

ALEXANDER S. DUFF
SCHOOL OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN
alexander.duff@austin.utexas.edu

Education

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
Ph. D., Department of Political Science. May 2011.

Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
M. A., with distinction, Department of Political Science. 2003.
B. Hum. (History), with highest honours, College of the Humanities. 2001.

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, School of Civic Leadership, University of Texas – Austin; Austin, Texas (July 2024-present).

Senior Fellow, Civitas Institute

Fellow, Thomas Jefferson Center

Director of Faculty Development, School of Civic Leadership

Visiting Fellow, Civitas Institute, University of Texas – Austin; Austin, Texas (August 2023-July 2024).

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas (with tenure, May-June 2024).

Assistant Professor (August 2018-May 2024).

Postdoctoral Fellow, Visiting Assistant Professor, Charles Carroll Program and Department of Political Science, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts (2015-2018).

Visiting Assistant Professor, Government Department, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York (2014-15).

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (2012-14).

Postdoctoral Fellow, Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and American Public Life, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana (2011-12).

Books

Heidegger's Revolutionary Politics (Cornell University Press – under contract, publication expected October 2026).

The book shows how anti-Western radicalism around the globe draws inspiration from the thought of Martin Heidegger, even as the influence of Karl Marx has waned. It begins from Iranian and Russian anti-Western political ideologies and traces their frustrated utopianism to their common adoption of Heideggerian understandings of alienation and revolution. It formulates this appropriation of Heidegger as consisting in an unstable dynamic of visionary expectations for political transformation that collapse into exhausted despotism, and forecasts a similar pattern for other adaptations of Heidegger.

Heidegger and Politics: The Ontology of Radical Discontent (Cambridge University Press, 2015; paperback, 2018), 213 pages.

- Reviews: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Review of Politics*, *Interpretation*, *Law & Liberty*
- Panel at New England Political Science Association meeting, 2017
- Farsi translation in progress

Edited Volumes

Democracy and Its Pathologies. Co-edited with Jeffrey Church (Under contract with SUNY Press, submitted to press April 2025)

This volume collects papers originally presented at the inaugural meeting of the Association for the History of Political Thought in Spring 2024. It showcases the work of leading political theorists who show what lessons the history of political thought may supply for understanding the breakdown of democratic norms in political life.

How to Think About Speech. Co-edited with Flagg Taylor (in progress)

This volume collects accessible and readable essays from leading political theorists, philosophers, and public intellectuals on the meaning and politics of free speech. It presses beyond the formula of “more” or “less” and clarifies *what it is about speech* that makes it central to a free politics.

Articles and Book Chapters (* indicates peer-reviewed)

Articles:

“Machiavelli’s Critique of Leonardo Bruni: The Problem of Political Speech in the *Florentine Histories*.” *History of European Ideas* (forthcoming).

“Heidegger on Nietzsche and Nihilism.” *Interpretation* 51.2 (Winter 2025).

“Anger, Hatred, and Judgment in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*.” *American Journal of Political Science* 69.1 (2025), 240-251.*

“Heidegger’s Post-Western Politics.” *Political Research Quarterly* 76.2 (2023), 801-813. Online at <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129221113771>.*

“The Language of Politics in *Being and Time*.” *Heidegger-Jahrbuch*. 13 (February 2022): 44-62.*

“The Problem of Rule in MacIntyre’s *Politics and Ethics in the Conflicts of Modernity*.” *Politics and Poetics* 4.1 (November, 2018).*

“Machiavelli’s Critique of Cicero and the Problem of Ambition.” *Journal of Politics* 73.4 (October, 2011).*

“Stanley Rosen’s Critique of Leo Strauss.” *Review of Metaphysics* 63.3 (March, 2010): 615-642.*

Book Chapters:

“Communication Ethics in Machiavelli.” In *Political Communication Ethics: Theory and Practice*, ed. Peter Loge (Rowman and Littlefield, 2021).*

“Heidegger’s Challenge to the Renaissance of Classical Political Rationalism.” In *Leo Strauss and Contemporary Thought: Reading Strauss Outside the Lines*, eds. Jade Schiff and Jeffrey Bernstein (SUNY Press, 2021).*

“George Grant’s Response to the Strauss-Kojeve Debate.” In *Athens and Jerusalem: George Grant’s Theology, Philosophy, and Politics*, ed. Ian Angus, Ron Dart, and Randy Peg Peters (University of Toronto Press, 2007).*

In Progress:

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Political Speech” (submission for the co-edited volume, *How to Think about Speech*)

Other Publications

“The Moral Collapse on Campus is a Result of the Hollowing out of the Humanities.” *Mosaic*. August 14, 2025.

