

David B. Frisk

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Areas of Expertise

- National (not local) history of Conservative and Republican party politics
- Different schools of thought among conservatives and libertarians
- History of American political thought

Resident Fellow at the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization, www.theahi.org, since August 2013 (Theodore J. Eismeier Fellow, January-June 2013). Duties include designing and teaching the AHI's adult education classes; directing reading groups for undergraduates.

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Claremont Graduate University (Claremont, California), 2009. Fields: American Politics and Political Philosophy. GPA: 3.86. Dissertation: "Not a Game: William Rusher and American Politics, 1940-1980." Dissertation committee: Charles Kesler (chair), John Pitney, Frederick Lynch.

B.A. in History, Reed College (Portland, Oregon), 1984.

Teaching Experience

"Background to the 2016 Election, Part I: Roots of the Red/Blue Divide," Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) continuing education course, Spring semester 2016.

"The Constitution in the 20th Century and Today: Key Decisions and Controversies," AHI continuing education course, Fall 2015.

"The Media and Politics," AHI continuing education course, Spring 2015.

"Modern Statesmanship and Leadership," AHI continuing education course, Fall 2014.

"What is Conservatism?," AHI continuing education course, Spring 2014.

"Success and Failure in Modern Society. *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010* by Charles Murray," AHI continuing education course, Fall 2013.

Directed reading groups on Burke, Leo Strauss, and Heidegger for students at Hamilton College (Clinton, New York), Spring and Fall 2014, Spring 2015.

Guest-lectured for Professor Robert Paquette, Hamilton College, on the history of *National Review*, Paine's "Common Sense," and Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, 2014-2015.

Guest-lectured for Professor Philip Klinkner, Hamilton College, on factionalism in the Republican Party, Fall 2015.

Guest-lectured for Professor Maurice Isserman, Hamilton College, on the Carter and Reagan presidencies, Spring 2015.

Designed and taught "Introduction to American Government," Concordia University (Irvine, California), Fall 2001.

Guest-lectured on Locke, Marx, and the *Federalist Papers* at colleges in Southern California, 1999-2001.

Research Interests

The American conservative movement, American political thought, political culture, ideology, parties and elections, political journalism, political philosophy.

Working on an edited volume tentatively titled *The Goldwater Campaign 50 Years Later: New Perspectives*.

Researching a book in which I will analyze the philosophical commonalities and tensions between classical liberalism and traditionalist conservatism.

Professional Publications

[*If Not Us, Who? William Rusher, National Review, and the Conservative Movement*](#) (ISI Books, 2012).

- This widely acclaimed, comprehensive biography is based on extensive archival work and dozens of interviews. It analyzes a major conservative leader's career over a half-century of conservative politics. Described in a *New York Times* [review](#) as "deeply researched," "well-written," and a "highly informative study."

"Gottfried's Disconnect," for an upcoming *Political Science Reviewer* special issue on *Conservatism in America: Making Sense of the American Right* by Paul Gottfried.

"Nixon as Statesman?," for a forthcoming volume of essays on American statesmanship edited by Joseph Fornieri and Kenneth Deutsch.

“Jesse Helms,” for *Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Congress: Case Studies in Legislative Leadership* (Praeger, 2014), James Kitfield et al, eds., published by the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress.

[“A Runner Whom Renown Outran,”](#) *Claremont Review of Books*, Fall 2010, review of *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century* by Alan Brinkley.

Political Commentary

[“Donald Trump and the End of a Movement,”](#) Washington Examiner (dcexaminer.com), Dec. 18, 2015 (co-authored with Jonathan Riehl).

“GOP Presidential Candidates : The More the Scarier,” Real Clear Politics (realclearpolitics.com), June 21, 2015 (co-authored with Jonathan Riehl).

“The 2014 Elections: GOP Weaknesses,” The Imaginative Conservative (theimaginativeconservative.org), Oct. 28, 2014.

“The Third-Party Trap,” Politico magazine section (politico.com), Dec. 30, 2013 (co-authored with Jonathan Riehl).

Several talk radio interviews on current politics with Barry Farber (CRN Digital) and Steve Curtis (KLZ 560, Denver), 2015 and 2016.

