

Alexander Keller Hirsch, Ph.D.

Department of Political Science
Honors Program
University of Alaska Fairbanks

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Appointments

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Director, Honors Program, 2018-

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2017-

Coordinator, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, 2017-2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2012-2016

University of California Humanities Research Institute

Residential Research Fellow, 2011-2012

Northeastern University

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, 2009-2011

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Lecturer, Department of American Studies, 2009-2010

University of California, Santa Cruz

Teaching Assistant, Department of Politics, 2005-2009

Education

University of California, Santa Cruz

Ph.D. in Politics (emphasis, History of Consciousness), 2011

M.A. in Politics, 2007

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

B.A. in Social Thought and Political Economy (summa cum laude), 2004

Research Expertise

Political Theory

Ethics

Transitional Justice

Settler Colonial Studies

Democratic Theory

Ancient Thought and Literature

Research and Publications

Books

co ed., with David McIvor, *The Democratic Arts of Mourning: Political Theory and Loss*, New York: Lexington, 2019.

ed., *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation: Agonism, Restitution & Repair*, London: Routledge, December, 2011.

Translated into Indonesian, with Pustaka Pelajar Publishing, 2016.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

“Between Empathy and Imagination: New Photographic Experiments in Memorial Aesthetics,” *Postmodern Culture*, 27 (3), 2018.

“Hope and Agonism in the Native American Political Thought of William Apess,” *New Political Science* 39 (3), 2017.

“Walking Off the Edge of the World: Sacrifice, Chance, and Dazzling Dissolution in the Book of Job and Ursula LeGuin’s ‘The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas’,” *Humanities* 5 (3), 2016.

“Articulating Secession: Self-Determination, Decolonization and Stateless Independence Amongst the Kanaka Maoli,” *Social Identities: Race, Nation, Identity* 21 (2), 2015.

“Hope, Without Guarantees: Mourning, Natality, and the Will to Chance in Book XXIV of the Iliad,” *Theory & Event* 18 (1), 2015.

“Sovereignty Surreal: Bataille and Fanon Beyond the State of Exception,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 13, 2014.

“The Promise of the Unforgiven: Violence, Power, and Paradox in Arendt,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 39 (1), 2013.

“Like So Many Antigones: The Politics of Recognition and the Afterlife of Indigenous Funerary Remains,” *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 10 (3), 2011.

“Fugitive Reconciliation: The Agonistics of Respect, Resentment, and Responsibility,” *Contemporary Political Theory* 10, 2011.

Book Chapters

(co-authored with David McIvor) “The Democratic Arts of Mourning,”

The Democratic Arts of Mourning (Lexington, 2018).

“Mourning,” in eds. Jens Meierhenrich, et al., *Oxford Handbook of Transitional Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

“Fugitive Reconciliation,” in *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation* (London: Routledge, 2011).

“The *Agon* of Reconciliation,” in *Theorizing Post-Conflict Reconciliation* (London: Routledge, 2011)

Essays

“Honors in the Liberal Arts,” *Clarity Magazine*, June 2019.

“#MeToo and the Politics of Renewal,” *Clarity Magazine*, June 2018.

“Alaska Should Declare a Sexual Assault State of Disaster,” *Anchorage Daily News* August 7, 2017.

“Alaska Should Declare a Sexual Assault State of Disaster,” *Bristol Bay Times*, August 11, 2017.

“Standing Rock and Ecological Risk” *The Contemporary Condition*, December 12, 2016.

“Too Hard to Keep,” *The Contemporary Condition*, June 3, 2015.

“Living On,” *The Contemporary Condition*, September 3, 2013.

Book Review Essays

“Judgment, Imagination, and Critique in the Politics of Reconciliation,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 7(1), 2013.

“Tragic Democracy and Political Theory,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 38 (6), 2012.

Book Reviews (solicited)

Review of P.J. Brendese, *The Power of Memory in Democratic Politics*, in *Contemporary Political Theory*, January 2016.

Review of Glen Coulthard, *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*, in *American Indian Journal of Culture & Research* 39(4), 2016.