Review of Martin Heidegger and Karl Löwith, *Correspondence: 1919-1973*. Translated by J. Goesser Assaiane and S. Montgomery Ewegen. *Review of Politics* 86.2 (2024), 273-76.

“Symposium on Xenophon’s Thought: Discussion of Dustin Sebell’s, *Xenophon’s Socratic Education: Reason, Religion, and the Limits of Politics*,” in *Review of Politics* (forthcoming 2025).

“Kierkegaard and the Rebirth of Classical Political Rationalism: Review of Ann Ward’s, *The Socratic Individual: Philosophy, Faith, and Freedom in a Democratic Age*,” in *The Political Science Reviewer* 46:2 (2022).*

Review of Mahon O’Brien, *Heidegger’s Life and Thought: A Tarnished Legacy*, and Mikko Immanen, *Toward a Concrete Philosophy: Heidegger and the Emergence of the Frankfurt School*. *Review of Politics* 2022.

“Machiavelli and the Contestable Surface: Zuckert and Strauss.” Review essay. *Review of Politics* (Spring 2018): 283-288.

Co-edited special issue of *Perspectives on Political Science* with Flagg Taylor (2017). The issue reviews the work of Waller R. Newell on the theme of tyranny, exploring the contemporary resonances of its classical, early modern, and millenarian types. Contributors include Charles Hill (Yale), Vickie Sullivan (Tufts), Norma Thompson (Yale), Carly Herold (SUNY Geneseo), Jeffrey Bernstein (College of the Holy Cross), and Martin Palouš (Florida International University, Vaclav Havel Library Foundation). The issue also includes a response from Newell in the form of an interview with the co-editors.

“Symposium on Protagoras and Socrates: Discussion of Robert C. Bartlett, *Sophistry and Political Philosophy: Protagoras’ Challenge to Socrates*” in *Review of Politics* (Winter 2018). This symposium collects critical discussions of Robert Bartlett’s study of Socrates’ responses to Protagoras in Plato’s dialogues *Protagoras* and *Theaetetus*. Contributors include Roslyn Weiss (Lehigh University), Robert Balot (University of Toronto), Paul Stern (Ursinus College), Waller R. Newell (Carleton University), with an introductory statement by the convener of the symposium, Alexander Duff, and a response by the author, Robert Bartlett.

Review of David E. Storey, *Naturalizing Heidegger: His Confrontation with Nietzsche, His Contributions to Environmental Philosophy*. *Review of Politics* (2017).

“Heidegger’s Ghosts.” *The American Interest*, February 25, 2016 (11.5).

—Online edition linked at Arts and Letters Daily, February 27, 2016.

—Interviewed for *The American Interest* Podcast, episode 108, “Trump Scorned and Heidegger Reborn.”

—Interviewed for *The Free Mind* podcast, “Introduction to the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger.” Transcript online at: www.colorado.edu/center/benson/2021/10/21/alexander-duff-introduction-philosophy-martin-heidegger-transcript

—Translated into Estonian and published in *Vikerkaar* December, 2016.

—Translated into Farsi.

“A Good Heideggerian Never Says He’s Sorry.” Invited comment on Gregory Fried’s “The King is Dead.” *L.A. Review of Books*, October 2014.

Review of Laurence Lampert, *The Enduring Importance of Leo Strauss*. *Review of Politics* (2014).

Review of Tracy B. Strong, *Politics Without Vision: Thinking Without a Bannister in the Twentieth Century*. *Review of Politics* (2012).

