

CURRICULUM VITAE
ALEXANDRA OPREA
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University at Buffalo
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AOS: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), Social and Political Philosophy,
History of Modern Philosophy (Early Modern)

AOC: Applied Ethics

EDUCATION

Duke University

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science in 2017

- Thesis: “*Children or Citizens: Civic Education in Liberal Political Thought*”

Bachelor of Science in Economics in 2011

- Graduation with Distinction in Economics

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2011

- Graduation with Distinction in Political Science
- Summa cum laude; *Phi Beta Kappa*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University at Buffalo, the State University of New York

(Buffalo, NY), August 2023 - Present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

(Chapel Hill, NC), 2021-2023

Assistant Professor of Political Science

The Australian National University

(Canberra, Australia), 2019-2021

Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

(Chapel Hill, NC), 2017-2019

Lecturer in the Philosophy Department

GRANTS

Ongoing Grants

Grant Title: *From Campus to Community: Civil Discourse as a Catalyst for Local Civic Renewal*

Funding Agency: US Department of Education

Effective Dates: 2026-2030

Grant Total: \$3,992,032

Direct Costs: \$3,704,446

Role on Grant: co-Investigator

Grant Title: *Inclusive Immigration and Democratic Revival in a Rust Belt City*

Funding Agency: Andrew W. Mellon foundation

Effective Dates: 2024-2027

Grant Total: \$499,863

Direct Costs: \$499,863

Role on Grant: Principal Investigator

Grant Title: *Diversity, Dynamism and Inclusion: A New Multi-Method Approach for Studying Liberalism*

Funding Agency: John Templeton Foundation

Effective Dates: 2024-2027

Grant Total: \$2,195,215

Direct Costs: \$1,908,883

Role on Grant: Co-Investigator

Past Grants

Grant Title: *Democratic Norms in Polarized Times*

Funding Agency: Institute for Humane Studies

Effective Dates: August-December 2025

Grant Total: \$26,346

Direct Costs: \$26,346

Role on Grant: Principal Investigator

Grant Title: *Addressing Political Polarization through On-the-Ground Civic Education*

Funding Agency: Institute for Humane Studies

Effective Dates: August 2024-July 2025

Grant Total: \$7,781.60

Direct Costs: \$7,781.60

Role on Grant: Principal Investigator

Grant Title: *Duke Education and Research Innovation in China (ERIC)*

Funding Agency: Duke University

Effective Dates: 2017

Grant Total: \$17,100

Direct Costs: \$17,100

Role on Grant: Co-Investigator

HONORS AND AWARDS

* I do not have records of award amounts prior to 2017.

- James Buchanan Fellowship, Mercatus Center, 2025-2026 (\$4,000)
- Institute for Humane Studies Research Award, 2024 (\$10,000)
- Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC Chapel Hill, 2022 (\$10,000)
- Faculty Research Grant, Australian National University, 2019 (AUD 8,800)
- Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center, 2017-2018 (\$10,000)
- Graduate Fellowship, Kenan Institute for Ethics, 2016-2017
- Hallowell Research Award, Political Science Department, Duke University, 2016
- Dissertation Support Award, Political Science Department, Duke University, 2015
- Research Fellowship, Council for European Studies, Duke University, 2015
- E. Bayard Halsted Scholarship in Science, History, and Journalism, Duke University, 2014
- Fellowship, Earhart Foundation, 2013
- James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University, 2013-2017
- University Scholars Graduate Fellowship, Duke University, 2012
- Research Fellowship, Council for European Studies, Duke University, 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Publications: 18

Citations: 130

H-index: 7

I10-index: 6

ARTICLES

(1) Refereed Journals

*All co-authored publications reflect equal contributions from each co-author.

Oprea, Alexandra. "Rousseau's Emile: Education for Citizenship by Consent" *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, Online First.

