

**James Lindley Wilson**  
Curriculum Vitae

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**, Chicago, IL. Assistant Professor of Political Science and the College.  
July 2015 to present.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**, Chicago, IL. Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences and  
Harper Fellow in the Society of Fellows, September 2011 – June 2015.

**EDUCATION**

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**, Princeton, N.J.; Ph.D., Politics, 2011; M.A., 2005. Committee: Charles  
R. Beitz (adviser); Philip Pettit; Stephen Macedo.

**YALE LAW SCHOOL**, New Haven, Conn.: J.D., June 2007

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, Mass.: A.B., *summa cum laude* in Social Studies, June 2002

**RESEARCH**

**Manuscript:** *Democratic Equality* (in production Princeton University Press; forthcoming summer 2019).

This book defends democratic decision-making on the grounds that it instantiates valuable relationships of political equality, and uniquely respects citizen autonomy, by sharing equally their control over the contexts of the choices they make. It defends a novel conception of citizen authority in democratic deliberation and representative practices, against conceptions of democracy emphasizing equal causal influence. It applies this conception of political equality to applied institutional controversies, explaining the need to reform the U.S. Senate and Electoral College; why proportional representation is not a universal requirement of democracy; how to identify and respond to racial vote dilution in electoral districting; how to identify and respond to threats to democracy posed by great wealth inequality; and how judicial review might be compatible with democracy.

**Publications** (Copies or abstracts available upon request)

“Deliberation, Democracy, and the Rule of Reason in Aristotle’s *Politics*.” *American Political Science Review* 105 (2011): 259-74.

“Does Kant Justify Liberal Intervention?” *Review of Politics* 73 (2011): 633-47 (with Jonathan Monten).

“Getting Personal with Citizens and Criminals: Comments on *Democratic Rights* and Punishment.” *Representation* 47 (2011): 39-49.

Review of Alan Thomas, *Republic of Equals: Predistribution and Property-Owning Democracy* (Oxford, 2016). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, July 17, 2017 (not peer-reviewed).

“The Declaration of Independence Isn’t Egalitarian Enough.” Invited contribution to an online symposium on Danielle Allen’s *Our Declaration* (Liveright, 2014) at the blog *Crooked Timber*, June 2015 (not peer-reviewed).

James Lindley Wilson

**Working Papers** (Abstracts or drafts available on request.)

“An Autonomy-Based Argument for Democracy.”

“Against Pure Instrumentalism about Democracy.”

“Making the All-Affected Principle Safe for Democracy.”

“The Complexity of Majority Rule in the *Federalist Papers*.”

“Democratic Theory in a Racially Unjust Reality.”

### **Research Interests**

Democratic theory and constitutionalism; egalitarianism; international political theory, particularly just war theory and global democratic theory; racial justice, particularly anti-discrimination theory; the history of political philosophy, particularly democratic thought; constitutional law; election law.

### **TEACHING**

**Courses Taught** (evaluations and syllabi available upon request)

Introduction to Political Theory; Democracy and Equality; Racial Justice and Injustice; Global Justice and the Politics of Empire; Contemporary Egalitarianism; The Ethics of War; John Rawls’ Theory of Justice; Classics of Social and Political Thought I-III.

### **Extracurricular Teaching**

The Warrior-Scholar Project, University of Chicago: led discussion sessions on political theory texts for military veterans as part of a program to prepare them for university study (September 2015; June 2017).

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Invited Discussant, **Dartmouth Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop**, November 2018.

(Invited) “Oligarchic Threats to Political Equality: An Analysis and the Case for Reform.” **UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**, May 2018.

(Invited) “Making the All-Affected Principle Safe for Democracy.” **Northwestern University Global Theory Workshop**, Evanston, January 2018; **Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Vancouver, April 2017.

(Invited) “Political Equality Does Not Require Proportional Representation.” **University of East Anglia Political Science Workshop**, Norwich, U.K., October 2017.

“A Social-Egalitarian Argument for Democracy.” **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Boston, September 2018.

