



The University of Texas at Austin School of Civic Leadership

Matthew K. Reising

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University of Texas at Austin, School of Civic Leadership
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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Academic Appointments

University of Texas, Austin

2025- Assistant Professor of the History of Political Thought in the School of Civic Leadership.

Princeton University

2024-25 John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions in the Department of Politics.

Baylor University

2023-24 Predoctoral Teaching Fellow and Assistant Director of the Zavala Program for Constitutional Studies.

2022-23 Teacher of Record.

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Baylor University (2024).

- *Dissertation*: "Herodotus and the Birth of Freedom." Winner of the Baylor University Outstanding Dissertation in the Humanities Award and the Department of Political Science Outstanding Dissertation Award.
- Interdisciplinary concentration in Medieval Philosophy with Baylor's Philosophy Department, graduate courses with Robert C. Miner and Thomas Hibbs.

M.A., Political Science, Baylor University (2021).

B.A., History, Political Science, and Philosophy, Ashland University (2019).

A.S., General Studies, Vincennes University (2016).

Research Languages

Classical Greek and Latin (reading proficiency).

RESEARCH

Monographs

Herodotus and the Birth of Freedom: Liberty in Ancient Greece and Persia. Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh University Press, Forthcoming.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

"A Testament to Hope: The Natural Law Politics of Phillis Wheatley Peters' Poetry," *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

"The Contested Reception of Herodotus's *History* in American Antebellum Slavery Debates," *Polity*, forthcoming.

"What Happened to Joy? A Metastructural Examination of Joy in the *Summa Theologiae*," *The Thomist* 88, no. 4 (2024): 627-652.



- “Aquinas on the Socratic Paradox and the Problem of Virtue,” *History of Political Thought* 45, no. 3 (2024): 425-447.
- “The King’s House or the Tyrant’s Palace? Rethinking Persia in Herodotus’s *History*,” *Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought* 41, no. 2 (2024): 203-226.
– An earlier version of this paper won the Northwestern Political Science Association’s 2022 Lanahan Best Graduate Student Paper Award.
- “Rethinking Intellectual Ecumenicism in Interfaith Debates on God’s Existence: From Avicenna’s *Salvation* and Maimonides’ *Guide* to Aquinas’s *De Ente*,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 59, no. 2 (2024): 242-262.
- “The Dialectical Foundations of Natural Law in Aquinas’s *De Ente et Essentia*,” *Perspectives on Political Science* 53, no. 3 (2024): 154-163.
- “James Otis and the Glorious Revolution in America,” *American Political Thought* 11, no. 2 (2022): 161-184.
– Awarded “The Best Article in *American Political Thought* for 2023” by the American Political Science Association.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- “Democracy and the Best Regime in Herodotus’ *History*,” in *Democracy and Its Pathologies*, eds. Jeffrey Church and Alexander S. Duff (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, forthcoming)
- “American Political Development and Ideational Institutionalism,” coauthored with Ben Kleinerman, in *Constitutionalism and Liberty: Essays in Honor of David K. Nichols*, eds. Anthony Bartl and Jordan Cash (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2025), 129-151.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Freedom and Power in Classical Athens*, by Naomi T. Campa, *Interpretation* 51, no. 3 (2025): 535-540.
- Review of *The Myth of Left and Right: How the Political Spectrum Misleads and Harms America*, by Verlan and Hyrum Lewis, *American Political Thought* 14, no. 1 (2025): 136-138.
- Review of *Cartoons and Caricatures of Mark Twain in Context: Reformer and Social Critic, 1869–1910*, by Leslie Myrick and Gary Scharnhorst, *Mark Twain Journal* 62, no. 3 (2024): 168-175.

Popular Publications

- Invited contributor for *Ancient History Magazine* #55: *Autocrats and Emperors: Tyrants in the Ancient World*, Karwansary Publishers (2025). Article: “King of Kings – Achaemenid tyranny and kingship.”

