal agency responsible for overseeing counterterrorism programs at the N.S.A., F.B.I., C.I.A., D.H.S., and other federal agencies. Previously, Adam practiced law at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr and served as a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He received his B.A. from Northwestern University and his J.D. from Columbia Law School.



BRIAN ROBERTS
SENIOR FELLOW

Brian Roberts is a professor of government in the College of Liberal Arts and a professor of business, government and society (by courtesy) in the McCombs School of Business. Roberts's teaching and research are in the fields of American political institutions, interest groups, and positive political economy, with a focus on politics and financial markets, corporate political participation, and distributive politics. His scholarship has contributed to the literature in political science, economics, and finance, and has served in the past as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and UT's vice president of information technology. He is the co-author, with Daron Shaw and Mijeong Baek, of *The Appearance of Corruption: Testing the Supreme Court's Assumptions About Campaign Finance Reform*.



DIMA SHAMOUN
SENIOR FELLOW

Dima Shamoun is clinical assistant professor in the Department of Finance and a scholar with the Salem Center in the McCombs School of Business, where she teaches economics in the M.B.A. and B.B.A. programs. Her interdisciplinary research draws on political science, law, and philosophy, and has been published in the *Journal of Public Choice*, *Environmental Pollution*, the *Journal of Food and Chemical Toxicology*, *Health Physics*, and the *Journal of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*. She earned her B.A. in mathematics and economics, and her Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University.



DARON SHAW
SENIOR FELLOW

Daron Shaw is the Frank Erwin Centennial Chair in the Department of Government. His research and teaching interests include campaigns and elections, political parties, public opinion, and voting behavior. Shaw is the author of *The Appearance of Corruption*, *The Turnout Myth*, *Unconventional Wisdom: Facts and Myths about American Voters*, *The Race to 270*, and numerous articles in leading political science including *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, and *British Journal of Political Science*. He is co-director of the Fox News Poll, co-director of the University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll, director of the Texas Lyceum Poll, and associate principal investigator for the 2020 and 2024 American National Election Studies. He completed his Ph.D. in political science at the University of California at Los Angeles.



DANA STAUFFER
SENIOR FELLOW

Dana Stauffer is an associate professor of instruction and research fellow in the government department at UT Austin. She is also the undergraduate honors director for the government department. An award-winning teacher, Stauffer has taught courses in classical and modern political thought, politics and literature, women in political thought, and American government. Her research interests include classical political thought, Shakespeare's political thought, and the thought of Alexis de Tocqueville, especially *Democracy in America*. Her work has appeared in *Political Research Quarterly*, *Journal of Politics*, *Review of Politics*, *American Political Science Review*, and *Interpretation*. She is currently at work on a book manuscript, *A World Altogether*.

New: Tocqueville on the Modern Moral Situation. She earned her undergraduate degree from Boston College and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Toronto.

Civitas Non-Resident Senior Fellows



JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ-VILLAVERDE
NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW

Jesús Fernández-Villaverde is non-resident senior fellow of the Civitas Institute and the Howard Marks Presidential Professor of Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, where he directs the Penn Initiative for the Study of Markets. He has also been a national fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and a Kenen Fellow in International Economy at Princeton University. Fernández-Villaverde’s research and teaching focus on macroeconomics and econometrics, and he has also developed a popular series of undergraduate courses on the relationship between markets and human flourishing. He is a research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and Penn’s Population Studies Center, and a research affiliate for the Centre for Economic Policy Research. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.



ANDREW JOHNSTON
NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW

Andrew C. Johnston is an assistant professor of economics at University of California, Merced and a research affiliate of I.Z.A. and JPAL-NA. His primary interests are in public economics and labor, with a focus on American poverty. His research examines the effects of unemployment insurance on the labor market, as well as how to improve the quality of public schools to furnish broad opportunity. His work has been published in the *Journal of Political Economy*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, and the *Journal of Human Resources*. He received his Ph.D. in applied economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



BEN STOREY
NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW

Benjamin Storey is a Civitas non-resident senior fellow and a senior fellow in social, cultural, and constitutional studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He is concurrently a Tocqueville scholar at Furman University, where he previously served as a research professor, Jane Gage Hipp Professor of Politics and International Affairs, and director of the Tocqueville Program. He focuses on political philosophy, civil society, and higher education, and he is the co-organizer of a conference series on the future of the American university. Storey is the coauthor, with his wife, Jenna Silber Storey, of *Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment*. Together, the Storeys are working on a book titled, *The Art of Choosing: How Liberal Education Should Prepare You for Life*. He has a Ph.D. and an M.A. from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