Review of Arthur Davis and Henry Roper, *Collected Works of George Grant, Volume 3, 1960-1969*. *American Review of Canadian Studies*. (Fall, 2006): 505-506.

Teaching Experience

University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2025: “Perennial Problems in Civic Thought”

University of North Texas

Spring 2023: “Constitutionalism: Ancient and Modern” (graduate seminar).

Fall 2022: “Political Theory: Quest for Justice.”

Spring 2022: “Political Theory: The State and Its Critics.”

Fall 2021: “Contemporary Political Theory.”

Spring 2021: “Introduction to Modern Political Philosophy,” “Critique, Revolution, and Reaction.”

Fall 2020: “Introduction to Ancient Political Philosophy,” “American Government: Structure and Institutions (Honors).”

Spring 2020: “Political Speech and Democracy” (graduate seminar); “Introduction to Modern Political Philosophy.”

Fall 2019: “Constitutionalism Ancient and Modern.”

Spring 2019: “Introduction to Modern Political Philosophy,” “History of Political Philosophy (Honors)”

Fall 2018: “Introduction to Ancient Political Philosophy.”

College of the Holy Cross

Fall 2017: “Introduction to Political Philosophy,” “Revolution and Reaction.”

Fall 2016-Spring 2017: “Tyranny and Law: Comparative Political Thought.” This course in comparative political philosophy surveys ancient Western and Non-Western forms of political order—Near Eastern, Hebrew, Chinese, Hindu, and Greek—and their diagnoses of disorder. The second part of the course (Spring 2017) examines a series of rationalist (Socratic, early Modern, late Modern) attempts to diagnose and respond to the problem of tyranny.

Spring 2016: “Rhetoric and Politics.”

Fall 2015: “Introduction to Political Philosophy.”

Skidmore College

Spring 2015: “How to Rule the World: The Problem of Ambition.”

Spring 2015: “Contemporary Political Thought.”

Fall 2014, Spring 2015: "Introduction to Political Theory."
Fall 2014: "Constitutionalism: Ancient and Modern."
Fall 2014: "Political Thought in Literature."

Boston College

Fall 2012, Fall 2013: "How to Rule the World (Introduction to Political Theory)." Discussion leader.

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

"The Humanities and Civic Education." Association for Core Texts and Courses meeting, Madison, Wisconsin. 5 April 2025.

"The Heideggerian Revolutions: A Report from the Spring of 2025." The Jefferson Center, UT Austin. Austin, Texas. 25 February 2025.

"Heidegger on Revolution." Baylor University. Waco, Texas. 21 February 2025.

"Heidegger on Nietzsche and Nihilism." Conference on Nietzsche Contra Morality, Modernity, and Metaphysics. The LeFrak Forum and Hudson Institute. Washington DC. 2 May 2024.

"The Heideggerian Revolution" *Civitas Institute* luncheon. University of Texas – Austin. 6 September 2023.

"The Trouble with Anger: The Treatment of Anger and Hatred in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*." Midwestern Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, Illinois. 12 April 2023.

"Author Meets Readers: On Richard Velkley's Novella, *Sarastro's Cave*." Midwestern Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, Illinois. 13 April 2023.

"The Problem of Anger in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*." Southern Political Science Association Meeting, St. Pete Beach, Florida. 13 January 2023.

"Putin-Dugin-Heidegger and the Deconstruction of the West: Ideological Elements in the Russian Regime." Presentation on Panel on "What Next for the War in Ukraine?" University of North Texas. 27 October 2022.

"Abraham Lincoln on the Rule of Law." *Constitutional Conversations: A Civic Education Summit*. University of Dallas. 8 October 2022.

Seminar on Heidegger's *Being and Time*, Graduate Program in Political Theory at University of Texas, Austin; three sessions, May 2022.

"How Martin Heidegger Reads the *Ethics*," Conference on "Re-reading Aristotle's *Ethics* Today" at *Louisiana State University*, 22-23 April 2022.

“On the Varieties of Political Alienation: Challenges to Democracy in Continental Thought.” Invited Keynote Address, Conference on Democracy and Liberal Education. Louisiana Tech University. 6 April 2022.

