

LUCIEN FERGUSON

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025-	ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW Assistant Professor of Law
2023-2025	BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL Drinan Visiting Assistant Professor
2021-2022	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Instructor, Political Science
2021	GRINNELL COLLEGE Lecturer, Political Science and History

EDUCATION

2024	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Ph.D. Political Science <i>Dissertation:</i> "The Spirit of Caste: Recasting the History of Civil Rights" • Edward S. Corwin Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Field of Public Law, American Political Science Association, 2024 <i>Committee:</i> Erin F. Delaney, Mary G. Dietz (chair), Paul F. Gowder, Alvin B. Tillery, Jr. <i>Specializations:</i> Political Theory; Law & Politics; American Politics; Critical Theory (certificate) <i>Honors:</i> Franke Graduate Fellowship ; Graduate Fellowship in Legal Studies <i>Research Assistantships:</i> M. Sara Monoson; Shmulik Nili
2024	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW J.D., cum laude <i>Honors:</i> Diamond Law & Humanities Fellowship (full tuition scholarship & stipend) <i>Research Assistantship:</i> Sheila Bedi <i>Journal:</i> NW. J. HUM. RTS. (associate editor)
2018	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY M.A., Political Science
2013	OBERLIN COLLEGE B.A. in Politics, high honors <i>Honors:</i> John D. Lewis Award in Political Theory; John Frederick Oberlin Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP

Published and Forthcoming

- Partisan Purposes: A State Constitutional Approach to the Partisan Gerrymander*, 102 IND. L.J. __ (forthcoming 2027)
- Selected for presentation at: Race to the Bottom: The New Partisan Gerrymander and State Constitutional Responses, AALS Annual Meeting (Jan. 2026) | Democracy and Public Law Works-in-Progress Conference, Michigan State University College of Law (Apr. 2026) | Junior Election Law Scholars Workshop (Apr. 2026) | Faculty Workshop, Chicago-Kent College of Law (Apr. 2026)

“State Capture” and the Role of State Courts, ST. CT. REP. (Jun. 2026)

- Invited contribution

Contesting State Capture, 46 CARDOZO L. REV. 1595 (2025)

- Featured in: [JOWELL: The Journal of Things We Like \(Lots\)](#) (Apr. 2025) | [State Court Report](#) (Jan. 2026)
- Selected for presentation at: [Junior Scholars Roundtable](#), Boston College Law School (Mar. 2025) | Faculty Workshop, Suffolk University Law School (March 2025) | [The Power of State Constitutional Rights Symposium](#), Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (Nov. 2025)

Lessons from Lewis: Equal Protection and the Constitutional Horizons of State Preemption, 94 MISS. L. J. 1309 (2025)

- Invited contribution to Mississippi Law School’s [Judicial Symposium on the Fourteenth Amendment](#).
- Selected for presentation at Mississippi Law School’s Judicial Symposium (Sep. 2024).

The Limits of Lochnerism, 32 WM. & MARY BILL RTS. J. 929 (2024)

- Invited contribution to *William & Mary Law Bill of Rights Journal’s Symposium on 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*.
- Selected for presentation at: Judicial Rights and Legislative Equality: The Future of Public Accommodation and the Polycentric Constitution after *303 Creative v. Elenis*, AALS Annual Meeting (Jan. 2024).

Law & Order: Rethinking Marcuse’s Legacy for Abolitionist Politics, THE MARCUSEAN MIND (Nicole K. Mayberry, Sid Simpson, Jina Fast & Eduardo Altheman C. Santos eds., 2024) (peer-reviewed book chapter)

- Selected for presentation at: 15th International Critical Theory Conference of Rome (May 2023).

W.E.B. Du Bois, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CRITICAL POLITICAL SCIENCE (Clyde W. Barrow ed., 2024) (peer-reviewed encyclopedia entry)

From Love to Care: Arendt’s Amor Mundi in the Ethical Turn, 50 POLITICAL THEORY 939 (2022) (peer-reviewed journal article)

Working Papers

Georgia’s Social State Provision and the Case for State Constitutional Equalities, GA. ST. U. L. REV. __ (forthcoming, 2027)

- Invited contribution to *Georgia State University Law Review’s* 32nd Annual Symposium Issue, Georgia at 250: The Past, Present, and Future of State Constitutional Law (Feb. 2027)

Douglass in Barbara: Black Abolitionists as Constitutional Authorities?, 102 CHI.-KENT. L. REV. __ (forthcoming, 2027)

- Selected for presentation at: *Chicago-Kent Law Review’s* symposium, [Who Belongs? The Contested History of Birthright Citizenship](#) (Oct. 2026)

Gift Clauses in State Constitutions, ST. CT. REP. (forthcoming, 2026)

Social Mobility and Fourteenth Amendment: A New Theory of Section One (draft available on request)