Review of Berber Bevernage, *History, Memory, and State-Sponsored Violence:*

Time and Justice, in *Rethinking History*, April, 2012.

Review of Ernesto Verdeja, *Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence*, in *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 7, February 2011.

Review of Andrew Schaap, ed., *Law and Agonistic Politics*, in *Law, Culture & the Humanities* 5, October 2009.

Works in Progress

Moral Inadequacy and the Will to Chance, book manuscript.

Indigenous Thought and Moral Status, book manuscript.

“Witnessing and Waiting in Walt Whitman’s Democratic Thought,” article manuscript.

“The Pocahontas Exception,” article manuscript.

“Regret as a Structure of Critical Engagement in Moral Education,” article Manuscript, under review.

“Performing the Antigone with Inmates in the Local Penitentiary: Experiential Pedagogy, Carceral Freedom, and the Honors Program Curriculum,” article manuscript.

“Wonder and Cruelty: Ontological War in It’s a Wonderful life,” book review, *VoegelinView*.

Honorarium Talks

University of Hawaii, Manoa, Department of Political Science, and Futures Studies, March 10, 2017.

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Political Science, and the Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship Program, October 19, 2016.

Media Interviews

Weekend Edition, National Public Radio, interview with Scott Simon, “Alaska Man’s Revelation Shines a Light on Sex Abuse in the State of Alaska,” April 21, 2018.

Northern Soundings, KUAC, interview with Robert Hannon, “Gun Violence in the US,” March 15, 2018.

CBS News, Anchorage KVTA, “Sexual Assault in Alaska,” Wednesday, August 31, 2017.

Invited Campus-wide Public Addresses at UAF

Induction Ceremony Keynote Address, UAF First Year Orientation, August 23, 2018.
Centennial Scholarship Breakfast Plenary Address, May 3, 2017.
Inaugural Joseph Thompson Memorial Lecture, October 2015, 2014.

Awards

Nominated, Robert Piacenza Outstanding Teaching Award, UAF, 2019.
Nominated, Robert Piacenza Outstanding Teaching Award, UAF, Spring 2016.
Nominated, Best Paper at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2015.
Nominated, Faculty of the Year, ASUAF (student government), Spring 2015.
Nominated, Robert Piacenza Outstanding Teaching Award, Spring 2015.
Awarded, Artist in Residence of Skagway, Alaska, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016.
Nominated, Robert Piacenza Outstanding Teaching Award, UAF, Spring 2014.
Nominated, Faculty of the Year, ASUAF (student government), Spring 2013.
Awarded, Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Activity Faculty Adviser Fellowship, Fall 2013.
Awarded, Residential Research Group Fellowship, University of California Humanities Research Institute, 2012.
Awarded, Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northeastern University, 2011.
Nominated, Center for Teaching Excellence Award, University of California, Santa Cruz, Fall 2011.
Awarded, Online Teacher's Award, Northeastern University, Spring 2011.

Conference Participation

Section co-Chair, "Foundations of Political Thought," *The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Washington D.C., August 2019.
"Between Empathy and Imagination," *the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, BC, March 2017.
"Political Mourning in Comparative Perspective," *the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA, March 2016.
"Redemption Without a Subject, Responsibility Without Guilt," panel 16.20, *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2016.
"Roundtable: The Power of Memory in Democratic Politics," panel 14.19, *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2016.
"Complicity and Justice," *American Political Science Association Annual*

