

# Brianne Wolf

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## EMPLOYMENT

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### Michigan State University

Associate Professor of Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy; July 2025-  
Director of the Political Economy Minor

Assistant Professor of Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy;  
Director of the Political Economy Minor, James Madison College August 2019-June 2025

### Ashland University

Assistant Professor of Political Science; Director of the Political Economy Program August 2017-August 2019

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Wisconsin-Madison

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science July 2017  
*Dissertation:* “**Tasting Liberty: Affective Judgment in the work of Rousseau, Smith, and Tocqueville**”  
*Committee*—Richard Avramenko (chair), Daniel Kapust, Geneviève Rousselière, Michelle Schwarze, and John Zumbrennen

Master of Arts, Political Science May 2013

### University of Chicago

Master of Arts in the Social Sciences August 2011  
*Thesis:* “Tocqueville’s Imagination: A New Political Science for the Art of Democracy”  
*Advisor*—Nathan Tarcov

### James Madison College of Public Affairs, Michigan State University

Bachelor of Arts, Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy May 2010  
*Phi Beta Kappa, With High Honor, Honors College, dual major in History*  
*Thesis:* “On the Limits to Modernity and Democracy: The Political Philosophy of Pierre Manent”  
*Advisors*—Folke Lindahl, Tobin Craig

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## PUBLICATIONS

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“**Patriotic Exceptions to Free Trade: Adam Smith and Political Judgment**” forthcoming. *Social Philosophy & Policy*.

“**Tocqueville and the Moral Economy of Bankruptcy in Nineteenth-Century America**” 2023. *Political Science Reviewer* 47 (2): 161-198.

**“Bringing the Family Back In: The Political Economy of the Family in Liberal Theory.”** 2023. in *Living Better Together: Social Relations and Economic Governance in the Work of Ostrom and Zelizer*. ed. Stefanie Haeffele and Virgil Henry Storr. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

\*Subject of discussion on *Hayek Program* podcast on March 20, 2024

**“Adam Smith’s Cosmopolitan Liberalism: Taste, Political Economy, and Objectification.”** 2022. *Polity* 54 (4): 709-733.

\*Subject of discussion on Adam Smith Works’ paper preview series on January 5, 2023 and *The American Idea* podcast on December 21, 2022

**“Disciplining the Rich: Tocqueville On Philanthropy in the Democratic Age.”** 2021. (with Richard Avramenko) *Review of Politics* 83 (3): 351-374.

**“The Monetary Link’: Tocqueville on the Second Bank of the US and Liberal Political Economy.”** 2020. in *Exploring the Social and Political Economy of Alexis de Tocqueville*. eds. Peter Boettke and Adam Martin. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**“The Silent Role of Emotions in Hayekian Political Economy.”** 2018. in *Exploring the Political Economy and Social Philosophy of F. A. Hayek*. eds. Peter J. Boettke, Virgil Henry Storr, Jayme S. Lemke. New York: Rowman & Littlefield International.

**“The Economic Education of Emile: Reinterpreting Rousseau’s Use of Robinson Crusoe.”** 2018. *History of Political Thought* 39 (4): 662-689.

**“Beyond the Efficiency of the Market: Adam Smith on Sympathy and the Poor Law.”** 2017. in *Interdisciplinary Studies of the Market Order: New Applications of Market Process Theory*. eds. Peter Boettke, Christopher Coyne, and Virgil Storr. London: Rowman and Littlefield International Ltd.

## EDITED VOLUMES

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**Social Coordination and Public Policy: Explorations in Theory and Practice** (co-edited with Roberta Herzberg; Gavin Roberts) 2023. New York: Rowman & Littlefield International.

