

# Adam Scott Kunz

## University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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## Academic Positions

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### University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Department of Political Science

*Assistant Professor (political theory & constitutional law)* | 2021 – Present

### California State University, Monterey Bay; School of Humanities & Communication

*Lecturer (legal studies)* | 2019 – 2021

### California State University, Sacramento; Department of Political Science

*Lecturer (law & political theory)* | 2016 – 2021

### University of California, Davis; Department of Political Science

*Graduate Assistant/Instructor (political theory)* | 2015 – 2019

## Education

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### University of California, Davis

*Doctor of Philosophy* | 2019

*Master of Arts* | 2018

Fields: political theory; American politics  
Dissertation: *Citizenship & Solidarity: A Study of Liberal Civic Friendship*  
Committee: Robert S. Taylor (chair), John T. Scott, Shalini Satkunanandan

### The George Washington University Law School

*Juris Doctor, cum laude (top 25% of class)* | 2012

Fields: constitutional law; jurisprudence

### Brigham Young University-Idaho

*Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude* | 2008

Major: English (literary studies)      Minor: Philosophy

## Publications

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### Published or Pending:

“Religion, Pluralism, and Liberal Principles: The Legacy of *Wisconsin v. Yoder*.” In *Wisconsin's Free Speech Legacy*, edited by Eric T. Kasper and Adam Kunz, Wisconsin Historical Society Press (forthcoming)

“Tolerating the Violent: The Liberal Egalitarian Justifications for the *Brandenburg* Test.” In *Free Speech and Incitement in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Eric T. Kasper and JoAnne Sweeny (New York: State University of New York Press, 2025): 27-46.

*To Hell with Heaven: An Introduction to Apatheism*, Hypatia Press (July 5, 2024)

“The Kingdom of Friends: A Kantian Theory of Citizen Solidarity.” *Philosophia* 50 (2022): 1233-41

“Public Exposure: Of Burqas, Secularism, & France’s Violation of European Law.” *The George Washington International Law Review* 44, no. 1 (2012): 79-105.

### Edited Volumes:

Co-editor of *Forward: Wisconsin's Free Speech Legacy*, edited by Eric T. Kasper and Adam Kunz, Wisconsin Historical Society Press (forthcoming)

Co-editor of *Is the Constitution Everything It Appears to Be?: Legal Rights and Personal Appearance*, SUNY Press (forthcoming)

### Solo Volumes:

*For All: Defining and Achieving Justice*, Hackett Press (under contract)

### In Progress:

"Cult Wars: The History of Cult Scholarship in the United States" (with Eric Pullin)

"Autonomy Proves Too Much: The Christian Nationalism of Samuel Alito"

"But Not for Thee: First Amendment Knowledge and Support for Free Speech Among College Students"

"The Farm or the Factory?: The Agrarian Counterpoint to Industrialism in American Political Thought"

### Published Popular Interest:

"A Show for the Shelf," *Medium* (June 24, 2022)

"Apatheism: A Primer," *Medium* (May 8, 2021)

"Mindfulness in the College Classroom," *Medium* (June 25, 2020)

"At the Threshold," *Medium* (June 1, 2010)

"The Ringmaster's Whip: The Role of Apple's MFN in the E-books Case," *FCE Newsletter* (November 2013)

## Speaking Engagements & Media Appearances

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**Interviewed** about cults and religious freedom for WVCR Radio 88.3 | June 17, 2025

**Interviewed** about cults and critical thinking for the Low Tox Life podcast | May 6, 2025

**Interviewer** for Steven Pinker in "Fostering the Pursuit of Truth" for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | May 5, 2025

**Interviewed** about cults and the First Amendment for WGN Radio 720 | April 20, 2025

**Interviewed** about Wisconsin voters for Radio Canada | March 31, 2025

"Cults and Apatheism" **delivered** at Arizona State University | March 19, 2025

**Interviewer** for Illana Redstone in "Breaking the Certainty Trap" for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | April 14, 2025

