

Laura K. Field, PhD

Washington, DC | www.lkfield.com

Appointments and Affiliations

2024 – present	Senior Associate. Illiberalism Studies Program, George Washington University.
2019 – present	Scholar in Residence, American University, School of International Service
2020 – 2025	Senior Fellow, Niskanen Center, Washington, DC
2014 – 2018	Professorial Lecturer, American University, School of International Service
2013 – 2014	Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown University, Department of Government
2011 – 2013	Postdoctoral Fellow, Rhodes College, Department of Political Science

Education

December 2011	PhD in Government, University of Texas at Austin (theory and public law)
May 2005	M.A. in Political Science, University of Alberta
May 2003	B.A. (Honors) in Political Science, University of Alberta

Book

[*Furious Minds: The Making of the MAGA New Right*](#). Princeton University Press (full trade), November 2025.

Academic Reviews, Articles, and Book Chapters

- [“Johnathan O’Neill’s *Conservative Thought and American Constitutionalism since the New Deal*.”](#) Book review for *American Political Thought*, 13.2, 2024.
- [“Forced to be Free? America’s “Postliberals” on Freedom and Liberty.”](#) In *Far-Right Newspeak and the Future of Liberal Democracy*. Edited by Jim McAdams and Sam Piccolo. Routledge, 2024.
- “Nietzsche on Death and Dying.” For [Political Theory of Death and Dying](#). Routledge, 2021. Edited by Erin Dolgoy, Kimberly Hale, and Bruce Peabody.
- “Rousseau’s *Confessions*: A Pattern for Living.” In [The Rousseauian Mind](#). Routledge, 2019. Volume edited by Eve Grace and Christopher Kelly.
- [“Blind Injustice: Theorizing Anonymity and Accountability in Modern Democracies.”](#) *Polity*, Vol. 48, Issue 3, July 2016. With Richard Boyd.
- [“The Philosopher Doth Protest Too Much: Rousseauian Enlightenment and the Rhetoric of Despair.”](#) *The Review of Politics*, Vol. 75, Issue 3, Spring 2013.
- [“Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia*: Educating our Political Hopes.”](#) *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 74, Issue 3, July 2012.

Select Public-Facing Publications

- [“Tensions within the American Right”](#), July 22, 2025, for *Le Monde*.
- [“Trump’s Final Frontier? Emil Bove, the Conservative Legal Movement, and the MAGA New Right,”](#) July 9, 2025, for *Verfassungsblog*.
- [“JD Vance Has a Bunch of Weird Views on Gender,”](#) July 24, 2024, for *Politico*.
- [“Liberal Morality Needs Liberal Mythology,”](#) February 27, 2024, for *Hypertext*.
- [“John Eastman: The Dems Made Me Do It”](#), August 10, 2023, for *The Bulwark*.
- [“John Eastman Sticks to His Story,”](#) July 31, 2023, for *The Bulwark*.
- [“Charles Kesler Sees the Light,”](#) August 25, 2022, for *The Bulwark*.
- [“The Decay at the Claremont Institute Continues,”](#) April 21, 2022, for *The Bulwark*.
- [“Frederick Douglass’ 1876 Report,”](#) January 27, 2022, for *The Niskanen Center*.
- [“As His Big Conspiracy Crumbles, Beattie’s Star Continues to Rise in Trumpworld,”](#) January 18, 2022, for *The Bulwark*.
- [“Frederick Douglass Wanted Abraham Lincoln to be More Woke,”](#) December 20, 2021, for *The Unpopulist*.
- [“The Limits of Liberal Science.”](#) *The Bulwark*, November 4, 2021.
- [“Ivory Power.”](#) *The New Republic*, October 26, 2021.
- [“The Claremont Institute’s Bogus Censorship Charge.”](#) *The Bulwark*, October 18, 2021.
- [“What the Hell Happened to the Claremont Institute.”](#) *The Bulwark*, July 23, 2021.
- [“The GOP’s Minoritarian Defense and Justificatory Schema.”](#) *The Constitutionalist*, July 19, 2021.
- [“Sinister Syncopation: The New Conspiracism Meets the Intellectuals of the Reactionary Right.”](#) *The Constitutionalist*, April 21, 2021.
- [“The Highbrow Conspiracism of the New Intellectual Right: A Sampling From the Trump Years.”](#) Commentary for the Niskanen Center, April 19, 2021.
- [“We’re in an Extraconstitutional Limbo.”](#) *The Bulwark*, January 11, 2021.
- [Revisiting Why Liberalism Failed.](#) Commentary for the Niskanen Center, December 2020.
- [“What Now of the Authoritarian Threat.”](#) *The Constitutionalist*, December 7, 2020.
- [“The Centrist Rush to Blame the Left for the Close Election Results.”](#) *The Bulwark*, November 23, 2020. [Damon Linker](#) response, [Cathy Young](#) response.
- [“The Trouble with the ‘It’s Not Real Fascism’ Argument.”](#) *The Bulwark*, October 31, 2020. Read Ross Douthat’s response [here](#), and my brief reply to Douthat [here](#).
- [“A Reply to the Claremont Institute’s Claim that ‘America is not Racist.’”](#) Commentary for the Niskanen Center, June 26, 2020.
- [“Meet the Reocons.”](#) Commentary for the Niskanen Center, February 20, 2020.
- [“What the Reactionary Right Gets Dead Wrong About Liberal Democracy.”](#) *The Bulwark*, October 26, 2019.”

Invited Talks and Conference Participation

- [“What Exactly is the New Right?”](#) Gray Area with Zack Beauchamp, August 18, 2025.
- [“The Philosophical Roots of Illiberal Movements,”](#) Liberalism for the 21st Century Conference, August 2025.