**Political Economy Document Volume.** 2021. Ashland: Ashbrook Center.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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**Beyond Rights and Price: Liberalism with Taste** *book manuscript*

**“Adam Smith, Economic Development, and Late Capitalism”** *Tensions in Adam Smith* volume

**“No Man is an Island Entire of Itself: Adam Smith on Autonomy and Judgment”**

**“Tocqueville and the Sociality of Work in Liberal Democracy”**

**The Division of the Virtues: Equality in Adam Smith’s Thought** (with Isabelle Thelen)

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**“Political Economy: Moral, Political, and Economic Judgment for the Citizen”** 2023. Review of *Recovering Classical Liberal Political Economy: Natural Rights and the Harmony of Interests* by Lee Ward. *Political Science Reviewer* 47 (1): 500-510.

**“Markets Clearly Make us Moral, Yet Doubts Persist.”** 2023. Review of *Do Markets Corrupt our Morals?* by Virgil Storr and Ginny Choi. *The Review of Austrian Economics* 36 (1): 107-114.

**“Affective Liberalism: The Necessity of Rights, Markets, and Emotions.”** 2021. Review of *Commerce and Manners in Edmund Burke’s Political Economy*. by Gregory Collins. *Political Science Reviewer*. 45 (2): 575-618.

## POPULAR WRITING

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**Adam Smith on Market Changes, Efficiency, and How to Fire Employees.** March 2025. *Speaking of Smith* blog. AdamSmithWorks.org <https://www.adamsmithworks.org/speakings/wolf-adam-smith-market-changes-efficiency-how-to-fire-employees>

**Adam Smith, The American Founding, and the Political Problem of Wealth.** July 2024. *Speaking of Smith* blog. AdamSmithWorks.org <https://www.adamsmithworks.org/documents/the-american-founding-and-the-political-problem-of-wealth>

**Bowling in Fear? Gun Violence and the Erosion of Civil Society.** April 2023. *The Constitutionalist* blog. <https://theconstitutionalist.org/2023/04/24/bowling-in-fear-gun-violence-and-the-erosion-of-civil-society/>

**What Can Adam Smith Teach us about the Moral Economy of Sanctioning Oligarchs?** April 2022. *Speaking of Smith* blog. AdamSmithWorks.org <https://www.adamsmithworks.org/speakings/wolf-smith-moral-economy-sanctioning-oligarchs-part-2>

**Protecting the Health of the Body—and the Body Politic.** April 21, 2020. Interview *TeachingAmericanHistory.org* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/blog/protecting-the-health-of-the-body-and-of-the-body-politic-an-interview-with-political-economist-brianne-wolf/>

**Liberalism and Judgment; Against Fixed Standards.** March 2020. Response to Daniel B. Klein, "Smith, Hume, and Burke as Policy Liberals and Polity Conservatives" *Liberty Matters* forum, Liberty Fund. <https://oll.libertyfund.org/page/liberty-matters-daniel-klein-adamsmith-hume-burke-liberalism>

**Why Does the Division of Labor Matter?** August 2019. *Speaking of Smith* blog. AdamSmithWorks.org <https://www.adamsmithworks.org/speakings/why-does-the-division-of-labor-matter> (most viewed post)

**Adam Smith makes a case for higher tariffs—but it doesn’t work for Trump’s trade policy.** July 12, 2019. *Monkey Cage* blog, Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/12/adam-smith-makes-case-higher-tariffs-it-doesnt-work-trumps-trade-policy/>

## INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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**“Freedom and Abundance: Affective Liberalism.”** The Future of Liberalism Conference, Institute for Humane Studies, June 14, 2025.

**“Political Economic Education: Advice from Two Visitors to America.”** Ashbrook Scholars Colloquium, Ashbrook Center, Ashland University, November 8, 2024.

**“Beyond Rights and Price: Liberalism with Taste.”** Menard Family George Washington Forum, Ohio University, April 23, 2024.

**“Affective Liberalism and Aesthetic Judgment”** F.A. Hayek Workshop on Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, October 26, 2023.

**“Can Your Interests Combat Self-Interest? Adam Smith on Good Taste, Moral Judgment, and Interpersonal Connection.”** Markets & Morality Group. Hope College, September 20, 2021.