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures, Presentations, and Symposia

- “Synthesizing American Political Thought and American Political Development,” University of Texas at Austin, TX, sponsored by the Shawnee Trail Conference on American Politics & Constitutionalism, November 2024.
- “Why Aquinas Wrote: Finding Pedagogy and Intention in the *Summa Theologiae*’s Format and Sources,” Ashland University, OH, sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, April 2024.

Conference Presentations



The University of Texas at Austin School of Civic Leadership

- “Tyrants, Founders, and Demagogues, Oh My! Virtuous Kingship in Herodotus’ *History*,”
Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago IL, April 2025.
- “Ideational Institutionalism and American Constitutionalism,” American Political Science
Association, Philadelphia PA, September 2024.
- “Defending Acquired Virtue as Real Virtue from the Perspective of the Whole Human Person,”
Thomistic Summer Conference: Virtue, Law, and the Common Good, Santa Paula CA,
June 2024.
- “American Abolitionists and the Father of History: Herodotus as a Key Abolitionist Text,”
Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston MA, November 2023.
- “Maimonides’ Guide as a Forerunner to Aquinas’ Reimagining of Being/Essence as
Act/Potency” Association for Core Texts and Courses, Dallas TX, April 2023.
- “Herodotus and the Case for Persian Freedom,” Northeastern Political Science Association,
Boston MA, November 2022.
- “Carey, Aquinas, and a Reappraisal of Natural Law and the Problem of Virtue,” Southern
Political Science Association, San Antonio TX, January 2022.
- “Stitching Eudaimonia: Frankenstein and Aristotle on Solitude and the Pursuit of Happiness,”
Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia PA, November 2019.

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

University of Texas, Austin

Perennial Problems in Civic Thought, Fall 2025 (CIV 301)

Baylor

African American Political Philosophy, Spring 2024 (PSC 4320)

Politics and Literature: Plutarch and Shakespeare, Fall 2023 (PSC 4313)

Introduction to Western Political Philosophy, Fall 2022 (PSC 2343)

American National Government, Spring 2022 (PSC 1305)

Additional Teaching Experience

Baylor University, Honors Colloquia:

“Literature in Medieval Islamic Political Thought: Ibn Tufayl’s *Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān* on the
Relationship Between Philosophy, Theology, and Politics” (September 2023)

“The Gettysburg Address as a Great Text: Prudence & Rhetoric in American Statecraft”
(February 2023)

Ashland University, Hilda E. Bretzlaff Ashbrook Academy (College Credit Summer Courses for
High School Students)

“Telling America’s Story: The American Founding to MLK” (June 2022 and June 2023)

“Lincoln and the Causes of the Civil War” (June 2022 and June 2023)

“Literature and the American Story” (July 2022)

“Humanities Citizenship Initiative: Great Figures in History and Literature” (July 2022)

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Awards:

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| 2024-25 | Baylor University’s Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Humanities Award. |
| 2024-25 | Fellow at the Barry Center on the University and Intellectual Life. |
| 2024-25 | Fellow at the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. |



The University of Texas at Austin School of Civic Leadership

2024	Fellow at the Jack Miller Center Summer Institute on “Rhetoric and Democratic Persuasion,” Philadelphia PA, 2024.
Spring 2024	Baylor Graduate School’s Recognition for Excellence in Teaching Award.
2023-24	Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Department of Political Science, Baylor University, 2023-2024.
Fall 2023	Baylor University Recognition for Excellence in Teaching Award.
2022-23	Baylor University’s Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.
2023	Best Article in <i>The Journal of American Political Thought</i> , awarded to “James Otis and the Glorious Revolution in America” by the American Political Thought Section of the American Political Science Association.
2023	Outstanding Political Science Doctoral Student Award, Baylor University.
2022	Lanahan Best Graduate Student Paper Award, awarded to “Herodotus and the Case for Persian Freedom” by the Northeastern Political Science Association.
2019	James Madison Award for Outstanding Ashbrook Scholar, Ashland University.
2019	Charles M. Parton Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Ashland University: “Stitching Eudaimonia: Frankenstein and Aristotle on Solitude and the Pursuit of Happiness.”