- Oprea, Alexandra; Stephens, Daniel. "A Minimal Standard of Democratic Competence" *Politics, Philosophy, & Economics* 24.2 (May 2025), 169-190.
- Oprea, Alexandra; Marcoci Alexandru. "How Should Colleges Select Students? Justice, Toleration, and University Admissions" *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* vol. 22 (Winter 2024), 977-1000.
- Marcoci, Alexandru; Oprea, Alexandra. "Freedom of Speech on Campus" *The Philosophical Quarterly* 74.4 (October 2024): 1251–1273.
- Oprea, Alexandra; Martin, Lucy; Brennan, Geoff H. "Moving towards the Median: Compulsory Voting and Political Polarization" *American Political Science Review* 118.4 (November 2024): 1951-1965.
- Dowding, Keith; Oprea, Alexandra. "Manipulation in Politics and Public Policy" *Economics & Philosophy* 40.3 (2024): 685-710
- Dowding, Keith; Oprea, Alexandra. "Nudges, Regulations, and Liberty" *British Journal of Political Science* 53 (2023): 204-220.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Adam Smith on Political Judgment: Revisiting the Political Theory of Wealth of Nations" *Journal of Politics* 84.1 (January 2022): 18-32.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "François Fénelon: Modern Philosopher or Conservative Theologian?" *European Journal of Political Theory* 20.3 (2021): 580-586
- Kokotajlo, Daniel; Oprea, Alexandra. "Counterproductive Altruism: The Other Heavy-Tail" *Philosophical Perspectives* 34 (December 2020): 134-163 (invited contribution)
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Inadequate for Democracy: How (Not) to Distribute Education" *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 19.4 (Nov 2020): 343-365.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Pluralism in political philosophy: a commentary on Dowding and Walsh" *Australian Journal of Political Science* 55.4 (2020): 456–462.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Compassion's More Dangerous Allies: Fear, Anxiety, and Amour-Propre" *Polity* 52.2 (April 2020): 189-220.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Democracy as a Game of Trust: The Limits of Generality Constraints" *Homo Oeconomicus* 36 (December 2019): 227–248.
- Oprea, Alexandra. "Pluralism and the General Will: The Roman and Spartan Models in Rousseau's Social Contract," *Review of Politics* 81.4 (September 2019): 573-596.

(2) Contributions to Books

Oprea, Alexandra. "Adam Smith on Public Education and Political Judgment" in *Tensions in the Political Economy Project of Adam Smith* (The Mercatus Center at George Mason University, part of the *Tensions in Political Economy* series) (forthcoming)

Oprea, Alexandra. "Rousseau on Voting and Electoral Laws" in *The Cambridge Companion to Rousseau's Social Contract* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2024, pp. 207 - 222)

Oprea, Alexandra. "Locke on Children's Rights and Obligations," in *The Lockean Mind* (London: Routledge 2022, pp. 507-517, part of *Philosophical Minds* series)

REVIEWS

Oprea, Alexandra. Review of Charles Griswold, "Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Adam Smith: a Philosophical Encounter," *EH.net* (*Economic History Association* official blog) November 2018.

Oprea, Alexandra. Review of Branko Milanovic, "The Haves and the Have-Nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Global Inequality," *Review of Economic and Business Studies* 6, 1(2011): 303-306.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2026

"Democracy and Electoral Risks" (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern, Baltimore, MD

"The First Rule of Democracy" (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- Vanderbilt Social and Political Thought Workshop, Nashville, TN

2025

"The First Rule of Democracy" (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- Dartmouth Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, Hanover, NH
- Duke Frontiers in Political Theory, Durham, NC
- Davidson College, Davidson, NC
- SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY

"Democracy, Immigration, Polarization" (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) at the Frontier, Buffalo, NY

"Pluralism and AI Alignment" (co-authored with Ryan Muldoon)

- Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence Network Talks (PAINT) Working Group, on Zoom
- The Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab, The Australian National University, on Zoom

“Democracy and Electoral Risks” (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society Conference, New Orleans, LA
- Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

“Political Polarization and Social Norms” (co-authored with Ryan Muldoon, Jacob Neiheisel, and Zev Berger)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Locke on the Childless Contract and the Stateless Child”

- Locke Society Conference, Buffalo, NY

2024

“The First Rule of Democracy” (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- The Polarization and Civil Discourse Working Group, on Zoom
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) at the Frontier, Buffalo, NY

“Democracy and Electoral Risks” (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA

“Locke on the Childless Contract and the Stateless Child”

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Feeling Manipulated and Being Manipulated” (co-authored with Keith Dowding)

- Zicklin Center Workshop in Normative Business Ethics, Philadelphia, PA

2023

“A Minimal Standard of Democratic Competence” (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA
- Centre for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Brown University

“Compulsory Voting and Political Polarization” (co-authored with Lucy Martin and Geoff Brennan)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Olympe de Gouges on Orphans, Bastards, and Other Vulnerable Children”

- Association for Political Theory, Schenectady, NY

“Condorcet on Children’s Education”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom

“The Risks of Being a Voter” (co-authored with Daniel Stephens)

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO

“How Should Colleges Select Students? Justice, Toleration, and University Admissions”
(co-authored with Alexandru Marcoci)

- Georgetown Symposium on the Ethics of University Governance, Washington, DC

“Rousseau’s Emile: Education for Citizenship by Consent”

