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Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Nistler College of Business and Public Administration
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Education:

Ph.D. Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 1996.
Major field: Political Theory Minor fields: International Relations, American Government
Dissertation: *'These civil and intestine broils': Conceptualizing Disorder in Revolutionary England*.
Directed by Michael Lienesch

M.A. Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, December 1988.
Thesis: *Patriarchy and Property: Locke's Response to Filmer's Divine Right Patriarchalism*.
Directed by Jack Donnelly

B.A. Magna Cum Laude, Providence College, May 1986.

Books:

Utopia (Key Concepts in Political Theory). Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2020.

Modern Jeremiahs: Contemporary Visions of American Decline. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington Books, 2008

Explaining the English Revolution: Hobbes and His Contemporaries. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2002 (revised paperback edition, 2007). Reviewed in: *Journal of Church and State*, 47.1 (170). 2005; *Perspectives on Politics*, 1.4, 2003 (763).

Book Chapters:

““A bad edition of a Polish king”: Thomas Jefferson and the Fear of Foreign Interference in U.S. Presidential Elections.” In *Picking the President: Understanding the Electoral College* 2nd edition, Eric Burin, editor, The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota, 2025 (149-53).

“Endgames,” in *Protesting on Bended Knee*, Eric Burin, editor, The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota, 2018 (221-223).

“Long Habits and Legitimacy,” in *Picking the President: Understanding the Electoral College*, Eric Burin, editor, The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota, 2017 (49-51).

“Fundamental Oppositions: Utopia and the Individual,” in *The Individual and Utopia: A Multidisciplinary Study of Humanity and Perfection*, Clint Jones and Cameron Ellis, eds., Ashgate, 2015 (27-44). Reviewed in: *Utopian Studies*, 28.1, 2017 (203-05).

Refereed Articles:

“Look Upon My Works, ye Mighty and Despair: New Cities for a New Gilded Age.” *Utopian Studies* 37.1, 2026 (60-81).

“Park Free or Die: Rural Consciousness, Preemption, and the Perennial North Dakota Parking Meter Debate.” With David Flynn and Dana Michael Harsell. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 56.1, 2023 (3-9).

“Egalitarian Populism on the High Plains. Or, Why Are There No Parking Meters in North Dakota?” With Dana Michael Harsell. *The Journal of Popular Culture* 46.2, 2013 (394-410).

“Back to the Garden: New Visions of Post-Human Futures.” *Utopian Studies* 22.1, 2011 (34-51).

“The Snake in the Garden: Crime and Punishment in Utopian Thought.” *Topic: The Washington & Jefferson College Review*, 56, Winter 2010 (1-12).

“Tom Paine: Utopian?” *Utopian Studies*, 18.2, 2007 (138-158).

“The Modern Jeremiad: Bloom, Bennett and Bork on American Decline,” *Journal of Popular Culture*, 36.2, 2002 (361-383).

“Convergence and Divergence in Arab-American Public Opinion,” with José Miguel Sandoval, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, Vol. 5, No. 4, Winter 1993 (303-314).

Articles:

“Cosplay meets Capitalism: San Diego Comic Con International, July 25-28, 2024.” *Utopian Studies* 36.2, 2025 (583-586).

“Utopian Enterprises: Growing Up with Star Trek.” *Utopian Studies* 34.2, 2023 (359-66).

“What North Dakota’s perennial parking meter debate can tell us about the politics of rural resentment and preemption.” London School of Economics, United States Politics and Policy Blog, January 22, 2023
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2023/01/20/what-north-dakotas-perennial-parking-meter-debate-can-tell-us-about-the-politics-of-rural-resentment-and-preemption/>. (A condensed version of the paper published in *PS*.)

