

Ryan Reed, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science and Law
Bradley University
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Education

Ph.D. Political Science University of California, Davis Sept. 2006 – June 2012
Areas of Concentration: Political Theory, American Politics, and Comparative Politics

B.A. Communication University of Southern California Aug. 1992 – May 1996

Dissertation

Title: “A Dissertation on Liberty and Sexuality: Sexual Orientation, the Social Contract, and Civil Rights”

Advisors:

Dr. John T. Scott, Dr. Robert S. Taylor, and Dr. Amber E. Boydston

Teaching Interests

History of Political Thought: Ancient, Early Modern, Late Modern
Social Contract Thought
French and British Enlightenment
American Political Thought
Feminist Political Thought

Research Interests

Modern and analytic political thought with a specific emphasis on the social contract and contemporary policy questions.

Publications

Reed, Ryan and Christopher Hallenbrook. 2025. *Justice across Generations: Equality, Opportunity, and the Social Contract*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

*Reviewed in *Journal of Applied Philosophy*.

*Subject of interview on the *Political Theory Review* podcast, March 10, 2026.

Hallenbrook, Christopher R. and Ryan Reed. 2024. “From the Common State: John Locke and the Climate Crisis.” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 38(2): 79-104. DOI: 10.5406/21520542.38.2.01

Reed, Ryan and Christopher R. Hallenbrook. 2020. “The Hobbesian Psychology of the US Firearms Debate.” *Critical Policy Studies* 14(3): 267-284. DOI: 10.1080/19460171.2019.1612764

Reed, Ryan. 2020. "Dignity in Transgender Lives: A Capabilities Approach." *Journal of Capabilities and Human Development* 21(1): 36-48. DOI: 10.1080/19452829.2019.1661982

Reed, Ryan, Craig Curtis, and Nicholas P. Lovrich. 2018. "Does Democracy Entail an Obligation to Make Rational Policy Decisions? The Muddling Through vs Bounded Rationality Debate Through a Lockean & Madisonian Lens." *Public Integrity* 22(4): 316-329. DOI: 10.1080/10999922.2018.1518557

Reed, Ryan. 2018. "John Locke and the Limits of Religious Liberty: Marriage License Refusal, Religious Freedom Laws, Vaccine Refusal, Contraception Mandate Exemptions, and Ultrasound Requirements." *New Political Science* 40(3): 497-514. DOI: 10.1080/07393148.2018.1487146

Reed, Ryan and Smith, Daniel E. 2016. "Success is an Open Book: Online Diagnostic Tools and Learning Outcomes in Introduction to American Government Courses." *Journal of Political Science Education* 12(1): 30-40. DOI: 10.1080/15512169.2015.1063436

Reed, Ryan. 2013. "September's Children: Does Liberal Neutrality Fail Gay and Lesbian Children?" *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 1(4): 547-561. DOI: 10.1080/21565503.2013.845108

Reed, Ryan. 2013. "Are the Kids Alright? Rawls, Adoption, and Gay Parents." *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 16(5): 969-982.

Publication in Mass Media

"The NRA sees a bleak Hobbesian world. So why does it want to arm individuals with guns?" with Christopher R. Hallenbrook. *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post. April 19, 2018.

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Reed, Ryan. "Technological Injustice? AI's promise and threat to younger and future generations." Invited talk at University of Missouri-Kansas City, April 30 2026.

Hallenbrook, Christopher R. and Ryan Reed. "From the Common State: John Locke on Climate Change." Association For Political Theory, Amherst, MA November 2021

Reed, Ryan. "Lives of Dignity: A Capabilities Approach to the Rights of Transgender People." Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 2018

Reed, Ryan and Christopher R. Hallenbrook. "Thomas Hobbes and the Firearms Debate in the United States." Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2017

Reed, Ryan. "Locke and the Limits of Religious Liberty." Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2016

Reed, Ryan and Smith, Daniel E. "Success is an Open Book: Online Diagnostic Tools and Learning Outcomes in Introduction to American Government Courses" presented at APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, Philadelphia, PA, February, 2014

Reed, Ryan. "September's Children" Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

Reed, Ryan. "Are the Kids Alright? Rawls, Adoption, and Gay Parents" Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2012

Reed, Ryan. "Are the Kids Alright? Rawls, Adoption, and Gay Parents" UC Davis Political Theory Workshop Series, Davis, CA, March 2012

Reed, Ryan. "Sex Before the City" Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 2010

Reed, Ryan. "The Moral Status of Animals" Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2010

Price, Sara L. & Ryan Reed. "Conjectural History in Kant and Rousseau: the Interplay of Past and Progress" Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2010

Reed, Ryan. "Unnatural? Thinking About Kant on Same-Sex Marriage" Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2009

Working Papers

Reed, Ryan. "Life, Liberty, and Property: John Locke's Lexical Ordering of Rights."

Reed, Ryan. "What Aristotle Taught Machiavelli about Tyranny."

Media Appearances

Interview on WCBU's *All Things Peoria*, "Breathing a Sigh of Relief: The Significance of the Respect for Marriage Act." December 6, 2022. <https://www.wcbu.org/local-news/2022-12-06/breathing-a-sigh-of-relief-the-significance-of-the-respect-for-marriage-act>

Grants Received

\$2000 Faculty Scholarship Award. Bradley University, 2022.

Teaching Experience

Bradley University, Department of Political Science (2015 -)

- Introduction to American Government and Politics
- Introduction to Political Thought
- Western Civilization
- Modern Political Philosophy
- Classical Political Philosophy
- Gender and Sexuality in Political Thought
- American Political Thought
- First Year Seminar: The Good Life
- Senior Seminar: The Social Contract and Contemporary Problems

Northwest Missouri State University, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (2013 - 2015)

- Introduction to American Government and Politics
- State and Local Government
- Early Western Political Thought
- Missouri Politics
- Senior Seminar
- Exploring Politics
- Modern Western Political Thought

University of Wyoming, Department of Political Science (2012 - 2013)

- Introduction to Political Theory
- American Political Thought
- Public Policy and Agenda-Setting
- Seminar: The Social Contract and Contemporary Problems

University of California, Davis, Department of Political Science (2006 - 2012)

- Basic Concepts in Political Theory
- American Political Thought

Academic Service

Bradley University

- Chair, Department of Political Science and Law, 2023 – 2026
- Member, PLS Faculty Search Committee, 2017
- Member, LAS Agenda Committee, 2016 – present
- Member, Department of Political Science Assessment Committee 2016 – 2017
- Member, Women and Gender Studies Minor Committee, 2018 – present
- Panelist, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Sigma Lambda Gamma's annual Empowerment Banquet, 2020
- Interim LAS Student Success Coordinator, Spring 2020
- Chair, PSI Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2022
- Faculty Advisor, Bradley chapter of Illinois Student PIRG, 2022 – 2024
- Faculty Advisor, Bradley College Democrats, 2025 – present.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

Association for Political Theory

Midwest Political Science Association

Western Political Science Association