

Ben Peterson

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Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2021.

Fields: Political Theory, Public Policy and Public Administration.

Committee: Cary J. Nederman (Chair), James R. Rogers, Benjamin G. Ogden, Erin A. Snider, Hassan Bashir.

Dissertation Title: “Islamic Reform and the Challenge of Nomocracy: The Constitutional Theories of Fazlur Rahman and Javed Ahmad Ghamidi.”

Master of Public Policy, Pepperdine School of Public Policy, Malibu, CA, 2016.

Fields: International Relations, Economics.

B.S. History Pre-Law, *summa cum laude*, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, OK, 2011.

Employment

August 2021 – Present. Assistant Professor, Abilene Christian University Department of Government and Criminal Justice.

August 2013 – May 2016. Graduate Research Assistant, Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership.

August 2012 – August 2013. Behavioral Compliance Analyst, Cenpatco Managed Behavioral Healthcare.

August 2011 – May 2012. Program Assistant, Middle East Studies Program.

Fellowships

Summer 2025 – Present. Miller Fellow at the Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History.

Spring 2024 – Present. Fellow at the Center for Christian Studies.

Summer 2022. Wilbur Fellow at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

Monographs

Community, Character, and the Governance of the Social Commons: Sanctuaries of Order. Bloomsbury Academic. Forthcoming, June 2026.

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Foundations of ‘Authentic Democracy’: Christian Political Thought in the Walgreen Foundation Lectures.” 2024. *Political Science Reviewer* 48(1), 293-330.

“Social Justice as a Standard for Institutions and Policy.” 2023. *Journal of Markets and Morality* 26(2), 231-255.

“Visions of the Islamic State: Fazlur Rahman and Islamic Nomocracy.” 2023. *Islamic Studies* 62(2), 161–188.

“Republican Institutionalism for a ‘Government of Laws’: John Adams’s Polybian Political Science.” 2019. *American Political Thought* 8(3), 323-346.

“Tocqueville and Qutb: Religion, Democracy, and the Needs of the Soul.” *The Review of Faith and International Affairs*, 14(1), 89-101.

Book Chapters

“Christianity.” *Resource Handbook on the History of Political Thought*. Cary J. Nederman and Guillaume Bogiaris, eds. 110-120. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Elgar Publishing, 2024.

“Beyond Liberalisms and Illiberalisms of Fear: Ecclesiocentrism, Toleration, and Liberty.” In *Hell Shall Not Prevail: Essays in Ecclesiocentric Postliberalism*. James R. Rogers and Peter Leithart, eds. 115-128. West Monroe, Louisiana: Athanasius Press, 2024.

With Cary J. Nederman. “Natural Law and Human Rights: Continuities and Discontinuities.” *The Cambridge Handbook of Natural Law and Human Rights*. Tom Angier, Iain T. Benson, and Mark D. Retter, eds. 31-44. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Additional Scholarship

Book Review (2026): *Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies*, by N. T. WRIGHT and MICHAEL F. BIRD. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2024. 208 pp. \$22.99. *Restoration Quarterly*, 68(1), 54-56.

“Getting Over the ‘Blue Laws’ Blues.” 2024. Book Review: *Regime Change: Toward a Postliberal Future*, by Patrick J. Deneen. Sentinel, 2023. Pp. xvi/169. Hardcover, \$30.00. *Pietas* 3(2), 107-114.

Guest Editor, *Journal of Christian Studies* II(2). The Church and the Polis. May 2023.

With Zachary McCartney. “Embracing the Daniel Option: Forming Martyrs and Seeking Peace in the Post-Christian Babylon.” 2023. *Journal of Christian Studies* II(2), 19-31.

Selected Popular Writings (author pages)

Comment. <https://comment.org/contributors/ben-peterson/>.

Ethika Politika. <https://ethikapolitika.org/author/ben-peterson/>.

Law and Liberty. <https://lawliberty.org/author/ben-peterson/>.

Journal of Free Black Thought. <https://freeblackthought.com/voices/ben-peterson>.

Public Discourse. <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/author/ben-peterson/>.

National Affairs. <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/authors/detail/ben-peterson>.

The Imaginative Conservative. <https://theimaginativeconservative.org/author/ben-peterson>.

The New Atlantis. <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/authors/ben-peterson>.

The Optimist. <https://acuoptimist.com/author/bap21b/>.

Conference Participation

Panel Organizer

Fragile Neighborhoods: Renewing Our Social Infrastructure. Ciceronian Society, March 2025.

Ciceronian Political Thought. Ciceronian Society, March 2025.