**“No Man is an Island Entire of Itself: Adam Smith on Homoeconomicus, Autonomy, and Judgment.”** Philosophy, Politics and Economics Research Seminar. Center for the Study of Economic Liberty. Arizona State University, April 9, 2021.

**“Beyond Rights and Price: Liberalism with Taste.”** Institute for Humane Studies. January 15, 2021.

**“Individual Responsibility and the Market.”** Foundation for Economic Education and Ashbrook Center Event: “Political and Economic Leadership.” Ashland University, January 21, 2019.

**“No Man is an Island Entire of Itself: Adam Smith on Autonomy and Judgment”** F.A. Hayek Workshop on Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, October 18, 2018.

**“Rousseau’s Principles of Economic Education.”** Shawnee State University, April 20, 2018.

**“Morality and Markets: The Case of Adam Smith.”** Foundation for Economic Education and Ashbrook Center Event: “Does a Free Economy Make us Better?” Ashland University, March 24, 2018.

**“The Silent Role of the Emotions in Hayek’s Political Economy.”** JANUS Forum, Miami University, February 21, 2018.

**“The Ordinary and Extraordinary in Smith’s Account of Virtue: A Review of Eric Schliesser’s *Adam Smith: Systematic Philosopher and Public Thinker*.”** Smith Institute, Chapman University, October 23, 2017.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2022-2023	Waltzer Teaching Excellence Award, James Madison College, Michigan State University
2020-2025	Affiliated Fellow, F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
2018	Smith Fellowship, Liberty Fund
2016-2017	Best Dissertation Prize in Political Theory, UW-Madison
2016-2017	Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies
2013-2014; 2015-2016;	
2016-2017	Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University
2012-2013; 2015-2016	University Fellowship, UW-Madison
2015-2016	PhD Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies
2013-2016	Bradley Fellowship, Bradley Foundation, UW-Madison
2014-2015	Chancellor’s Opportunity Fellowship, UW-Madison
2013-2014; 2014-2015	Weaver Fellowship, Intercollegiate Studies Institute
2010-2011	Master of Arts in the Social Sciences Tuition Scholarship, University of Chicago
2010	Jack Chapin Memorial Award, Outstanding Senior in Political Theory, Michigan State University
2010-present	Phi Beta Kappa
2009-2011	Lincoln Scholar Fellowship, LeFrak Forum at Michigan State University
2008	Harry Reed Endowed Scholarship in History, Michigan State University

## SELECT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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**“No Man Is an Island: Adam Smith on Homoeconomicus and Economic Judgment”** APSA, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada September 2025

**“The Division of Virtues: Moral Equality in Adam Smith’s Thought”** SPSA, Puerto Rico January 2025

**“Adam Smith, Economic Development, and Late Capitalism”** Tensions in Adam Smith volume, Markets & Society, Falls Church, VA October 2024

**“Affective Liberalism and Aesthetic Judgment”** PPE Society, New Orleans November 2023 (accepted, unable to attend)

**“Tocqueville and the Moral Economy of Bankruptcy in Nineteenth-Century America”** Markets & Society, Falls Church, VA October 2023

**“Political Economic Judgment: Adam Smith on Taste and Extending Sympathy”** Adam Smith and Modern Capitalism, Boston College April 2023

**“Tocqueville and the Political Economy of Bankruptcy in Nineteenth-Century America”** The Future Before Us: Early Career Women in Political Theory and Constitutional Studies, SPSA January 2023

**“Adam Smith and Patriotic Limits to Free Trade”** Human Capital, Commercial Society, and Human Flourishing, Arizona State University November 2022

