

Charles U. Zug

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Professional

- 2023-present Assistant Professor of Political Science and Kinder Assistant Professor of Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri.
- 2021-2023 Assistant Professor of Political Science, previously Assistant Research Professor, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs.
- 2020-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Williams College.

Education

- 2020 Ph.D., Government, University of Texas - Austin.
- 2015 B.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College.

Academic publications

Books

- Under contract *The Mythology of American Federalism* (Oxford University Press).
- 2026 *Beyond Checks and Balances* (University of Pennsylvania Press). Edited with Connor Ewing and Benjamin Kleinerman.
- 2024 *Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Federal Highway Act* (University Press of Kansas).
- 2022 *Demagogues in American Politics* (Oxford University Press). Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics, Choice, American Political Thought, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Lyceum Labs, Law & Liberty*. Discussed in *The New York Times, The Free Press, Sun News Austin*.

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2025 "Contesting the Legal Constitution: Constitutional Agonism," *Political Research Quarterly* 78, 4 (December): 1302-1317.
- 2025 "Rethinking the Basic Models of Presidential Leadership: Eisenhower, Greenstein, and Federal Highway Expansion," *Political Science Quarterly* 140, 1 (Spring): 85-104.
- 2023 "‘Giving Government to Business’: Dwight Eisenhower and the Federal Highway Act," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 53, 2 (March): 120-136.
- 2021 "Support for Nationalization and State Building in the Early American Republic: The Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen," *Journal of Law and Courts* 9, 2 (Fall): 283-304.
- 2021 "Creating a Demagogue: The Political Origins of Daniel Shays’ Erroneous Legacy in American Political History," *American Political Thought* 10, 4 (Fall): 601-628.
- 2020 "The Republican Theories of Rousseau and the American Anti-Federalists," *Australian Journal of Politics & History* 66, 2: 181-199.
- 2019 "Could Political Science Become Diagnostic? Restoring a Forgotten Method," *Perspectives on Political Science* 48, 1: 56-63.

Peer-reviewed book chapters

- Under contract "The Rhetorical Presidency Thesis: How We Became What We Studied," in *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary U.S. Presidential Rhetoric* (Routledge)
- 2026 "The Constitutional Significance of the Eisenhower-McCarthy Standoff," in *Beyond Checks and Balances* (University of Pennsylvania Press).
- 2026 "Why Separation of Powers?" in *Beyond Checks and Balances* (University of Pennsylvania Press).
- 2024 "Good Conspiracism," in *American Conspiracism: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* (Routledge). First author, with Steven Pittz.

Symposia

- 2026 Editor, symposium on Stephen Skowronek’s *The Adaptability Paradox*. Essays by Mariah Zeisberg, Kathleen S. Sullivan, Calvin Terbeek, and

Charles U. Zug. Introduction and response by Stephen Skowronek.
American Political Thought 15, 1 (Winter): 68-132.

Editor-reviewed articles, essays, and reviews

- 2026
"Review of Richard Holtzman, *What Does the American Presidency Mean?*"
Presidential Studies Quarterly 56, 1.
- 2026
"Constitutions and Causation," *American Political Thought* 15, 1 (Winter 2026).
- 2025
"Alt Higher Ed and the American Right," *Frontiers of American Reaction*,
June 25.
- 2025
"Show Me Realignment: Party Development in Missouri," *Middle West Review* 11, 2 (Spring): 381-386.
- 2025
"Keeping the '90s Weird," *American Political Thought* 14, 2 (Spring): 277-289.
- 2023
"Thank God for the Deep State: Presidential Demagoguery and the 'Unitary Executive,'" *American Political Thought* 12, 1 (Winter): 113-140.
- 2020
"Conceptual Weaponization and the Study of the Presidency,"
Interpretation 47, 1 (Fall): 211-218.
- 2019
"Diagnosing the Blinding Effects of Trumpism," *Critical Review* 31, 2: 242-254.
- 2019
"Demagoguery as Pathology: Interpreting European Politics Today,"
Perspectives on Political Science 48, 3: 183-191.
- 2018
"The Rhetorical Presidency Made Flesh: A Political Science Classic in the Age of Donald Trump," *Critical Review* 30, 3-4: 347-368.
- 2018
"Nietzsche's Final Teaching," *Interpretation* 44, 3 (Spring): 425-449.

