

# Alexander Keller Hirsch, Ph.D.

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## Education

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University of California, Santa Cruz  
Ph.D. in Politics (emphasis, History of Consciousness), 2011  
M.A. in Politics, 2007  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
B.A in Social Thought and Political Economy (summa cum laude), 2004

## Faculty Appointments

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University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Professor, Department of Political Science, 2022--ongoing.  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2017--2022.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2012--2016.  
University of California Humanities Research Institute  
Residential Research Fellow, 2011-2012.  
Northeastern University  
Lecturer, Department of Political Science, 2009—2011.  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Lecturer, Department of American Studies, 2009—2010.  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Politics, 2005—2009.

## Administrative Appointments

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University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Experience, 2023-2024.  
Director, Honors College, 2018 – ongoing.  
Director, Climate Scholars Program, 2019 – ongoing.  
Co-Director, Nanook Brotherhood Project, 2020 – ongoing.  
Faculty Lead, Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, 2018 – ongoing.  
Faculty Ambassador, Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization, 2020 – 2022.  
Program Chair, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2017 – 2018.

## Courses Taught

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Political Science 300X, Ethics & Society  
Political Science 314, Political Ideologies  
Political Science 411, Classical Political Thought  
Political Science 412, Modern Political Thought  
Political Science 413, American Political Thought  
Political Science 414, Contemporary Political Thought  
Political Science 472, Ethics & International Affairs  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 101, Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Arctic and Northern Studies 650, Comparative Indigenous Rights  
Arctic and Northern Studies 689, Thesis Writing Workshop  
Honors 101, Introduction to Honors  
Honors 201, Methods of Inquiry  
Honors 290, Summer Reading Seminar  
Honors 498, Research  
Honors 499, Senior Thesis

## Research and Publications

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### Books

co ed., *The Democratic Arts of Mourning: Political Theory and Loss*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

ed., *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation: Agonism, Restitution & Repair*, London: Routledge, December, 2011.

--Translated into Indonesian, with Pustaka Pelajar Publishing, 2016.

### Peer-reviewed Articles / Chapters

“Mourning in Transitional Justice,” in eds. Jens Meierhenrich, et al., *Oxford Handbook of Transitional Justice* (Oxford University Press, in press).

“Witnessing and Waiting in Walt Whitman’s Democratic Arts of Attention,” *Humanities* 10 (3), 2021.

--Selected to be featured on the front page of *Humanities*.

“Regret: A Vital Structure of Critical Engagement in Moral Education,” *Teaching In Ethics* 19 (1), 2019.

“Between Empathy and Imagination: New Photographic Experiments in Memorial Aesthetics,” *Postmodern Culture*, 27 (3), 2018.

- “Hope and Agonism in the Native American Political Thought of William Apress,” *New Political Science* 39 (3), 2017.
- “Walking Off the Edge of the World: Sacrifice, Chance, and Dazzling Dissolution in the Book of Job and Ursula LeGuin’s ‘The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas’,” *Humanities* 5 (3), 2016.
- “Articulating Secession: Self-Determination, Decolonization and Stateless Independence Amongst the Kanaka Maoli,” *Social Identities: Race, Nation, Identity* 21 (2), 2015.
- “Hope, Without Guarantees: Mourning, Natality, and the Will to Chance in Book XXIV of the Iliad,” *Theory & Event* 18 (1), 2015.
- “Sovereignty Surreal: Bataille and Fanon Beyond the State of Exception,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 13, 2014.
- “The Promise of the Unforgiven: Violence, Power, and Paradox in Arendt,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 39 (1), 2013.
- “‘Like So Many Antigones’: The Politics of Recognition and the Afterlife of Indigenous Funerary Remains,” *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 10 (3), 2011.
- “Fugitive Reconciliation: The Agonistics of Respect, Resentment, and Responsibility,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 10, 2011.
- “Fugitive Reconciliation,” in *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation* (London: Routledge, 2011).
- “The *Agon* of Reconciliation,” in *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation* (London: Routledge, 2011).

