DANIEL EPSTEIN

PhD Candidate, University of Chicago
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EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Expected Spring 2026
PhD, Department of Political Science, (Fields: Political Theory, American Politics)
Certificate in Human Rights from the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights
Dissertation: "An Abolitionist Theory of Law"
Committee: Linda M. G. Zerilli, Lisa Wedeen (co-chairs), Adom Getachew, John P. McCormick

Master of Arts in Political Science 2021
Qualifying Exams in Political Theory and American Politics
MA Thesis: "Restorative Justice, Relational Phenomenology, and Political Theory"

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL 2020-2021
Master of Legal Studies

The MLS consisted of a year of full-time coursework at the law school, including a combination of introductory courses and upper-level electives.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY 2013-2017
Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude* with Highest Honors in Social Studies, Phi Beta Kappa.
Thesis: "There is a Field: On the Foundations of Restorative Justice."
Award: Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize

PUBLICATIONS

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

"Commodified Justice and American Penal Form," ***The Journal of Law and Political Economy*** 2, no.1 (2021): 70-93.

Under Review

"Staging abolition: Ruth Wilson Gilmore on theater and non-violent order," under review at ***Contemporary Political Theory***

SELECTED CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

"Policing the Horizon of the Taken For Granted"
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Vancouver BC, 2025 [upcoming]

Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, Chicago IL, 2025
[upcoming]

"Prefiguration and Pluralism: The 1970 Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention" (co-authored with Daniel Fernandez)
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Chicago IL, 2025

"'To Live Violence Free Lives': The 'INCITE!-Critical Resistance Statement' as Abolitionist Constitutionalism"
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle WA, 2025
Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Conference, Washington DC, 2025
Nominated for the Austin Sarat Award for outstanding graduate student paper

"Staging Abolition: Ruth Wilson Gilmore on Theater and Non-Violent Order"
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia PA, 2024

"Law-Making as Place-Making: Ruth Wilson Gilmore and the Abolitionist State Question"
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver CO, 2024

"Divine Experiments: Mariame Kaba and Law's Larger Vocation"
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Vancouver BC, 2024
University of Chicago Political Theory Workshop, Chicago IL, 2024

"Abolition and the Critique of Liberal Legalism"
Columbia University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, New York NY, 2025
Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, Schenectady NY, 2023
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles CA, 2023
[Selected, but declined participation]

"Law in Flight: Robert M. Cover, Fred Moten, and Abolitionist Legal Theory"
Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Conference, Toronto ON, 2023
Nominated for the Austin Sarat Award for outstanding graduate student paper
Law and Humanities Interdisciplinary Workshop for Junior Scholars, Washington DC, 2023
University of Chicago Political Theory Workshop, Chicago IL, 2023
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco CA, 2023

"The Chicago Torture Justice Movement and an Abolitionist Theory of Law"
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Portland OR, 2022

"Relationality Against Remoteness: Toward a Political Theory of Restorative Justice"
Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Online, 2021

"From Non-Domination to Deep Relationality: Toward a Political Theory of Restorative Justice"
Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Durham NC, 2020

INVITED TALKS

"Commodified Justice and American Penal Form: A Conversation with the Author," Berkeley Law School Law and Political Economy Society, February 14, 2022. Talk given virtually.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial Assistant for Professor Chiara Cordelli on her book *The Privatized State* (Princeton University Press, 2020). Fall 2019.

> I proofread most of the book and gave stylistic, organizational, and substantive suggestions, both on individual chapters and on the manuscript as a whole.

Co-Organizer of "Power over Life and Death: Feminism, Abolition, and the State," Graduate Conference sponsored by the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT). April 21-22, 2023

> I was one of three graduate students that together envisioned and organized this conference. We won a proposal competition to receive initial sponsorship from 3CT and also received nearly $30,000 in additional support from institutional co-sponsorships.

Research Assistant for Professor Bridget Fahey. April 2021 – September 2021

> I helped Professor Fahey, a law professor, navigate and engage with the literature in political theory on federalism.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture Residential Fellow 2025-2026

Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellow 2023-2024

Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellows Research Grant 2024

Chicago Center For Contemporary Theory Graduate Fund Award 2023-2024

Grodzins Prize Lectureship Winter 2023

> This prize entitled me to teach an undergraduate seminar of my own design. I taught "Law's Violence: Theoretical Foundations and Abolitionist Futures" in Winter 2023.

2nd Place, Law And Political Economy Writing Prize, *Harvard LPE Association* June 2021

> This prize was awarded for "Commodified Justice and American Penal Form," eventually published in *The Journal of Law and Political Economy.*

Neubauer Family Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship 2018 –2024

Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize May 2017

This prize was is awarded annually to select Harvard undergraduate thesis writers in recognition of "outstanding scholarly work or research."

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Instructor of Record

Lecturer, **Classics of Social and Political Thought III** Spring 2023

Lecturer, **Law's Violence: Theoretical Foundations and Abolitionist Futures** Winter 2023

Assistant Roles

Teaching Assistant, **LLSO 28040: Introduction to Law, Letters, and Society** Fall 2024

Intern; **SOSC 15100, 15200, and 15300: Classics of Social and Political Thought** Fall, Winter, and Spring 2021-2022

Graduate Student Mentor, **HMRT 22242: Human Rights Research and Writing** Fall and Winter 2021-2022

Teaching Assistant, **PLSC 20817: Race, Social Movements and American Politics** Fall 2021

SERVICE AND COORDINATION

Co-Coordinator of the University of Chicago Political Theory Working Group 2021-2023

The Political Theory Working Group is a forum for University of Chicago graduate students in political theory to workshop works in progress. I helped coordinate the schedule, communicate with presenters and attendees, and facilitate meetings.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Participant in "The Carceral City and its Abolition," 5th Democratic Practices PhD Seminar, *Situated Ecologies*, Stockholm, Sweden, June 25-28, 2024

This was an intensive, interdisciplinary reading seminar with PhD students from around the world. My participation in this conference was supported by the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellows Research Grant.