**Interviewed** about Zizian cult for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung | March 7, 2025

**Interviewed** about Zizian cult for Lionsgate/Blackfin Productions | February 26, 2025

"Cults And Abusive Psychological Influence" **delivered** at Carthage College | February 24, 2025

**Interviewed** about the Branch Davidians and David Koresh for *How Stuff Works* | January 16, 2025

**Interviewed** about Election 2024 results with *Minnesota Now* | November 7, 2024

**Interviewed** about Wisconsin voters with *Minnesota Public Radio* | October 29, 2024

**Interviewer** for Janja Lalich in "The Sects Talk: Cults, Religious Expression, and the Constitution a Conversation with Dr. Janja Lalich" for The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | September 16, 2024

"Reading the Writing on the Wall: Restoring the Separation of Church and State" **delivered** at the Chippewa Valley chapter of the ACLU | August 27, 2024

"To Hell with Heaven: An Introduction to Apatheism" book talk **delivered** at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and Dotters Books, co-sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Humanists and The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | July 25, 2024

"The Hollow Crown: Shakespeare on How Leaders Rise, Rule, and Fall" **delivered** for The Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival's Arts & Ideas forum | June 24, 2024

"A Hole in the Wall: Separation of Church and State in the U.S. Constitution" **delivered** for the Chippewa Valley Humanists | May 28, 2024

**Interviewer** for John Wood Jr. for The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | April 10, 2024

**Interviewed** about Wisconsin *Catholic Charities Bureau* case with *Wisconsin Public Radio* | March 20, 2024

"The Paradox of Tolerance" **delivered** at the Philosopher's Café for the Center for Applied Ethics | November 8, 2023

**Interviewer** for David Hogg for The Forum series at UWEC | October 23, 2023  
**Interviewer** for Manu Meel for The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | October 16, 2023  
**Interviewer** for Bari Weiss for The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | September 20, 2023  
**Interviewed** about Wisconsin fake electors for *Wisconsin Public Radio* | August 11, 2023  
 “Apatheism: A Primer” **delivered** at the Eau Claire chapter of the Wisconsin Humanist Association | April 1, 2023  
**Interviewer** for Megan Phelps-Roper for The Menard Center for Constitutional Studies at UWEC | March 8, 2023  
**Interviewed** about SCOTUS OT 2022 term preview with *WQOW News*; Eau Claire, WI | October 5, 2022  
**Interviewed** about Dobbs and Wisconsin abortion law with *WEAU News*; Eau Claire, WI | June 28, 2022  
**Interviewed** about Roe v. Wade’s future with *WQOW News*; Eau Claire, WI | May 3, 2022  
**Interviewed** about Election 2020 for *The Lutrinae*; Seaside, CA | November 9, 2020  
**Interviewed** about Election 2020 for *KION News*; Salinas, CA | November 4, 2020

## Awards, Honors, & Grants

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*Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership* grant for “Representing the Countryside: Measuring Policymaking Responsiveness to Rural Identity” | 2025-2026  
*UWEC Celebration of Scholarship* for new book *To Hell with Heaven* | Fall 2024  
*Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship & Civil Dialogue Grant* for religious freedom event | Academic Year 2024-2025  
*Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship & Civil Dialogue Grant* for Bridge UWEC | Academic Year 2024-2025  
*CSUMB School of Humanities & Communication Lecturer Grant* | Spring 2020  
*CSUS Department of Political Science Professional Development Grant* | Spring 2019  
*Bret Hewitt Distinguished Qualifying Exam Award* | 2018  
*Russell J. & Dorothy S. Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Writing Fellowship* | 2018-2019  
*Humane Studies Research Fellowship* | Fall 2018  
*Hayek Fund for Scholars* | Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2022, Spring 2023  
*Theory Subfield Comprehensive Exam High Pass* | 2017 (first such award in 17 years)  
*CSUS School of Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty Council Travel Award* | Spring 2017, Spring 2018  
*Institute for Humane Studies Conference & Research Grant* | Spring 2017  
*UC Davis Department of Political Science Charles Hardin Award* | Spring 2017, Spring 2018  
*UC Davis Department of Political Science Travel Award* | Fall 2016, Spring 2018  
*UC Davis Social Sciences Institute Summer Research Collaborative* | Summer 2016  
*UC Davis Department of Political Science Fellowship* | Fall 2015

