

JOHN ARTHUR DEARBORN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Assistant Professor of Political Science, July 2021 – present

- Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Dean’s Faculty Fellow
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Postdoctoral Associate & Lecturer, July 2019 – June 2021

- Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
- The Policy Lab, Institution for Social and Policy Studies
- Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Ph.D., Political Science, May 2019

Dissertation: “The Representative Presidency: The Ideational Foundations of Institutional Development and Durability” (received Departmental Distinction)

- 2020 E. E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation on American government, APSA
- 2020 George C. Edwards III Award for best dissertation on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, APSA

Certificate of College Teaching Preparation, May 2017

M.Phil, Political Science, December 2016

M.A., Political Science, December 2014

University of Connecticut, Honors Program, Storrs, CT

B.A., Political Science, May 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

Congressional Expectations of Presidential Self-Restraint (with Jack B. Greenberg). Cambridge University Press (Elements in American Politics series), 2025.

- 2025 Patrick J. Fett Award for best paper on the scientific study of Congress and the presidency, MPSA.

Power Shifts: Congress and Presidential Representation. University of Chicago Press (Chicago Studies in American Politics series), 2021.

- 2022 Richard E. Neustadt Award for best book on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, APSA

- Reviewed in *Congress & the Presidency*, *Party Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*
- Subject of New Books Network (Political Science) podcast
- Subject of “New Perspectives of Presidential Power” roundtable on 3 new books on the presidency, Vanderbilt University (2022)
- Subject of author-meets-critics panel at American Political Science Association meeting (2021)

Phantoms of a Beleaguered Republic: The Deep State and the Unitary Executive (with Stephen Skowronek and Desmond King). Oxford University Press, 2021. Expanded paperback, 2022.

- Reviewed in *American Political Thought*, *American Review of Public Administration*, *Balkanization* symposium, *Choice*, *Congress & the Presidency*, *Foreign Affairs*, *La Vie des idées*, *Law & Liberty*, *The New Rambler*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Studies Review*, *Politique américaine*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Ricerche di storia politica*, *Survival*, *U.S. Studies Online*, *3Streams*
- Subject of New Books Network (Political Science), New Books Network (Politics & Polemics), and Scholars’ Circle podcasts
- Subject of author-meets-critics panel at American Society for Legal History conference (2022)
- Subject of virtual panel hosted by the Academy of Political Science / *Political Science Quarterly* (2022)
- Subject of roundtable on 5 new books on the Presidency, Administrative State, and Separation of Powers at Midwest Political Science Association meeting (2022)
- Subject of author-meets-critics panel at American Political Science Association meeting (2021)

Articles & Book Chapters

“Contesting the Reach of the Rights Revolution: The Reagan Administration and the Unitary Executive,” *Studies in American Political Development*, forthcoming.

- 2025 Founders Award Honoring Peri Arnold for best paper on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, APSA
- Subject of Science of Politics podcast

“Congress, the President, and the Constitutional Order,” in *Congress Reconsidered*, 13th ed., eds. Lawrence C. Dodd, Bruce I. Oppenheimer, Ruth Bloch Rubin, and C. Lawrence Evans (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2025), 355-371.

“The ‘Two Mr. Wilsons’: Party Government, Personal Leadership, and Woodrow Wilson’s Political Thought,” *Congress & the Presidency* 47, no. 1 (2020): 32-61.

“The Foundations of the Modern Presidency: Presidential Representation, the Unitary Executive Theory, and the Reorganization Act of 1939,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 49, no. 1 (March 2019): 185-203.

“The ‘Proper Organs’ for Presidential Representation: A Fresh Look at the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921,” *Journal of Policy History* 31, no. 1 (January 2019): 1-41.

- 2018 Founders Award Honoring Thomas Cronin for best graduate student paper on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, APSA

Review Essay

“American Imperial Development,” *Journal of Politics* 81, no. 2 (April 2019): e44-e49.

