

# Christopher D. Berk

Aquia Building, Room 331  
George Mason University  
4461 Aquia Creek Ln  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: (703) 993-6365  
Fax: (703) 993-8215  
Email: cberk@gmu.edu  
Website: www.chrisberk.com

- Appointments** George Mason University  
Assistant Professor in the Schar School of Policy & Government 2019-
- University of Virginia  
DeOlazarra Fellow in the Program in Political Philosophy, Policy & Law 2016-19
- Affiliations** *George Mason University*  
Legal Studies 2019-  
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 2019-
- Education** *University of Chicago*  
  
Ph.D., Political Science 2016  
Committee: A. Abbott, C. Cohen, R. Gooding-Williams, & B. Harcourt (chair)  
Examination fields: American Politics, Political Theory  
  
M.L.S., University of Chicago Law School 2016  
  
M.A., Political Science 2010  
  
*University of Washington*  
  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science 2007
- Book** *Democracy in Captivity: Essays on the political situation of prisoners, patients, and others in custody.* Berkeley: University of California Press. *Under contract.*  
  
Book manuscript conference held at the University of Virginia on May 3, 2019.
- Publications, Refereed** 2021. "Must penal law be insulated from public influence?" *Law and Philosophy* 40: 67-87.  
2019. "Reply to Elizabeth Scott, Laurence Steinberg, David Tanenhaus, and James Backstrom." *Law & Social Inquiry* 44, no. 3: 787-790.  
2019. "Childhood, development, and the troubled foundations of *Miller v. Alabama*." *Law & Social Inquiry* 44, no. 3: 752-770.  
Symposium in *LSI* 44, no. 3 centered on this article  
2018. "On Prison Democracy: The Politics of Participation in a Maximum Security Prison." *Critical Inquiry* 44, no. 2: 275-302.
- Publications, Invited** 2010. "Investment Talk: Comments on the Use of the Language of Investment in Prison Reform Advocacy." *Carceral Notebooks* 6 (2010): 115-129.
- Works in Progress** "Democracy's wards." Under review.  
"Public Accountability and the Submerged Prison State." In preparation.

## Awards and Fellowships

2020, 2021. "Outstanding Core Social/Behavioral Sciences course", George Mason University  
My GOVT 101 course, Democratic Theory and Practice, received recognition for teaching in both my first (in-person) and second year (COVID, online) at Mason.

2016. Visiting Scholar, The Newberry

Scholars-in-residence are given privileged use of the library and are "expected to publish or otherwise disseminate their research" and "participate in the Newberry's intellectual community."

2015-16. Master of Legal Studies Fellowship, University of Chicago Law School

Tuition remission and living stipend for a year of coursework in law.

2014-15. William Rainey Harper Provost Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago

Tuition remission and living stipend, "one of the highest honors given to our graduate students."

2011. Grodzins Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago

Competition among advanced graduate students to design and teach a course.

2010. Joseph Cropsey Prize for the "outstanding master's thesis in political philosophy written by a student in the Department of Political Science," University of Chicago

2010. High Pass in the American Politics Field Exam, University of Chicago

2008-13. McCabe Fellowship, University of Chicago

Tuition remission and living stipend for five years of graduate study.

2007. Daniel Lev Award for the "outstanding political science senior thesis" in 2007, University of Washington

2007. Graduated *summa cum laude* in the Honors College with Distinction in Political Science, University of Washington

## Grants

2013-14. Social Science Division Long-Term Project Grant, University of Chicago (\$8,000)

2013. Social Science Division Summer Grant, University of Chicago (\$3,000)

2011. Doolittle-Harrison Travel Grant, University of Chicago (\$1,000)

## Teaching

*George Mason University*

Democratic Theory and Practice (undergraduate)

Politics of Prisons (undergraduate)

Seminar in the Courts and Constitutionalism (graduate)

*University of Virginia*

Prisons Fall 2018

Law and Democracy Fall 2017

Law & Political Thought: Punishment Fall 2016

B.A. Thesis Colloquium in Political Philosophy, Policy & Law Spring 2017, 2018, 2019

*Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (Piedmont Virginia Community College)*