JENNA STOREY
NON-RESIDENT SENIOR FELLOW

Jenna Silber Storey is a Civitas non-resident senior fellow and a senior fellow in the social, cultural, and constitutional studies department at the American Enterprise Institute. Storey concentrates on political philosophy, civil society, classical schools, and higher education. She is also the co-organizer of a conference series on the future of the American university. She is concurrently a Tocqueville scholar at Furman University, where she was previously research professor, assistant professor in politics and international affairs, and the executive director of the Tocqueville Program. Storey is the coauthor, with her husband, Benjamin Storey, of *Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment*. The Storeys are working together on a book titled *The Art of Choosing: How Liberal Education Should Prepare You for Life*. Storey has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago’s Committee on Social Thought and a B.A. from the University Professors Program at Boston University.

Civitas Visiting Fellows



SAMUEL BAKER
VISITING FELLOW

Samuel H. Baker is associate professor of philosophy and classics at the University of South Alabama. He is broadly interested in ancient philosophy and its reception, but he has published primarily on Aristotle’s ethics, politics, and moral psychology. He is currently working on two projects: one on Aristotle’s definition of the human good, and another on Aristotle’s account of truth as the good of the intellect. Previously, he has held fellowships from the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, and the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme. He received his M.Phil. in classics from the University of Cambridge and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton University in the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Philosophy.



DANIEL BURNS
VISITING FELLOW

Daniel Burns is associate professor of politics at the University of Dallas. His research in political philosophy focuses on the relation between religion and citizenship. He is currently working on a book called *Against Secularism: Religious Identity and Liberal Democracy*. He has also written on Al-Farabi, Thomas More, John Locke, Sayyid Qutb, the Strauss-Kojève debate, Joseph Ratzinger, Samuel Huntington, American foreign policy, and the modern Catholic church. He is a member of the Neuer Schülerkreis Joseph Ratzinger/Benedikt XVI., a Germany-based group of scholars dedicated to advancing Ratzinger’s intellectual legacy. He holds a B.A. in political science from Williams College and a Ph.D. in political science from Boston College.



IVAN MARINOVIC
VISITING FELLOW

Iván Marinovic is associate professor of accounting at Stanford Graduate School of Business. Before joining Stanford G.S.B., he taught microeconomics in the business department of Universidad de los Andes, Chile. Marinovic’s research focuses on applications of economics of information in accounting and finance. Marinovic earned a B.A. in economics and an M.A. in financial economics from the Catholic University of Chile. He also earned a master’s degree in economic theory from the Toulouse School of Economics and a Ph.D. in accounting, information and management from the Kellogg School of Management.



O. CARTER SNEAD
VISITING FELLOW

Carter Snead is Charles E. Rice Professor of Law and concurrent professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame. He is one of the world’s leading experts on public bioethics—the governance of science, medicine, and biotechnology in the name of ethical goods. His research explores issues relating to neuroethics, enhancement, human embryo research, assisted reproduction, abortion, and end-of-life decision-making. He is the author of *What It Means to be Human: The Case for the Body in Public Bioethics*, which the *Wall Street Journal* named as one of 2020’s ten best books. Additionally, from 2012 to 2024, he served as director of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, building it into the most important center for interdisciplinary teaching, research, service, and public engagement in the Catholic tradition in higher academia. Snead received his J.D. from Georgetown University and his B.A. from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland.



JAMES WEST
VISITING FELLOW

James West is currently the holder of W.H. Smith Chair and Professor of Economics at Baylor University. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan with fields in public finance and econometric theory. He is a research associate in the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Prior to joining the Baylor faculty in 2011, he was a faculty member at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Seattle University.

Civitas Senior Research Fellows



RICHARD BURKHAUSER
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

In 2017 Richard V. Burkhauser became Emeritus Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. Previously Burkhauser held tenured professor positions in the Department of Economics at Vanderbilt University and at Syracuse University. Between September 2017 and May 2019, he was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President. His professional career has focused on how public policies affect the employment and well-being of vulnerable populations. In 2010 he was the president of the Association for Public Policy and Management. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago.