“Why has ‘Utopia’ Become a Dirty Word?” Cicero Foundation Great Debate Paper No. 22/01 March 2022.
<https://www.cicerofoundation.org/>

““See this possible future and be in it” Bjork’s Utopia,” *North Dakota Quarterly*, January 2018.
ndquarterly.org/2018/01/18/see-this-possible-future-and-be-in-it-bjorks-utopia/

“The Dystopia of Petty Tyranny: A View from the Empire’s Edge,” *Utopus Discovered*, Spring 2002 (15).

“Estados Unidos: Opinión Pública y Crisis del Golfo Persico,” with José Miguel Sandoval, *El Nacional: Semanario Política*, Ciudad de México, No. 155, April 1992 (17-19).

“Social Identity and Response to Social Dilemmas,” with Cindy Gimbel, Rachel Sweat, Anuradha Kumar and Amy P. Walters, *Social Science*, Vol. 72, Nos. 2-4, Fall 1987.

Book Reviews:

“Rethinking Utopia: Interdisciplinary Approaches,” *Utopian Studies* 36.3, 2025 (738-742).

“Michael Weber and Kevin Vallier, eds., *Political Utopias: Contemporary Debates*,” *Utopian Studies*, 29.3, 2018 (429-433).

“Teresa Shewry, *Hope at Sea: Possible Ecologies in Oceanic Literature*,” *Utopian Studies*, 28.1, 2017 (191-194).

“Nicholas McDowell, *The English Radical Imagination: Culture, Religion, and Revolution, 1630-1660*,” *Utopian Studies*, 16.2, 2005 (303-307).

“Jutta Weldes, editor, *To Seek Out New Worlds: Exploring Links Between Science Fiction and World Politics*,” *Utopian Mark S. Jendrysik, Ph.D. Vita May 2026*

Studies, 14.2, 2003 (219-221).

“Richard L. Greaves, *Glimpses of Glory: John Bunyan and English Dissent*,” *Utopian Studies*, 14.1, 2003 (206-208).

“Richard G. Mitchell Jr, *Dancing at Armageddon: Survivalism and Chaos in Modern Times*,” *Utopian Studies*, 13.1, 2002 (231-233).

“Christopher M. Duncan, *Fugitive Theory: Political Theory, the Southern Agrarians and America*,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 94, No. 4, December 2000 (924-926).

“Bent Flyvbjerg, *Rationality and Power: Democracy in Practice*,” *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 1999 (165-166).

Other:

Instructor’s Resource Manual and Test Bank for *American Government: Myths and Realities 2014 Election Edition*. With Geoffrey Peterson. Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Bellamy, Edward (1850-98),” *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014 (278).

“Filmer, Robert, (1588-1653),” *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014 (1312-1313).

Ancillary materials for *American Democracy in Peril* 5th edition by William Hudson. CQ Press (Chatham House), 2006.

Recent Presentations (2013-present):

“Seasteads and Charter Cities: Fantasies of Libertarian Escape.” To be presented at the 2026 conference of the Association for Political Theory, October 2026.

“Negotiating the Problems of Diversity: A Post-Civil War Legislative Simulation.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, February 2025.

“Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself, in all cases, as the ages and generations that precede it”: Thomas Paine and the “Jefferson Problem.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Politics Science Association, April 2024.

“Political Society Exists for the Sake of Noble Actions: Friendship and the Good Life in Utopia.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2023.

“Look Upon My Works, Ye Mighty and Despair: Crypto Communities, Blockchain Colonies, and Desert Gigacities.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2023.

“Winter Soldiers and Merchant Captains: Shays’s Rebellion as a Clash of Republican Visions.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2021.

“The (Imaginary) Reconstruction of Capitalism: Cryptocurrency and the Libertarian Utopia.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, October 2019.

“‘The Birthday of a New World’: Thomas Paine on the Beginning and End of Political History.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2019.

“Does Utopia Have a Future?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2018

“Park Free or Die: The Great North Dakota Parking Meter Debate of 2017,” with Dana Harsell. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2018.

“Mighty Fortresses Against a New Dark Age: The Benedict Option as Utopian Expression” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2017.

