

CURRICULUM VITAE

BRITTANY R. LEACH

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EDUCATION

PhD, Politics, University of Virginia – 2020.

Major Field: Political Theory, *Minor Field:* Comparative Politics.

Dissertation Title: “Death Before Birth: Theorizing Pregnant Embodiment, Reproductive Autonomy, and the Politics of Abortion.”

Committee: Lawrie Balfour (Chair), Stephen K. White, Denise Walsh, Murad Idris, Allison Pugh (Sociology).

MA, Political Science and International Affairs, University of Georgia – 2014.

Thesis Title: “Beyond the Identity Quandary: A Relational Theory of Subjectivity.”

Committee: Alexander Kaufman (Chair), Sean Ingham, Cas Mudde.

BA, Political Science, University of Texas at Dallas – 2012.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022-present	Assistant Professor, School of Anthropology Political Science & Sociology, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.
2020-2022	Lecturer, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Virginia.
Summer 2020	Digital Pedagogy Intern, University of Virginia.
2019-2020	Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, Citizens & Scholars Foundation (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation).
2018-2019	Instructor, Department of Politics, University of Virginia.
2016-2018	Assistant Editor, <i>Political Theory</i>.
2015-2019	Teaching and Research Assistant, University of Virginia.
2012-2014	Research Assistant, University of Georgia.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

- 2026*** Leach, Brittany. “Democracy & Violence in Charlottesville: Deliberation, Feminist Ethics, and Embodied Confrontation Against White Supremacy.” *Theory & Event* (forthcoming; *publication expected in approximately Summer 2026).
- 2025** Leach, Brittany. “Social reproduction and gendered bodily labor in imperial democracies.” In a Critical Exchange with Inés Valdez, Robert Nichols, Benjamin McKean, and Duncan Kelly on “Labor, nature, and the reproduction of capitalism: an exchange on subjection and emancipation” in *Contemporary Political Theory* 24(2). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-024-00739-4>

- 2022** **Leach, Brittany R. “At the Borders of the Body Politic: Fetal Citizens, Pregnant Migrants, and Reproductive Injustices in Immigration Detention.”** *American Political Science Review* 116(1): 116-130 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000812>. Citations: 31. Research Impact:
- * Selected for the APSR Public Scholarship program (a graduate student fellow summarized my article for APSA’s public-facing website, with my guidance), September 2021. <https://politicalsciencenow.com/unborn-citizens-or-anchor-babies-reproductive-injustice-in-immigrant-detention/>
 - * Invited to discuss this article and the process of publishing in the APSR as a feminist theorist. Contemporary Feminist Theory Virtual Community (affiliated with the Western Political Science Association). May 2, 2022.
 - * APSR “Conversations with Authors” interview, April 2022. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2022/04/03/conversations-with-authors-at-the-borders-of-the-body-politic/>
- 2021** **Leach, Brittany R. “Abjection and Mourning in the Struggle over Fetal Remains.”** *Contemporary Political Theory* 20(1): 141-164. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-020-00400-w>. Citations: 12.
- 2020** **Leach, Brittany R. “Who’s Backlashing Against Whom? Feminism, Backlash, and the American Pro-Life Movement’s ‘Mother-Child Strategy.’”** In a Symposium on “Backlash and the Future of Feminism,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 45(2): 319-328. <https://doi.org/10.1086/705004>. Citations: 11.

Book Reviews

- 2023** **Book Review on Lorna Bracewell’s** *Why We Lost the Sex Wars: Sexual Freedom in the #MeToo Era*. *Politics & Gender* 19(2): 645-647. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X22000368>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript: *Relational Reproductive Autonomy: Abortion, Embodiment, and Feminist Community*. Full manuscript sent for peer review in October 2025.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024** “Reproducing Empire: U.S. Imperialism, Abortion Politics, & Decolonial Feminism in the Americas,” University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. January 31.
- 2022** “Reproductive Justice Without Borders: Notes on Abortion Rights and the Nation.” Illinois State University, Department of Politics and Government, Post-Roe Reproductive Justice Speaker Series. October 25.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2024** **Joann Paine Faculty Research Award**, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

- 2019** **Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship**, Citizens & Scholars Foundation (previously the Woodrow Wilson Foundation).
- 2016** **Prestage-Cook Travel Award**, Southern Political Science Association.
- 2015** **UVA Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Fellowship**. Awarded to finance attendance at the Bologna-Duke Summer School in Critical Theory and Global Studies.
- 2013** **Winner of Best Paper Award (MA & First Year PhD Division) & Nominee for Best Paper (Open Division)**, Georgia State University Political Science (Graduate) Research Conference.
- 2012** **Peter Mekis Memorial Scholarship**, University of Georgia.

