

# Aaron Quinn Weinstein, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Brown University</b>	Providence, RI
Ph.D. Political Science	2012-2016
Dissertation: <i>Truth, Justice, and the American Way: Political Religions in America, Then and Now</i>	
Committee: James A. Morone (Chair), Corey Brettschneider, Ross E. Cheit, and Michael Tesler (U.C. Irvine)	
A.M. Political Science	2010-2012
Subfields: American Politics (primary) and Political Theory (secondary)	
<b>Cornell University</b> , College of Arts and Sciences	Ithaca, NY
A.B. Government (Magna Cum Laude) and History, with Distinction in All Subjects	2005-2009
Senior Honors Thesis, "The Religionsmiths: An Examination of Neoconservatism's Engagements with the Three Monotheistic Faiths"	

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Main Interests: American political thought; religion and politics; American political development; the American civil religion; political polarization; media effects and political behavior; political psychology; and popular constitutionalism.

Secondary Interests: Constitutional law; Congress; and presidency studies.

## DISSERTATION

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<i>Truth, Justice, and the American Way: Political Religions in America, Then and Now</i>	Providence, RI
	May 2016
My dissertation examines how political symbols, particularly the Constitution and Office of the President, are both used and modified by social movements to frame policy goals. The dissertation was completed under the direction of James A. Morone (chair), Corey Brettschneider, Ross E. Cheit, and Michael Tesler (U.C. Irvine). Through a combination of in-depth case studies from the 1930s (the American Liberty League and the Townsend Clubs) and today (the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street), I define political religion as the practice of engaging in religious exegesis when reading and debating political texts. The result is an "us versus them" politics based around conversion and crusade, with both political parties vying for converts. The project not only brings the A.C.R. back into political science, but also contributes to the study of American political thought more generally.	

## PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS UNDER REVIEW, WORKS IN PROGRESS

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### Publications

"Onward Townsend Soldiers: Moral Politics and Civil Religion in the Townsend Crusade," <i>American Political Thought</i> , Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 2017): 228-255	April 2017
"Civil Religion and the Bush Doctrine of Preemptive War: Revisiting the Civil Religion Hypothesis During the War on Terror," <i>Journal of Religion and Society</i> , Vol. 18 (2016)	January 2016
"Television Newsmagazine Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse: 1990-2005," coauthored with Yael Shavit, Zachary Reiss-Davis, and Ross E. Cheit. <i>Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism</i> , Vol. 4 No. 5 (2014)	May 2014

### Articles Under Review

"A Theology of Consensus: Occupy Wall Street's Civil Religion of the Nones"	November 2018
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## Works Progress

*America's Lost Conservatism: The Collected Public Works of the American Liberty League, 1934-1936*

"We're All in this Together: How the 'Spiritual but not Religious' Left Can Join the Fight to Stop Climate Change," with Matthew Hodgetts

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### Essays and Op-Eds

"Election Day a National Holiday," <i>The Providence Journal</i>	November 2018
"A Nation Without a Soul? A Response to Sarah L. Houser's 'Accountability Nationalism,'" <i>Starting Points: A Project of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy</i>	May 2017
"The Year of the Party-Crashers," <i>The Pavlovic Today</i>	June 2016
"The Rise of the Nones in America," <i>The Providence Journal</i>	May 2015

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## SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS

"A Theology of Consensus: Occupy Wall Street's Civil Religion of the Nones," Northeast Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Montréal, Québec November 2018
Author Meets Critics: "Polarized Families, Polarized Parties," by Gwendoline Alphonso	---
"We're All in this Together: How the 'Spiritual but not Religious' Left Can Join the Fight to Stop Climate Change," with Matthew Hodgetts, New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Portsmouth, NH April 2018
Chair and Discussant: "Race and Constitutionalism in American Political History," New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	---
"The Rise of the Nones: Is the United States Finally Losing its Religious Exceptionalism?" New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Providence, RI April 2017
"Old-Time (Civil) Religion: Recasting the Townsend Movement," Poster presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	San Francisco, CA September 2015
"Onward Townsend Soldiers: The Civil Religion and Moral Politics of the Townsend Movement," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	New Orleans, LA January 2015
"Breaking the Covenant: The Civil Theology of the American Liberty League," New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Woodstock, VT April 2014
"Constitutional Fetishism and Political Success in the United States: Why the Liberty League's Public Appeals Failed and the Tea Party's Succeeded" New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Portland, ME May 2013
"Civil Religion and the Bush Doctrine of Preemptive War: Revisiting the Civil Religion Hypothesis During the War on Terror" Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Chicago, IL April 2012
Panel Chair: "Where Has Civil Religion Gone?" New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting.	Hartford, CT April 2011