### **Editor-reviewed Articles and Chapters**

- “Mourning is a Leap to Freedom,” *Psyche*, July, 2020.
- “Rituals of Re-Entry: An Interview with Bonnie Honig,” co-authored with David McIvor, *The Democratic Arts of Mourning* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).
- “The Democratic Arts of Mourning (Introduction),” co-authored with David McIvor, *The Democratic Arts of Mourning* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).
- “Standing Rock and Ecological Risk” *The Contemporary Condition*, December 12, 2016.
- “Too Hard to Keep,” *The Contemporary Condition*, June 3, 2015.

“Living On,” *The Contemporary Condition*, September 3, 2013.

### **Published Essays and Editorials**

“#MeToo and the Politics of Renewal,” *Clarity Magazine*, June 2018.

“Alaska Should Declare a Sexual Assault State of Disaster,” *Anchorage Daily News*  
August 7, 2017.

“Alaska Should Declare a Sexual Assault State of Disaster,” *Bristol Bay Times*,  
August 11, 2017.

### **Book Review Essays**

“Judgment, Imagination, and Critique in the Politics of Reconciliation,”  
*International Journal of Transitional Justice* 7(1), 2013.

“Tragic Democracy and Political Theory,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 38 (6),  
2012.

### **Book Reviews (selected, solicited)**

Review of Heather Pool, *Political Mourning: Identity and Responsibility in the Wake of Tragedy*, in *Perspectives on Politics*, 2022.

Review of P.J. Brendese, *The Power of Memory in Democratic Politics*, in  
*Contemporary Political Theory*, January 2016.

Review of Glen Coulthard, *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*, in *American Indian Journal of Culture & Research*  
39(4), 2016.

Review of Berber Bevernage, *History, Memory, and State-Sponsored Violence: Time and Justice*, in *Rethinking History*, April, 2012.

Review of Ernesto Verdeja, *Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence*, in *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 7, February  
2011.

Review of Andrew Schaap, ed., *Law and Agonistic Politics*, in *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 5, October 2009.

### **Works in Progress**

“When is Empathy Morally Gratuitous?” article manuscript, under construction.

“The Pocahontas Exception,” article manuscript, under construction.

“Maurice Sendak’s Epistemic Grace,” under construction.

## Grants and Sponsored Research

co-PI, U-RISE proposal, National Institute of Health, \$5 million.

URSA mentorship grants: John Quinones, Lachlan Gillespie, Emily Cohen, Aidan Earnest.

## Honorarium Research Talks

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University of Hawaii, Manoa, Department of Political Science, and Futures Studies, March 10, 2017.

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Political Science, and the Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship Program, October 19, 2016.

## Mass Media Interviews

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*Newsweek*, “Nick Begich Could Flip Alaska Back to Red but Needs GOP to Ditch Palin,” with Katherine Fung, September 2, 2022.

*L’Aiglon*, “Elections aux Etas-Unis: ce-qui va changer en Artique,” with Nelly Guidici, November 12, 2020.

*Boston Globe*, “Who Are the Out of State Billionaires Backing Ranked-Choice Voting in Massachusetts?” with Matt Stout, October 26, 2020.

*NPR’s Weekend Edition*, “Alaska Man’s Revelation Shines a Light on Sex Abuse in the State of Alaska,” with Scott Simon, April 21, 2018.  
-- 32 million listeners.

*CBS News*, “Sexual Assault in Alaska,” Wednesday, August 31, 2017.

National Public Radio, KUAC:

-- “Pandemic Politics,” weekly radio series connecting Alaska politics to the nation, 2020--ongoing.

-- “Gun Violence in the US,” *Northern Soundings*, KUAC, March 15, 2018.

## Keynote Public Addresses on Campus

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“Professor’s Perspective,” UAF’s *Parent and Family Orientation*, Schiable Auditorium, August 19.

Keynote Address, *Solve Climate 2030*, April 4, 2021.

Keynote Address, “Transferring Academic Success Skills to Non-Academic Life,” *Peer Mentor and Residence Life Academic Reception*, March 21, 2020.  
Keynote Address, UAF’s *Induction Ceremony*, Schiabile Auditorium, August 23, 2018, August 22, 2019, August 12, 2020.  
Plenary Address, *Centennial Scholarship Breakfast*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, May 3, 2017.  
Speaker, “Engaging Students,” *Student Support Services’ Faculty Panel*, Summer 2016.  
Speaker, *Emerging Scholars Academy Faculty Panel*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.  
Inaugural Address, *Joseph Thompson Memorial Lecture*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, October 2015.  
“Risk and Luck in the Aftermath of Catastrophe,” *URSA Public Lecture*, November 20, 2013.