- [“Trump’s MAGA Movement is Ushering in ‘The New Right’”](#), Offline with Jon Favreau, August 4, 2024.
- “America Off the Rails? John Ganz’s *When the Clock Broke* and the Place of the Early 1990s in Recent U.S. History,” American Political History Conference, Vanderbilt University, June 2024.
- [“Far-Right Newspeak and the Future of Liberal Democracy”](#), Illiberalism Studies Program, May 3, 2024.
- “Did it Happen Here? Perspectives on Fascism in America.” Illiberalism Studies Program, April 17, 2024.
- [“Postliberalism In Conversation.”](#) Conversation with Adrian Pabst, moderated by Samuel Goldman. For the Illiberalism Studies Program at George Washington University, March 5, 2024
- “(Re-)Founding for Exclusion: Reactionary Intellectualism, Christian Nationalism, and American Liberal Democracy.” Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and The Pulitzer Center’s. March, 2023.
- [“Voices of the Right: Political Conservatism in Academia.”](#) Featured panel, American Political Science Association Conference, Montreal, September 22, 2022.
- “The Promise and Pitfalls of Revising the History of American Conservatism in the Age of Trump.” American Political History conference, Purdue University, June 2022.
- “Liberalism and its Critics,” Institute for Humane Studies, Washington, DC, April 2022.
- [“The Roots of Reactionary Conservatism,”](#) The Vital Center podcast, August 4, 2021.
- [“What the Hell Happened to the Claremont Institute,”](#) The Bulwark podcast, July 23, 2021.
- [“Conspiracism finds a home on the intellectual right,”](#) The Democracy Works, May 10, 2021.
- [“On Rousseau’s ‘Confessions’: A Life in the Camera Obscura,”](#) PODOPTICON. March 3, 2021.
- [“Conservative Thought After Trump,”](#) Model Citizen podcast. November 20th, 2020.
- “Conspiracy and Democracy: Misinformation, Anti-Liberalism, and Our Constitutional Future.” Discussion with Russell Muirhead at SUNY Geneseo (virtual). October 23, 2020.
- [“Liberalism and Its Critics,”](#) Institute for Humane Studies conference. September 19, 2020.
- “Nietzsche on Empathy’s Limits.” EMPATHIES Conference, European Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Basel, Switzerland. June, 2017.
- “A Subterranean Tribute: Nietzsche Reads Rousseau.” MPSA, Chicago, 2017.
- “Political Science and Skepticism in Aeschylus’ *Oresteia* Trilogy.” NPSA, Philadelphia, 2015.
- “Blind Injustice: Anonymity and Accountability in Modern Democracies.” With Richard Boyd, APSA, Washington, DC, 2014.
- “Nietzsche’s Gospel of Fatality.” MPSA. Chicago. 2013.
- “Why Nietzsche Loves his Destiny.” MPSA, Chicago. 2012.
- “Rhetoric of the Faith.” NPSA, Philadelphia, 2011.
- “Nietzsche’s Rhetorical Self.” MPSA, Chicago, 2011.
- “Rousseau’s Autobiographical Mask.” MPSA. Chicago, 2010.
- “Nietzsche’s Complex Critique of Pity.” APSA, Toronto, 2009.
- “Judging Modernity’s Cultural Icons.” MPSA, Chicago, 2009.
- “On the Uses and Abuses of Compassion in Rousseau.” SPSA, New Orleans, 2009
- “Xenophon as Novelist: The Limitations of Cyrus and New Possibilities for Political Philosophy.” MPSA, Chicago, 2008.
- “Hobbes’ Rhetorical Legacy: ‘Scientism’ and Political Philosophy.” MPSA, Chicago, 2008.

Awards and Honors

- Discourse Initiative Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies. 2022.
- Free Speech and Open Inquiry Grant. Institute for Humane Studies. 2020.
- Hayek Fund for Scholars Award. Institute of Humane Studies. 2020.
- Jack Miller Center Summer Fellow. Charlottesville, Virginia. 2010.
- University Continuing Fellowship. University of Texas. 2010.
- Thomas Jefferson Fellowship. University of Texas. 2009.
- Malcolm Macdonald Dissertation Fellowship. University of Texas. 2009.
- Donors Trust Foundation Award. University of Texas. 2008.
- David Bruton, Jr. Fellowship. University of Texas. 2008.
- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (3 years). 2006.
- Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship. University of Alberta. 2003.
- SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (2 years). 2003.
- Duncan Alexander MacGibbon Medal in Political Science. University of Alberta. 2003.

Professional Service

- Director: Olson Scholars Program, School of International Service, American University (2014-2018)
- Coordinator: SIS First Year Seminar writing assessment (2015-2018)
- Member: AU Honors Advisory Council and SIS Undergraduate Steering Team (2015-2018)
- Referee for: *Comparative Political Theory*, *The Review of Politics*, *Rhetorica*, *American Political Science Review*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Languages

French (near-native reading ability, high fluency); German (intermediate reading ability and fluency); Spanish (intermediate reading ability, fluency); Ancient Greek (basic reading ability).

Courses Taught

International Relations Theory. American University.

Perspectives on Ethics and Power. American University.

Social Science Theory – Olson Scholars Research Seminar. American University.

Perspectives on Nature and the Environment. American University, Georgetown, and Rhodes College.

Democracy, Demagogues, and Dialectics. American University and Georgetown University.

Critique of Social Science (Undergraduate and Graduate). Georgetown University.

Political Theory Seminar for Honors Government Majors. Georgetown University.

Rousseau, Nietzsche, and the Politics of Cultural Change. Georgetown University.

Political Questions. Rhodes College.

Search 101 – Antiquity. Rhodes College.

Search 102 – Roman, Christian, and Islamic Thought. Rhodes College.

Ancient Philosophy and Literature. University of Texas.