

Katherine Bowen Scofield, PhD

Education

Indiana University- Bloomington, IN
PhD in Political Science

2007-2017

Primary Field: Political Theory

Secondary Field: Comparative Politics

Advisors: Lauren M. MacLean and William E. Scheuerman

Dissertation Title: *Indigenous Rights and Constitutional Change in Ecuador*

Abstract:

In 2008 the Republic of Ecuador convened a participatory constitutional convention. The nation's indigenous groups were actively involved in the drafting process, and used the opportunity to put forth a comprehensive political platform for constitutional change in Ecuador. My dissertation examines the four different planks of the indigenous platform: indigenous group rights, interculturalism, *sumak kawsay* (good living) and rights of nature, and asks the implications of these four planks for constitutional design research. I then examine five different political theory paradigms for indigenous empowerment, and outline their implications for the future of constitutional design. I argue that while western political theory almost exclusively concentrates on indigenous group rights, the Ecuadorian indigenous platform offers a much broader critique of liberal government that focuses on alternative methods of development, environmentalism, and social change, as well as, indigenous group rights. I conclude that in missing this larger indigenous critique, the political theory literature often underestimates the ways in which questions raised in other areas of political theory may be tied to the question of indigenous empowerment. In so doing, my dissertation represents a work of both comparative political theory and comparative constitutional design.

Austin College -Sherman, TX

2003-2007

B.A. in Political Science

Honors Thesis: *Indigenous Autonomy on Taiwan*

Advisor: Donald Rodgers

Research Interests

Democratic Theory; Comparative Politics; Comparative Political Theory; Social Movements; Latin America; Constitutional Law; Indigenous Politics; Qualitative Research Methods

Teaching Experience

Assistant Instructional Professor Texas A&M San Antonio

- Texas Government Fall 2024-Spring 2025
- International Relations Fall Spring 2025

- Comparative Politics Fall 2024

Instructor at Blinn College

- United States Government, Fall 2017 to Spring 2021
- Texas Government, Spring 2018 to Spring 2024

Instructor at Indiana University

- Introduction to Political Theory, Summer 2011

Assistant Instructor at Indiana University

- Introduction to Political Theory, Spring 2008
- American Political Controversies, Fall 2007

Assistant Instructor at Austin College

- Model United Nations, Fall 2006

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2013-2014 Academic Year, \$20,000

Fulbright Institute for International Education and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2012:
Awarded to facilitate eight months of dissertation fieldwork in Ecuador, \$14,000

J.M. Robinson Award, 2007: Top female student in the 2007 graduating class at Austin College

Mellon Foundation Summer Grant, 2006: Funded Taiwan fieldwork for honors thesis, \$5,000

ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation Grant, 2005: Funded Taiwan fieldwork for honors thesis, \$5,000

Hatton Sumners Scholar, 2005-2007: Political science scholarship and seminar program, \$20,000

Works in Progress

Renovating the Constitution: How to Fix American Democracy with Lessons from Around the World,
Book Proposal, submitted to University of Michigan Press

Selected Op-Eds

- “She VP? Moving Beyond a Female Vice President to Equity” published by Ms. Magazine 5/14/2020
- “Amy Coney Barrett: The Cruel Irony of a Female Originalist” published by The Hill 10/13/2020
- “New Year, Time for New Thinking about the Undemocratic Nature of the High Court” published by The Fulcrum 12/23/2020
- “Trump’s Military Response to Protests Highlights His Authoritarianism” published by Truthout 6/3/2020
- “The U.S. Needs to Protect Free and Fair Elections” published by Public Seminar 6/23/2020

Research Experience

Editorial Assistant for *Perspectives on Politics* Summer 2009 - Fall 2011 and Fall 2014-Present

Perspectives on Politics is a flagship journal of the American Political Science Association.

- Reviewed approximately 350 scholarly articles and helped make review process decisions
- Coordinated with authors, compositors, reviewers, and copy editors at all stages of the publication process
- Assisted the Journal's transition from Rutgers to Indiana University

Dissertation Fieldwork in Ecuador

March 2012-October 2012

- Interviewed political elites including presidential candidates, legislators, and leaders in the indigenous and non-profit communities regarding difficulties in implementing the new Ecuadorian Constitution

Research Assistant to Lauren MacLean

Fall 2008, Spring 2009 and Fall 2010

- Compiled data on state government compliance with federal tribal consultation guidelines
- Wrote literature reviews on deliberative democracy, participatory democracy, tribal consultation, and international indigenous rights

Professional Experience

Policy Advisor on the Beto for Texas Campaign

July 2017 to November 2018

- Compiled daily research briefings for Representative O'Rourke and the campaign staff
- Conducted policy research for the campaign's debate book

Conference Presentations

"Indigenous Rights and Constitution Making." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, April 2016

"Radical Democracy and Indigenous Rights in the Context of the Ecuadorian Constitution." Presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association conference in San Antonio, April 2014

"Green Multiculturalism." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, April 2014

"Protest Framing in Ecuador and Peru." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, April 2009

"Indigenous Politics in Taiwan." Presented at International Studies South Conference in Birmingham, October 2006

"Indigenous Politics in Taiwan." Presented at the Southwest Political Science Association conference in San Antonio, April 2006

Invited Presentations

Discussant. "History, Borders, and Varieties of Field Research in Political Science," (Chapter in forthcoming book on Field Research in Political Science by Diana Kapiszewski, Lauren M. MacLean and Ben Read), Book Party at Indiana University, December 2011.

Presentation of Nancy Fraser's book, *Scales of Justice*, Graduate Seminar at Indiana University, January 2011.

Language Skills

Spanish – Advanced Written and Intermediate Spoken Proficiency
5 semesters of classes and 8 months of immersion experience