- University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

“Feeling Manipulated and Being Manipulated” (co-authored with Keith Dowding)

- University of Virginia Philosophy Colloquium, Charlottesville, VA

“Locke on the Childless Contract and the Stateless Child”

- Political Theory Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

2022

“Democracy and Education”

- Political Theory Colloquium, New York University, NYC

“Olympe de Gouges on Orphans, Bastards, and Other Vulnerable Children”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom

“The Risks of Being a Voter” (co-authored with Daniel J. Stephens)

- Democracy and Political Epistemology, Bowling Green State University, OH

“Democracy and Children in Montesquieu”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom

“Manipulation in Politics and Public Policy” (co-authored with Keith Dowding)

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“The Politics of Public Education”

- Carolina Public Humanities, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

2021

“Democracy and Education”

- Political Theory Colloquium, Princeton University, NJ

“Adam Smith on Political Judgement: Revisiting the Politics of the Wealth of Nations”

- International Adam Smith Society, via Zoom

“Free Speech, Tolerance, and the Mission of the University” (co-authored with Alexandru Marcoci)

- Political Theory in/and/as Political Science, McGill via Zoom

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom
- Midwestern Political Science Association, via Zoom

“Wollstonecraft on Education: A Non-Ideal Account of Cultivating Virtue”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom
- Midwestern Political Science Association, via Zoom

“To Nudge or To Manipulate? Conditions for Non-Manipulative Nudging”
(co-authored with Keith Dowding)

- Australian National University, School of Politics and IR

2020

“Adam Smith on Political Judgement: Revisiting the Politics of *The Wealth of Nations*”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom

““Moderate and Modern”: Hanley’s Revisionist Account of François Fénelon”

- American Political Science Association, via Zoom

“Voting in the Roman Republic: An Epistemic Reading of Rousseau’s *Social Contract*”

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Partial Politics: The Democratic Roles of Parties and Party Systems”

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Defending Education: A Democratic Role for Courts in Education Policy”

- 4th Australasian Political Theory and Political Philosophy, Melbourne, Australia
- University of Arizona Freedom Centre on Zoom
- Australian National University, School of Politics and IR
- University of Canberra, Centre for Deliberative Democracy & Global Governance

2019

“With Great Power comes Great Responsibility: The Role of Foundations in Education Policy”

- Taiwanese Political Science Association, Taiwan

“Partial Politics: The Democratic Role of Parties and Party Systems”

- Political Organizations and Participation Workshop, ANU, Canberra, Australia

“Contracting with(out) Children: The Limits of the Social Contract”

- European Political Science Association, Belfast, Ireland

“Games and Simulations in the Political Science Classroom”

- Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA

“Children's Rights and Children's Labor in Locke's Educational Writings”

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“When Markets and Politics Diverge: Education in Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*”

- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“Sentimental Education in Troubled Times: Compassion in Mencius and Rousseau”
(co-authored with Wenqing Zhao)

- 4th Braga Colloquium in the History of Moral and Political Philosophy, Portugal

“Counterproductive Altruism: The Other Heavy Tail”

- Centre for Moral, Political, and Social Theory, ANU

“Litigators and Legislators: The Role of Courts in Education Policy”

- Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China

“The Philosophy of Leadership”

- Institute for Public Trust at UNC Chapel Hill

2018

“Inadequate for Democratic Citizenship”

- Northeastern Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada
- Value Theory Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

“Voting in the Roman Republic”

- Northeastern Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada

“Public Teachers and Public Choice”

- American Political Science Association, Boston, MA
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Conference, New Orleans, LA

“The Roles of the University and the Contributions of Free Speech”

- Civic Ideas Summit, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

“Who Should Control the Public Schools?”

- North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- Carolina Public Humanities, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

“Ethical Leadership”

- Institute for Public Trust at UNC Chapel Hill, NC
- Durham City Hall, Durham, NC

2017

“Experts and Educators: The Political Organization of Teachers”

- Association for Political Theory, Ann Arbor, MI

“Rome and Sparta: *The Social Contract* as a Tale of Two Cities”

- American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA

“Compassion's More Dangerous Allies”

- Value Theory Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

“The Future of Political Theory”

- Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Durham, NC

“Does Moral Diversity imply Moral Relativism?”