Book Reviews

Review of *The Paradox of Power: Statebuilding in America, 1754-1920* by Ballard C. Campbell, *Political Science Quarterly* 138, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 107-108

Review of *The Unitary Presidency* by Graham G. Dodds, *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55, no. 3 (September 2022): 761-763.

Review of *The Idea of Presidential Representation: An Intellectual and Political History* by Jeremy D. Bailey, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 51, no. 4 (December 2021): 961-963.

Review of *Judicializing the Administrative State: The Rise of the Independent Regulatory Commissions in the United States, 1883-1937* by Hiroshi Okayama, *Pacific and American Studies* 21 (2021): 145-151.

Review of *Ideas of Power: The Politics of American Party Ideology Development* by Verlan Lewis, *The Forum* 18, no. 1 (2020): 131-134.

Review of *Presidents on Political Ground: Leaders in Action and What They Face* by Bruce Miroff, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 49, no. 4 (December 2019): 992-993.

Public Writing

“At the Mercy of Presidential Self-Restraint” (with Jack B. Greenberg), *Lawfare*, April 16, 2025.

“How a once-fringe theory of presidential power is upending American government” (with Stephen Skowronek and Desmond King), *Salon*, February 8, 2025.

“Biden says that the infrastructure bill shows the presidency can deliver for ‘all Americans,’” *The Monkey Cage*, *Washington Post*, November 29, 2021.

“How to Tame the Presidency after Trump” (with Stephen Skowronek and Desmond King), *New York Times*, March 16, 2021.

“Trump waged war on the ‘Deep State.’ Can Biden’s ‘good government’ approach work now?” (with Stephen Skowronek and Desmond King), *Salon*, February 15, 2021.

ONGOING RESEARCH

Working Papers

“Presidential Precedent: The Carter Administration, the EEOC, and the Rise of the Unitary Executive Theory”

“‘Real Friends’ versus ‘Pretended Friends’: Strategic Preferences and the Origins of U.S. Federal Tax Policy, 1909-1916”

In Progress

Presidential Power after the Rights Revolution (book project on the Presidential Power, the Rights Revolution, and the Administrative State)

“‘The Civil Rights Action is in the Executive Branch’: Reconsidering the Rise of Nixon’s Administrative Presidency”

AWARDS

2025 Founders Award Honoring Peri Arnold for best paper on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, American Political Science Association

2025 Patrick J. Fett Award for best paper on the scientific study of Congress and the presidency, Midwest Political Science Association

2024 Robert H. Birkby Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University

2023 Emerging Scholar Award, Presidents and Executive Politics section, American Political Science Association

2022 Richard E. Neustadt Award for best book on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, American Political Science Association

2020 E. E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation on American government, American Political Science Association

2020 George C. Edwards III Award for best dissertation on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, American Political Science Association

2018 Founders Award Honoring Thomas Cronin for best graduate student paper on executive politics, Presidents and Executive Politics section, American Political Science Association

GRANTS

2019 Congressional Research Grant, Dirksen Congressional Center, Pekin, IL, \$3000

2019 Travel Grant, Shawnee Trail Conference, \$250

2018 James and Sylvia Thayer Short-Term Research Fellowship, UCLA Library Special Collections, \$920

2018 Travel Grant, Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas, \$750

2018 Visiting Scholars Grant, Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma, \$721.82

2017 Center for the Study of American Politics Grant, Yale University, \$1000

2017 Congressional Research Grant, Dirksen Congressional Center, Pekin, IL, \$2700

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

2024: Wofford College; American Politics Workshop, University of Virginia

2023: CLEAR Bookmarked Series, Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California (virtual)

2021: American Government Seminar, Georgetown University; Law and Governance Series, Penn Program on Regulation, University of Pennsylvania (virtual)

2018: Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma

TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

2024: Hamilton College (virtual)

2022: Rutgers University (virtual); William & Mary (virtual); University of California, Berkeley (virtual); Vanderbilt University; Yale University (virtual)

