

ALEXANDER SCHAEFER

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EDUCATION

University of Arizona August 2015 - May 2021

Ph.D. Philosophy, doctoral minor in economic theory

Dissertation: *Coping with Complexity: A Theory of Evolutionary Liberalism*

Committee: David Schmitz (chair), Thomas Christiano, Justin Bruner, Vlad Tarko

University of Wisconsin - Madison Graduated December 2014

B.A. Philosophy, Economics

Graduated with Comprehensive Honors

Senior honors thesis: "Selecting Naturalism: A Dilemma for Street's Dilemma"

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Is Justice a Fixed Point?" Forthcoming in *American Journal of Political Science*.

"Reasonable but Nonliberal: Another Route to Polycentrism" Forthcoming in *The Philosophical Quarterly*.

"Hayek's Twin Ideas" Forthcoming in *The Cambridge Journal of Economics*.

"Unraveling into War: Trust and Social Preferences in Hobbes's State of Nature." Forthcoming in *Economics and Philosophy*. (with Jin-yeong Sohn).

"Rationality, Uncertainty, and Unanimity: An Epistemic Critique of Contractarianism." *Economics and Philosophy*, vol. 37, no. 1 (2021): 82-117.

"Incoherent but Reasonable: A Defense of Truth-Abstinence in Political Liberalism." *Social Theory and Practice*, vol. 46, no. 3 (2020): 573-603. (with Wes Siscoe).

"The Lukewarm Religions of Rawls's Overlapping Consensus." *Aporia*, vol. 24, no. 2 (2014): 1-16.

Book Chapters

“The Expressive Commons: Freedom of Expression as a Collective Action Problem.” in eds. Peter Boettke, Bobbi Herzberg, and Brian Kogelmann, *Exploring the Political Economy & Social Philosophy of Vincent & Elinor Ostrom*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield (2020), 293-322.

“Coping with Complexity: A Theory of Hayekian Interventionism,” in eds. Donald Boudreaux, Christopher Coyne, and Bobbi Herzberg, *Interdisciplinary Studies of the Political Order: New Applications of Public Choice Theory*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield (2019), 67-98.

“Between Heteronomy and Anarchy: Kant’s Reformulation of the Social Contract,” in eds. Elizabeth Robinson and Chris W. Surprenant, *Kant and the Scottish Enlightenment*. Abingdon: Routledge (2017), 245-266.

Current Projects

“Equal Subjects” (with Mario Iván Juárez) (under review) .

- Proposes a constitutional amendment designed to mitigate principal-agent problems

“The Problem of Complexity and the Emergence of Polycentric Political Order” (with Dries Daems) (in progress).

- Presents and defends an explanatory model of the emergence of polycentric structures

“Polycentricity and Adaptation: A Multilevel Selectionist Approach” (in progress).

- Applies evolutionary theory to explain the functionality of undesigned polycentric orders

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economic Association Annual Conference

- New Orleans, LA, November 2020
- “Hayek’s Twin Ideas: Reconciling Methodological Individualism with Group Selection”

PPE Society Annual Meeting

- New Orleans, LA, March 2020
- Presented 2 papers
- First paper: “Justice as a Discovery Procedure”
- Second paper (with Jinyeong Sohn): “Unraveling into War: Trust and Social Preferences in Hobbes's State of Nature”

Santa Fe Institute’s Complex Systems Summer School

- Santa Fe, NM, July 2019
- “What Can Social Complexity Teach Us about Cultural Evolution?” (several coauthors)
- Considers various models of cultural evolution, comparing them to a database that measures levels of social complexity over time in various regions

Mont Pelerin Society Special Meeting: *The Populist Threats to the Free Society and the Reconstruction of the Liberal Project*

- Stockholm, Sweden, November 2017
- “The Expressive Commons: Free Expression as a Collective Action Problem”
- Applies a variant of Paul Samuelson’s model of collective consumption goods to analyze the problem of securing freedom of expression

***The Conditions for Social Order* at King’s College London, Workshop 2017**

- London, UK, June 2017
- “The Unanimity Rule in Constitutional Choice”
- Applies game-theoretical model to analyze James Buchanan’s constitutional political economy

Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, Conference 2017

- Evanston, IL, March 2017
- “Can Reasonable People be Incoherent? Rawlsian Constructivism and the Avoidance of Truth” (co-author Wes Siscoe)
- Defends a Rawlsian, consensus-building approach against critics who claim that his avoidance of the concept of truth in political argumentation commits him to incoherency

IHS Summer Research Colloquium

- Towson, MD, July 2016
- “Immanuel Kant’s Defense of Political Authority as a Response to Michael Huemer’s Rejection of Political Authority”
- Received feedback from Michael Huemer, present at the colloquium, and from peers

Wisconsin Philosophical Association 2014 and 2016

- Madison, WI, May 2014 and May 2016
- May 2014: “The Lukewarm Religions of the Overlapping Consensus”
- May 2016: “Street’s Adaptive-Link Account *IS* a Tracking Account”

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Gerald Gaus Memorial PPE Essay Prize 2021

- For my essay “Is Justice a Fixed Point?”
- Awarded to the graduate student essay that best exemplifies the spirit of innovation in the subfield of PPE

AIER Visiting Research Fellowship Fall 2020

- Competitive fellowship hosted by the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER)
- Fellows live at the institute for several months while producing original research

Adam Smith Fellowship 2016-2021

- Competitive fellowship hosted by the Mercatus Center
- Study various schools of political economy: Austrian, Virginia, and Bloomington
- Attend three to four seminars throughout the year to discuss the ideas of these schools

Humane Studies Fellowship 2016-2021

- Competitive fellowship hosted by the Institute for Humane Studies
- Funds and supports a project with the goal of publication
- Topical focus: norms and social progress

Politics, Philosophy, Economics, and Law Fellowship

- Competitive fellowship awarded by Arizona's Center for the Philosophy of Freedom
- Funds graduate work through active engagement with professors in the department

Draminski Award for Academic Excellence in Economics 2013 and 2014

- Awarded by UW-Madison's department of economics
- Awarded on the basis of academic achievement in economics coursework

TEACHING & WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching

- PPEL 320, "The History of Economic Thought," Spring 2021. University of Arizona. Primary instructor.
- PPEL 250, "The Social Contract," Fall 2019. University of Arizona. Primary instructor.
- PPEL 205, "The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation," Fall 2018. University of Arizona. Teaching assistant.
- PHIL 110, "Logic and Critical Thinking," Spring 2017, Fall 2015. University of Arizona. Teaching assistant.

Academic Work

- Editorial Assistant for *Social Philosophy & Policy*, 2016-2021.
 - Facilitated author-journal communication and assisted with organization and execution of conferences
- Graduate Fellow at The Alexis de Tocqueville Project in New Orleans, LA, 2015.
 - Worked with Chris W. Surprenant, producing a paper on Kant's *Rechtslehre* and helped with administrative tasks to secure funding for the organization

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

University of Arizona (Graduate Courses)

Microeconomic Theory: Game Theory, Spring 2017

- Topics include: static and dynamic games, incomplete information, repeated games, equilibrium selection, and models of learning

Microeconomic Theory: Consumer Choice, Fall 2016

- Topics include: preference/choice/utility, constrained optimization, uncertainty, and production

Microeconomic Theory: General Equilibrium, Fall 2016

- Topics include: Walrasian equilibrium, Pareto efficiency, the first and second welfare theorems, intertemporal equilibrium, the core of an economy, existence/computation of equilibrium, public goods, and equilibrium under uncertainty

The Theory of Quantitative Methods in Economics, Fall 2016

- Topics include: probability, estimation, and statistical inference

Mathematical Economics, Summer 2015

- Topics include: constrained optimization, linear algebra, real analysis

University of Wisconsin (Advanced Undergraduate Courses)

Philosophy of Economics, Fall 2014

- Seminar with Daniel Hausman
- Topics include: the structure and strategy of economics, the scientific status of economics, the influence of ideology on economic science, the cogency of normative economics

Psychology and Economics, Fall 2014

- Studied classic papers and contemporary models in behavioral economics

Law and Economics, Fall 2014

- Course on the economic analysis of law, topics including: externalities, tort and criminal law, Coase theorem, contracts

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Referee: Refereed for *Social Philosophy & Policy* (2018), *Public Affairs Quarterly* (2019), *The Independent Review* (2019), and *Manuscrito* (2020)

Languages: Proficient in Spanish and French