RICHARD EPSTEIN
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Richard A. Epstein, the Peter and Kirsten Bedford Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, is the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law, New York University Law School, and a senior lecturer at the University of Chicago. In 2011, Epstein was a recipient of the Bradley Prize for outstanding achievement. In 2005, the College of William & Mary School of Law awarded him the Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Prize. Epstein researches and writes in a broad range of constitutional, economic, historical, and philosophical subjects. He has taught administrative law, antitrust law, communications law, constitutional law, corporation criminal law, employment discrimination law, environmental law, food and drug law, health law, labor law, Roman law, real estate development and finance, and individual and corporate taxation. Epstein holds B.A.s from Columbia University and Oxford University and an LL.B. from Yale Law School.



ROWENA HE
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Rowena He is senior research fellow of the Civitas Institute and associate professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Asia Society’s China File named her first book, *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China*, among the top five books of 2014. Her research has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Harvard’s Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, and the National Humanities Center. He speaks widely within and beyond the academy. She has been a keynote speaker for the Canada Human Rights National Symposium, testified at a U.S. Congressional hearing, and delivered lectures for the U.S. State Department and the Canada International Council. Her op-eds have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.



JOEL KOTKIN
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Joel Kotkin is the Roger Hobbs Presidential Fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University and director of the university’s Center for Demographics and Policy. He is executive editor of the widely read website NewGeography.com. He also has regular columns in *Spiked* in the U.K., the *National Post* in Canada and the *American Mind*. He also writes regularly for *UnHerd*, *Quillette*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *National Review*, *City Journal*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator* as well as many other national publications. Kotkin is the author of ten previously published books, including *The New Class Conflict*. He authored *The Human City: Urbanism for the Rest of Us* and co-edited, with M.I.T.’s Alan Berger, the collection *Infinite Suburbia*. He also co-edited, with Ryan Streeter, a book on the future of cities.

Civitas Research Fellows



KADEEM NORAY
RESEARCH FELLOW

Kadeem is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Economics via Blueprint Labs at M.I.T., and a research associate at Opportunity Insights at Harvard University. Kadeem earned his Ph.D. in public policy (economics track) from Harvard University in 2023, an M.S. in applied economics from Montana State University in 2017, and a B.S. in mathematics, economics, and physics at Hillsdale College in 2015.

Civitas Postdoctoral Fellows



JOSHUA BANERJEE
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Josh Banerjee is a postdoctoral fellow in the Civitas Institute. Previously, he was a visiting research scholar at Duke University and a James Buchanan fellow at George Mason University’s Mercatus Center. His research focuses on macroeconomic history, particularly of Britain. His research interests include the material and ideational determinants of economic growth, the analysis of macroeconomic fluctuations, the history of economic and econometric thought, the relationship between the market and the state, and normative issues in the political economy of a prosperous and flourishing society. He earned a Ph.D., M.Sc., and B.Sc. in economic history from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



JOEY BARRETTA
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Joey Barretta is a postdoctoral fellow in the Civitas Institute. His research focus on Frederick Douglass’s political thought shows the importance of Douglass’s Reconstruction era political project. His work has been published in *New North Star: A Journal of the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, a peer-reviewed journal housed at the IUPUI Institute for American Thought. He received his B.A. in political science and history from Ashland University and his Ph.D. and M.A. in American politics and political philosophy from Hillsdale College.



ALEXANDER BATSON
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Alexander Batson is an intellectual historian of early modern Europe. His current projects address European imperial ideology, maritime law, the emergence of historical scholarship in the Renaissance, and the political and legal thought of the Protestant reformer Philip Melancthon. Baston earned his Ph.D. at Yale University.



REID COMSTOCK
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Reid Comstock is a postdoctoral fellow in the Civitas Institute. He specializes in ancient philosophy, ethics, and the philosophy of law. He is interested in the nature of human flourishing, and the social, political, and legal institutions which make it possible. He has co-authored a paper on the Socratic *elenchus* and has written several papers on Aristotle’s activity as a teacher of ethics. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame.



ABIGAIL THOMAS
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Abby Thomas is a postdoctoral fellow in the Civitas Institute. Her teaching and research focus is the history of political philosophy, with a particular focus on the thinkers of ancient Greece. Her current research is a book-length study of Aristotle’s intricate treatment of pleasure and pain in his philosophy of moral and philosophic education. Before coming to the Civitas Institute, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Politics and in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. She earned her B.A. from Hiram College and her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.



