

## Ryan R. Holston, Ph.D.

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Jonathan Myrick Daniels '61 Chair for Academic Excellence, Department of International Studies & Political Science, Virginia Military Institute. August 2019 – present

Professor, Department of International Studies & Political Science, Virginia Military Institute. August 2018 – present

Associate Professor, Department of International Studies & Political Science, Virginia Military Institute. August 2014 – July 2018

Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies & Political Science, Virginia Military Institute. August 2009 – July 2014

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Undergraduate courses in Constitutional Theory, Civil Rights & Liberties, and American Politics. August 2008 – June 2009

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Politics, The Catholic University of America. Undergraduate course in Constitutional Law. Fall 2005

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. The Johns Hopkins University  
Degree Awarded: May 2008  
Major Field of Study: Political Theory  
Minor Fields of Study: Public Law and American Politics

M.Sc. The London School of Economics and Political Science  
Field of Study: Political Theory  
Degree Awarded: November 2000  
Graduated with Merit

B.A. Dickinson College  
Major Fields of Study: Political Science, French  
Degree Awarded: May 1996

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Books

Holston, Ryan. *Promethean Politics: the Cult of Science in the Modern Imagination* – in progress.

Holston, Ryan. *Tradition and the Deliberative Turn: a Critique of Contemporary Democratic Theory*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2023.

### Edited Volumes

Holston, Ryan, and Ferenc Hörcher, eds. *Tradition in the Ruins: The Christian- and Liberal-Conservative Thought of Joachim Ritter and His Circle* – under contract with SUNY Press.

Holston, Ryan, and Justin D. Garrison, eds. *The Historical Mind: Humanistic Renewal in a Post-Constitutional Age*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2020.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters

Holston, Ryan. “Mary Shelley, Promethean Character, and the Authority of Science,” *Perspectives on Political Science* 52, no. 3 (2023): 119-129.

Holston, Ryan. “Anti-Rationalism, Relativism, and the Metaphysical Tradition: Situating Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics.” in *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism*, edited by Gene Callahan and Kenneth McIntyre, 193-209. Cham, CH: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

Holston, Ryan. “Irving Babbitt and Christianity: A Response to T.S. Eliot.” in *The Historical Mind*, edited by Ryan R. Holston and Justin D. Garrison, 145-167. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2020.

Holston, Ryan. “Historical Truth in the Hermeneutics of T.S. Eliot.” *Harvard Theological Review* 111, no. 2 (April 2018): 264-288. (invited article)

Holston, Ryan. “Deliberation in Context: Reexamining the Confrontation between the Discourse Ethics and Neo-Aristotelianism.” *Telos* 181 (Winter 2017): 151-75.

Holston, Ryan. “The Poverty of Antihistoricism: Strauss and Gadamer in Dialogue.” *Modern Age* 58, no. 2 (Spring 2016): 41-53.

Holston, Ryan. “Two Concepts of Prejudice.” *History of Political Thought* 35, no. 1 (Winter 2014): 174-203.

Holston, Ryan. “Tradition and History in the Thinking of Josef Pieper.” *Political Science Reviewer* 38, no. 1 (Fall 2009): 159-184. (invited article)

Holston, Ryan. “Burke’s Historical Morality.” *Humanitas* 20, nos. 1&2 (2007): 37-63.  
Translated into Chinese in *American Humanism: Tradition and Renewal*, edited by Zhang Yuan. Beijing: Beijing Normal University Press, 2016.

## Book Reviews

Holston, Ryan. Review of *Character in the American Experience: an Unruly People*, by Bruce P. Frohnen and Ted V. McAllister. *The University Bookman*, October 8, 2023.

Holston, Ryan. Review of *Edmund Burke for our Time: Moral Imagination, Meaning, and Politics*, by William F. Byrne. *Humanitas* 25, nos. 1&2 (2012): 169-173.

Holston, Ryan. Review of *Bye Bye Miss American Empire: Neighborhood Patriots, Backcountry Rebels, and Their Underdog Crusades to Redraw America's Political Map*, by Bill Kauffman. *Studies in American Culture* 34, no. 1 (2011): 169-171.

Holston, Ryan. Review of *Liberalism With Honor*, by Sharon Krause. *Policy Review* 116 (Dec. 2002-Jan. 2003): 85-89.

## Popular Essays

Holston, Ryan. "Science's Assault on Free Will." *Law & Liberty*, January 23, 2024.

Holston, Ryan. "Pandemic Debate Reflects Our Highest Purposes." *Richmond-Times Dispatch*, May 16, 2020.

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

Copenhaver Scholar-in-Residence, Roanoke College, Department of Public Affairs, March 21-22, 2023. Delivered public lecture entitled, "Flannery O'Connor and the Violence of Humanitarianism," along with guest class lectures in the Public Affairs Department on political utopianism in literature.

Ayres Faculty Development Leave, VMI, Spring 2023.

The Jackson-Hope VMIRL Matthew Fontaine Maury Prize for Excellence in Research, recognizes a single VMI faculty member whose VMI career demonstrates sustained excellence in stimulating, furthering, or performing research, May 2022.

