

# Ben Peterson

Abilene Christian University  
Hardin Administration Building 131F  
1600 Campus Court  
Abilene, TX, 79601

Email: [bap21b@acu.edu](mailto:bap21b@acu.edu)

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Texas A&M University

*Fields:* Political Theory, Public Policy and Public Administration

*Committee:* Cary J. Nederman (Chair), James R. Rogers, Benjamin G. Ogden, Erin A. Snider, Hassan Bashir

Master of Public Policy, Pepperdine School of Public Policy, Malibu, CA, 2016

*Fields:* International Relations, Economics

B.S. History Pre-Law, *summa cum laude*, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, OK, 2011

## Employment

August 2021 – Present. Assistant Professor of Political Science, Abilene Christian University.

## Fellowships

Summer 2022. Wilbur Fellow at the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

## Peer Reviewed Publications

“Republican Institutionalism for a ‘Government of Laws’: John Adams’s Polybian Political Science.” 2019. *American Political Thought* 8(3), 323-346.

“Tocqueville and Qutb: Religion, Democracy, and the Needs of the Soul.” 2016. *The Review of Faith and International Affairs* 14(1), 89-101.

## Book Chapters

With Cary J. Nederman. “Natural Law and Human Rights: Continuities and Discontinuities.” *The Cambridge Handbook of Natural Law and Human Rights*. Tom Angier, Iain T. Benson, and Mark D. Retter, eds. 31-44. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

## Conference Participation

### *Panel Organizer*

We Built Reality: Social Science and Christian Thought. Ciceronian Society Conference, March 2023.

Abolition or Reform? Christian Thinkers and Practitioners on Prisons, Policing, and Law. Christian Scholars’ Conference, June 2022.

Christian Social Thought and Criminal Justice Reform. Christian Scholars’ Conference, June 2021.

Liberal Constitutionalism in Muslim-Majority Countries: Theory and Practice. American Political Science Association, September 2020.

### *Presenter*

“The Walgreen Lectures in the History of Postwar Christian Political Thought.” Ciceronian Society Conference, March 2022.

“Ecclesial Accountability Today: Membership and Two-Way Accountability in Congregational Polity.” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, October 2021.

“Islamic Modernist Theory in Debates on Family Law Reform.” American Political Science Association, September 2020. (Virtual)

“A ‘Mirage’ or a Must-Have? ‘Social Justice’ as a Standard for Institutions and Policy.” Liberal Arts International Conference at Texas A&M University in Qatar, March 2019.

“Divine Sovereignty and the Essence of Democracy: Maritain and Maududi.” Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought, March 2018.

“‘The World is a Garden’: Legitimacy and Political Wisdom in *The Muqaddimah*.” American Political Science Association, August 2017.

### Invited Talks

“Just and Unjust Punishment: What Can the Christian Tradition Contribute to Justice Reform?” Christian Legal Society, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, October 2020.

### Selected Public Writing (Author Pages)

*Ethika Politika*. <https://ethikapolitika.org/author/ben-peterson/>.

*Law and Liberty*. <https://lawliberty.org/author/ben-peterson/>.

*Public Discourse*. <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/author/ben-peterson/>.

*National Affairs*. <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/authors/detail/ben-peterson>.

*The Imaginative Conservative*. <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/authors/detail/ben-peterson>.

*The New Atlantis*. <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/authors/ben-peterson>.

### Courses Taught

Global Political Thought, National Government, American Political Thought, Political Science and Criminal Justice Research Methods, American Presidency, Congress, Early Political Theory, Recent Political Theory

### Current Memberships

Academy of Philosophy and Letters  
Association for Political Theory  
Ciceronian Society (Board member)  
Harmonize (Board member)  
Society of Christian Scholars

*References available upon request*