

# DAVID SEHAT

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## EMPLOYMENT

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John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government, Rothermere American Institute and Balliol College, University of Oxford, 2017-2018  
Associate Professor of History, Georgia State University, 2014-present  
Assistant Professor of History, Georgia State University, 2008-2014  
Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Research Associate, Harvard Humanities Center, 2007-2008

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in history, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007  
Committee: John F. Kasson (Chair), W. Fitzhugh Brundage, Peter Filene, Michael Lienesch, and Grant Wacker  
M.A. in history, Rice University, 2004  
Advisor: Thomas L. Haskell  
M.Div., Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, 2000  
B.A. in philosophy, Dallas Baptist University, 1997

## SCHOLARSHIP

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### BOOKS:

*The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2015).  
*The Myth of American Religious Freedom* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011; updated paperback edition, 2015). Winner of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award.

### ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND REVIEW ESSAYS:

“Political Atheism: The Secularization and Liberalization of Modern America,” *Modern Intellectual History* (forthcoming in 2018).

- “Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Problem of Historical Time,” in Richard Ellis and Seth Cotlar, eds., *Historians in Chief: How Presidents Interpret the Past to Control the Future* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, forthcoming in 2018).
- “On Legal Fundamentalism,” in Ray Haberski and Andrew Hartman, eds. *No Things But in Ideas: United States Intellectual History* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, forthcoming in 2018).
- “Thomas Jefferson and Us,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ser. 73 (October 2017): 771-776.
- “A Mainline Moment: The American Protestant Establishment Revisited,” *Modern Intellectual History* 11 (November 2014): 735-747.
- “Gender and Theatrical Realism: The Problem of Clyde Fitch,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 7 (July 2008): 325-352.
- “Historicism, Judgment, and Understanding: A Response to Curtis J. Evans,” in *Journal of Southern Religion* 10 (2007).
- “The Civilizing Mission of Booker T. Washington,” *Journal of Southern History* 73 (May 2007): 323-362.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

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- John G. Winant Visiting Professorship in American Government, Rothermere American Institute and Balliol College, University of Oxford, 2017-2018.
- Summer Research Grant, History Department, Georgia State University, 2009, 2012, 2016.
- Provost Faculty Fellowship, Georgia State University, fall 2013.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2013.
- Frederick Jackson Turner Award for *The Myth of American Religious Freedom*, Organization of American Historians, 2012.
- Finalist, First Book in the History of Religions Award, American Academy of Religion, 2012.
- Research Initiation Grant, University Research Services and Administration, Georgia State University, 2009.
- Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2007-2008.
- Liebmann Graduate Fellowship, Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, 2005-2007.
- Future Faculty Seminar, Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC-Chapel Hill, August 2006.
- Summer Research Fellowship, History Department, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2005, 2006.

Summer Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of the American South, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2005.

George Mowry Dissertation Research Grant, History Department, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2005.

Charles and Shirley Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship, Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2003-2004.

Graduate Fellowship, History Department, Rice University, 2001-2003.

Charles Garside Jr. Prize in History, History Department, Rice University, 2002.

## INVITED LECTURES AND APPEARANCES

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“Politics After God: The American Secular Tradition,” Winant Lecture in American Government, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, February 2018.

“Why Americans Think the Founding Fathers Have All the Answers,” Richard E. Neustadt Lecture, Institute for the Americas, University College London, February 2018.

“Ideas and the American Political Tradition,” American History Seminar, University of Edinburgh, January 2018.

“Donald Trump and the Betrayal of Republican Politics?” Department of Canadian and American Studies, University of Nottingham, October 2017.

“In Service of Delusion: The State of American Politics,” Oxford American Politics Society, October 2017.

“Moral Power and Religious Control,” Religious Freedom and Varieties of Religious Establishment workshop, Institute for Advanced Study, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany, June 2017.

“The Religious-Freedom Attack on Transgender Rights,” Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, June 2017.

“Originalist Fallacies,” Conservative/Progressive Summit, Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University, May 2017.

“The Republican Party: From Reagan to Trump,” State of American Society Series, Tarleton State University, March 2017.

“FDR and the Problem of Historical Time,” Historian-in-Chief Conference, Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist University, October 2016.