## Solicited Testimony to Alaska State Legislature

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October 28, 2019, Alaska State Legislature, invitation from Rep. Andrew Josephson, District 17 (Anchorage), State House.

## Awards

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*Chancellor’s Excellence in Instruction and Outreach*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2020.  
*Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award*, Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2019.  
*Staff and Faculty Appreciation Award*, UAF Athletics, 2019.  
Highest score in Alaska, *We the People*, Selective Incorporation Speech Unit 3, National Student Debate Competition, Washington DC.  
Nominated, *Robert Piacenza Teaching Award*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2016.  
Nominated, *Best Paper at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, 2015.  
Nominated, *Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2015.  
Nominated, *Excellence in Teaching*, Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2015.  
Nominated, *Excellence in Teaching*, Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2014.  
Awarded, *Artist in Residence* of Skagway, Alaska, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016.  
Nominated, *Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2013.  
Awarded, *Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Activity Faculty Adviser Fellowship*, Fall 2013.  
Awarded, *Residential Research Group Fellowship*, University of California Humanities Research Institute, 2012.  
Awarded, *Searle Center for Teaching Excellence*, Northeastern University, 2011.

Awarded, *Center for Teaching Excellence Award*, University of California, Santa Cruz, Fall 2011.

Awarded, *Online Teaching Excellence*, Northeastern University, Spring 2011.

## Conference Participation

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“Actionable Climate Science and Experiential Education in the Arctic,” *An Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators*, Rachel Carson Center, Munich, Germany, July 2020.

*National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA. November 2019.

*Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education*, New Orleans, LA. May, 2018.

*National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference*, Boston, M.A., November, 2018.

“Between Empathy and Imagination,” the *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, BC, March 2017.

“Political Mourning in Comparative Perspective,” the *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA, March 2016.

“Redemption Without a Subject, Responsibility Without Guilt,” panel 16.20, *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2016.

“Roundtable: The Power of Memory in Democratic Politics,” panel 14.19, *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2016.

“Complicity and Justice,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Sept., 2015.

“The Procreant Urge of the World,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.

“Listening to Anger after Mass Violence,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.

“Mourning and Melancholia,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.

“Promising and Forgiveness,” *Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, November, 2014.

“Hope, Without Guarantees,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Sept. 2014.

“American Idioms in Political Theory,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2014.

“The Politics of Public Mourning, Natality, and Hope,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2014.

“Native American Tragic Mourning,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2013.

“Anger and the Magic of Reconciliation After Atrocity,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2012.

“The Necropolitics of Recognition and Redistribution in Native American Land Claims,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2012.

“Fugitive Reconciliation: Democracy and Transitional Justice in the Postcolonial World,” *Radical Democracy Conference*, Columbia University and the New School for Social Research, April, 2011.

“White Autochthony in Western Settler States,” *Honoring Indigenous Thought and Survivance Symposium*, University of California, Santa Cruz, April, 2010.

“Fault Lines of Contestation: Justice, Order and Repair in Post-Conflict Political Society,”

- Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2010.
- “The Afterlife of Indigenous Funerary Remains,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April 2010.
- “Justice, Politics, Ethics,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, November, 2009.
- “Fugitive Reconciliation,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, November, 2009.
- “Indigenous Repatriation and the Tragedy of Reconciliation,” *American Studies Research Symposium*, University of California, Santa Cruz, March 2009.
- “Public Mourning and Political Tragedy,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2008.
- “To Be Held Out into the Nothing: Spinoza and Heidegger on the Politics of Violence,” *Cultures of Violence Conference*, University of California, Irvine, April 2007.
- “Violence, Resentment, Reconciliation,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October, 2006.
- “Collective Voice and Political Violence,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October, 2006.