TYLER THOMAS
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Tyler Thomas is a postdoctoral fellow in the Civitas Institute. His primary research interest concerns the intersection of science and politics, particularly the relationship of scientific expertise and political authority. His current project investigates René Descartes's contributions to the emergence of the West's scientific culture. He comes to the Civitas Institute from Emory University, where he taught for the past two years after having completed his graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame. He holds a B.A. from Hiram College and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.



CANDACE TERMAN
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW

Candace Terman is a third-year Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Government. Her research focuses on legal and political theory, with a particular emphasis on the natural law tradition. She has been cultivating this research interest since her early days at Hillsdale College and continued to do so in her time as a law student at William & Mary Law School. She is particularly interested in how natural law has influenced Western jurisprudence throughout history and is currently writing a dissertation addressing that subject. Her other writing has focused on Shari'a law as well as Locke's and Montesquieu's theories of religious toleration.

Civitas Predoctoral Fellows



MAURA COWAN
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW

Maura Cowan is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at Tulane University, specializing in the history of political philosophy. Her interests include the intersection of politics, literature, and philosophy, with a focus on the ancient Greeks. She completed her undergraduate degree at St. John's College in Annapolis, and has taught classics of political philosophy and literature at both the secondary and university level. Before joining the Civitas Institute, Maura was a fellow at the Murphy Institute. She is currently writing a dissertation on the “ancient quarrel” between poetry and philosophy presented in Plato's *Republic*.



KATERINA LEVINSON
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW

Katerina Levinson is a D.Phil. candidate in medieval and modern languages at Wolfson College, Oxford as a Barry Scholar. She previously received her M.St. in Spanish at The Queen's College, Oxford, and her B.A. in great texts and Spanish from the University Scholars Program at Baylor University. She is an alumna of the Fulbright Spain E.T.A. Fellowship and the John Jay Fellows Program. Katerina has presented her research on English and Spanish literature in Spain, the U.K., and the U.S.



DAVID MENNIE
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW

David Mennie is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of North Texas, specializing in political theory and international relations. Prior to his graduate studies, he obtained his B.A. (with majors in philosophy, religious studies, and psychology) and his J.D. from the University of Iowa. Thereafter, he practiced law in Chicago both in the public sector—as a prosecutor in Cook County—and as a private attorney. David's academic interests focus on the history of political philosophy with a special interest in the relationship between law, politics, religion, and philosophy. He has taught undergraduate courses in political theory which focus on classical political texts and probe tensions between ancient and modern thinkers. He is currently working on his dissertation investigating the relationship between justice, religion, and philosophy in Plato's *Euthyphro*.

Civitas Dissertation Fellows



EVAN CREE GEE
DISSERTATION FELLOW

Evan Cree Gee is a Ph.D. candidate in UT Austin's government department, where he focuses on political philosophy and American politics. His dissertation research deals with the character of factional conflict between elites and the masses in classical and early modern political philosophy, in particular in Aristotle and Machiavelli. In 2018, he earned his A.B. in political science at Kenyon College, after which he spent two years working at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).



JAMES GILLARD
DISSERTATION FELLOW

James Gillard is a Ph.D. student in philosophy at UT Austin. He earned an M.A. in philosophy from Georgia State University, an M.T.S. in theological studies from Harvard University, and a B.A. in English language and literature from University of Oxford. His research focuses on blame and moral knowledge.



DAVID FUTSCHER PEREIRA
DISSERTATION FELLOW

David Futscher Pereira is a Ph.D. candidate in political theory at the UT Austin. He is writing a dissertation on natural sociality, comparing the iterations of the early modern doctrine of the state of nature with each other and with Aristotle's *Politics*. Before coming to UT, David Futscher earned an M.A. in security and diplomacy at the Tel Aviv University, and a bachelor's degree in economics and law at the Paris Sciences et Lettres Research University.



BRIDGET WU ISENBURG
DISSERTATION FELLOW

Bridget Wu Isenberg is a Ph.D. student at UT Austin. She researches 18th century French commercial thought, specifically Montesquieu and Rousseau's views of how commerce ushered in the modern world and thereby changed the supports necessary for liberty. She earned her master's from UT Austin and her bachelor's from St. John's College, Santa Fe.



SEAN NEAGLE
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Sean Neagle is a Ph.D. student in philosophy at UT Austin. He specializes in ancient philosophy, particularly Aristotle's ethical theory. He is interested in Aristotle's conception of well-being and its role in ethics. Additionally, he investigates how Aristotle's political works can provide a better understanding of his ethical theory. Sean received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his M.A. from the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Germany.