“On Legal Fundamentalism,” Dangerous Ideas conference, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, July 2016.

“The Founding Fathers, the First Amendment, and Religious Freedom,” Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, June 2016.

- “The Jefferson Rule: How We Started Fighting over the Founding Fathers,” Georgia Institute of Technology, September 2015.
- “The Battle over the Constitution,” Constitution Day Lecture, Sam Houston State University, September 2015.
- “The Jefferson Rule,” Elson Lecture at the Atlanta History Center, August 2015.
- “Do the Founding Fathers Have All the Answers?” Conversation with Alexander Heffner, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, June 2015.
- Symposium on “Religion in the Early Republic,” National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., March 20, 2015.
- “The Jefferson Rule: Why We Think the Founding Fathers Have All the Answers,” Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual History, November 2014.
- “Religious Freedom in Past and Present,” Religion in America Conference, Keller Center for the Study of the First Amendment, University of Colorado at Boulder, April 2012.
- “The Myth of American Religious Freedom,” Center for Religion, Law, and Democracy, Willamette University, October 2011.
- “The Myth of American Religious Freedom, or Why Both Liberals and Conservatives are Wrong about Church and State,” Constitution Day Lecture, Auburn University, September 2011.
- “The Myth of American Religious Freedom,” Graduate Institute for Liberal Arts, Emory University, February 2011.

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND COLLOQUIA

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- “The American Political Tradition: Ideas, Interests, and Institutions,” Oxford Politics Graduate Seminar, January 2018.
- Participant in “Taming the Market” workshop, Georgia State University Law School, May 2017 (invited by the organizers).
- Commenter for “Religion at the Margins: Intellectual Syncretism and the Search for a Democratic Religion in Twentieth Century America,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Stanford University, October 2016.
- Participant in “The Creation of the Modern American State” workshop, Georgia State University Law School and University of Michigan Law School, held at Georgia State, May 2016 (invited by the organizers).
- Chair/Commenter for “Religious Critiques of Postwar American Thought and Culture,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Washington D.C., October 2015.

“Protestantism, the Enlightenment, and Freethinking Jews: The Work of David Hollinger,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, GA, April 2014 (panel assembled by conference organizers).

Summer Research Seminar on “Academic Freedom,” Stanford Constitutional Law Center and the Institute for Constitutional History at George Washington University, held at Stanford, June 2011.

“Religion and American Life,” Religion in the News Coffee Hour, Department of Religious Studies, Georgia State University, January 2011.

“Author Meets Critics: Winnifred Fallers Sullivan’s *Prison Religion: Faith-Based Reform and the Constitution*,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

“The Myth of American Religious Freedom,” Third Annual U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Center for the Humanities, CUNY, October 2010.

Respondent, “Religion, Love, and Sexuality Workshop,” Department of Religious Studies, Georgia State University, November 2009.

Chair/Commentator for the panel, “Reconciling Religion with Modern Life,” Second Annual U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Center for the Humanities, CUNY, November 2009.

“An American Heresy: The Myth of Religious Freedom,” Religion, Ethics, and Politics Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies, Georgia State University, February 2009.

Summer Research Seminar on “Religion and Law,” Institute for Constitutional Studies, George Washington University Law School, June 2008.

“The Christian Nation: Coercion and Dissent in American Life,” Tuesday Luncheon, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Mass., February 2008.

“Wholes and Parts: Religion and the Writing of American History,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga., January 2007. (Also panel organizer for “Religion, Modernity, and the U.S. Public Sphere”).

“Why U.S. Historians Should Study Religion,” History Department Research Colloquium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 2006.

“The Colonized Consciousness of Booker T. Washington,” UNC Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, April 2006. (Also commentator on the panel, “Race and Power”).

“Woman’s Suffrage and Free Love, or Could Nineteenth-Century Women Be Individuals?” North Carolina History Graduate Student Conference, Raleigh, NC, February 2006.

“The Tragedy and Troubles of Booker T. Washington,” History Department Research Colloquium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, December 2005.

“More Ironies of Southern Religion: the African-American Church, Racial Uplift, and the Origins of Black Political Consciousness,” Annual Meeting of the Southwest Social Science Association, San Antonio, Tx., April 2003.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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Review of Sean Wilentz, *The Politicians and the Egalitarians: The Hidden History of American Politics* (2016), History News Network, April 28, 2016.