“Communities of Total Commitment: The Utopian Legacy of Plato and Sparta” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2017.

“Making American Great(er) Again: Narratives of National Decline in the 2016 Presidential Election.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2017.

“Ambitious Utopians?” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2015.

“Learning Political Skills through Historical Simulations,” with Anne Kelsch. Presented at the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, January 2015.

“Doomsday Preppers, Castle Builders and Survivalists: Utopian Dystopians or Dystopian Utopians?” Presented at Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, November 2013.

Research Interests:

Early Modern Political Thought	Utopian Theory	American Political Thought
Religion and Politics	American Political Culture	

Teaching Experience:

Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota: August 1999-present.

Development of Political Thought I	American Political Thought	Development of Political Thought II
American Government	Honors American Government	Graduate Seminar: Ethics in the Public Sector
Senior Capstone Colloquium	First Year Experience Seminar	Utopian Political Thought
Introduction to Political Thought	Politics and Diversity	Public and Non-Profit Sector Ethics
Contemporary Politics	The Politics of COVID	
American Government (Online and Correspondence)		

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi: August 1998-May 1999.

Introduction to Political Philosophy	Graduate Seminar in Utopian Political Theory
Political Philosophy: Recent and Contemporary	Political Philosophy Before the Reformation

Visiting Assistant Professor, Bucknell University: August 1996-May 1998.

Introduction to Politics	Social and Political Ethics	Public Opinion
Modern Political Thought	American Political Thought	Ancient and Medieval Political Thought
International Politics	Senior Seminar in Utopian Political Thought	

Lecturer, Department of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia: Spring 1996.

Utopia and Dystopia

Instructor, Department of Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill: January 1992-May 1993.

Major Issues in Political Theory	Ancient and Medieval Political Thought
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Teaching Interests:

Classical Political Thought	Modern Political Thought	American Political Thought
American Government and Politics	Utopian Political Thought	Public Opinion Ethics

Professional Memberships:

American Political Science Association	Society for Utopian Studies
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Awards and Honors:

Summer Research Grant, College of Business and Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2000.
Summer Research Grant, College of Business and Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2002.
Meritorious Research Award, College of Business and Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2001-02
Gamma Sigma Alpha Outstanding Faculty Member Award, 2007
Meritorious Research Award, College of Business and Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2007-08
North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Award, University of North Dakota, 2009
Gamma Sigma Alpha Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, 2010

Current Major University Service:

University Curriculum Committee 2023-2026
Nistler College Scholarship, Grants and Tenure Committee 2023-26
Truman Scholarship Coordinator (ongoing)

Other Relevant Experience:

Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Dakota, August 2006 to August 2012.

Directed department activities, made schedules and wrote reports. Responsible for four successful job searches and four successful promotion cases. Established department newsletter and improved alumni outreach. Established departmental awards for outstanding graduates. Masters of Public Administration program received reaccreditation during my tenure.

Center for Survey Research, University of Virginia: Research Associate, August 1995 to August 1996.
Prepared, administered and analyzed survey research projects. Did research on survey methods and public opinion data. Worked with faculty and outside contractors on survey research project development, implementation and analysis. Directed activities of Center personnel. Engaged in marketing efforts both inside and outside the University to expand Center business.

Institute for Research in Social Science, UNC-CH: Survey Research Assistant, August 1986 to June 1995.
Assisted in the preparation, administration and analysis of the Carolina Poll, a semi-annual poll of North Carolina, and of the Southern Focus Poll, a semi-annual nationwide telephone survey. Served as an editorial assistant for IRSS publications. Taught short courses dealing with computer software and IRSS resources and worked on the design and development of the IRSS Public Opinion Item Index. Provided statistical and computer programming help to faculty, staff and graduate students.

Political Science Data Center, Providence College: Research Assistant, August 1984 to May 1986.

Edward Bellamy Memorial Association, Chicopee, Massachusetts: Assistant to the President, 1982 to 1986.

References:

Dennis Elbert,
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