- Meeting*, Sept., 2015.
- “The Procreant Urge of the World,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.
- “Listening to Anger after Mass Violence,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.
- “Mourning and Melancholia,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2015.
- “Promising and Forgiveness,” *Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, November, 2014.
- “Hope, Without Guarantees,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Sept. 2014.
- “American Idioms in Political Theory,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2014.
- “The Politics of Public Mourning, Natality, and Hope,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2014.
- “Native American Tragic Mourning,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2013.
- “Anger and the Magic of Reconciliation After Atrocity,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2012.
- “The Necropolitics of Recognition and Redistribution in Native American Land Claims,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March, 2012.
- “Fugitive Reconciliation: Democracy and Transitional Justice in the Postcolonial World,” *Radical Democracy Conference*, Columbia University and the New School for Social Research, April, 2011.
- “White Autochthony in Western Settler States,” *Honoring Indigenous Thought and Survivance Symposium*, University of California, Santa Cruz, April, 2010.
- “Fault Lines of Contestation: Justice, Order and Repair in Post-Conflict Political Society,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April, 2010.
- “The Afterlife of Indigenous Funerary Remains,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April 2010.
- “Justice, Politics, Ethics,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, November, 2009.
- “Fugitive Reconciliation,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, November, 2009.
- “Indigenous Repatriation and the Tragedy of Reconciliation,” *American Studies Research Symposium*, University of California, Santa Cruz, March 2009.
- “Public Mourning and Political Tragedy,” *Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, March 2008.
- “To Be Held Out Into the Nothing: Spinoza and Heidegger on the Politics of Violence,” *Cultures of Violence Conference*, University of California, Irvine, April 2007.
- “Violence, Resentment, Reconciliation,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October, 2006.
- “Collective Voice and Political Violence,” *Rethinking Marxism Conference*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October, 2006.

Career Development

- “Strategies to Grow Your Honors Program or College,” *Academic Impressions*, Denver, CO., February 11-12, 2019.

“The Art and Techniques of Facilitation,” with Brenda Holden, January 28, 2019.
National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, Boston, M.A., November 2018.
Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, New Orleans, L.A. May 2018.
Member, Provost Academic Leadership Institute, UAF, 2018-19.
Member, “Shaping the Future of the University of Alaska,” UA Statewide World-Building Team, Fall 2018.
Member, UAF Faculty Learning Community (“Writing Across the Curriculum”), Fall, 2014.
Member, UAF Faculty Learning Community, (“Teaching Strategies for Early Career Tenure-Track Faculty”), Fall 2013.
Member, UAF Faculty Learning Community, (“Communication Across the Curriculum”), Fall 2013.
Member, American Political Science Association.
Member, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.
Member, American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy.

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Committee Work

MA / MFA Thesis Committee Member in English Department: Derek Hinkley (graduated), Eric Notaro (graduated), Caitlin Scarano (graduated), Christopher Moran (graduated), Jonnell (Jones) Liebl (graduated), Zackary Medlin (graduated), Kendell Newman-Sadik (graduated) Tara Knight (graduated), Danny Dyer (graduated), Amy Marsh (graduated), Nicklaus Moser (graduated), Quintin Overton (graduated), Kendalyn McKisick (graduated).

MA Thesis Committee Member in Arctic and Northern Studies: Vanessa Raymond (graduated), Ryan Hallsten, Victoria Smith (graduated), Jessica Zaydak, Yu (Kimmy) Cao (Chair) (graduated), Kerstin Schley (graduated), Angela Rudolph (Chair), Carolyn Kozack (graduated), Lex Treinen, Lauren Baranik.

MA Thesis Committee Member in Communications: Mindy O’Neill (graduated), Ibrahim Ghalioum.

Independent Study PhD Committee: Tara Ballard (Chair); Margaret Cysewski (Chair); John Messick.

Undergraduate Senior Thesis Chair: Jonathan Quinones (graduated), Jackson Willard (graduated), Daniel Strigle (graduated), Margot Adams (graduated), Lachlan Gillespie (graduated), Silvan Schuttner (graduated), Matthew West (graduated), Matthew Ryan Harris (graduated), Bexley Brown (UAA) (graduated), Brandon Blum, Ryan Pullis, Gabriela (Gabby) Draper (graduated), Sarah Manriquez.