Review of Raymond Haberski Jr., *God and War: American Civil Religion since 1945* (2012), Society for U.S. Intellectual History blog, October 29, 2012.

Review of Kevin M. Schultz, *Tri-Faith America: How Catholics and Jews Held Postwar America to Its Protestant Promise* (2011) in *Politics and Religion* 5 (August 2012): 467-471.

Review of Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell's *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (2010) in *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (March 2012): 110-114.

Review of Alfred F. Young, Gary B. Nash, and Ray Raphael, eds., *Revolutionary Founders: Rebels, Radicals, and Reformers in the Making of the Nation* (2011), Society for U.S. Intellectual History blog, June 14, 2011.

Review of Pauline Maier, *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* (2010), Society for U.S. Intellectual History blog, December 14, 2010.

Review of Edward J. Blum, *W.E.B. Du Bois: American Prophet* (2007), *Journal of Southern History* 74 (August 2008): 779-780.

## TEACHING

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### COURSES TAUGHT:

HIST 2010: Survey of U.S. History

HIST 3210: U.S. in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

HIST 3250: Religion in American Public Life

HIST 4200: American Culture and Ideas

HIST 4990: Historical Research

HIST 8020: Seminar in 19<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. History

HIST 8040: Seminar in U.S. Cultural and Intellectual History

### GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISEES:

Christopher Gleason, Ph.D., “Polyamory: A History,” scheduled for completion spring 2020.

Shawn Dommer, M.A., thesis topic to be determined, scheduled for completion spring 2019.

Ryan Prechter, Ph.D., "Gay New Orleans: A History," completed summer 2017.

Jim Kelley, M.A., "The Intellectual World of Theodore Parker," completed fall 2015.

Stefanie Vaught, M.A., "The Mormon Missouri Experience: Conflict and Persecution," completed fall 2013.

Stephen Watson, M.A., "Rhetoric and Discourse in Cherokee Removal," completed summer 2013.

Jarrett Walker, M.A., "Evolution of a Word: Democracy and the Democratic-Republican Societies, 1793-1796," completed spring 2013.

Joshua T. Walters, M.A., "Liberty of Mine Own Country: The Political Perspective of Henry Clay," completed spring 2013.

Jacob Bennett, M.A., "White Privilege: A History of the Concept," completed spring 2012.

Michael Arndt, non-thesis M.A., completed spring 2011.

Jayna Hoffacker, M.A., "Catholicism and Community: American Political Culture and the Conservative Catholic Social Justice Tradition, 1890-1960," completed summer 2010.

## SERVICE

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### **TO THE DEPARTMENT:**

Promotion and Tenure Committee (standing), 2014-2017  
Undergraduate Studies Committee (standing), 2011-2017  
Programs and Research Committee (standing), 2008-2017  
Library and Technology Committee (standing), 2008-2014  
Promotion and Tenure Manual Committee (ad hoc), fall 2012  
Visiting Lecturer Search Committee (ad hoc), spring 2011

### **TO THE UNIVERSITY:**

History senator on the University Senate, 2014-2016

### **TO THE PROFESSION:**

Editorial Board member, *Modern Intellectual History*, 2013-present  
Advisory Board member, *Intellectual History in the Modern Age* Series, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014-present  
Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program, 2017  
Conference Committee Chair, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2011-2012  
Executive Committee member, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2011-2012

Co-Founder of the Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2011

Manuscript Referee for *Journal of Southern History* (2 manuscripts), the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (2 manuscripts), *Religion and Politics* (2 manuscripts), *Journal of the Early Republic* (1 manuscript), *Modern Intellectual History* (1 manuscript), Bedford/St. Martin's Press (1 book manuscript), Stanford University Press (1 book manuscript), Oxford University Press (1 book manuscript), Yale University Press (1 book manuscript), University of Chicago Press (1 book manuscript)

**TO THE PUBLIC (INTERVIEWS, COMMENTARY, ETC.):**

Host of the interview podcast, MindPop, October 2016-present.

Interview with BBC Radio, November 15, 2017.