“Machiavelli and the Political Psychology of Factionalism in the Florentine Histories,” American Political Science Association meeting, San Francisco, 3 September 2020.

“Heidegger and the Language of Politics,” Invited Keynote Lecture for LSU Philosophy Ethics Conference: Speaking of Ethics: Thought, Discourse, and the Other. Baton Rouge, LA, 13 March 2020. Canceled because of COVID shutdowns.

“Heidegger and the Language of Politics,” North Texas Philosophical Association meeting, at the University of Texas at Dallas. 27 March 2020. Canceled because of COVID shutdowns.

“Heidegger’s Utopian Politics,” Invited talk, Department of Political Science, University of Houston, 24 January 2020.

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Political Speech.” Invited lecture for Grand Challenges Forum, Honors College, University of Houston, 24 January, 2020.

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Political Speech: A Word From Machiavelli’s Florence,” Invited talk at Michigan State University, 25 October 2019.

“Machiavelli’s Humors in the *Florentine Histories*,” American Political Science Association meeting, Washington D.C., 30 August 2019.

Participant in symposium, “Demagoguery, Oratory, and Liberty.” Hosted by Liberty Fund, 21-24 February, 2019. Savannah, Georgia.

Roundtable panelist, “Author Meets Critics: Michelle Clarke, *Machiavelli’s Florentine Republic*.” Southern Political Science Association meeting, Austin, Texas, 19 January 2019

Participant in symposium, “Bertrand de Jouvenel.” Hosted by Liberty Fund, March 2018. Tucson, Arizona.

Response to Robert Pippin, “The Curious Fate of the Idea of Progress.” Invited response to keynote address for conference on *Kant and the Possibility of Progress*. Boston College. 17 February 2018.

“An Appeal from an Old to a New Aristotelian.” Conference on Alasdair MacIntyre’s Ethics in the Conflicts of Modernity. University of Oxford, 29 June 2017.

“Catherine Zuckert and the Contestable Surface: The Case of Machiavelli.” Conference on Ancients, Moderns, and Postmoderns in honor of Catherine Zuckert. University of Notre Dame, May 2017.

“Aristotle and Anger in Political Speech,” Kirkland House, Harvard University, 14 April 2017.

Panel on Heidegger’s Politics at New England Political Science Convention, Providence, RI, 21 April 2017. Participants: Jeremy Mhire (Louisiana Tech), Richard Velkley (Tulane), Richard Capobianco (Stonehill College), Bryan-Paul Frost (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), Alexander S. Duff (College of the Holy Cross).

Panel on Robert C. Bartlett’s *Sophistry and Political Philosophy: Protagoras’ Challenge to Socrates* at New England Political Science Convention, Providence, RI, 21 April 2017. Participants: Roslyn Weiss (Lehigh University), Waller R. Newell (Carleton University), Paul Stern (Ursinus College), Robert C. Bartlett (Boston College).

“Aristotle and the Politics of Anger,” Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, 29 September 2016.

“Heidegger’s Apolitical Politics,” New England Political Science Association, Newport, RI, 22 April 2016

“Heidegger, Technology, and the Liberal Arts,” Skidmore College, 24 March, 2015.

“Heidegger and the Regime of Technology,” American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., 31 August 2014.

“Heidegger and the Problem of Values,” New England Political Science Association meeting in Woodstock, VT, 26 April 2014.

“Heidegger and Politics: A Reconsideration,” Boston College, 12 March 2014.

“Heidegger’s Challenge,” Yale Program for the Study of Representative Institutions, Yale University, 3 March 2014.

“The Paradox of Heideggerian Politics,” Northeast Political Science Convention in Philadelphia, 15 November 2013.

“The Presence of an Absent Presence: Leo Strauss’s Response to Heidegger in *On Tyranny*,” American Political Science Association, Chicago, 30 August 2013.

“Ethics and the Problem of Theory in Heidegger’s Early Thought,” Dartmouth College, 14 May 2013.

“Heidegger on Political Reasoning,” New England Political Science Association, Portland, Maine, 3 May 2013.

“Heidegger’s Challenge to Socratic Philosophy,” Boston College, 18 February 2013.