Service Activities

1. *Service to the University of Alaska Fairbanks*

Steering Committee, Strategic Enrollment Planning, 2018-19.
Steering Committee, Chancellor's Strategic Planning, 2018-19.
Steering Committee, Nanook "Brother to Brother" Minority Male Initiative, 2018-
Chair, Strategic Enrollment Action Group, "Transitioning to an Honors College," 2018-19.
Chair, "Modernizing the Student Experience," Chancellor's Strategic Planning Committee,
2018 – 2019.
Chair, CLA Sabbatical Committee, Fall 2018.
UA Scholars Receptions Events: Fairbanks and Anchorage, November 2018.
Co-Chair (with Vice Chancellor, Dr. Keith Champagne), Nanook "Brother to Brother"
Minority Male Initiative Executive Committee, Fall 2018 –
Presenter, North Star to Nanook, October 2018.
Social Science Administrative Assistant Search Committee, Summer 2018.
History Department Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2018.
Provost Search Committee, Fall 2017 - Spring 2018.
CLA Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2017 –
CLA Sabbatical Committee, Fall 2017.
Presenter, Classroom Inside Out, CLA, 2016, 2017, 2018.
Program Coordinator, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2017-2018.
Speaker, Committee on the Status of Women, Tenure & Promotion Workshop, April 21,
2017.
General Education Requirement Committee, Fall 2016 –
Presenter, Engaging Students Faculty Panel, Summer 2016.
UAF Faculty Senate, Fall 2016 – 2019.
Editorial Board, Clarity Magazine, CLA, Spring 2013 – .
URSA Faculty Advisory Board, 2013 – 2016.
Judge, URSA annual award competition, Spring, 2016.
Co-Organizer (with Seth Jones) and Judge, Annual UAF Ethics Bowl, Spring 2015, 2016,
2017, 2018 –
Presenter, Classroom Inside-Out, CLA, Fall 2015.
Presenter, Emerging Scholars Academy Faculty Panel, UAF, Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 –
Faculty Adviser to Socratic Society, UAF, Fall 2014 – 2018.
Faculty Adviser to Pi Sigma Alpha, 2013 – 2018.
Administrative Assistant Search Committee, Political Science, Summer, 2015.
Faculty Search Committee, Political Science Department, Fall 2014.
Faculty Search Committee, Political Science Department, UAF, Fall 2012.

2. *Service to the Community*

"The Ethics of Reproductive Freedom," presentation to *Generation Action*, UAF
Judge, "We the People," Alaska State Hearing, December 5, 2018.
Presenter, "Meaning in the Midterms," Political Science Faculty Panel, November 2018.
Presenter, Osher Lifelong Learning, political history of 2nd Amendment, October 19, 2018.

Presenter, Gun Violence Faculty Panel Discussion, Raven's Landing, March 24, 2018.
Teacher, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, course taught on political upheaval in the Trump era, Spring 2017.
Presenter, "Freedom of the Press" faculty panel, Raven's Landing, March 2017.
Presenter, 2016 Presidential Election Faculty Panel, (with PS faculty) November 17, 2016.
Artist in Residence, Skagway, AK, 2014-2016.
Executive Officer, Board of Directors, Bread Line Inc., 2014-2017.
Moderator, State Legislative Debate between Rep. Scott Kawasaki (D) and Greg Bringhurst (R), candidates for Alaska House District 1, Raven's Landing, October 24, 2014.
"Risk and Luck in the Aftermath of Catastrophe," URSA Public Lecture, November 20, 2013.

3. *Service to the Discipline*

Section co-Chair (with Dr. Sonali Chakravarti, Wesleyan University), *Foundations of Political Thought*, American Political Science Association, 2018-19.
Member, Program Committee, Association for Political Theory, 2016-2018.
Ongoing Peer Reviewer for Original Book Manuscripts:
Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Routledge Press, Ashgate Press, University of Alaska Press, University Press of Kansas.
Ongoing Peer Reviewer of Article Manuscripts:
Political Theory; New Political Science; Political Research Quarterly; American Indian Journal of Culture and Research; Theory & Event; History of European Ideas; International Journal of Transitional Justice; Political and Legal Anthropology Review; International Theory: A Journal of International Politics, Law and Philosophy; Law and Society; American Political Thought; Citizenship Studies; Security Studies.
External Reviewer of Tenure Files:
Berber Bevernage, Ghent University (Belgium), Fall 2017.

Letters of Reference (available upon request)