2021: Rutgers University (virtual); Yale University (virtual)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Conference: 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025 (upcoming)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference: 2017, 2018, 2022, 2024, 2025

Southern Political Science Association Conference: 2024

Western Political Science Association Conference: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2025 (upcoming)

Congress and History Conference: 2019, 2021, 2024

Toronto Political Development Workshop: 2022, 2024

American Society for Legal History Conference: 2018, 2022

Policy History Conference / Workshop: 2018, 2024

Annual Conference of the American Politics Group, UK Political Studies Association: 2025

Social Science History Association Conference: 2025 (upcoming)

Conference on Politics and Law in the Administrative State, Yale University: 2025 (upcoming)

The Evolving Executive Conference, Vanderbilt University: 2022

American Political Thought Workshop: 2019

Shawnee Trail Conference: 2019

Politics and History Conference: 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University, Department of Political Science

American Political Development (Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021)

American Political Institutions (graduate) (Fall 2025 - upcoming, Spring 2024, Spring 2022)

American Political Thought (Spring 2026 – upcoming, Spring 2024, Spring 2022)

Ideas and Presidential Power: From the Founding to the Present (Spring 2026 – upcoming)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees: current, Kaleigh Ruiz; completed, Lucas Helms

Master's Thesis Committees: current, Giacomo Bridi (Free University of Berlin)

Undergraduate Thesis Supervisor: current, Jayce Pollard, Joseph Udina; completed, Mia Kamen

Yale University, Department of Political Science

Instructor of Record

Congress: How Legislating Works (Spring 2021, Spring 2020)

Ideas and Presidential Power: From the Founding to Trump (Fall 2020)

Ideas of Representation in American Political Development (Fall 2019)

Advising

Senior Essay Adviser for 14 students (between Fall 2019 and Spring 2021)

Teaching Fellow

Politics of U.S. Public Policy (Spring 2019)

Lincoln's Statecraft & Rhetoric (Grader for Fall 2018; TF for Spring 2016)

Intro to American Politics (Spring 2017; Fall 2015)

Law, Leadership, and the Political Development of the American Presidency (Fall 2016)

SERVICE

To the Profession

Reviewer

Journals: *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Political Thought, British Journal of Political Science, Congress & the Presidency, History of Political Thought, Journal of Policy History, Journal of Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Quarterly, Polity, Presidential Studies Quarterly, Studies in American Political Development*

Presses: Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, University Press of Kansas, Hackett Publishing, Palgrave Macmillan

Presidents and Executive Politics Section, APSA

Selection Committee for Legacy Award, 2024

Selection Committee for George C. Edwards III Dissertation Award, 2022

Selection Committee for Founders Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2019

Panel Chair / Discussant:

American Political Science Association Conference: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025 (upcoming)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference: 2022, 2025

Southern Political Science Association Conference: 2024

Western Political Science Association Conference: 2025

Toronto Political Development Workshop: 2024

Conference on Politics and Law in the Administrative State, Yale University: 2025 (upcoming)

To the University

Faculty participant in Dare to Grow Campaign Launch event (April 2023)

Steering Committee, Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Center for the American Presidency (2021-2022)

To the Department

Professional Development Seminar on Networking (Spring 2024)

American Politics Field Convenor (2023-2024, Fall 2022)

Undergraduate Committee (2021-2022)

Professional Development Seminar on Qualitative Methods (Fall 2021)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Yale Community Rowing, Derby, CT

Senior Instructor, June 2010 – July 2018

- Assistant Coach for Summer, Fall, and Winter rowing programs
- Worked with Middle School, High School, Youth Learn-to-Row, Adult, and Community Outreach programs during Summer and High School programs during Fall/Winter
- Taught rowing skills, motivated rowers, and fostered a positive team environment for participants
- Developed and implemented academic and team-building activities for various groups, including a College Counseling program