Constructing Christian Identity: The Church as Family, Polis, and Nation. Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, October 2023.

We Built Reality: Social Science and Christian Thought. Ciceronian Society, March 2023.

Abolition or Reform? Christian Thinkers and Practitioners on Prisons, Policing, and Law. Christian Scholars' Conference, June 2022.

Christian Social Thought and Criminal Justice Reform. Christian Scholars' Conference, June 2021.

Liberal Constitutionalism in Muslim-Majority Countries: Theory and Practice. American Political Science Association, September 2020. (Virtual)

Presenter

"Christianity: Religion of Liberty and Equality?" Association for Core Texts and Courses, March 2026.

"The Ecclesiological Background of American Constitutionalism: John Wise, Thomas Hooker, and Congregationalist Political Theory." Ciceronian Society Conference, March 2026.

"Tough Love in Tough Neighborhoods: Renewing Social Order and Hope through Sacrificial Love." Makarios Conference, May-June 2025.

"Beyond 'Law and Order' and 'Root Causes': Christian Social Thought, Criminal Justice, and Social Policy." Midwest Political Science Association, April 2025. (Virtual)

"Republican Institutionalism and the Republic of Virtue." Ciceronian Society Conference, March 2025.

Remarks on Patrick Deneen, *Regime Change*. Ciceronian Society Conference, March 2024.

"All Things in Common: The Political Theory of Acts." Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, October 2023.

"'Policing Was Never Meant to Solve All Those Problems': Social Policy and Informal Social Control." Markets and Society Conference, October 2023.

"New Norms He Gave Us: The Church as Ordering Social Convention." Academy of Philosophy and Letters, June 2023.

"Governing the 'Social Commons'." Midwest Political Science Association, April 2023.

"Beyond Liberalisms and Illiberalisms of Fear: Ecclesiocentrism, Toleration, and Liberty." Civitas, October 2022.

"The Walgreen Lectures in the History of Postwar Christian Political Thought." Ciceronian Society, March 2022.

"Ecclesial Accountability Today: Membership and Two-Way Accountability in Congregational Polity." Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, October 2021.

"Islamic Modernist Theory in Debates on Family Law Reform." American Political Science Association, September 2020. (Virtual)

"A 'Mirage' or a Must-Have? 'Social Justice' as a Standard for Institutions and Policy." Liberal Arts International Conference at Texas A&M University in Qatar, March 2019.

"'The World is a Garden': Legitimacy and Political Wisdom in *The Muqaddimah*." American Political Science Association, August 2017.

"Divine Sovereignty and the Essence of Democracy: Maritain and Maududi." Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought, March 2018.

Invited Talks

“Federalism and National Supremacy.” Texas Law-Related Education, November 2025.

“Does Your Vote Matter?” NAACP-Abilene, August 2024.

“Pondering the Church Political: Power, Purpose, and Ecclesial Structure in Acts.” Center for Christian Studies, November 2023.

“What is Conservatism?” Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, July 2022.

“Just and Unjust Punishment: What Can the Christian Tradition Contribute to Justice Reform?” Christian Legal Society, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, October 2020. (Virtual)

Courses Taught

American National Government, Abilene Christian University Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

American Political Thought, Abilene Christian University Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Fall 2025.

American Presidency, Abilene Christian University Fall 2022 Spring 2024.

Ancient Political Theory, Abilene Christian University Fall 2022 Fall 2023, Fall 2024.

American Public Policy, Abilene Christian University Spring 2024, Spring 2026.

Congress and the Legislative Process, Abilene Christian University Spring 2023, Spring 2025.

Contemporary Political Theory, Abilene Christian University Spring 2026.

Global Political Thought, Texas A&M University Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

Modern Political Theory, Abilene Christian University Spring 2023, Spring 2025.

Politics, Citizenship, and Community: Introduction to Political Science, Abilene Christian University Fall 2023, Fall 2024 (with Dr. Candice Orbals-Wiser), Fall 2025.

Political Science/Government and Criminal Justice Research Methods, Abilene Christian University Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025.

States and Federal Systems, Abilene Christian University Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

University Service

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Academic Council, Abilene Christian University, Fall 2022 – Spring 2026.

Institutional Review Board, Abilene Christian University, May 2024 – Present.

Undergraduate Research Council, Fall 2025 – Present.

Academic Service

Reviewer – *Islamic Studies*, *Political Science Reviewer*

External dissertation examiner – Samantha Bennie, University of Pretoria

Current Associational Memberships

Academy of Philosophy and Letters

Association for Political Theory

Christian Higher Education Foundation (board member)

Ciceronian Society (board member)

Midwest Political Science Association