

David Peters



Contact Details:

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Professional Statement

Engaging and empowering lecturer, skilled at adapting to the needs of students. Dynamic and creative researcher. Adept at leveraging my breadth of knowledge and interdisciplinary experience to provide new perspectives and insights.

Skills

- Excellent communication and instruction
- Interdisciplinary research
- Collaborative knowledge production
- Public engagement
- Integrity, creativity, and adaptability

Education

PhD Intellectual History

University of Glasgow – Glasgow, UK
Supervised by Dr Ralph Jessop
2016-2022

Thesis: “James Wilson’s Reidian Democratic Political Theory: One Founder’s contributions to the US Constitution.”

My research concerns Scottish born American Founder James Wilson. It focuses on his adherence to the Common-Sense Philosophy of Thomas Reid in the development of his own political theory and radically democratic contributions to the development of the US Constitution. Moreover, it explores how Wilson’s contribution could be used to inform contemporary American politics and constitutional law.

MSc. Intellectual History

University of Edinburgh – Edinburgh, UK
2011-2012

Thesis: “James Wilson’s Common Sense: How and why James Wilson used Thomas Reid’s Common Sense Philosophy in his *Lectures on Law*.”

B.A. Psychology

Gordon College – Wenham, MA USA
2005-2009

Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*

Teaching Experience

Lecturer – American University of Paris

Paris, France

Fall 2022 - Winter 2023 & Fall 2024 - Present

- Developed two new cross-listed interdisciplinary course offerings: 18th Century Political Thought & Constitutional Law; and Legacy of the Enlightenment: Nature, Law, & Politics.
- Engaged and inspired students via lectures and course discussions.
- Adapted pedagogical methods to accommodate students learning styles and disabilities.
- Actively developed students writing skills through one-on-one meetings and extensive feedback.
- Provided students with help and advice on scholarship application essays and potential publications as well as writing recommendation letters for academic and career opportunities.
- Advised students on future academic and career goals.
- Directed students in crisis to the appropriate university resources.

Courses - taught

- Foundations of Modern Politics (7 sections)
- Contemporary World (1 Section)

Courses – created and taught

- 18th Century Political Thought & Constitutional Law (1 Section)
- Legacy of the Enlightenment: Nature, Law, & Politics (1 Section)
- Understanding and Addressing Political and Epistemological Division (1 Section)

Guest Lecturer (Remote) – Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Medan City, North Sumatra, Indonésie

Spring 2023

- Provided several engaging lectures on American Folklore.
- Facilitated constructive and engaging discussion.
- Encouraged intercultural exchange and understanding that instilled a sense of value and pride in the students' home culture.

Course

- American Folklore

GTA – University of Glasgow

Dumfries, UK

2019

- Facilitated discussions that highlighted the value of interdisciplinary collaborative research.

Course

- Individuals & Society in Literature & Film. Level 2

GTA/ Co-Leader – University of Glasgow

International Summer School – Environment, Change, and the Future: The Scottish Experience

Dumfries, UK

June 2017 – July 2017

- Helped organise and co-facilitated the three-week summer school, including logistics, days out, lectures, seminars, and evaluations.

- Delivered lectures and facilitated seminar discussions on my own research and that of collaborating guest lectures.
- Participated in assessing and evaluating students' oral presentations.
- Provided student support and pastoral care.

Substitute/ Supply Teacher – Londonderry Middle & High School

Londonderry, NH USA

2015-2016

- Delivered lessons in multiple subjects with little preparation.
- Effectively managed group dynamics and increased student well-being.

Publications, Conferences, and Public Engagement

“James Wilson’s Reidian Revolution Principle.” *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*. (Scheduled for publication spring 2025).

“James Wilson’s Revolutionary Critique of and Alternative to Contract Theory.” (December 2025).

Presented at the Renewing the Social Contract International Conference organised by the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at the American University of Paris.

“King Hancock: The Man Behind the Signature.” *Tocqueville 21. The Center for Critical Democracy Studies, AUP*. 3/6/2024.

<https://tocqueville21.com/books/king-hancock-the-man-behind-the-signature/>

Keynote Speaker: “Progress & Justice: Enlightenment conceptions inhibiting sustainable development?” (August 2023).