## Conferences & Training Presentations

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**Presenter** at UWEC University Senate Open Forum on Academic Freedom at UWEC | April 29, 2025  
 “The Farm or the Factory?: The Agrarian Counterpoint to Industrialism in American Political Thought” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 5, 2025  
**Discussant** for the “Rawls and Liberal Neutrality” panel (Political Philosophy) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 5, 2025  
**Presenter** at “Religious Freedom Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies and the Association of Student Humanists | March 12, 2025  
**Presenter** at “Free Speech on Campus Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | October 23, 2024  
**Panelist** at the “Grad School Info Session” for political science and criminal justice majors | October 14, 2024  
**Panelist** at “Free Pizza and Free Speech” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | September 9, 2024  
**Presenter** at the “Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | July 17-19, 2024  
**Presenter** at various forums for Badger Boys State at UWEC | June 10-14, 2024  
 “Religion, Tolerance, and Liberal Principles: The Continued Legacy of *Wisconsin v. Yoder*” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 5, 2024

“Tolerating the Violent: The Liberal Egalitarian Justifications for the *Brandenburg* Test” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 5, 2024

**Panelist** at the “Free Speech on Campus Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | March 27, 2024

**Presenter** at “MCSII Network Free Speech Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | October 28, 2023

**Panelist** at the “Grad School Info Session” for political science and criminal justice majors | October 10, 2023

**Panelist** at “Free Pizza and Free Speech” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | September 6, 2023

**Presenter** at the “Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | July 19-21, 2023

**Presenter** at various forums for Badger Boys State at UWEC | June 15-16, 2023

**Discussant and Chair** for the “Democratic Action” panel (Political Philosophy) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 14, 2023

“Autonomy Proves Too Much: The Political Theory of Samuel Alito” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 13, 2023

**Panelist** at the “Free Speech on Campus Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | March 29, 2023

**Presenter** at “Faculty Workshop” for the Marquette University Law School | February 7, 2023

**Panelist** at the “Grad School Info Session” for political science and criminal justice majors | November 9, 2022

**Presenter** at “MCSII Network Free Speech Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | October 29, 2022

**Classroom host and discussant** for Monica Lewinsky as part of “Monica Lewinsky: The Price of Shame” for *The Forum* series at UWEC | October 26, 2022

**Panelist** at the “Teach with Free Speech” faculty seminar for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | October 24, 2022

**Classroom host and discussant** for Nadine Strossen as part of “Censorship, Free Speech, and the Constitution with Nadine Strossen” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | September 19, 2022

“Tolerating the Violent: The Liberal Egalitarian Justifications for the *Brandenburg* Test” **presented** at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference | September 18, 2022

**Panelist** at “Free Pizza and Free Speech” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | September 7, 2022

**Presenter** at the “Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | July 21-22, 2022

**Presenter** at various forums for Badger Boys State at UWEC | June 13-17, 2022

**Discussant** for Chad Oldfather’s “Some Observations on Separation of Powers and the Wisconsin Constitution” presentation at the Third Annual Civil Liberties Symposium for the Menard Center for the Study of Institutions & Innovation | April 18, 2022

**Panelist** at the “Free Speech on Campus Workshop” for the Menard Center for Constitutional Studies | April 13, 2022

“One Nation Ignoring God: A Theory of Public Apatheism” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 10, 2022

