

Dr. Savannah Eccles Johnston  
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## Employment

Assistant Professor of Constitutional Government, Civics, & Law, Utah Valley University July 2025 – Present  
- Director of the MA in Constitutional Government, Civics, and Law  
Assistant Professor, Salt Lake Community College Aug 2023 – June 2025  
Visiting Assistant Professor of American Politics, Providence College Aug 2021 – June 2023  
Congressional Fellow, American Political Science Association Aug 2020 – Aug 2021  
- Fellow in the office of Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) working on the judiciary portfolio.  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Social Studies, Pasadena City College Feb 2018 – June 2021  
Lecturer, Department of Political Science, California State University – Long Beach Sep 2019 – Dec 2020  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, Pepperdine University Aug 2019 – Dec 2019  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University June 2019 – Aug 2019

## Education

PhD, Politics and Government, Claremont Graduate University, 2020.  
*Dissertation: What Enemy Hath Done This? The Death of the Fusion and the Rise of Illiberal Conservatism.*  
MA, Politics and Government, Claremont Graduate University, 2016.  
BA, Political Science, Brigham Young University, 2015.

## Honors and Awards

Center for Constitutional Studies Non-Resident Fellow, 2024-2025.  
APSA Congressional Fellowship, 2020-2021.  
Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship, 2017 – 2018.  
Henry Salvatori Fellow, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2016 – 2017.  
Utah New Century Scholarship, 2013 – 2015.  
Utah Centennial Scholarship, 2013 – 2014.

## Publications and Reports

“The Rising Electoral Role of Polarization and Implications for Policymaking in the United States Senate.”  
(With Carlos Algara). *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*. (Feb 2022)

“The Rise of Illiberal Conservatism: Immigration and Nationhood at National Review.” *American Political Thought: A Journal of Ideas, Institutions, and Culture*, vol. 10 (Spring 2021).

“Assessing the Efficacy of Early Voting Access on Indian Reservations: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Nevada.” (With Jean Schroedel, Melissa Rogers, and Joseph Dietrich). *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, vol. 10.  
DOI: 10.1080/21565503.2020.1756359.

“Review: Building a Resilient Tomorrow: How to Prepare for the Coming Climate Disruption.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. DOI: 10.1002/pam.22289

## Conference Papers & Presentations

“The Influence of National Conservatism in Congress.” Presentation at the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, Canada, March 29, 2024.

“National Conservatism and the Deconstruction of the Fusion.” Presentation at the Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 8, 2022.

“Illiberalism in Conservative Thought: Immigration and Nationhood.” Presentation at the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 31, 2019.

“The Sacred Constitution Tradition: The Federalist Papers and Plato’s Laws.” Presentation at the Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 5, 2018.

“Assessing the Efficacy of Early Voting Access on Indian Reservations: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Nevada.” (With Jean Schroedel, Melissa Rogers, and Joseph Dietrich). Presentation at the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2018.

“Free Speech and Writing Between the Lines: Strauss and Mill.” Presentation at the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2018.

“Early Voting Sites & Native American Political Participation.” (With Jean Schroedel, Melissa Rogers, and Joseph Dietrich). Presentation at The Electoral Integrity Project Pre-APSA Workshop, American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, August 30, 2017.

“The Performance of Indigenous Identity: Contested Reclamation at the Polynesian Cultural Center.” (With Redge Benheim and Troy Milankovich). Presentation at the American Academy of Religion, Western Region. Rosemead, CA, March 17, 2017.

### **Public-Facing Publications**

“Lincoln, the Book of Mormon, and the Rule of Law.” *Square Two* (Fall 2024).

“Embodiment As a Core Doctrine.” *Square Two*, vol. 16 (Summer 2023).

“The Faith to Act on Gun Reform.” (With Jean Schroedel). *Public Square Magazine* (June 28, 2022)

“Against the Politics of Salvation.” *Square Two*, vol. 14 (Spring 2021).

“Strategic Coordination: McMullin 2016?” *Deseret News* (October 17, 2016).

### **Working Papers**

“The First Amendment and the Politics of Salvation.”

“Forgetting John Galt: The Return of Conservative Economics.” (Submitted)

“The Influence of National Conservatism in the United States Congress.”

### **Guest Lectures**

*Constitutional Literacy Institute Conference*, “Separation of Powers.” June 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

*Utah Valley University*, “Lincoln’s Political Theory in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.” February 2024.

*California Polytechnic University – Pomona*, “Democratic Theory” and “The Declaration of Independence and the Slavery Question.” October 9-11, 2018 and February 5-7, 2019.

*Biola University*, “Democratic Theory and Constitutional Design.” October 19, 2018.

### **Panel Discussions**

Moderator for the Center for Constitutional Studies Book Club: “The Myth of Left and Right.” February 2024.

Selected Panelist with Prof. Jean Yarbrough in a CGU Master Class: “The Meaning of Representation in American Political Thought.” Claremont Graduate University, CA, October 10, 2016.

### **Professional and Other Service Activities**

Instructor for the Visible Hands Project.

CE Liaison for POLS 1100 at Salt Lake Community College. 2023 - Present.

Members of the Western Political Science Association.

Square Two Editorial Board. 2019 – Present.

### **Courses Taught**

Introduction to American Politics (online and in-person)

Constitutional Law II

Political Ideologies

Women and Politics

How Democratic is the United States?

American Political Thought

Politics: A Survey of Global Ideologies

Introduction to Congress

State Government Internships

Introduction to Public Service

Introduction to Critical Thinking

Politics and Culture