

Alex Tuckness

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Employment

Chair, Dept. of Political Science, 2022-present

Professor, Dept. of Political Science, courtesy appointment in the Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2011-present.

Director of Graduate Education, 2006-2008 and 2013-present.

Acting Chair, Dept. of Political Science, Summer 2019.

Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Iowa State University, 2005-2011.

Visiting Faculty Fellow in Ethics, Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2003-2004.

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Iowa State University, 1999-2005.

Education

Princeton University, Ph.D. in Politics, 1999.

Cambridge University, M.Phil. with Distinction in Political Thought and Intellectual History, 1995.

University of Chicago, A.B. with Honors in Political Science, 1994 (Phi Beta Kappa, 1993).

Departmental Leadership

Award for Early Achievement in Departmental Leadership, Iowa State University 2025.

Led recruitment initiative the increased new majors by more than 50%, 2025.

Award for Early Achievement in Departmental Leadership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University 2025.

Led the redesign of and implementation of a new curriculum that gives students the option of career pathways and eliminates traditional subfield distribution requirements. (2022-2024).

Publications

Books

Morality as Legislation: Rules and Consequences, Cambridge University Press, 2021.

This is Political Philosophy (Co-author Clark Wolf), Wiley Blackwell, 2017.

The Decline of Mercy in Public Life. (Co-author John Michael Parrish). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Locke and the Legislative Point of View: Toleration, Contested Principles and Law. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002.

Refereed Journal Articles

Rachel Lentz and Alex Tuckness, "Impartial Spectators and Legislators: Adam Smith and Religion" *Review of Politics* 86 (3), Summer 2024.

"International Justice in Ethical Decision Making: Expanding the Role" *Public Integrity*, Spring 2012, pp. 113-125.

"Locke on Education and the Rights of Parents," *Oxford Review of Education*, October 2010, pp. 627-638.

"Retribution and Restitution in Locke's Theory of Punishment," *Journal of Politics*, July 2010, pp. 720-732.

"Everybody Does It: An Analysis of a Common Excuse," *Public Integrity*, Summer 2010, pp. 261-272.

"Punishment, Property, and the Limits of Altruism: Locke's International Asymmetry," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 208, 2008, pp 467-480.

"John Locke and Public Administration," *Administration & Society*, vol. 40, May 2008, pp. 253 - 270.

"Discourses of Resistance in the American Revolution," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, October, 2003, pp. 547-564.

"Rethinking the Intolerant Locke," *American Journal of Political Science*, April 2002, pp. 288-298.

“Legislation and Non-neutral Principles: A Lockean Approach,” *Journal of Political Philosophy*, September 2000, pp. 363-378.

“The Coherence of a Mind: John Locke and the Law of Nature,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, January 1999, pp. 73-90.

Book Chapters

“We Need Government” for *Problems in Value Theory: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates*. New York: Bloomsbury, edited by Steve Cowan, 2020.

“The History of Consent in Western Political Philosophy” for *The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Consent*, London and New York: Routledge, edited by Peter Schaber, 2018.

“John Locke’s Theory of Toleration” in Blackwell’s *Companion to Locke*. Ed. Matthew Stewart. New York: Blackwell, 2016.

“Locke’s Main Argument for Toleration,” *Nomos* (Yearbook of the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy), vol. 48, 2008, pp. 114-138.

“The U.S., the I.C.C., and the Demands of Impartiality” in *Bringing Power to Justice*, eds. Joanna Harrington, Michael Milde, and Richard Vernon. McGill/Queens University Press, 2006.

Encyclopedia Entries

“John Locke’s Political Philosophy,” for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2020. (Revised and Expanded).

“John Locke’s Political Philosophy,” for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2015. (Revised).

“John Locke’s Political Philosophy,” for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2010. (Revised and Expanded).

“John Locke’s Political Philosophy,” for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2005.

Invited Presentations

Public Lecture: “The Justice-Mercy Paradox in Historical Perspective” Delivered at Wheaton College, Jan. 2015.

Princeton University: Panelist at conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of Joseph Raz's *Morality of Freedom*, 2006.

Harvard University: Panelist at "Equality" conference, 2004.

"The U.S., the International Criminal Court, and the Demands of Impartiality" presented to the Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict Research Group conference on "Bringing Power to Justice," 2003.

Work in Under Review:

Djupe, Paul A., Amy Erica Smith, and Alex Tuckness. "Curbing Christian Nationalism? The Results From A Series of Experiments"

Grants and Research Support

Whitaker-Lindgren Faculty Fellow in the Department of Political Science. \$9500 per year for 2021 and 2022.

Charles Koch Foundation, grant for study of the Foundations of Well-Being, \$5000 awarded for 2018-2020.

LAS Small Grant, \$1000 for travel the American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco, 2017.