In progress

Article project "Demagoguery, Free Speech, and the First Amendment"

Book project *The Constitution of the Criminal State*

Courses

Spring 2025	Emergency Powers and the Constitution (undergraduate)
Fall 2024	American Political Development (graduate)
Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2025	Politics of Criminal Justice (undergraduate)
Fall 2020, Fall 2023, Spring 2025	Presidency (undergraduate)
Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025	Constitutional Debates (undergraduate)
Fall 2021, Fall 2022	Political Parties (undergraduate)
Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023	American Political Thought (undergraduate)
Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023	Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate)
Spring 2021	Demagoguery and Populism (undergraduate)
Spring 2021	American Political Development (undergraduate)
Fall 2020	Conspiracy Theories in American Politics (undergraduate)

Grants and fellowships (selected)

2025-26	Derrick-Patman Award, University of Missouri (competitive course buyout)
2024	Jack Miller Center Constitution Day Funding, \$2,500
2022	Jack Miller Center Constitution Day Funding, \$2,654
2022	Jack Miller Center Summer Institute
2020	UT Austin Departmental Fellowship, \$2,200
2019	UT Austin Graduate School Fellowship, \$19,906

2019 UT Austin College of Liberal Arts Summer Fellowship, \$7,640
 2019 Jack Miller Center Summer Institute
 2018 University of Konstanz Research Grant, €2,500
 2018 Charles Koch Foundation Dissertation Grant, \$10,000
 2015-2019 UT Austin Recurring Recruitment Fellowship, \$20,000
 2018 UT Austin Summer Funding, \$4,207
 2018 Center for European Studies Teaching Fellowship, \$2,000
 2017 Jefferson Center Scholarship, \$1,500
 2017 UT Austin Summer Funding, \$4,107
 2017-2019 Clements Center Graduate Fellowship, \$3,000
 2015 Hertog Political Studies Fellowship, \$3,000

Honors

2025 Derrick-Patman Award for Research, University of Missouri.
 2025 Assistant Professor Annual Award, University of Missouri College of Arts and Sciences. (finalist)
 2022 George C. Edwards III Dissertation Award, APSA Presidents & Executive Politics Section. (nominated)
 2020 E.E. Schattschneider Dissertation Award, APSA. (nominated)
 2020 Walter Dean Burnham Dissertation Award, APSA Politics & History Section. (nominated)
 2019 Best Teaching Assistant, Government Department, UT Austin. (runner up)
 2017 Robert Wood Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, NEPSA. (nominated)
 2015 St. John's College Caritas Society Community Service Award.
 2014 Annapolis, MD City Council Award for Public Service.