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Fairfield University</b>	Fairfield, CT
Visiting Assistant Professor in Politics	2018-present
“Intro to American Politics,” Lecture	
“The American Presidency,” Lecture	
“Media and Politics,” Lecture	
<b>Tufts University</b>	Medford, MA
Lecturer (part-time) in Political Science	
“The Presidency and the Executive Branch” Lecture	2017-2018
“Congress, Bureaucracy, and Public Policy” Lecture	
“America’s Holy Constitution,” Seminar	
<b>Salve Regina University</b>	Newport, RI
Adjunct Lecturer in Political Science	
“The American Political System,” Lecture (Honors and non-Honors)	2016 – 2017
<b>Brown University</b>	Providence, RI
Instructor/Advisor	
Director, Senior Honors Thesis Program for the Department of Political Science	2015 – 2016
First Reader on Undergraduate Honors Thesis by Jared Davis (A.B. Political Science), “Clicks Versus Bricks: A Discussion of E-Commerce Sales Tax Policy.”	2012 – 2013
Co-Head Teaching Assistant	
“Introduction to the American Political Process,” Professor Wendy Schiller	SP 2013
Teaching Assistant	
“The American Presidency,” Professor Wendy Schiller	SP 2015
“Polarized Politics,” Professor Richard Arenberg	FA 2014
“Campaigns and Elections,” Professor Michael Tesler	FA 2012
“The American Presidency,” Professor Wendy Schiller	SP 2012
“Introduction to the American Political Process,” Professor Wendy Schiller	FA 2011
<b>Yale University, Yale Young Global Scholars</b>	New Haven, CT
Senior Instructor	2012 – 2014
Led 90-minute seminars, including:	
The Roots of Partisanship in American Politics • Popular Constitutionalism and the Tea Party • New Media and American Political Culture • Understanding Contemporary American Political Culture • Religion, the Presidency, and War • The Domestic Politics of American Intervention Abroad • A Nation with the Soul of a Church • The Influence of Mass Media on American Political Life • The Future of Race in American Politics.	
Creator, “America’s Second Founding, 2050”	
A two-day simulation where students balance conflicting political identities and engage in extensive debate to re-found the United States.	2013 – 2014

## TEACHING AWARDS

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<b>Brown University</b>	Providence, RI
P. Terrence Hoppman Award for Excellence in Teaching: Given by the Graduate Affairs Committee, based upon student evaluations and instructor recommendations. Awarded for “Introduction to the American Political Process” (POLS 0010, SP 2013).	May 2014

Teaching and Advising Award: Given by the Brown University Undergraduate Council of Students (UUCS) for having “made a substantial impact in the lives of undergraduates.”

May 2013

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## OTHER ACADEMIC TRAINING

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### Curricular Development

“Animation scripts for *By the People*, Third Edition (Oxford University Press),” co-written with Ryan Emenaker

August 2016

Co-wrote animation scripts for *Oxford University Press* publications that cover essential elements of American politics, including: the basics of the Constitution, how to read public opinion polls, and political behavior.

### Invited Lectures and Talks

“Civil Religion and the Coming American Renaissance” TEDx Tufts, Medford, Massachusetts (Upcoming)

March 2019

“In ‘Trump We Trust?’ Roundtable Discussion, the Pell Center for International Affairs and Public Policy, Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island

April 2017

“Onward Townsend Soldiers: Moral Politics and Civil Religion in the Townsend Crusade,” Committee for the Study of Religion, New York City, New York

December 2015

### Lectures at Brown University

“Onward Townsend Soldiers: Rhetoric, Symbols, and the Old Folks’ Crusade”

SP 2015

“Millennials or Millenarians? Who is Driving Religious Polarization in America?”

FA 2014

“Taxonomizing the Tea Party: The History, Characteristics, and Future of America’s New Populism”

SP 2013

“The Religion of Dwight D. Eisenhower”

SP 2012

“Religion and the Media: Navigating the Wall of Separation Under the Public Eye”

FA 2011

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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### Brown University

Taubman Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University

SP 2017

Teaching Fellowship, Political Science Department

2015-2016

Elmer E. Cornwell, Jr., Fellowship

2013-2014

### Cornell University

Janice N. and Milton J. Esman Prize for Undergraduate Scholarship

May 2009

Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society

May 2009

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## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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American Political Science Association (APSA); New England Political Science Association (NEPSA); Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA); Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR); Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA); Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Network (CAAAN)

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## REFERENCES

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James A. Morone, Professor, John Hazen White Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University, 401.863.1573, James\_Morone@Brown.edu

Wendy J. Schiller, Professor and Department Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University, 401.863.1569, Wendy\_Schiller@Brown.edu

Debbie Schildkraut, Professor, Department of Political Science, Tufts University,

617.627.3492, Deborah.Schidkraut@Tufts.edu

Clark Merrill, Professor and Department Chair of Political Science, Salve Regina University,  
401.341.3188, MerrillC@Salve.edu

November 2018