Presentations and Conferences

“Aristocracy and the Regime: The New Humanists' Problem With Modern America,” Ciceronian Society panel, American Political Science Association annual meeting (San Francisco), Sept. 6, 2015. Journal article in progress.

“A Commentary on the ‘Patrick Henry/Onslow’ Debate,” Ciceronian Society panel, American Political Science Association annual meeting (Washington), Aug. 31, 2014. Journal article in progress.

“The Marginalization of Non-Elite Conservatives: Explanations and Consequences,” H.L. Mencken Club annual meeting (Linthicum Heights, Maryland), Nov. 7, 2015.

“Political Correctness and the Right in Higher Education,” H. L. Mencken Club annual meeting (Linthicum Heights, Maryland), Nov. 1, 2014.

Co-presenter on “The Movement: Conservatives vs. Libertarians and the Fight for the Future,” sponsored by Federalist Society chapter, Florida State University College of Law (Tallahassee, Florida), Feb. 25, 2015.

Panel discussant at presentation by Joseph Fornieri, author of *Lincoln: Philosopher and Statesman*, Hamilton College (Clinton, New York), Nov. 3, 2014.

Participant in “Freedom, Prosperity, and Heroic Entrepreneurship in Economic Debate” conference, co-sponsored by Liberty Fund and Charles Koch Foundation, directed by Christopher Fawson, Jan. 29-31, 2015 (Springdale, Utah).

Participant in “Churchill and de Gaulle: Statesmanship in a Democratic Age” conference, co-sponsored by the Alexander Hamilton Institute and the Baylor University Department of Political Science, directed by Daniel Mahoney, June 18-19, 2015 (Clinton, New York).

Participant in “Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*” conference, co-sponsored by the AHI and the Baylor University Department of Political Science, directed by James Ceaser, June 23-24, 2014 (Clinton, New York).

Participant in “War and the West: Strategic Challenges Past, Present, and Future” colloquium, sponsored by the AHI, directed by Christopher Hill, April 3-5, 2014 (Verona, New York).

Participant in “What is a Civilizational Struggle: The Work of Samuel Huntington” colloquium, sponsored by the AHI, directed by Steven Ealy, April 18-20, 2013 (Verona, New York).

“The Election of 1980,” lecture at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, Oct. 27, 2012.

Several talk radio and [podcast](#) interviews on *If Not Us, Who?*, 2012.

“Young Men in a Hurry: William F. Buckley Jr., William Rusher, and *National Review*’s Call to Arms, 1955-1964,” at Saint Vincent College Civitas Forum conference, “Death of American Conservatism?,” directed by James Harrigan, October 2007 (Latrobe, Pennsylvania).

Participant in “The Constitution and Liberty,” a week-long Liberty Fund seminar on the Federalist-Antifederalist debate, co-directed by H. Lee Cheek Jr. and Carey Roberts, June 2002 (Chattanooga, Tennessee).

Presented papers at the American Political Science Association annual meeting (San Francisco), Western Political Science Association annual meeting (Las Vegas), and Southern Political Science Association annual meeting (Atlanta), 2001:

- “‘Because We Think It Right’: Winston Churchill and Democratic Statesmanship, 1903-1911”
- “Moderate Republican Voting Behavior in the U.S. House of Representatives”
- “Bridging Difference in a Pluralistic Democracy” (John Rawls and civil religion)

Previous Employment

Frequent [current-affairs writing](#) for the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy (Springfield, Virginia), June 2012-June 2013.

Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy (Claremont, California), October 2009-January 2011.

- Development Officer. Duties evolved from drafting fundraising materials, assisting with grant applications, and researching potential donors to policy-related work. Researched and wrote on the public pension crisis, redistricting, ballot measures. Edited policy writings.

Reporter, *Ledger Dispatch* (Antioch, California), 1991-1996: feature writing, city government reporting, in-depth education writing, religion coverage at a daily newspaper. National first-place award from Religion Newswriters Association, 1996.

Reporter, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* (Alexandria, Virginia), 1987-1991: city government, schools, courts, health, environment.