Civitas Summer Research Fellows



SARA BOLJEVIC
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Sara Boljevic is a Ph.D. student in UT Austin's philosophy department. Her research primarily focuses on the history of philosophy, particularly in the early modern and Medieval periods. Sara's current projects explore the work of later Cartesians, especially Nicolas Malebranche, and the Cambridge Platonists, with a special interest in John Norris. In addition to her research, she serves as a research assistant for Professor Tara Smith, working on topics in ethics and the philosophy of law. Sara holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and an M.A. in philosophy from the Central European University, Austria.



BECKETT RUEDA
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Beckett Rueda is a Ph.D. student in government at UT Austin. He researches the conflict between divine revelation and secular authority in the foundation of liberalism with a focus on John Locke. His current project treats the relationship between divine and civil authority in Locke's English Tract. It is the first part of a larger investigation into the way that Locke's theological and epistemological writings illuminate and influence his political theory.



OLGAHAN CAT
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Olgahan Cat is a Ph.D. candidate in UT Austin's government department. His current research focuses on public attitudes towards migrants and forcibly displaced people. Using survey experiments in the U.S. and Turkey, he introduces the concept of "projected patriotism" to understand how public attitudes towards conflict migrants are shaped. He also published on how foreign aid affects conflict intensity in sub-Saharan Africa using observational data, and the effect of messaging on vaccine hesitancy in the U.S., South Africa, Brazil, Russia, Turkey, and Taiwan via field experiments through Facebook ads. He received his M.A. from Sabanci University, Turkey, and B.A. from Bogazici University, Turkey, both in economics.



TOM SAMUELS
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Tom Samuels is assistant parliamentarian for the Texas House of Representatives and a Ph.D. student in government at UT Austin. His research focuses on the intersection of strategy, law, and the foundations of a flourishing civil society. He has a J.D. from Texas Law and a bachelor's from St. John's College, Santa Fe.



NECO DONAHUE
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Neco Donohue is a Ph.D. student in UT Austin's government department. His current research concerns liberalism's promises and perils, as well as its philosophic grounding. Through Montaigne and Montesquieu, Neco hopes to articulate an account of liberalism's merits and grounding that does not depend on modern natural rights. Prior to moving to Texas in 2022, Neco worked for two years as the program manager of the Hertog Foundation after receiving his B.A. from American University in 2020.



BENJAMIN SCHWABE
SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

Benjamin Schwabe is a Ph.D. student in political theory at UT Austin. His research explores the relationship between necessity and liberty in Niccolò Machiavelli's political philosophy. He earned his B.A. from Michigan State University and his M.A. from the UT Austin. His other research interests include classical and early modern republicanism, the relationship between modern scientific and political thought, and political psychology.

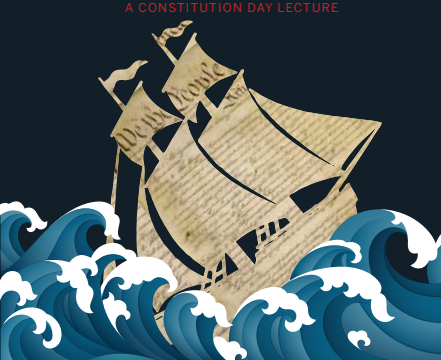


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Upcoming Events

A CONSTITUTION DAY LECTURE



KEEPING THE REPUBLIC

SEPTEMBER 17 ★ 4:00 PM ★ LITTLEFIELD HOUSE

 **MARC LANDY**
Professor of Political Science
Boston College

<https://bit.ly/ConstitutionDay24>







**Freedom and Willing
Servitude in Plato's Laws**

SEPTEMBER 24 4:00 PM LITTLEFIELD HOUSE

 **SUSAN MEYER**
Professor of Philosophy
University of Pennsylvania



<https://bit.ly/MeyerLecture>



Winston Churchill
and the US-UK Special Relationship,
Then and Now

 **LORD ANDREW ROBERTS**
Bonnie and Tom McCloskey Distinguished
Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution
Stanford University

SEPTEMBER 26	7:00 PM	THOMPSON CENTER
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 Department of History
Athenaeum
Clements Center
LBJ School

<https://bit.ly/RobertsLecture>