LAS Small Grant, \$1080 for travel to the Midwest Political Science Conference, Spring 2014 to present a paper.

LAS Small Grant, \$1440. Funds for research assistance preparing book manuscript for publication. Awarded Fall 2012 for Spring 2013.

A New Science of Virtues, 2010-2012. \$142,258. Primary Investigator for project titled "The Virtue of Mercy: Religion, Philosophy, and Politics." One of 19 funded projects (out of 700) by the Templeton Foundation via the University of Chicago.

ISU Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Summer Salary Grant. "Mercy as a Political Virtue in Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic Thought." 2010.

LAS Grant to convert POLS 579 into an asynchronous distance learning class. \$4000 plus additional funds for technical support. 2009.

Faculty Fellow in Ethics at Harvard University's Center for Ethics and the Professions in 2003-2004. Award of approximately \$30,000 funding academic work at Harvard.

Iowa State University Faculty Professional Development Assignment, 2003-2004. Awarded by Iowa State for the full academic year to support research at Harvard University providing six months salary during academic leave.

ISU Miller Teaching Fellowship, 2002-2003. \$8,000 grant for pilot program in which advanced undergraduates lead discussions sections in introductory classes as part of a Capstone Project Course.

Iowa State Summer Humanities Grant, 2002. One month of summer salary was awarded for work on “Partial Justice: The Problem of Punishing War Crimes.”

Iowa State Summer Humanities Grant, 2001. One month of summer salary was awarded for work on normative dimensions of humanitarian intervention.

Iowa State Summer Humanities Grant, 2000. One month of summer salary was awarded to facilitate revision of book manuscript, *Locke and the Legislative Point of View*.

Awards

Whitaker-Lindgren Faculty Fellow in the Department of Political Science, 2021-2022.

Alumni Junior Faculty Excellence Award, Dept. of Political Science 2005.

ISU Foundation Award for Early Achievement in Teaching, 2003. A university-wide teaching award recognizing overall excellence in teaching and conferring a one-time stipend of \$1000. Awarded to two faculty members annually.

Selected by ISU Center for Teaching Excellence as a Wakanse Teaching Fellow, 2002.

Princeton University Honorific Fellowship, 1998-99.

Harvey Fellowship, 1998. Supports graduate research by Christians in secular fields.

Princeton Center for Human Values Graduate Prize Fellowship, 1997-98.

Conference Papers and Presentations

Djupe, Paul A., Amy Erica Smith, and Alex Tuckness. “Curbing Christian Nationalism? A Series of Experiments.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2023.

Djupe, Paul A., Amy Erica Smith, and Alex Tuckness. "Curbing Christian Nationalism? A Series of Experiments." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the SSSR, Baltimore, 2022

"Grotius, Just War, and Just Politics" (with John Michael Parrish). American Political Science Association, 2021.

"Locke and the Problem of Partial Justice," American Political Science Association, 2019.

"Legislators, Architects, and Spectators: Secular Justice From Locke to Hume," Northeast Political Science Association, 2018.

"Mill (and Sidgwick) on Moral Expression as Legislation." Accepted and submitted for American Political Science Association 2018 but unable to present due to personal circumstances.

"Morality as Legislation: Rules and Consequences." Iowa Association for Political Science. 2018.

"Locke, Cumberland, and Legislating Consequences." Association for Political Theory (Scheduled for Oct 2017).

"Morality as Legislation, Then and Now." American Political Science Association (Sept 2017).

"Morality as Legislation in 20th Century Utilitarianism." Midwest Political Science Association (April, 2017).

"The Decline of Mercy in Public Life." American Political Science Association, Authors-meet-critics roundtable, 2015.

"Locke, Discretion, and Arbitrary Power" Association for Political Theory. (Oct 2014).

"Dworkin, Objectivity, and Objectionable Personal Judgments" Midwest Political Science Association, 2014. (April 2014.)

"The Justice of Mercy" (with John Michael Parrish) Western Political Science Association 2013

"The Justice of Mercy," (with John Michael Parrish) Association for Political Theory, 2012.

"The Mercy-Justice Paradox in Historical Perspective" (with John Michael Parrish), Society for Christian Philosophers, Midwest 2012.

“Mercy and Justice in Buddhism, Islam, and Orthodoxy: the Missing Paradox,” (with John Michael Parrish) Association for Political Theory, 2011.

“Justice and Mercy in 17th Century Theology and Politics,” (with John Michael Parrish) Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Politics, 2011.

“Conceptions of Mercy,” (with John Michael Parrish) 1st Annual Meeting of Grant Recipients of “A New Science of Virtues,” 2011.

“Mercy and Punishment in the Sixteenth Century” (with John Michael Parrish), Southwest Political Science Association, 2011.

“Bentham and the Problem with Pardons” (with John Michael Parrish), Western Political Science Association, 2010.