Frederick Douglass and the Spirit of Caste (draft available on request)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-2021	COMMUNITY JUSTICE & CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC, Chicago, IL, Rule 711 Lawyer
2019	CHILDREN AND FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, Chicago, IL, Rule 711 Lawyer
2013-2016	CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Chicago, IL, Special Education Teacher
2012	DURKIN & ROBERTS, Chicago, IL, Law Clerk
2011	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, Washington, DC, Office of Communications and Outreach Intern

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2027	Property Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law
	Labor Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law
	The Fourteenth Amendment: Past, Present, and Future, Chicago-Kent College of Law

2026	Labor Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law The Fourteenth Amendment: Past, Present, and Future, Chicago-Kent College of Law
2025	Employment Discrimination Law, Boston College Law School
2024	Reimagining the Reconstruction Constitution, Boston College Law School
2023	Reimagining the Reconstruction Constitution, Boston College Law School
2021	Black Abolitionist Thought, Grinnell College
2021	What's Wrong With Rights?: Critical Approaches to Civil and Human Rights, Northwestern University
2013-2016	3 rd -5 th Grade Special Education, Chicago Public Schools

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2024	Edward S. Corwin Award, Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Field of Public Law, American Political Science Association
2023-2025	Drinan Scholars Program Fellowship, Boston College Law School
2022-2023	University Fellowship, Northwestern University
2021-2022	Franke Fellowship, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University
2020-2021	Teaching Assistantship, Center for Legal Studies, Northwestern University
2020-2021	Associate Editorship, Northwestern Journal of Human Rights, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University
2019-2020	Full Law School Scholarship, Northwestern University
2018-2019	Full Law School Scholarship, Pritzker School of Law
2018-2024	Diamond Law and Humanities Fellowship, Pritzker School of Law
2018	Minar Memorial Summer Award, Northwestern University
2018-2024	Graduate Fellowship in Legal Studies, Northwestern University
2017-2018	Teaching Assistantship, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
2016-2017	University Fellowship, Northwestern University
2013	John D. Lewis Memorial Prize for Work in Political Theory, Oberlin College
2009-2013	John F. Oberlin Scholarship, Oberlin College

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks & Presentations

2026	Chance for Upward Mobility, or an Unfair Deal? Unpacking the Impact of a New Bears Stadium Deal, Illinois Tech Experts Report (Jul. 2026) (available on YouTube) The Labor Vision of the Fourteenth Amendment, What's Left of Philosophy (May. 2026) (available on Spotify) Mapping Malfeasance, Junior Election Law Scholars Workshop, Quinnipiac University School of Law, New Haven, CT
2025	Economic Rights and Economic Justice, The Power of State Constitutional Rights, Brennan Center for Justice, Northwestern University, Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, IL Contesting State Capture, Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA The Importance of Teaching Reconstruction and the Law Today, American Bar Association (available on YouTube)

- What Was Anti-Caste Constitutionalism?, Maryland Constitutional Law Schmooze, University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 The Fourteenth Amendment’s Social Mobility Principle, University of Mississippi Law School, Judicial Symposium on the Fourteenth Amendment, Oxford, MS
- 2024 The Spirit of Caste, University of Toronto, Race, Ethics, and Power Project, Toronto, ON (available on [YouTube](#) & [SoundCloud](#))
- 2024 Constitutionalizing the American Dream, Junior Faculty Roundtable, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
- 2024 De-Lochnerizing the First Amendment, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (AALS Hot Topic Program: Judicial Rights and Legislative Equality: The Future of Public Accommodations and the Polycentric Constitution after *303 Creative v. Elenis*)
- 2022 Frederick Douglass and the Spirit of Caste, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
- 2022 Frederick Douglass’ Caste Theory of Racism, Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Selected Conference Participation

- 2027 State Constitutional Equalities, *Georgia State University Law Review’s* 32nd Annual Symposium Issue, Georgia at 250: The Past, Present, and Future of State Constitutional Law, Atlanta, GA
- 2026 Black Abolitionist State Constitutions, State and Local Government Works in Progress Workshop, Boston College Law School, Boston, MA
- The Black Abolitionist Origins of Birthright Citizenship, 2026 Chicago-Kent Law Review Online Live Symposium, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, IL
- The Social Mobility Vision of the Fourteenth Amendment, Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, 2026 Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- Caste, Capitalism, and Democracy, Political Theory in Hard Times: Roundtable Reunions, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- Rationalizing Redistricting: A State-Constitutional Solution to the New Partisan Gerrymander, Second Annual Democracy and Public Law Works-in-Progress Conference, Michigan State University College of Law, Lansing, MI
- Intent-Only Standards for Partisan Gerrymandering, Hot Topics Session: Race to the Bottom: The New Partisan Gerrymander and State Constitutional Responses, AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- Social Mobility and the End of Equal Protection, Association for Law & Political Economy, Richmond, VA
- 2025 Social Mobility Vision of the Fourteenth Amendment, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference, BYU Law School, Provo, Utah
- Social Mobility and Section 1, Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, Chicago, IL
- Social Mobility and Section 1, Law and Society Association, 2025 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2024 A Social Mobility Principle for the Fourteenth Amendment, Summer Workshop Series, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
- 2023 “There is No Caste Here”: Social Mobility and the Equal Protection Clause, MANCEPT Courts and Politics Workshop, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK
- On Repressive and Non-Repressive Law, 15th International Critical Theory Conference of Rome, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome, Italy