## Career Development

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- “Strategies to Grow Your Honors Program or College,” *Academic Impressions*, Denver, CO., February 11-12, 2019.
- “The Art and Techniques of Facilitation,” with Brenda Holden, January 28, 2019. Provost Academic Leadership Institute, UAF, 2018-19.
- Faculty Learning Community (“Writing Across the Curriculum”), Fall, 2014.
- Faculty Learning Community (“Teaching Strategies for Early Career Tenure-Track Faculty”), Fall 2013.
- Faculty Learning Community (“Communication Across the Curriculum”), Fall 2013.
- Member, American Political Science Association.
- Member, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.
- Member, American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy.

## Undergraduate and Graduate Mentorship

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MA / MFA Thesis Committee Member in English Department: Derek Hinkley (graduated), Eric Notaro (graduated), Caitlin Scarano (graduated), Christopher Moran (graduated), Jonnell (Jones) Liebl (graduated), Zackary Medlin (graduated), Kendell Newman-Sadik (graduated), Tara Knight (graduated), Danny Dyer (graduated), Amy Marsh (graduated), Nicklaus Moser (graduated), Quintin Overton (graduated), Kendalyn McKisick (graduated), Regan Campbell (graduated), Ben Kraft (graduated).

MA Thesis Committee Member in Arctic and Northern Studies: Vanessa Raymond (graduated), Ryan Hallsten, Victoria Smith (graduated), Jessica Zaydak, Yu (Kimmy) Cao (Chair, graduated), Kerstin Schley (graduated), Angela Rudolph (Chair), Carolyn Kozack (graduated), Lex Treinen (graduated), Lauren Baranik (graduated), Hannah Ney, Willow Feighery.



MA Thesis Committee Member in Communications: Mindy O’Neill (graduated), Ibrahim Ghalioum, Kate Avery.

PhD Committee: Tara Ballard (Chair), Margaret Rudolph (Chair), John Messick, Zackary Smith (Chair).

Undergraduate Senior Thesis Chair: Jonathan Quinones (graduated), Jackson Willard (graduated), Daniel Strigle (graduated), Margot Adams (graduated), Lachlan Gillespie (graduated), Silvan Schuttner (graduated), Matthew West (graduated), Matthew Ryan Harris (graduated), Bexley Brown (UAA) (graduated), Brandon Blum (graduated), Ryan Pullis, Gabriela Draper (graduated), Sarah Manriquez (graduated), Kasey Casort (graduated), Matthew Mertes, Kayla Haeg (graduated), Aidan Earnest (graduated), Emily Cohen (graduated).

Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Major Committee: Erin McRorty (graduated), Kasey Casort (Chair, graduated), Marlis Luke, Sinead Morris-McHugh (Chair), Rudolpho (Chair).

## Service Activities

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### 1. *Service to the University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Steering Committee, Strategic Goal of Achieving Carnegie Classification’s Very High Research Status University Ranking (R1).

Chair, International Collaboration & Enrollment Task Force Committee, 2023.

Steering Committee, Accreditation Indicators, 2022.

--Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion indicators sub-committee, 2022.

Steering Committee, University-wide Strategic Enrollment Planning, 2019 – ongoing.

-- Chair, “Transitioning to an Honors College,” 2018 – 2019.

-- Chair, Three-plus-three articulation agreement with law schools, 2022.

-- Chair, Three-year accelerated degree programs, 2022.

Steering Committee, Student Success Center Planning, Fall 2019 – Fall 2020.

Steering Committee, University Strategic Planning, 2018 – ongoing.

-- Chair, “Modernizing the Student Experience,” 2018 – 2021.

Steering Committee, College of Liberal Arts Strategic Enrollment Planning, 2021 – 22.

--Chair, new Environmental Sustainability Bachelor of Arts, 2022.

--Chair, Undergraduate Academic Structures, College of Liberal Arts Student Enrollment Planning, 2021.

University Retention Team, *Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities’*

Retention, Completion, and Student Success Academy, Fall 2019 – ongoing.

-- First-Year Experience Task Force, Fall 2021.

University of Alaska Student Affairs Review Team, Summer and Fall 2019.

“Shaping the Future of the University of Alaska,” *University of Alaska Statewide World-Building Executive Team*, Fall 2018.

Dual Enrollment Faculty Advisory Group, Fall 2020 – ongoing.

Faculty Advisory Board, Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2013 – 2016.