**“Liberty and Responsibility in Adam Smith”** *Discussion Leader*. Liberty Fund July 2022

**“Educating Economic Relationships: The Political Economy of the Family in Liberal Theory”** (virtual) APSA 2021

**“Reflections on AdamSmithWorks.org”** *Discussion Leader*. Liberty Fund July 2019

**“Adam Smith’s Theory of Moral Sentiments”** *Discussion Leader*. Liberty Fund March 2019

**“Tocqueville and the Sociality of Work in Liberal Democracy”** MPSA 2020; PPE Society 2020; APEE 2019

**“No Man is an Island Entire of Itself: Adam Smith on Autonomy and Judgment”** IASS 2021 APSA 2018; MPSA 2018

**“Tasteful Citizenship: Hume on the Role of Emotional Judgment in Politics”** APSA 2017

**“The Transformation of the Democratic Mind: Tocqueville on the Utility of Democratic Taste”** MPSA 2017

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Michigan State University** *Assistant Professor; Associate Professor*

Politics and Markets (Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021, Fall 2022: Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026)

Radical Challenges to Liberal Democracy (Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2022)

Constitutionalism and Democracy (Spring 2021; Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025)

Adam Smith’s Challenge: Self-Interest or the Common Good? (Spring 2021; Spring 2023; Fall 2025)

Introduction to Public Affairs (Fall 2021; Fall 2025)

**Ashland University** *Assistant Professor*

Adam Smith, the Self, and Society (Fall 2018)  
 Foundations of Political Economy (Fall 2017, 2018)  
 Political Economy of a Free Society (Spring 2017)  
 20th Century Political Economy: The Welfare State and Beyond (Spring 2019)  
 Introduction to Western Civilization I: Ancient Greece to Renaissance (Fall 2017, 2018)  
 Introduction to Western Civilization II: Renaissance to WWII (Spring 2017)

**Marquette University** *Visiting Instructor*

Justice and Power: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Spring 2017)

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** *Guest Lecturer*

“Adam Smith on the Poor Law”, Economic Inequality in Modern Political Thought (Spring 2017)

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** *Teaching Assistant*

Democratic Ideas (Spring 2017)

Western Culture: Political, Economic & Social Thought I (Fall 2014)

**Guest Lectures:** “Augustine and the problem of *Amor-Sui* for Political Life”; “All you Need is Love: Augustine and Aquinas on Christian Virtue”; “Introduction to the Course: Three Kinds of Virtue”

Western Culture: Political, Economic & Social Thought II (Spring 2014)

**Guest Lecture:** “Liberty is not License, Rights Mean Responsibilities: Edmund Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France*”

The First Amendment (Fall 2013)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science, Revista de Historia Económica, Review of Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Reviewer, American Political Science Review*

2022- Advisory Board Member, *Markets & Society*  
 2018- Editorial Board Member, *Political Science Reviewer*  
 2019 Section Chair, Political Theory Subfield, MPSA Conference Program Committee

**Michigan State University**

2025-2026 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor (Nicholas Caruso)  
 2024-2025 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor (Caitlin Visniski)  
 2024-2025 PhD Committee Member (Eric Allison)  
 2022-2024 Student-Faculty Judiciaries  
 2024 College Curriculum Revision Committee  
 2023-2024 College Ad-Hoc Curriculum Revision Committee  
 2022 College Strategic Plan Writing Committee  
 2021 College Strategic Pre-Planning Committee  
 2020-2024 College Curriculum Committee  
 2020-2022 Mentor, Madison Academic Diversity Initiative  
 2019-2021 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor (Seth Marvin-Vanderryn)

**Ashland University**

2018-2019 Undergraduate Thesis Advisor (Nicholas Thielman; Katherine Fossaceca)  
 2018-2019 Undergraduate Thesis Advisor (Joshua Sanders)  
 2018-2019 Undergraduate Thesis Committee Member (Alec Temple)  
 2019 Coach, Ashland University Research and Writing Community Leadership Team  
 2018-2019 Faculty Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate, Ashland University  
 2018 Hiring Committee, Department of History and Political Science  
 2017-2019 Faculty Advisor, 1girl Organization  
 2017-2019 Organizer, Political Economy Colloquia, Ashbrook Center

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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history of political thought, history of political economy, modern political thought, liberalism, Scottish Enlightenment, French Enlightenment, moral judgment, aesthetics

## LANGUAGE TRAINING

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English (native); French (intermediate reading and comprehension)