**Discussant** for the “Democratic Participation and Freedom” panel (Political Philosophy) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | April 7, 2022

“Cacti and the Constitution: Indigenous Sacred Sites and US/Mexico Border Security” **presented** at the Law and Society Association Annual Conference; Virtual | May 27, 2021

“The Ultimate Emergency: A Liberal Egalitarian Theory of Existential Risk Reduction” **presented** at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 14, 2021

**Discussant** for the “The Reach of Free Speech” panel (Law & Jurisprudence) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 14, 2021

**Chair** for the “The Canon and Its Problems” panel (Political Theory: Critical & Normative) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 14, 2021

**Chair** for the “Political Theory of the American Founding” panel (Political Theory) at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 14, 2021

**Discussant** for the “Judicial Review, Litigation Reform, and Political Speech” panel (Judicial Politics, Legal Politics and Public Law) at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 2, 2021

**Discussant** for the “Constitutional Exigencies” panel (Judicial Politics, Legal Politics and Public Law) at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 3, 2021

**Chair** of the “The Ancients, the Moderns, and Us” panel (Political Theory: Critical and Normative) at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 1, 2021

**Chair** of the “Constitutions & Law’s Contentions” panel (Political Theory and Its Applications) at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 2, 2021

**Chair** of the “Courts and Liberties” panel (Judicial Politics, Legal Politics and Public Law) at the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference; Virtual | April 1, 2021

“The Academic Teaching Market” **presented** for the Graduate Association of Political Science Students at UC Davis; Davis, CA | February 5, 2021

“Rawls, Primary Goods, & Restorative Justice within Liberal Egalitarianism” **presented** at the *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*; Los Angeles, CA | April 10, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19)

“Preserving the Kingdom: Conservation Within Kant’s Theory of Right” **presented** at the *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*; San Diego, CA | April 19, 2019

“The Kingdom of Friends: Civic Friendship in Kantian Liberalism” **presented** at the *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*; Boston, MA | August 30, 2018

“‘An Age Where Lawyers Rule’: The Late-Modern Lawyer as True Politician in Weber’s Religiopolitical Framework” **presented** at the *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*; San Francisco, CA | March 30, 2018

“Justice as Friendship: Fraternity in Rawlsian Liberalism” **presented** at the *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*; Vancouver, BC, Canada | April 14, 2017

“The Kingdom of Friends” **presented** at the *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference*; Chicago, IL | April 7, 2017

“The Fraternity-Difference Principle Correspondence” **presented** at the *Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Conference*; Boston, MA | November 10, 2016

## Courses Taught

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### **University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Department of Political Science**

*American Political Thought (Themes and Eras)*  
*Contemporary Political Thought (Liberalism and Its Critics)*  
*Distributive Justice (Contemporary Theories)*  
*Introduction to Legal Advocacy and Moot Court*  
*Judicial Politics (Law: Process and Substance)*  
*Modern Political Thought (Social Contract Theory)*  
*POLS Honors Independent Reading*  
*Survey of U.S. Constitutional Principles (Introduction to Constitutional Law)*  
*The Idea of Tolerance in the Western Political Tradition (Contemporary Theories of Tolerance)*  
*U.S. Constitutional Principles (Equality and Privacy)*

### **California State University, Monterey Bay; School of Humanities & Communication**

*Constitutional Law (Powers and Protections)*  
*Critical Perspective on Law in Society (The Limits of Religious Freedom)*  
*Multicultural Conflict Resolution (Political Conflict, Dialogue, & Mediation)*  
*Pathways to the Legal Profession (Ethical & Egalitarian Lawyering)*  
*Political Participation (Civics, Citizen Values, & Service Learning)*

### **University of California, Davis; Department of Political Science**

*Legal Philosophy (Intro to Jurisprudence & Critical Legal Theory)*

### **California State University, Sacramento; Department of Political Science**

*Constitutional Law I (Federal and State Power)*  
*Constitutional Law II (Civil Liberties and Rights)*  
*American Government (Advanced Federal Government Survey)*