Ethics Representative, General Education Requirement Committee, Faculty Senate, 2020-22.

Social Science Representative, Faculty Senate, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2016 – 2019.

Guest Speaker, *TRiO Program Day*, February 21, 2019.

Guest Speaker, *Generation Action*, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2019.

General Education Requirement Committee, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2016 – 2019.

Chair, Sabbatical Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2018 – 2020.

Co-Chair, Tenure and Promotion Review Committee, Social Science Peer Unit, 2019-2021.

Social Science Peer Unit Tenure and Promotion Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2017 – ongoing.

Editorial Board, *Clarity Magazine*, College of Liberal Arts, 2013 – 2018.

History Department Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2018.

Co-Organizer and Judge, Ethics Bowl, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Speaker, *Classroom Inside Out*, CLA, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Faculty Adviser to Socratic Society, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fall 2014 – 2018.

Faculty Adviser to Pi Sigma Alpha, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2013 – 2018.

Faculty Search Committee, Political Science Department, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2014.

Faculty Search Committee, Political Science Department, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2012.

Search committee, Upward Bound Associate Director, summer 2021.

Provost Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fall 2018 – ongoing.

Judge, *Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity Award Competition*, spring 2016.

UA Scholars Reception Events: Fairbanks and Anchorage, November 2018, 2019.

Provost Search Committee, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2017 - 2018.

Panelist, *Committee on the Status of Women, Tenure & Promotion Workshop*, April 21, 2017.

## 2. *Service to the Community*

Moderator, *Climate, Jobs, and Justice Candidate Forum*, Monday August 23, 2021.

Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, “Contemporary Politics of Alaska,” Spring 2021.

Moderator, *The Alaska Center* Municipal Candidate Forum, Fairbanks North Star Borough, summer 2020.

Moderator, *The Alaska Center* Alaska State Legislature candidate forum, summer 2020.

“Pandemic Politics,” ongoing weekly KUAC public radio program focusing on data-driven perspectives on Alaskan politics as connected to the national and international levels, 2020-.

Panelist, “Making Sense of the 2020 Elections,” Dept. of Political Science faculty community Event, November 2020.

Coach, “We the People,” National Debate Competition, West Valley High School, Spring 2019.

Judge, “We the People,” Alaska State Hearing, December 5, 2018, and December 2020.  
Panelist, “Meaning in the Midterms,” Political Science Faculty Panel, November 2018.  
Speaker, Osher Lifelong Learning, “The Legal and Political History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment,”  
October 19, 2018.  
Panelist, Gun Violence Faculty Panel Discussion, Raven’s Landing, March 24, 2018.  
Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, “Communicating Across Political  
Polarization,” Spring 2017.  
Panelist, “Freedom of the Press” faculty panel, Raven’s Landing, March 2017.  
Panelist, 2016 Presidential Election Faculty Panel, University of Alaska Fairbanks,  
November 17, 2016.  
Artist in Residence, Skagway, Alaska, 2014-2016.  
Executive Officer, Board of Directors, Bread Line Inc., 2014-2017.  
Moderator, State Legislative Debate between Rep. Scott Kawasaki (D) and Greg  
Bringhurst (R), candidates for Alaska House District 1, Raven’s Landing, October  
24, 2014.

### 3. *Service to Political Science*

Program Chair, “Foundations of Political Thought,” *American Political Science Association  
Annual Meeting*, 2019.  
Program Committee, Association for Political Theory, 2016-2018.  
Ongoing Peer Reviewer for Original Book Manuscripts:  
Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Edinburgh University  
Press, Routledge Press, Ashgate Press, University of Alaska Press, University Press  
of Kansas.  
Ongoing Peer Reviewer of Article Manuscripts:  
Political Theory; New Political Science; Political Research Quarterly; American  
Indian Journal of Culture and Research; Theory & Event; History of European  
Ideas; International Journal of Transitional Justice; Political and Legal  
Anthropology Review; International Theory: A Journal of International Politics,  
Law and Philosophy; Law and Society; American Political Thought; Citizenship  
Studies; Security Studies.  
Solicited External Reviewer of Tenure Files:  
Berber Bevernage, Ghent University (Belgium), Fall 2017.

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