- University Scholars Symposium, Duke University, Durham, NC

“Political Humour in an Election Year”

- Center for Global and International Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

2016

“The Citizenship of Children: Civic Education Before the Nation State”

- American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA
- Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA

“Neither Man nor Citizens: Rousseau's Two Conceptions of Children's Citizenship”

- Association for Political Theory, Columbus, OH

“Citizenship Lab: Civic Participation of Refugee Youth in Durham”

- Bass Connections, Duke University, Durham, NC

“A Serious Dose of Laughter about Local and Global Issues”

- Centre for International Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

2015

“Neither Man nor Citizens: Rousseau's Two Conceptions of Children's Citizenship”

- IHS Fall Research Colloquium, Arlington, VA

“Insight and Hindsight: Burke and Tocqueville on the French Revolution”

- Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

“May my neighbors' goat perish also': Empathy and Envy in Smith and Rousseau”

- Association for Political Theory, Boulder, CO
- Affect Theory: Memory, Aesthetics and Ethics, Winnipeg, Canada

“Political Psychology of Inequality”

- Duke Society of Fellows, Duke University, Durham, NC

2014

“Development in Rousseau's Political Philosophy”

- Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, MA
- Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
- Annual Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Princeton, NJ

2013

“Choice of Lives: Learning from the Ancient Greeks”

- Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

STUDENTS SUPERVISED

I have served on dissertation committees for the following students:

Mr. Noah Kim (PhD expected from UB: summer 2026)
Dr. Begum Icelliler (PhD awarded from UNC: spring 2026)
Dr. Sam Schmitt (PhD awarded from UNC: spring 2025)
Dr. Yi-Hsuan Huang (PhD awarded from UNC: spring 2025)
Dr. Matt Young (PhD awarded from UNC: spring 2022)
Dr. Serrin Rutledge-Prior (PhD awarded from ANU: fall 2022)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, the State University of New York

Buffalo, NY

- “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics of Immigration” (Winter 2025)
- “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Graduate Seminar” (Fall 2025)
- “Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics” (Spring 2025)
- “Introduction to Political Philosophy” (Spring 2025, Spring 2026)
- “Political Philosophy” (Spring 2024)
- “Global Justice” (Spring 2024, Spring 2026)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

- “Problems in Modern Democratic Theory” (Fall 2021)
- "Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
(Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021)
- "Capstone Seminar in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics"
(Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018(x2), Spring 2019, Spring 2022)
- “Politics, Philosophy, and Economics of Education” (Spring 2022)

The Australian Nation University

Canberra, Australia

- “Ideas in Politics” (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Honors Research Methods” (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Integrated Seminar” (Spring 2020)

Humboldt University

Berlin, Germany

- "Polis Politics: The Theory and Practice of Politics in Classical Athens," Summer 2014
- "Politics and Economics," Summer 2013

SERVICE

(1) Professional/Public Service

Association for Political Theory

- Member of the Governance Committee (2025-2026)
- Co-Chair of the Program Committee (2023-2024)
- Member of the Mentorship Committee (2021-2023)

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society

- The Gerald Gaus Memorial PPE Essay Prize Awards Committee (2021-2026)

American Philosophical Association (APA)

- The Israel Scheffler Prize in Philosophy of Education Awards Committee (2023, 2026)

Co-Founder of Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory (2015)

Co-Founder of Duke Humor and Politics Working Group (2015)

Reviewer for *Acta Politica*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Economics & Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *European Journal of Philosophy of Science*, *Homo Oeconomicus*, *History of Political Thought*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, *Philosophical Imprint*, *Political Theory*, *Polity*, *Philosophy*, *Politics*, & *Economics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*; Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge.

(2) University Service

At the University at Buffalo

Chair of Search Committee for Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (2025)
Chair of Search Committee for Civic Engagement Coordinator (2025)
Search Committee Member for Templeton Postdoctoral Fellows (2024)
Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (2026, 2024)
Undergraduate Affairs and Awards Committee (2026)
Gender and Minorities Committee (2025)
Personnel and Faculty Award Committee (2025)
Panelist on “AI Literacy x Sustainability Literacy (2024)”

- IAD Days, Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

Before the University at Buffalo

Search Committee Member for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Postdoctoral Fellow (2022)
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Convener for Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) (2020-2021)
Convener for Philosophy, Politics, and Economic (PPE) Honours Program (2020-2021)
The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

(3) Community Service

Judge for Regional and National Highschool Ethics Bowl (2017-2019)
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Co-Organizer of a series of Deliberative Democratic Forums
Buffalo, NY

- “Inclusive Communities: Welcoming New Arrivals to WNY” (December 2024)
- “Growing Inclusive Civic Spaces” (December 2025)
- “Youth Talk Back: Youth Visions of Local Democracy” (April 2026)

Co-Organizer of Local Leader Speaker Series (2024-2025)