SELECTED CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** “Jane’s Abortion Commons: Reproductive Autonomy in the Feminist Underground.” American Political Science Association (APSA).
- “Reproducing American Imperialism: U.S. Pro-Life Discourse, Fetal Human Rights, and Decolonial Feminist Encounters.” Western Political Science Association (WPSA).
- 2024** “Author Meets Critics: Inés Valdez’s *Democracy and Empire*.” APSA 2024 (previously planned for APSA 2023; postponed due to hotel strike).
- 2023** “Reproducing Empire: Decolonial Feminist Critique & US/Global Pro-Life Discourses,” Accepted for presentation at APSA 2023; presented virtually at the Alt-APSA for junior scholars organized by Lauren Kronken (Princeton University) due to hotel strike.
- “Feminism Against the Political? Rethinking Social Reproduction Theory and the State/Society/Economy Distinction.” WPSA.
- “Beyond Constitutional Rights: The Jane Collective and Reproductive Autonomy.” Constitution Day, Diversity Week, & SPPS Research Brown Bag. SIU-Carbondale.
- “Deliberation and Embodied Confrontation in Charlottesville: Contesting White Supremacy in Local Public Forums and the Streets.” SIU SPPS Brown Bag (2023) and WPSA (2018).
- 2022** “From Survival, Vitality and Autonomy: Mutual Aid as Prefigurative Social Reproduction.” WPSA.
- 2019** “Enacting Reproductive Autonomy, Prefiguring Feminist Futures: Safe but Illegal Abortions as Feminist Counterpractice.” WPSA, APSA, and UVA Political Theory Colloquium.
- 2018** “Mourning, Abjection, and Pregnant Embodiment in Debates Over Fetus Funeral Laws.” APSA.

Dissertation project presented at the Interpretation & Methods short course on “Activism, Advocacy, and/vs. Scholarship.” APSA.

- 2017** “Rethinking Articulation Theory Through the Podemos Party’s Activist Praxis.” Southern States Communication Association.
- “Intersectionality and the Politics of Miscounting: A Feminist Reconstruction of Jacques Rancière’s Political Subject.” UVA Politics Graduate Conference and University of Pennsylvania Political Science Graduate Student Conference.
- 2016** “Marginalized Bodies, Unimaginable Lives: Cultivating a Habit of Ethical Imagination in Emergencies.” Southern Political Science Association (SPSA).
- 2015** “Weak Ontology, Strong Politics: Ontopolitical Strategy for Agonistic Democrats.” UVA Politics Graduate Conference.
- “Ask Me What I’m Asking For: SlutWalk, Feminism, and Transnational Protest.” UVA Politics Graduate Conference.
- 2014** “Feminism and the Identity Quandary: Possibilities for Articulating a Post-Subjective Politics.” SPSA.
- 2013** “SlutWalk and Sovereignty: Transnational Protest as Emergent Global Democracy.” APSA, UGA Interdisciplinary Research Conference, and the Friday Forum at the UGA Center for the Study of Global Issues.

TEACHING

Courses taught at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale:

- Graduate
 - Topical Seminar in Sociology: Gender, Race, & Class (SOC 530) – Spring 2025
 - Qualitative Methods (SOC 514) – Spring 2024, Spring 2026
 - Seminar in Race and Ethnic Relations (SOC 552) – Spring 2023
- Undergraduate
 - Jurisprudence (Theories of Law) (POLS 437) – Spring 2026
 - Reproductive Justice (POLS 410/SOC 410) – Fall 2024, Fall 2025
 - Politics of Diversity in the United States (POLS 215) – Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025
 - Women & the Law (POLS 438/WGSS 438) – Spring 2023, Fall 2024
 - Gender and Global Politics (POLS 456/WGSS 446) – Fall 2022, Spring 2025
 - Social Change (SOC 406) – Fall 2023

Indirect Teaching at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale:

- MA Committees: 3
 - Graduated: Rebecca Chia (SOC, 2023); Haley Blanchard (POLS, 2023); Isaac Shaw (POLS, 2025)
- PhD Students: 10

- **Current:** Hannah Crane (SOC), Jeremy Allen (SOC), Neeraja Kolloju (SOC), Ricky Braatz (SOC), Oleg Golishnikov (POLS), Joy Ofuokwu (SOC), Ayodeji Oyekunle (POLS), Carly Stumphy (SOC), Cydnee Totzke (SOC), Jelena Nikolic (SOC).
- Back-up committee member for Kimberly Shella (POLS).
- Local faculty advisor for PhD candidate Polish exchange student, Vera Syrakvash, in 2024-2025.