Constitutional Foundations of American Government Summer 2017

*University of Chicago*

B.A. Thesis Colloquium, Department of Political Science 2013-2014

Classics of Social and Political Thought III Spring 2013

The Politics of Mass Incarceration in the U.S. Spring 2012

Advising	Resident Head of Vincent House, University of Chicago College Housing	2013-2016
Pedagogical Training	Center for Teaching Excellence in-class observation & focus group (Virginia) Seminar and Workshop on Course Design (Chicago) Workshop on Teaching in the College (Chicago)	2016 2015 2012
Talks	<p>Social Justice in America, George Mason University. 2020. "Local Politics, Prisons, and the Welfare State"</p> <p>Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative, University of Virginia, 2019. "Life in Graduate School and Law School."</p> <p>Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia University. 2015. "Democratic Exclusions: Prisoners, patients, and children in democratic politics."</p> <p>Chicago Area Behavior Workshop, Northwestern University. 2015. "Participatory Politics and Equality in the Digital Age."</p> <p>Research Network on Youth and Participatory Politics, MacArthur Foundation. 2014. "Participatory Politics and Equality in the Digital Age."</p> <p>Spring Lecture Series for Political Science Majors, University of Chicago. 2014. "Data Collection in Political Science Research."</p> <p>Asylums and Prisons: Deinstitutionalization and Decarceration, University of Chicago. 2013. "Mad Politics."</p>	
Conferences	<p><i>Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.</i> Washington, DC 2010; Seattle, WA 2011; Chicago, IL 2013; Washington, DC 2014; San Francisco, CA 2015; San Francisco, CA 2017; Boston, MA 2018.</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association.</i> San Francisco, CA 2011; Seattle, WA 2015; New Orleans, LA 2016; Toronto, Canada 2018; Washington, DC 2019; Lisbon, Portugal 2022.</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Cultural, and the Humanities.</i> Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, CA 2017; Georgetown Law School, Washington, DC 2018.</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association.</i> San Antonio, TX 2011; Seattle, WA 2014; Vancouver, Canada 2017; San Francisco, CA 2018; Los Angeles, CA 2020 [Covid-19].</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the Mid-West Political Science Association in Chicago, IL.</i> 2009; 2010; 2020 [Covid-19].</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the Association for Political Theory.</i> Ohio State University, 2016; Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, 2018.</p> <p><i>Fourth Annual Conference on Radical Democracy.</i> New School for Social Research, New York, NY 2014.</p> <p><i>Social Science History Association.</i> Chicago, IL 2013.</p>	

Research Seminars, Workshops	WRiPS, George Mason University. 2019. "Must penal law be insulated from public influence?"	
	PPL Colloquium, University of Virginia. 2018. "Custody and Community Control."	
	PPL Colloquium, University of Virginia. 2016. "Democracy's Internal Borders."	
	Self & Subjectivity Workshop, University of Chicago. 2015. "Mad Politics."	
	Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago. 2015. "Governing Children."	
	American Politics Workshop, University of Chicago. 2014. "Governing Children."	
	Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago. 2014. "Mad Politics."	
	Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago. 2013. "On Prison Democracy."	
Professional Memberships	American Political Science Association (APSA)	
	Law & Society Association (LSA)	
	Association for Political Theory (APT)	
Professional Service	<i>Manuscript Reviewer</i>	
	Law & Society Review, Political Theory, Theoretical Criminology, Oxford University Press, and Routledge	
	<i>Political Theory Workshop</i>	Fall 2011-2013
	Student Coordinator	Chicago, IL
	<i>Faculty Hiring Committee</i>	Fall 2011-Spring 2012
	Graduate Student Representative	Chicago, IL
Community Service	<i>Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women</i>	2017
	Instructor	Troy, VA
	<i>Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, Nancy B. Jefferson School</i>	2013-2015
	Volunteer Tutor	Chicago, IL
	<i>Safer Foundation, 1811 Adult Transition Center</i>	2008-2011
	Volunteer Tutor	Chicago, IL
	<i>Literacy Americorps, King County Correctional Facility</i>	2007-2008
	Instructor	Seattle, WA

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