Invited talks

2026 (upcoming)	Lecture on state criminality, University of Heidelberg, Germany
2026 (upcoming)	Lecture on state criminality, University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
2025	Lecture on state criminality, Kinder Institute DC Program
2025	Constitution Day lecture, Kansas City Public Library
2024	Constitution Day lecture on demagoguery and the First Amendment, Fairfield University, CT
2024	Constitution Day lecture on demagoguery and the First Amendment, Michigan State University.
2024	Talk on bureaucratic autonomy, Kinder Institute DC Program.
2024	“The Mythology of American Federalism,” presentation at Kinder Institute Federalism Conference.
2024	Presentation on the New Deal, Institute on American Constitutional Heritage, University of Oklahoma.
2024	“Eisenhower and the Federal Highway Act,” talk for Forum on Social and Political Thought, Virginia Tech.
2024	Talk on emergency power, Kinder Institute “Constitutions” course.
2023	TSGPA, “Trump Indictments” panel, organizer and speaker.
2023	Kinder Institute Democracy Lab, speaker.
2023	Kinder Institute Undergraduate Conference, speaker.
2023	Kinder Institute High School Seminars on the Constitution, speaker.
2022	“Demagogues in American Politics,” invited talk at the Clements Center for National Security, UT Austin.
2021, 2022	“Core Readings in African American Political Thought,” Center for the Study of Government and the Individual, speaker.
2021	“Does the U.S. Constitution create a small-government regime?” invited talk at Rotary Club of Williamstown.
2020	“The Structural Origins of American Internationalism,” invited talk at the Clements Center Conference on Restraint in Foreign Affairs, Austin, TX.

2017 “From Nature to History: The Search for Intelligible Necessities in Thucydides, Machiavelli, and Nietzsche,” invited talk at St. John’s College, Annapolis.

Essays and commentary (selected)

- 2024 “Why it’s important to take Donald Trump’s statements about state violence literally,” *London School of Economics American Politics Blog*.
- 2023 “Congress is not the only lawmaking authority under the U.S. Constitution,” *London School of Economics American Politics Blog*.
- 2022 “Demagogues in American Politics,” *The Constitutionalist*, October 3.
- 2022 “Justice Alito Needs to Stop Demagogic Post-Roe Comments,” *RealClear Public Affairs*, August 9.
- 2022 “President Biden Need a Covid Plan,” *The Constitutionalist*, April 27.
- 2021 “A Trumpian Third Party?” *The Constitutionalist*, May 24.
- 2021 “Rhetorical Duty and the Constitutional Order,” *The Constitutionalist*, February 18.
- 2020 “Will the Real Justice Thomas Please Stand Up? The Endurance and Power of Erroneous Political Narratives,” *A House Divided*, January 14.
- 2019 (with Elayne Allen) “Demagoguery, ‘Cov-Cath,’ and Public Discourse in the Trump Era,” *A House Divided*, November 4.
- 2019 “Between Demagoguery and Populism,” *Law & Liberty*, October 3.
- 2018 “Toward a More Perfect Originalism,” *Law & Liberty*, October 31.
- 2018 “Against Senate Resolution 355,” *Claremont Review of Books Online*, September 10.
- 2018 “Constitutional Bureaucracy? Exchange with John Marini,” *Claremont Review of Books* 18, 2 (Spring): 3-4.
- 2018 (with Connor M. Ewing) “What happened to the State of the Union address?” *The Washington Post*, January 30. Included in online AP curriculum for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (MD).
- 2017 “Flake’s exit from Senate won’t fix GOP hyperpartisanship,” *Austin American-Statesman*, November 1.

Conference activity (since 2019)

- 2026 (submitted) Organizer and chair, book panel on Laura Field, *Furious Minds*, APSA Conference, Boston, MA. With Anne Norton, Shep Milnick, Susan McWilliams Barndt.
- 2026 (submitted) Invited panelist, "Parties, Groups, and Institutional Development," APSA Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2026 (upcoming) Invited chair and moderator, book panel on Jean Becker, *Don't Tell the President*, Unbound Book Festival, Columbia, MO.
- 2025 Panel organizer, chair, and co-discussant (with Sid Milkis), "New Directions in APD," Policy History Conference, Charlotte NC.
- 2025 Invited discussant and chair, author-meets-critics on Richard Holtzman, *What Does the Presidency Mean?*, APSA Conference, Vancouver BC. With Anne Norton, David Zarefsky, Jeffrey Tulis.
- 2025 Invited chair, Southern Workshop on Empirical Political Science (SoWEPS), University of Kentucky.
- 2025 Invited discussant, author-meets-critics on Jordan Cash, *The Isolated Presidency*, MPSA Conference. With Will Howell, John Dearborn, Ben Kleinerman.
- 2025 Co-organizer and participant, retirement conference in honor of Jeffrey Tulis, University of Texas - Austin.
- 2024 Chair and organizer, panels (2) on American political development and constitutional law/theory, Shawnee Trail Conference, Austin TX.
- 2024 Chair, paper panel, "Electocracy" Conference, Kinder Institute.
- 2024 Invited discussant, author-meets-critics on Saladin Ambar, *Stars and Shadows*, SPSA Conference.
- 2023 Invited presenter, Politics and History Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- 2022 Panel presentation, Shawnee Trail Conference, Baylor University.
- 2021 Attended, APSA Conference, September, Seattle, WA.
- 2019 Invited discussant, UT Law School Works-in-Progress Roundtable in Comparative Law, Austin, TX.