## Department, University, and Professional Service and Development

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*Lalich Center on Cults and Coercion* (Professional) Board Member | November 2024-Present  
*Journal of Value Inquiry* Reviewer | September 2024  
*Association for Student Humanists* (UWEC) Club Advisor | Fall 2024-Present  
*University Senate Compensation & Budget Committee* (UWEC) At-Large Member | Fall 2024-Present  
*McNair Scholars* (UWEC) Advisor for Shayla Breen | Fall 2024  
*College of Arts & Sciences Service Workload Committee* (UWEC) Member | Fall 2024  
*POLS/CRMJ Policy Committee* (Dept.) Member | Fall 2024-Present  
*Leadership Club with Dean Sternfeld-Dunn* (College) Member | Fall 2024-Present  
*Bridge UWEC* (UWEC) Club Advisor | Spring 2024-Present  
*Civil Dialogue Working Group* (UWEC) Contributor | 2023-Present  
*University Mediation Program* (UWEC) Certified Mediator | 2023-Present  
*Mock Trial* (UWEC) Club Advisor | 2023-Present  
*Menard Center for Constitutional Studies* (Dept.) Steering Committee Member | 2021-Present  
*Capstone Advisor* (Dept.) for Steven Ross (political science, Fall 21) and Dana Athmann (history, Fall 21); Thomas Reiter (political science, Spring 22) and Michalia Thurin (political science, Spring 22); Ellie Pomerleau (political science, Fall 22); Alex Carlton (political science, Spring 23), Brock Erdman political science, Spring 23), Taylor Golding (political science, Spring 23), Hannah Hawthorne (political science, Spring 23), and Grace Justice (political science, Spring 23); Emma Ressler (political science, Fall 23) and Elizabeth TenBarge (political science, Fall 23); Noah Yerama (political science, Spring 24); Teresa Fischer (political science, Fall 24) and McKayla Reuter (political science, Fall 24); Alan Champion (political science, Spring 25), Drew Hines (political science, Spring 25), and Emma Russell (political science, Spring 25)  
*2023 Comparative Politics Assistant Professor Search Committee* (Dept.) Member | Fall 2023  
*2023 Visiting Research Assistant Professor Search Committee* (Dept.) Member | Summer 2023  
*2022 Constitutional Law Assistant Professor Search Committee* (Dept.) Member | Fall 2022  
*Moot Court* (Dept.) Advisor | 2021-2023  
*Prelaw Advising* (CSUMB) Faculty Resource | 2019-2021  
*Justice Studies Major Proposal & Curriculum Development* (CSUMB) Contributor | 2020-2021  
*Legal Studies Major Revision* (CSUMB) Contributor | 2020-2021  
*The Law Society* (CSUMB) Advisor | 2019 – 2020  
*Civics & Service-Learning Development Committee* (CSUMB) Member | 2019-2020  
*Davis Political Theory Forum* (UC Davis) Webmaster | 2018 – 2019  
*Prelaw Advising* (UC Davis) Graduate Student Mentor | 2015 – 2019

## Organizational Membership & Community Involvement

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*American Atheists*  
*American Civil Liberties Union*  
*American Humanist Association*  
*American Political Science Association*  
*Americans United for Separation of Church and State*  
*Association of American Colleges & Universities*  
*International Association for Research on Service-Learning & Community*  
*Midwest Political Science Association*  
*National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*  
*Sierra Club*  
*Western Political Science Association*

## Legal Practice

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### **Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Washington, DC**

*Associate* | 2012 – 2015  
*Summer Associate/Law Clerk* | 2011 – 2012

## **Bar & Court Admissions**

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*District of Columbia Bar*

*U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit*

*U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia*

*U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland*

*U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia*

*Virginia Bar*