“Kant and the Problem with Pardons” (with John Michael Parrish), Western Political Science Association, 2010.

“Anselm and the Paradox of Justice” (with John Michael Parrish), American Political Science Association, 2009.

“Mercy and Punishment in Augustine’s Political Thought” (with John Michael Parrish), Western Political Science Association, 2009.

“Community and Conflict in John Locke’s Theory of Punishment,” Western Political Science Association, 2008.

“Everyone Does It: A Normative Analysis for Public Administrators,” American Society for Public Administration, 2007.

“State Consent and the Obligation to Obey International Law,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2005.

“Non-ideal Theory and Justice,” Association for Political Theory Conference, 2004.

“Pragmatism and Universality in Grotius and Hume,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2004 (informal roundtable presentation).

“The International Criminal Court and the Demands of Impartiality,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2003.

“Non-intervention in a Non-ideal World,” American Political Science Association Conference, 2002.

“Rethinking Toleration and Human Rights,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2002.

“Locke and Legislative Consent,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2001.

Panel Discussant, “Hobbes,” American Political Science Association, 2000.

Panel Discussant, “Political Ethics and the Structure of Political Society,” American Political Science Association, 2000.

“The Power of Words and Swords: John Locke and the Law of Opinion,” American Political Science Association Conference, 1999.

“Locke, Non-neutral Principles, and the Use of Force,” American Political Science Association Conference, 1998.

“Judges in the State of Nature,” Northeast Political Science Association Conference, 1998.

Professional Service

Section Head at the Midwest Political Science Conference, 2004, “Modern Theorists and Texts.”

Book Reviewer for:

Harvard University Press
Princeton University Press
Oxford University Press
InterVarsity Press

Article Reviewer for:

American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Canadian Journal of Political Science
CLIO
European Journal of Political Theory
Hague Journal of the Rule of Law
History of Philosophy Quarterly
History of Political Thought
International Theory
Journal of Hebraic Studies
Journal of the History of Ideas
Journal of Moral Philosophy
Journal of Philosophical Research
Journal of Political Philosophy
Journal of Politics
Mind
Perspectives on Politics

Philosophia
Political Research Quarterly
Political Studies
Political Theory
Polity
Res Publica
Review of Politics
Social Theory and Practice
Theoria

Courses Taught 1999-2023

Political Science 230 *Introduction to Law and Politics*
Political Science 235 *Introduction to Ethics and Politics*
Political Science 333 *Democracy and Diversity in America*
Political Science 339 *Liberty and Law in America*
Political Science 421 *Constitutional Freedoms*
Political Science 422 *International Law*
Political Science 430 *Western Political Thought: Plato to Machiavelli*
Political Science 431/531 *Modern Political Thought*
Political Science 433 *American Political Thought*
Political Science 480/580 *Ethics and Public Policy*
Political Science 490/590 (*Independent Study, various topics*)
Political Science 495 *Senior Project Course*
Political Science 569 *Foundations of Public Administration*
Political Science 571 *Organizational Theory in the Public Sector*
Political Science 578X *Ethics and Public Administration*

Invited Talks at ISU

ISU Lectures Constitution Day Panelist, *Torture, Detention, and the Rule of Law*, 2009.

Institutional Service

Departmental:

Director of Graduate Education (2007-2008, 2013-)
Director of the Public Policy and Administration Program, (2006-2008)
Graduate Committee (2012-)
MPA Committee (2006-2012)
Undergraduate Committee (1999-2006, 2009-2012). Chair (2005-2006)
Awards Committee Member 2000-2001, Chair 2004-2005, 2008-2009.
Faculty Advisor Political Science Club (2000-2003),
Faculty Advisor Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society (2000-2003)
Search Committees
Moral and Political Philosophy Search Committee 2018-19

African American Studies Search Committee (2012)
Comparative Politics Search Committee (1999, 2003, 2010)
Energy Policy Search Committee (2012-2013)
International Relations Search Committee (2008)
Latino Studies Search Committee (2003)
Public Budgeting Committee Search (2007-2008)
Public Management Committee Search (2007-2008)

College:

LAS Promotion and Tenure Committee 2021-22
LAS Graduate Programs Covid Workgroup 2020
LAS Faculty Development Committee (2011-2014)
LAS Diversity Committee (2005-2006)
Dean's Committee to review the Public Policy and Administration Program (2005-2006)
History Dept. Search Committee (2013)

University:

ISU Faculty Senate (2008-2014)
ISU Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Council (2010-12)
Truman Scholarship Committee (2009-)
Phi Beta Kappa Selection Committee (2010-11)
President, ISU Phi Beta Kappa chapter, (2007-8)
Faculty Advisor for Salt Company Student Fellowship (2008-Present).
Faculty Advisor Mock Trial Team (2001-2003)
Faculty Advisor Truth Bucket (2002-2003)