Service to the profession

2025-present	Jury member, APSA American Political Thought Section award committee, best article in <i>American Political Thought</i> .
2023-present	Executive Council Member, APSA American Political Thought Section.
2024-25	Jury member, APSA American Political Thought Section award committee, best book.
2024-present	Editorial Board, <i>American Political Thought</i> .
2023-24	Jury member, APSA American Political Thought Section award committee, best APSA paper.
2023-24	Division Co-Chair, APSA American Political Thought Section, APSA annual conference.

University service

2026	Legacy Graduate Student Award Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri.
2026	Search Committee, Griffiths Chair in American Politics, Truman School, University of Missouri.
2025-present	Faculty Executive Committee (elected by faculty, 2-year term), Truman School, University of Missouri.
2024-present	Executive Committee on University of Missouri Open Minds Initiative, Truman School.
2025	Working group on tenure-track faculty affairs, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri.
2025	Legacy Graduate Student Award Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri.
2024-25	Joint political science and history hiring committee (2 searches, Truman School/Kinder Institute).
2024-present	Undergraduate Committee, Truman School, University of Missouri.
2023-24	Political Science Post Doc Hiring Committee (2 hires, Kinder Institute).

2023-24	Truman School Committee on Legislative Internship and Academy.
Spring 2023	Chair, hiring committee, Political Science Instructors, CU – Colorado Springs.
Fall 2022 – Spring 2023	Social Science Symposium Series Committee, CU – Colorado Springs.
Fall 2022	Member, hiring committee, Director of Outreach, CSGI, CU – Colorado Springs.
Fall 2022	Member, hiring committee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, CU – Colorado Springs.
Spring 2022	Member, hiring committee, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Political Science, CU – Colorado Springs.

Peer reviewer

Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury Press, SUNY Press, University of Missouri Press, Routledge Press, *American Political Thought*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Policy History*, *Congress and the Presidency*.

Advising

2025-present	Daniel Egemo, PhD committee member (Missouri – political science)
2024-25	Brendon Floyd, PhD committee external member (Missouri - history)
2024-present	Ethan Schumate, PhD committee member (Missouri - political science)
2024-present	Nele Thomann, PhD committee external member (University of Heidelberg - American studies)
2024-25	Jordan Pellerito, PhD committee external member (Missouri - history)
Summer 2024	Elise Milburn, undergraduate research assistant (Missouri)
2023-present	Borhan Borhan, PhD committee member (Missouri – political science)
2023-25	David Jackson, PhD committee member (Missouri – political science)
2022-2023	Lauren Pauly, undergraduate research assistant (UCCS)

2021

Jack McGovern, undergraduate thesis (Williams)

Professional Associations

American Political Science Association (APSA); Presidency and Executive Politics Section (APSA); American Political Thought Section (APSA); Politics and History Section (APSA); Ideas, Knowledge, and Power Section (APSA); Qualitative and Multi Methods Research (APSA).

Government service

2025-present Citizens Police Review Board, City of Columbia, MO (volunteer position, 3-year term)

References

Available on request.