Faculty Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Statesmanship, The Catholic University of America, 2021.

Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) Nominee, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV): 2021, 2020 (reached final selection round), 2018.

Jonathan Myrick Daniels '61 Chair for Academic Excellence, May 2019.

Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work, awarded in May 2019 for article, "Historical Truth in the Hermeneutics of T.S. Eliot," *Harvard Theological Review* 111, no. 2 (April 2018): 264-288.

The VMI Distinguished Teaching Award, recognizes a member of the VMI faculty who

demonstrates outstanding teaching and academic mentorship, May 2017.

Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work, awarded in May 2015 for article, "Two Concepts of Prejudice," *History of Political Thought* 35, no. 1 (Winter 2014): 174-203.

Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave (competitively awarded as junior faculty), VMI, Spring 2013.

Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, Summer Institute of The James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, June 13-25, 2011. Twenty-six in-residence fellows chosen among 350 nominees.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### Discipline

*Humanitas* – interdisciplinary journal dedicated to reinvigoration of humanities scholarship  
Editor, 2022 – 2024  
Associate Editor, 2014 – 2022

The Academy of Philosophy & Letters – non-profit dedicated to cultural renewal  
Board Member, 2012 – 2015; 2016 – 2019; 2023 – present  
President, 2017 – 2019  
Vice President, 2016 – 2017

Editorial Advisory Board, *Anamnesis* journal, 2013 – 2018.

Manuscript Referee –

Presses: The University of Michigan Press  
The University of Notre Dame Press  
Routledge  
Palgrave Macmillan  
Journals: *History of Political Thought*  
*The Journal of Church and State*  
*Anamnesis*  
*Perspectives on Political Science*  
*Philosophies*  
*Pietas*

### College/University

Chair, Faculty Development Committee, Virginia Military Institute, August 2020 – July 2022,  
August 2023 – present.

Member, Institute Awards Committee, Virginia Military Institute, August 2019 – July 2020,  
August 2022 – present.

Alumni Liaison, Department of International Studies & Political Science, Virginia Military Institute, October 2018 – December 2024.

Member, Faculty Development Committee, Virginia Military Institute, August 2017 – July 2019, August 2022 – July 2023.

Member, New Faculty and Staff Orientation Committee, Virginia Military Institute, August 2018 – July 2022.

Pre-Law Adviser, Virginia Military Institute, January 2011 – July 2018.

Member, Institute Honors Committee, Virginia Military Institute, September 2010 – July 2017.

Member, Committee on Advising, Virginia Military Institute, September 2009 – May 2010.

Summer Undergraduate Research Initiative (SURI) Proposal Reviewer, Virginia Military Institute, Spring 2010 – Fall 2010.

Volunteer, “*We the People*, State Competition,” Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education, Montgomery, AL, January 2009.

Mock Congressional Panel Judge, “*We the People*, District #5 Competition,” Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education, December 2008.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SEMINARS

Paper accepted, “Science, the God of Modernity: Atomized in Dostoevsky’s Underground,” for panel on “Modernity and Spiritual Corruption: Politics and Literature,” at The Ciceronian Society Conference, James Madison University, Harrisburg, VA, March 13-15, 2025.

Delivered public lecture (by invitation), “Tradition’s Deliberation: Gadamer and the Irreality of a Community without Limits,” at Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary, March 20, 2024.

Delivered public lecture (by invitation), “Flannery O’Connor and the Violence of Humanitarianism,” at Roanoke College, Salem, VA, March 21, 2023.

Presented paper, “Flannery O’Connor and the Violence of Humanitarianism,” for panel on “Literature, Philosophy, and Faith” at The Ciceronian Society Conference, Belmont Abbey, NC, March 11, 2023.

Presented paper, “Mary Shelley’s Realism: the Monstrous Marriage of Romanticism and Science,” for panel on “Romanticism Revisited” at The Ciceronian Society Conference, Grove City, PA, March 11, 2022.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Shakespeare and Plutarch: Liberty and Tyranny,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Philadelphia, PA, October 21-24, 2021.

Presented paper, “Democracy’s Deliberation” for panel on “Schmitt, Sartre, Socrates, and Nietzsche,” at Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 8, 2019.

Served as discussant and chair for panel, “Populism for America and the World: Theoretical Perspectives on an Ideology,” at The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 31, 2019.

Presented paper, “Irving Babbitt and Christianity: A Response to T.S. Eliot” and chaired panel on “*The Historical Mind: Humanistic Renewal in a Post-Constitutional Age*, eds. Justin D. Garrison and Ryan R. Holston (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, forthcoming)” at The Academy of Philosophy & Letters Annual Meeting, College Park, MD, June 8, 2019.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Liberty, Democracy, and American Constitutionalism,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Charleston, SC, January 11-14, 2018.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Liberty in James Bryce’s *Studies in History and Jurisprudence*,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Toronto, ON, April 21-24, 2016.

Presented paper, “The Hermeneutics of the Classic in T.S. Eliot,” at the 2016 Ciceronian Society Conference, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, March 10–12, 2016.