Interview with Joseph Hogan, Common Ground podcast, Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley State University, May 11, 2017.

"1936, When 'The Dictator' FDR Was Bent on Constitutional Destruction," *Zócalo Public Square*, October 10, 2016.

"The Religious-Liberty Attack on Transgender Rights," *Boston Review*, May 27, 2016.

Interview with "Two Way Street" about the musical *Hamilton*, Georgia Public Broadcasting, April 22, 2016.

Interview with "New Books in American Studies" podcast, September 26, 2015.

Interview with Jim Brown, "Common Sense" (syndicated radio program), August 15, 2015.

Interview with "Book Review," KAZI-FM (Austin, Tx.), July 12, 2015.

Interview with Chuck Mertz, "This is Hell!" WNUR-FM (Chicago, Il.), July 4, 2015.

Interview with "Beyond 50 podcast," June 30, 2015.

Interview with "Virtually Speaking," *Second Life* radio and podcast, June 25, 2015.

"The Great Divide of Opposing Opinions," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 14, 2015.

Interview with "The Steve Fast Show," SJBC-FM (Bloomington, Il.), June 13, 2015.

Interview with "On Second Thought," Georgia Public Broadcasting, June 10, 2015.

Interview with "The Michael Medved Show," syndicated radio program, June 8, 2015.

Interview with "The Pat Williams Show," WDBO-FM (Orlando, Fl.), June 4, 2015.

Interview with "Central Time," Wisconsin Public Radio, June 2, 2015.

Interview with Jeff Schechtman, "Specific Gravity," KVON-AM (Napa, Ca.), June 2, 2015.

"Which Ronald Reagan Are the GOP Presidential Candidates Embracing?" *History News Network*, May 30, 2015. Republished by *Time Magazine*, June 6, 2015.

Interview with "Sen. Bob Rovner," WWDB-AM (Philadelphia, PA), May 29, 2015.

Interview with "The Source," Texas Public Radio, May 21, 2015.

Interview with Larry Rifkin, "Talk of the Town," WATR-AM (Waterbury, Ct.), May 21, 2015.



“A Historian’s Case for Why We Should Stop Talking about the Founding Fathers,” *In These Times*, May 20, 2015.

Interview with Jack Balkin at Balkinization (balkin.blogspot.com), May 19, 2015.

Interview with Elias Isquith, *Salon.com*, May 19, 2015.

Interview with Alvin Jones, “The Business of Wisdom,” WNEW-FM (Washington-Baltimore), May 19, 2015.

Interview with “Backstory with the American History Guys,” syndicated radio program, December 14, 2013.

Interview with Ken Myers, *Mars Hill Audio Journal* 114 (March/April 2012).

“Do evangelical politicians help evangelicals?” *Washington Post*, July 22, 2011.

Interview with Jim Brown on “Common Sense” (syndicated radio program) May 1, 2011.

“Live Q&A about church and state,” *washingtonpost.com*, April 25, 2011.

“5 Myths about Church and State,” *Washington Post*, April 22, 2011.

Interview with Craig Cohen, “Smart Talk,” WITF-FM (Harrisburg, Pa.), March 29, 2011.

“Is God Woman’s Greatest Nemesis?” Interview with Michelle Rafferty, Oxford University Press blog, March 17, 2011 (Part I), March 18, 2011 (Part II).

“Would today’s tea party have opposed the US Constitution?” *Christian Science Monitor*, February 10, 2011.

“The Myth of American Religious Freedom, or Why Liberal Jurisprudence Needs History,” American Constitution Society blog, February 24, 2011.

Interview with Paul Harvey on Religion in U.S. History blog, January 25, 2011 (part I), January 26, 2011 (part II).

Interview with Jeff Schechtman, “Specific Gravity,” KVON-AM (Sonoma County, Ca.) on January 25, 2011.

“The Myths of American Religious Freedom,” *Huffington Post*, January 15, 2011.

“The kind of intellect we most urgently need,” OUP blog, December 28, 2010.

Audio Interview on the Oxford Comment, OUP blog, December 8, 2010.

Blog contributor, Society for U.S. Intellectual History blog (s-usih.org/blog), 2007-2011.