Courses taught and teaching experience at the University of Virginia:

- “Feminist Theory” (WGS 3810) – Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2020, Fall 2021.
- “Reproductive Justice” (WGS 3559) – Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022.
- “Feminism, Capitalism, & Alternatives” (WGS 3559) – Spring 2022.
- “Topics in Political Theory: Intersectionality & Identity” (PLPT3500) – Summer 2019.
- “Transnational Feminism” (WGS 3340) – Fall 2020, Spring 2021.
- “Political Theory & Identity Politics” – Summer 2018. Short course for the Mellon Foundation’s LAMI FYRE graduate preparatory program for students from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Teaching assistant for PLPT 3020 “Modern Political Thought” (Fall 2015 & Spring 2019) and PLPT 1010 “Introduction to Political Theory” (Spring 2016 & Fall 2018).

SELECTED SERVICE

Discipline:

- **Member of the APSA Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, Fall 2023-2026.**
- **Grant Reviewer for the APSA Diversity and Inclusion Advancing Research Grants for Early Career Scholars, May/June 2024.**
- **Selection Committee Member for the Okin-Young Award in Feminist Political Theory,** sponsored by the APSA Women, Gender, and Politics Research Section, Foundations of Political Theory, and Women’s Caucus for Political Science. 2023.

Public:

- **Interviewed by journalist Morrigan Carey and quoted in *The Daily Egyptian*,** “SIU denies FOIA request asking for all syllabi,” <https://dailyegyptian.com/121770/showcase/siu-denies-foia-request-asking-for-all-syllabi/>
- **Interviewed by journalist Annalise Schmidt and quoted at length in *The Daily Egyptian*,** “Anti-abortion speaker compares abortion laws to Dred Scott decision, discusses impact on Black communities” <https://dailyegyptian.com/121051/news/anti-abortion-speaker-compares-abortion-laws-to-dred-scott-decision-discusses-impact-on-black-communities/>
- **Invited Blog Post: “Abortion referendums in the 2024 elections showed that reproductive justice is popular, even in conservative areas,”** *USAPP American Politics and Policy Blog*, London School of Economics, 2024. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2024/11/11/abortion-referendums-in-the-2024-elections-showed-that-reproductive-justice-is-popular-even-in-conservative-areas/>
- **Speaker at “Visions of a Post-Roe Carbondale.”** Event organized by SIU YDSA, Rainbow Café, University Honors, and the Southern Illinois Reproductive Justice Network. Sept. 2022.
- **Interviewed by journalist Joseph Winters of *The Grist*** on reproductive justice and policy responses to protect bodily autonomy. Aug. 2022. Quoted in this article: <https://grist.org/accountability/the-problem-with-corporate-pledges-to-protect-abortion-access-and-the-climate/>

- **Invited Blog Post: “Feminist Futures: Reimagining Arguments for Abortion.”** *The Gender Policy Report*, University of Minnesota, July 2022. <https://genderpolicyreport.umn.edu/feminist-futures-reimagining-arguments-for-abortion/>
- **Invited Blog Post: “A world without Roe v. Wade: understanding the Supreme Court’s likely ruling and what to do about it.”** *USAPP American Politics and Policy Blog*, London School of Economics, May 2022. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2022/05/10/a-world-without-ro-v-wade-understanding-the-supreme-courts-likely-ruling-and-what-to-do-about-it/>
- **Invited Blog Post: “‘Fetal Citizens’ or ‘Anchor Babies’? Explaining reproductive injustice against immigrants & what feminists should do about it.”** London School of Economics USAPP American Politics and Policy Blog, September 2021. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2021/09/24/fetal-citizens-or-anchor-babies-explaining-reproductive-injustice-against-immigrants-and-what-feminists-should-do-about-it/>
- **“Foucault, Butler, and Post-Structuralist Feminist Theory,”** guest appearance on UVA student podcast, May 2021.
- **“From Socialist Feminist Rabble-Rouser to Ally of the Eugenics Movement: Confronting the Complexities of Margaret Sanger’s Legacy,”** invited talk with Planned Parenthood Generation Action (student organization), April 2021.
- **Interview on Reproductive Justice with student NARAL Pro-Choice Advocacy Fellows,** April 2021.
- **“Social Reproduction,”** public educational talk for the local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, January 2021.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CO-CURRICULARS

- **The Duke-Bologna Summer School in Global Studies and Critical Theory**, University of Bologna, June-July 2015. (Now co-sponsored by UVA.)
- **Panel Moderator Training**, University of Georgia Center for Teaching & Learning, May 2013.
- **Participant in the American Founding Reading Group and Political Theory Reading Group & Speaker Series**, University of Georgia, 2012-2014.
- **Member of the Intercollegiate Policy (NDT/CEDA) Debate Team**, University of Texas at Dallas. Fall 2008-Fall 2010.

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (proficient reading/writing, basic speaking/listening)

[Updated 11-12-2025]