Presented at 1st International Seminar on Language, Literature, Education, Arts, and Culture in Conjunction with the 5th International Seminar on Language, culture, and History. Organised by the Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia.

“Division and Radicalisation in American Politics” (April 2023).

Public lecture: Espace Canopy as part of the D.Rad project.

Keynote Speaker: “The Power of Textual Interpretations: James Wilson, The US Constitution, & American Political Ideology” (September 2022).

Presented at The Third International Conference on English Language, Literature and Culture. Organised by the Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia.

“Hijacked History: Correcting the dehumanizing philosophical frame of the American founding myth with a dissentient Scottish vision of American democracy” (June 2019).

Public lecture: Wigtown – Day of Curiosity.

“Thomas Reid and James Wilson: Dissenting voices confronting modernity and rethinking the foundations of American civil society” (December 2018).

Presented as part of the “Solaway Seminar Series.” Organised by the University of Glasgow School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

“Re-examining Reid’s Legacy and the Problem of its Significance in American Jurisprudence” (March 2018).

Presented at the Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy’s Spring Conference. Organised by the Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy at Princeton University.

Activities

Director – For Enjoyment CIC, Dumfries UK

Aug. 2018 – Present

- Helped create an inclusive community that empowers individuals and increases well-being through creative practice.
- Helped develop business plans, grant proposals, and new programmes.

Blogger in Residence – Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities, Glasgow UK

Jan. 2019 – June 2019

- Created content.
- Managed the publishing of guest blogs.
- Leveraged social media to increase engagement and develop community.

Founder/ President – PhD Society, University of Glasgow, Glasgow UK

Sept. 2018 – May 2020

- Worked to create a welcoming inclusive supportive community across all the University of Glasgow Colleges.
- Empowered PhD researchers, increased community well-being, and provided opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Acted as liaison and advocate to improve communication between administration and PhD Researchers to enhance researchers' experience and outcomes.
- Organised multiple on-going social and research related events.

Awards

Graduate Research and Teaching Travel Award (GRATA) 2017-18

University of Glasgow – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Mar. 2018

£658 awarded to cover travel expenses and conference fees to present a paper at the Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy's Spring Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dean's Scholarship

Gordon College

Aug. 2005 – May 2009

\$10,000 per annum tuition reduction, awarded for academic achievement in high school and dependent upon maintaining a high level of academic success throughout undergraduate studies.

Skills Development

SGSAH Summer School: 2018

Build your own conference; Public Engagement for Researchers; Funding the imagination; Publishing for Arts and Humanities Graduates; Caring for the Writing, Caring for the Writer; Prioritising after the PhD.

University of Glasgow: 2016 – 2018

Writing for Publication ARTS; Practice Research; GRAD on the island; Planning your career; Writing about texts; Style Clinic; Paragraph Clinic; 1st year workshop 3; Research Integrity Arts; Publishing your journal article; The Final Hurdle: Preparing for VV; Writing for Popular Audiences.

Employment History

Carpenter – CMD Construction

Haverhill, MA USA
Aug. 2013 – Aug. 2015

- Developed problem solving and project management skills.

Tutor – Abacus Tutoring Company

New Hampshire
Jan. 2013 – June 2013

- Adapted and responded to the individual needs of disadvantaged students, resulting in significant student progress, reaching and exceeding grade level competency.

Help Desk Technician (promoted to) Systems Administrator – Eliza Corp.

Danvers, MA USA
Aug. 2005 – Aug. 2011

- Helped design, document, and install an offsite data centre.
- Helped create and document telecom solutions and improvements.
- Managed numerous projects through change management protocols.
- Liaised with other departments and upper management on behalf of the IT department.
- Coordinated with third party suppliers and service providers.

IT Competency

Microsoft Office suit (including Visio and Access); SPSS; SharePoint; CMD; RDP; VPN; Active Directory.

References

Dr Stephen Sawyer – *Ballantine-Leavitt of History and Director of the Center for Critical Democracy Studies*

American University of Paris
ssawyer@aup.edu

Dr Peter Hägel – *Associate Professor, Program Coordinator for Philosophy, Politics & Economics, Department Chair*

American University of Paris
phaegel@aup.edu

Dr Bradford Bow – *Senior Lecturer*

University of Aberdeen
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Dr Ralph Jessop – *Senior Lecturer (retired)*

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