

Alexander H. Kaufman

Curriculum Vitae

1. Academic History

Highest Degree:

Ph.D, University of Chicago, March 1996

MPP, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1990

JD, Columbia Law School, 1983

Academic positions:

Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia, Fall 2018-Present

Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Science, University of Georgia, Spring 2006-2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia, Spring 2000-2006

2. Resident Instruction

Kaufman has taught a wide range of courses since he joined the faculty of the University of Georgia in 2000: four undergraduate courses, Hobbes to Nietzsche (POLS 4020), Legal Theory (POLS 4080), Social Justice (POLS 4090) and Social Justice (honors) (4090H), and four graduate political science courses, Problems in Democratic Theory (POLS 6040), Theories of Justice (POLS 6080), Theories of Equality (POLS 6090), and Recent Political Thought (POLS 8090). In addition, Kaufman has incorporated research instruction into his upper level undergraduate courses by mentoring students through research courses such as POLS 4960. Kaufman has served on eleven dissertation committees, and as a major professor for three doctoral students. He has served on eleven Master Theses committees, directing three. He has supervised research projects by fifteen students.

3. Scholarly Activities

a. Publications

Books:

**Democracy, Liberty, and Judicial Review* (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

**Realizing Equality in Policy* (Michigan University Press, 2024) (edited volume)

**Rawls's Egalitarianism* (Cambridge University Press: 2018)

**Distributive Justice and Access to Advantage: G. A. Cohen's Egalitarianism* (Cambridge University Press: 2015) (edited volume).

**Capabilities Equality: Basic Issues and Problems* (Routledge: December 2005) (edited volume).

**Welfare in the Kantian State* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

Journal Articles:

*"Reasoning About Distributive Justice: Democratic Equality and Basic Social Institutions." *Philosophy and Public Issues* 10: 2 (2020).

*"The Core of an Unqualified Case for Judicial Review." *Brooklyn Law Review* 82: 1 (January 2017): 1-54 (co-author: M. Runnels).

*"A Satisfactory Minimum Conception of Justice: Reconsidering Rawls's Maximin Argument." *Economics and Philosophy* 29: 3 (November 2013): 349-69.

*"Political Liberalism, Constructivism, and Global Justice." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 10:5 (2013): 1-24.

*"Rights and Disagreement." *Philosophy Study* 3:3 (2013): 228-45.

*"Rawls and Kantian Constructivism." *Kantian Review* 17: 2 (July 2012): 227-56.

*"Stability, Fit, and Consensus." *Journal of Politics* Volume 71: 2 (April 2009): 533-43.

*"Capabilities and Freedom." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 14: 3 (September 2006): 289-300.

*"Rawls's Practical Conception of Justice: Opinion, Tradition and Objectivity in Political

Liberalism." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 3: 1 (March 2006): 23-43.

*"Choice, Responsibility and Equality." *Political Studies* 52 (December 2004): 819-836.

*"The Myth of the Patterned Principle: Rawls, Nozick and Entitlements." *Polity* 36: 4 (July 2004): 559-578.

*"Policy Experiments and Poverty Politics." *Social Service Review* 74: 4 (December 2000): 507-532 (co-author: Evelyn Brodtkin).

*"Hegel and the Ontological Critique of Liberalism." *American Political Science Review* 91: 4 (1997): 807-817.

*"Community and Indigence: A Hegelian Perspective on Aid to the Poor." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 5: 1 (March 1997): 69-92.

*"Reason, Self-Legislation and Legitimacy: Conceptions of Freedom in the Political Thought of Rousseau and Kant." *Review of Politics* 59: 1 (Winter 1997): 25-52.

*"Incompletely Theorized Agreement: A Plausible Ideal for Legal Reasoning?" *Georgetown Law Journal* 85: 2 (December 1996): 395-415.

Book Chapters:

"Equal Access to Advantage." In *The Routledge Companion to Equality* (Routledge 2026).

"Income Inequality and Poverty." In *the Oxford Companion to Rawls* (Oxford University Press, 2025).

"Democratic Equality and Basic Social Institutions." In *Realizing Equality in Policy* (Michigan University Press, 2024).

"Liberal Theories of Civil Disobedience." In *The Cambridge Companion to Civil Disobedience* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

"Fair Difference of Opportunity." In *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Disability* (Oxford University Press, 2020) (co-author: Adam Cureton).