Discussant and Chair, “Deliberation and Decision-Making” panel. **Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Vancouver, April 2017.

“An Autonomy-Based Argument for Democracy.” **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Philadelphia, September 2016.

“The Importance of an Equal Status Ideal in Arguing for Equality.” **Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Meeting**, London, June 2016.

“Against Instrumentalism about Democracy.” **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 2016.

(Invited) “Finding Time for Democracy: A Theory of Political Equality.” **University of Chicago Political Science Department**, December 2014; **Columbia University Political Science Department**, November 2014; **Harvard University Government Department**, November 2013; **University College London Political Science Department**, February 2012.

(Invited) “Majority Rule and the *Federalist Papers*: Democracy, Equality, and Constitutionalism.” Conference on “Three Revolutions? Remaking Political Society in Britain & America, 1640-1865,” **Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, Yale University**, June 2012; **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 2013.

Invited Panel Chair and Participant, “Utopia: Promise or Peril?” Conference, **Bowling Green State University Philosophy Department**, April 2014.

“Democratic Theory in a Racially Unjust Reality,” **Weissbourd Conference, University of Chicago**, May 2015; **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Washington, D.C., August 2014.

“Political Equality and Fair Aggregation Procedures.” **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 2014; **University of Chicago Society of Fellows Workshop**, Chicago, February 2013.

Discussant and Chair, “Immigration and Justice” panel. **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 2013

“Rejecting the Favoritism of the Few: Political Equality and the Regulation of Democratic Processes.” **University of Chicago Society of Fellows Annual Symposium**, Chicago, October 2013; **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, August 2013.

Discussant and Chair, “Global Justice” panel. **Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 2013.

“Democracy and Equality of Political Status.” **University of Chicago Political Theory Workshop**, Chicago, December 2012; **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, August 2012. (On program and paper circulated; meeting canceled); **University of Chicago Society of Fellows Workshop**, Chicago, March 2012.

“A Theory of Fair Democratic Deliberation.” **University of Chicago Society of Fellows Annual Symposium**, Chicago, October 2012; **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Washington, D.C., September 2010.

“Finding Time for Democracy: A Theory of Political Equality” **University of Chicago Society of Fellows Annual Symposium**, Chicago, September 2011; **American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Toronto, September 2009.

James Lindley Wilson

## PH.D. ADVISING

### *Completed Dissertations*

Jay Cost, “One Great American System: Madison, Hamilton, and the Problem of Republican Nationalism” (committee member)

Ramon Lopez, “The Harmony of Politics: Unity and Difference in Moral Conflict” (committee member)

### *Current Ph.D. students*

Ram Sabaratnam, “Sexual Liberty” (co-chair)

David Yanowski, “Hobbes’ Thucydides” (committee member)

Stephanie Ahrens, “The American Founding and the Problem of Political Trust” (committee member)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Collegiate Co-Chair, University of Chicago Society of Fellows**, Summer 2012-Summer 2013  
Elected by the Fellows to organize Society events and to represent the interests of the Society.

**Journal Submission Reviewer** for *American Political Science Review* (twice); *Political Theory*; *Theoria*; *American Journal of Political Science* (twice); *The Journal of Politics* (twice); *Perspectives on Politics*; *Critical Review of Social and Political Philosophy*; *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*; *Journal of Social Philosophy*; *Contemporary Political Theory*; *Res Publica*; *Acta Politica*.

**Faculty Co-Chair, University of Chicago Political Theory Workshop**, Fall 2016, Winter 2018

## REFERENCES

### **Charles R. Beitz**

Edwards Sanford Professor of Politics  
Princeton University  
cbeitz@princeton.edu

### **Philip Pettit**

Rockefeller Professor of Politics and Human Values  
Princeton University  
ppettit@princeton.edu

### **John P. McCormick**

Professor of Political Science  
University of Chicago  
jpmccorm@uchicago.edu

### **Eric Beerbohm**

Professor of Government  
Harvard University  
beerbohm@fas.harvard.edu