Presented paper, “Divorcing the Good from History: the Legacy of Kantian Philosophy in Democratic Theory,” for panel on “From the Abstract to the Concrete: Political Philosophy and Social Action” of the National Humanities Institute at the 2015 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 3-6, 2015.

Served as chair on panel entitled, “The Historical Sense as Resource Against Ideological Thinking,” at The Annual Meeting of the Academy of Philosophy & Letters in Baltimore, MD, June 12-14, 2015.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Liberty and Order in the Thought of Alexander Hamilton,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, San Diego, CA, January 15-18, 2015.

Presented paper, “The Theology Behind Civil Theology: Examining Rousseau’s Conception of the Divine,” for panel on “Historical and Literary Sources/Recollections on Civil Religion” at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Philosophy & Letters, Baltimore, MD, June 7, 2014.

Presented paper, “The Poverty of Anti-Historicism: Lessons from the Strauss-Gadamer Correspondence,” at the 2014 Ciceronian Society Conference, Mount Saint Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD, March 27-29, 2014.

Served as discussant and chair on panel entitled, “Reflections in Ancient, Modern, and American Political Thought,” of the Ciceronian Society at the 2013 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 30, 2013.

Presented paper, “The Seeds of Democratic Idealism: Examining Sources of Abstraction in the Thinking of Jean-Jacques Rousseau,” for panel entitled, “Abstract Theorizing and the False

Prophets of Virtue,” of the National Humanities Institute at the 2013 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 29, 2013.

Presented paper, “Reexamining the Discourse Ethics’ Confrontation with Neo-Aristotelianism,” for panel entitled, “Critical Theory II” at the 2013 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA, March 29, 2013.

Presented paper, “Tradition in the Strauss-Gadamer Correspondence” for panel on “Cooperating Strategies for Dismantling Tradition” at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Philosophy and Letters in Baltimore, MD, June 16, 2012.

Presented paper, “Radical Democracy’s Critique of Tradition: Reexamining Habermas’ Confrontation with Neo-Aristotelianism” at the 2012 Ciceronian Society Conference, The University of Virginia, March 31, 2012.

Presented paper, “Tradition and the Deliberative Turn,” for panel entitled, “Progressive-Liberal Ideology and Its Critics: Examinations and Evaluations of American Progressive and Liberal Thought” at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 14, 2012.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “The History of Liberty According to Benedetto Croce,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, San Diego, CA, October 2011.

Participated in the Summer Institute of The James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, June 13-25, 2011.

Presented paper, “From Republic to Ruin: Judicial Transformation in the Age of Individualism,” for panel entitled “A Constitutionalist Response to Crisis” at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Philosophy and Letters in Baltimore, MD, June 11, 2011.

Served as discussant on panel entitled, “Traditionalism and Modern Thought,” at the 2011 Ciceronian Society Conference, The University of Virginia, March 18, 2011.

Presented paper, “Two Concepts of Prejudice” for panel entitled, “Traditionalist Critique of Enlightenment Political Thought,” at the 2011 Ciceronian Society Conference, The University of Virginia, March 18, 2011.

Presented paper, “Two Concepts of Prejudice” for panel entitled, “A New Look at Conservatism,” at Southern Political Science Association 82nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 6, 2011.

Presented paper, “The Relevance of the Beautiful: Burke, Gadamer, and the Politics of Art” for panel entitled, “Literature and the Study of Politics,” of the National Humanities Institute at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto, Canada, September 2009.

Served as discussant for panel entitled “Theory and Practice in the American Founding,” of the National Humanities Institute at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto, Canada, September 2009.

Presented paper, “Babbitt on Positivism” at The Academy of Philosophy and Letters, 2nd Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, May, 2008.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Liberty and Culture in Irving Babbitt,” sponsored by Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, IN, February 2008.

Presented paper, “The Insufficiencies of ‘Deliberative Democracy’ for a Pluralistic Society” for panel on “Liberalism and Pluralism in Historical Perspective” at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, IL, April 2007.

Presented paper, “Burke’s Historical Sense: where universality meets particularity” at the JHU Graduate Student Colloquium, The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Political Science, December 2006.

Presented paper, “Babbitt’s Moral Imagination: Unpacking the Paradox of Creative Imitation.” For panel on “Politics and Pluralisms: Culture, Value, and Identity” at the American Political Science Association Conference (APSA), Philadelphia, PA, August 2006.

Participated (by invitation) in colloquium, “Liberty and Community” sponsored by The Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Mecosta, MI, June 2006.

Presented paper, “Burke, Babbitt, and the Problem of Political Pluralism” (by invitation) for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Humane Studies Research Colloquium, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, April 2006.

## **PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL EXPERIENCE**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Washington, DC, Special Assistant, 5/01–8/02.

The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Office of Dr. Lawrence B. Lindsey, Washington, DC, Research Assistant, Staff Assistant, 4/97-8/99.

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC, Staff Assistant, 8/96–4/97.

## **REFERENCES**

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Bruce P. Frohnen, J.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Law  
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