“What has Heidegger Got to do with Politics?” Boston College, 25 September 2012. Also presented at the Northeastern Political Science Convention, Boston, 17 November 2012.

“On the Margins of the Machiavellian Republic,” American Political Science Association, New Orleans. 31 August 2012. (This presentation was cancelled owing to a hurricane in New Orleans.)

“On the Civil Principality in Machiavelli’s Prince,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 13 April 2012.

“Leo Strauss, Martin Heidegger, and Socrates walk into a Bar,” Notre Dame Political Theory Colloquium, University of Notre Dame, 17 February 2012

“Heidegger, Strauss, and the Pretheoretical,” Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, 12 January 2012.

“Primordality and Politics: The Political Implications of Heidegger’s Early Phenomenology,” Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, 8 January 2011.

“Machiavelli’s Critique of Cicero and the Problem of Ambition,” American Political Science Association in Toronto, Ontario, 5 September 2009.

“Comments on Ethics and Politics in Aristotle.” Respondent on the panel, “Ethics and Politics in Aristotle,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, 6 April 2008.

“Heidegger and Strauss on the Character of the Primordial,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, 3 April 2008.

“Heidegger, Strauss, and Socrates: Toward a Political Phenomenology,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, 13 April 2007.

“Leo Strauss’s Break with Nietzsche on the Matter of Intellectual Probity,” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1 September 2006.

“Against Imagined and Reimagined Republics: Machiavelli’s Critique of Cicero in the Prince,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, 21 April 2006.

“Parricide or Immoderate Moderation? Being an Interpretation of Stanley Rosen’s Critique of Leo Strauss,” New School for Social Research, New York, 14 November 2005.

“Stanley Rosen’s Critique of Leo Strauss.” Canadian Association of American Studies, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 17 October 2005.

“From Hegel to Christian Platonism: The Turn in George Grant’s Thought,” Paedaiia conference, Gatineau, Quebec, 25-28 August 2002.

Professional and Institutional Service

- 2024-25 Co-editor (with Jeffrey Church) of the line of books, *New Perspectives on the History of Political Thought*, SUNY Press.
- 2025 Section co-chair, Foundations of Political Thought. American Political Science Association meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 2025.
- 2024-25 Treasurer and Co-founder, Association for the History of Political Thought.
- 2025 Member, Alliance for Civics in the Academy.
- 2024-25 Jack Miller Center Senior Fellow, Humane Letters Initiative
- 2019-21 Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan Press.
- 2019 Section Chair, Political Theory. New England Political Science Association meeting, Portland, Maine, 25-27 April, 2019.
- 2017 Pre-publication reviewer, Cambridge University Press.
- 2011-23 Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Polity*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *American Political Science Review*, *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, *Interpretation*, *Politics and Poetics*.
- 2016-17 Faculty sponsor, Political Thought Reading Society, College of the Holy Cross.
- 2015-16 Thesis supervisor, Washington D.C. Program, College of the Holy Cross.
- 2014-17 Co-convenor, Visiting lectures, Charles Carroll Program, College of the Holy Cross
- 2008-09 Desk reviews, *Review of Politics*.

Awards and Scholarships

- 2023-24 Texas Fellow at the Civitas Institute, University of Texas - Austin
- 2022 Gift from Jack Miller Center, for University of North Texas, Constitutionalism and Democracy Forum, \$17,000
- 2022 CREATE grant at UNT (\$5,000)
- 2021 Gift from Apgar Foundation, for University of North Texas, Constitutionalism and Democracy Forum, \$10,000.
- 2021 Gift from Jack Miller Center, for University of North Texas, Constitutionalism and Democracy Forum, \$10,000.
- 2011 University of Notre Dame Nominee, APSA Dissertation Prize.
- 2008-09 H.B Earhart Graduate Fellowship
- 2008 University of Notre Dame, Dissertation Year Fellowship (Spring Semester)
- 2005-07 H. B. Earhart Fellowship
- 2002-03 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario
- 2001-02 Graduate Honours Scholarship, Carleton University

Languages

French, German, Ancient Greek.

References

(available upon request)