"Equality and Freedom: Cohen's Critique of Sen." In *Distributive Justice and Access to Advantage: G. A. Cohen's Egalitarianism* (Cambridge University Press: 2015).

"Rawls on Legitimacy, Civil Disobedience, and Revolution." In *The Blackwell Companion to Rawls* (Blackwell, 2014).

"Objectivity." In *A Companion to Political Philosophy. Methods, Tools, Topics* (Ashgate,

2012).

"Distributive Justice." In *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Elsevier 2010).

"Community and Indigence." In *G. W. F. Hegel*, ed. D. Knowles (Ashgate: 2009).

"What Goods Do For Human Beings." In *Capabilities Equality: Basic Issues and Problems*, Alexander Kaufman, ed. Oxford: Routledge, 2005.

"A Sufficiency Theory? A Note." In *Capabilities Equality: Basic Issues and Problems*, Alexander Kaufman, ed. Oxford: Routledge, 2005.

Book Reviews:

Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality by Ronald Dworkin (2000).
Reviewed for *Social Service Review*, Volume 75: 1 (March 2001): 184-187.

Democratic Philosophy and the Politics of Knowledge by R. Peterson (1996).
Reviewed for *Ethics*, Volume 108:3 (April 1998) (book note).

Recognitions and Awards

Invited to present papers at (i) UCSD's 2011 Conference on New Frontiers in Global Justice; (ii) the University of Tennessee's Department of Philosophy (Fall 2011); (iii) an American Philosophical Association panel on Kant and the welfare state (Spring 2012); and (iv) the University of Illinois's Symposium in Honor of the 300th Anniversary of Rousseau's Birth (Spring 2012).

"Choice, Responsibility and Equality" included among *Editor's Five Favorite Articles for 2004* (Political Studies).

Nominated by Political Science Department for SPIA Teaching Award, Fall 2004.

Nominated by Political Science Department for Russell Teaching Award, Fall 2003.

Invited by Honors Program to deliver Honors Lunch Lecture, Spring 2003.

SGA Award for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2001.

Nominated by Political Science Department, University of Chicago, for American Political Science Association's Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation, 1997.

Areas in Which Research is Done:

Distributive Justice, Theories of Equality, Democratic Theory, Legal Reasoning, German Idealism, Justification in Moral and Political Theory, Social Contract Theory, Theory of the Welfare State.

Papers Presented:

Twenty-four convention and invited papers: thirteen at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Association; two at the Western APSA Annual Meeting; and one at the Western American Philosophical Association Annual Meeting; the University of Illinois Special Conference on Rousseau and Inequality; the 2011 UCSD Global Justice Conference; 1993 APPAM Annual Conference; Columbia University's Political Theory Workshop (2006); Georgia State University's Political Philosophy Workshop (2004); the University of Chicago's Ethics Workshop; and the University of Chicago's History of Political Thought Workshop.

4. PUBLIC SERVICE.

Invited Lectures:

"Cohen's Ambiguities." 2011. Lecture to the Department of Philosophy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"Rawls and Ethical Constructivism." 2011. Presentation to the Ethics Workshop, Department of Philosophy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"Capabilities and Freedom." 2004. Lecture to the Political Theory Workshop, Columbia University, New York.

"Rights and Disagreement." 2003. Lecture to the Ethics Workshop, Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University, Atlanta.

"Welfare 'Reform'." 2003. Luncheon lecture to University of Georgia Honors Students.

5. OTHER SERVICE

Referee:

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Ethics, Journal of Political Philosophy, Journal of Politics, Journal of Value Inquiry, Philosophical Quarterly, Political Studies, Polity, Review of Politics, University press publishers (3).

Co-Organizer, 2016, Annual Meeting of the (Southern) North American Kant Study Group.

Organizer and Chair of eight panels at annual meetings of the American Political Science Association.

Discussant on six panels at the American Political Science Association and one panel at the Midwest Political Science Association.

Paper presentations on sixteen panels at annual meetings of the American Political Science Association.