- 2022 Anna Julia Cooper's Anti-Caste Theory of Human Rights, American Political Science Association, Montreal, CA
Law, Rights, and Abolition: Contesting the Discursive Critique of Rights, 14th International Critical Theory Conference of Rome, John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University, Rome, Italy
- 2021 Frederick Douglass and the Spirit of Caste, Association for Political Theory, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA
Frederick Douglass and the Spirit of Caste, American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA
Republicanism, Abstract Domination, and Slavery in the Americas, The Venice World Multidisciplinary Conference on Republics and Republicanism, Venice International University, Venice
The Politics of Anti-Caste: Rethinking the Political Limits of Equality Before the Law" Midwest Political Science Association
Fourth Amendment Consent, JD-PhD Seminar, Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, IL
The Spirit of Caste: Caste Critique and the Contestation of Racial Subjection in the United States, Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2020 The Concept of Civil Rights in the 19th Century, JD-PhD Seminar, Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, IL

Invited Responses

- 2025 Response to Professor Erin Braatz's *Punishing Traditions: "History and Tradition" and the Eight Amendment*, Junior Faculty Roundtable, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
- 2021 Response to Professor Heinrich Menke's *CRITIQUE OF RIGHTS* (2020), Critical Theory in Critical Times Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2021 Response to Professor Ainsley Lesure's *Another World is Possible: Rereading Black Skin, White Masks Phenomenologically*, Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2018 Response to Professor Boris Litvin's *Biography's Uncertain, Flickering, and often Weak Light: Arendt on Action, Audience, and Authorship*, Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

SELECTED SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Service

- 2025-2026 Organizer, Chicago-Kent Law Review Symposium: "[Who Belongs? The Contested History of Birthright Citizenship](#)," *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Interviewee, *Chance for Upward Mobility, or an Unfair Deal? Unpacking the Impact of a New Bears Stadium Deal*, Illinois Tech Experts Report (Jul. 2026) (available on [YouTube](#))
Organizer, Hot Topics Session: Race to the Bottom: The New Partisan Gerrymander and State Constitutional Responses, AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
Award Committee Member, Martin H. Malin Institute for Law and the Workplace, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Student Note Supervisor, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Independent Study Supervisor, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Committee Member, Faculty Speaker Series Committee, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Committee Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Panelist, *Illinois Youth Summit: AI, Schools, and Student Use Policy*, [Constitutional Democracy Project](#),

Chicago-Kent College of Law

Panelist, *Future of Labor Law Roundtable*, [Labor and Employment Law Society](#), Chicago-Kent College of Law

Exam Proctor (Fall & Spring), Chicago-Kent College of Law

2024-2025 Moderator, *In Search of Common Ground: Religion and Secularism in a Liberal Democratic Society*, 2025
Chicago-Kent Law Review Online Live Symposium

Faculty Advisor, [Law and Political Economy Group](#), Boston College Law School

2023-2025 1L Faculty Advisor, Boston College Law School

2022 Hurst Prize Committee Member, Law and Society Association

2021-2022 Co-Founder, Sylvia Wynter & W.E.B. Du Bois Reading Group, Program in Critical Theory, Northwestern

2021- Project Director, Balkan Society for Theory and Practice, Prishtina, Kosovo

2020-2021 Associate Editor, Northwestern Journal of Human Rights, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University

2018-2024 New Student Mentor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University

Journal Referee

2022 American Political Science Review

American Political Thought

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

2026- [Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities](#)

2025- [Association for Law & Political Economy](#)

[The Reconstructionism Project](#), American Bar Association

2023- [Association of American Law Schools](#)

2023-2025 [Drinan Scholars Program](#)

2021- [Law and Society Association](#)

2021- Project Director, Balkan Society for Theory and Practice, Prishtina, Kosovo

2021- [Midwest Political Science Association](#)

2020- [American Political Science Association](#)

2021-2022 [Franke Graduate Fellow](#), Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University

2018-2024 J.D./Ph.D. Seminar, Northwestern University

2016-2024 [Critical Theory Cluster](#), Northwestern University 2016-Present Graduate Student Political Theory Workshop,
Northwestern University

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)

Spanish (research, translation, and work proficiency)

French (research, translation, and work proficiency, B2 *Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française*)

Albanian (beginner)

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REFERENCES

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Rebecca Zietlow

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