Luke Foster Martin

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Education

University of Oxford June 2026
MPhil in Political Theory
Advisers: Gideon Elford (Thesis), Paul Billingham (Year 1)
Classification: Distinction

Princeton University May 2024
A.B. in Philosophy with Honors, Certificate in Italian Language
Thesis Adviser: Melissa Lane
GPA: 3.86

Research Interests

Analytic jurisprudence, constitutional interpretation, democratic legitimacy, liberal and republican political theory, judicial politics

Selected Research

The Constraint Paradox: A Positivist Critique of Originalism 2025–2026
- MPhil Thesis, University of Oxford
- Develops a positivist critique of originalism's ability to constrain judicial discretion and achieve "constitutional deference"
- Examines *District of Columbia v. Heller* as a case study in the relationship between originalist methodology and judicial discretion.
- *Oxford mark: 77 (Distinction)*

Gridlock or Greenlighting? The Rise of the Supreme Court's Shadow Docket, 2013–2025 2026
- *Politics of Law and Courts* Paper, University of Oxford
- Combines legal scholarship and empirical analysis to evaluate competing explanations of Supreme Court emergency-docket behavior.
- *Oxford mark: 85 (Distinction)*

Graduate Research Papers 2024–2025
- *Back to the Future: The Ideological Utopia of Make America Great Again*
- *Legal Reflective Equilibrium*
- *Canonical Emancipation: Frederick Douglass and the Constitutional Canon*

All for One, One for All: A Dworkinian Theory of Athenian Legal Practice 2023–2024
- A.B. Thesis, Princeton University
- Argues that the legal theory and practices of democratic Athens embodied Ronald Dworkin's account of "law as integrity."
- *Grade: A (written component), A (oral defense)*

Public Writing

"Being Scarce, Making Scarce" Forthcoming
Oxford Political Review

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Constituting Constraint: A Positivist Critique of Originalism February 2026
Warwick Graduate Conference in Legal and Political Theory, University of Warwick

From Source Deference to Social Deference: A Public Reason Approach to Legal Hard Cases May 2026
Oxford Works in Progress in Political Theory Seminar, Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Research and Professional Experience

Niskanen Center September 2026–Present
State Capacity Intern Washington, DC
Research administrative discretion and legitimacy; develop theoretical framework for "productive liberalism"

James Madison Program Summer 2025
Fellow – Moral Foundations of Law Seminar Princeton, NJ

University of Oxford Winter 2024
Assistant to Professor Melissa Lane, Isaiah Berlin Professor Oxford, UK

Hertog Foundation Summer 2023
Political Studies Fellow Washington, DC

Princeton University – Department of Philosophy 2022–2023
Faculty Aide Princeton, NJ

Hudson Institute Spring 2021
Research Assistant Dallas, TX

Writing and Language Tutor 2018–Present
Instruct students in writing mechanics, English, Spanish, Latin Dallas, TX + Oxford, UK

Academic Service and Leadership

MPhil Student Representative 2025–2026
Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

Organizing Committee – Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory 2025–2026
Nuffield College, University of Oxford
Sole master's student on the organizing committee

Charity Representative 2024–2025
St. Peter's College, University of Oxford

Class of 2024 Senator 2023–2024
Undergraduate Student Government, Princeton University

Languages

English (native), Spanish (C1), Italian (C1), Latin (reading), Attic Greek (reading)