University Service (Since 2002)

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee (2019-present)
Member, Appeals Committee (2020-2022)
Member, Teaching Awards Committee (2020-2022)
Member, Undergraduate Committee (2015-16)
Chair, Theory Recruitment Committee (2011-12)
Member, Theory Recruitment Committee (2002-03, 2004-05)
Member of the Curriculum Committee (2007)
Member of Parthemos Lecture Committee (2003-2005)

SERVICE TO SPIA

SPIA Post Tenure Review Committee (2013-14, for one faculty; 2016-17, for one faculty, 2018-19 for one faculty)
Member, IA Departmental Review Committee (2016-17)
SPIA Council (2010-2012; 2015-2017, 2018-2020)
SPIA Council Subcommittee on Faculty Productivity (2015-16)
Faculty Representative to SPIA at Oxford Program (2010)
Member of the SPIA Undergraduate Committee (2007-08)
Member of the SPIA Graduate Admissions Committee (2006-2007)

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Member, Libraries Committee (2017-20)

University Council (2002-2005)

Member of the Faculty Admissions Committee (2006-2014)

Member of the Faculty Admissions Committee Transfer Task Force (2006- 2007)

Member of the Faculty Admissions Committee Freshman Task Force (2007- 2008)

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Research. My primary field of research is political theory with a particular focus on the distributive justice. My post tenure accomplishments include a university press book, an edited volume, five book chapters, and seven articles that were published in a top tier political science journal (*Journal of Politics*), top tier subfield journals (*Economics and Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Kantian Review*), and a law review.

In the years since tenure, I have published manuscripts extending my pre-tenure research on distributive justice. In several articles, I address controversies relating to the work of John Rawls—the leading contemporary theorist of distributive justice. In particular, these articles examine and respond to Rawls’s accounts of public reason, due reflection, international justice, and choice under uncertainty. In a book from Cambridge University Press, I offer a new interpretation of Rawls’s entire intellectual project. While past interpretations have rested on the assumption that Rawls’s proposed principles of justice would require primarily income redistribution through a system of taxes and transfers, I note that such a view contradicts Rawls’s explicit description of his intellectual project. Rather, Rawls assigns priority to the protection of basic liberties and the guarantee of equal opportunity. Income transfers are of marginal importance in his theory. My post-tenure scholarship also extends my earlier work on legal theory. In a law review article published in 1996, I defended Ronald Dworkin’s right answer thesis—the view that judges can identify “right” answers in hard cases—from the argument that judges should aim for incompletely theorized agreement. In a 2017 law review article, I extend this argument to support the conclusions that judicial decisions require judgments generated through a process of reasoning characterized by constrained interpretive discretion.

My current research agenda focuses on a question of interest to policy makers as well as academics: is judicial review a constraint on democracy or a necessary condition of democracy? In order to address this question, I first reexamine the basic character of democratic political institutions. The most fundamental element of ambiguity in discussions of democracy is generated by a general failure to distinguish carefully between consensualism—the view that a legitimate state must derive its authority from authorization by the people—and voluntarism—the view that valid law may only be generated by the people or their elected representatives. *Voluntarism* requires that the will of the people must govern the legislative process: legitimate legislation must flow from the will of the majority. *Consensualism*, however, requires only that legitimate political institutions must derive their authority from the people’s consent. Theorists who assign priority to voluntarism define a democratic society as one that requires simply that all legislation must be generated by the will of the majority. Theorists who view consensualism, rather than voluntarism, as the moral foundation of democracy generally argue that a definition of democracy requires a more complex set of propositions. In particular, this second set of theorists argue, an acceptable conception of democracy must describe conditions in which all citizens may participate as equals in the process of social choice. In order to satisfy this

requirement, a democratic society must impose significant limits on the power of the majority and must guarantee the protection of certain fundamental rights that may not be infringed by the majority or its representatives. The most powerful arguments generated by the strand of western political thought that provides the intellectual foundation for modern democracy are primarily consensualist rather than voluntarist. A careful interpretation of the central texts of the western democratic tradition thus suggests that the most acceptable conception of democracy requires institutions features—including judicial review—to guarantee the protection of fundamental rights.

A book manuscript on this topic is currently under consideration by a major academic press.

Teaching. I frequently incorporate my current research in my teaching. I believe that exposing students directly to ongoing controversies in the discipline helps them to recognize the real stakes in analyzing issues and encourages them to develop their own critical standards, rather than merely to accept conventional approaches uncritically. Since I currently do research and publish on all the subjects that I teach—including social contract theory, distributive justice, theories of equality, and legal reasoning--I am able to draw upon an extensive knowledge of the current literature and of ongoing research by myself and others addressing live issues and problems.

Finally, I have worked closely with several students on research projects. In 2017, I published a law review article coauthored with a former student. I have recently co-authored a chapter with another former student that is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Disability*. I have also supervised a number of research projects by former students. These activities reflect my real enjoyment in mentoring talented students.