

Thad Williamson, Ph.D.

Current Position

Associate Professor of Leadership Studies and Philosophy, Politics, Economics & Law,
University of Richmond 2005-present (tenured and promoted, 2011)

Education

Brown University, A.B., 1992, History and Religious Studies, *Magna Cum Laude*.

Union Theological Seminary (New York), M.A., 1998, Religion.

Harvard University, Ph.D., 2004, Political Science.

Previous Academic and Research Positions

Lecturer, Program on Social Studies, Harvard University, September 2004-June 2005.

Research Associate, Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC, 1993-1996.

Major Awards

Robert Wood Lynn Award, awarded by faculty of Union Theological Seminary (New York) to graduate with outstanding promise in education profession, 1998.

Co-winner, Harold Lasswell Prize for outstanding dissertation in public policy, awarded by the American Political Science Association and the Policy Studies Organization, 2005.

Distinguished Educator Award, University of Richmond, 2012.

Servant Leader Award, Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, 2019.

Publications

Books

Community Wealth Building and the Reconstruction of American Democracy: Can We Make American Democracy Work? (Elgar, 2020), co-editor with Melody C. Barnes and Corey D.B. Walker.

Property-Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), co-editor with Martin O'Neill.

Leadership and Global Justice (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012), co-editor with Douglas Hicks.

Sprawl, Justice and Citizenship: The Civic Costs of the American Way of Life (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Making a Place for Community: Local Democracy in a Global Era (Routledge Press, 2002), lead co-author, with Gar Alperovitz and David Imbroscio.

More Than a Game: Why North Carolina Basketball Means So Much to So Many (Economic Affairs Bureau, 2001).

What Comes Next? Proposals for a Different Society (National Center for Economic and Security Alternatives, 1998).

Book Chapters

“Introduction: Can We Make American Democracy Work?” With Melody C. Barnes and Corey D.B. Walker. In *Community Wealth Building and the Reconstruction of American Democracy: Can We Make American Democracy Work?*, edited by Melody C. Barnes, Corey D.B. Walker and Thad Williamson, Elgar, 2020.

“Becoming the American Community We Should Be—But Never Have Been.” With Melody C. Barnes. In *Community Wealth Building and the Reconstruction of American Democracy: Can We Make American Democracy Work?*, edited by Melody C. Barnes, Corey D.B. Walker and Thad Williamson, Elgar, 2020.

“Conclusion: The Promise of 21st Century Democratic Renewal.” With Corey D. B. Walker. In *Community Wealth Building and the Reconstruction of American Democracy: Can We Make American Democracy Work?*, edited by Melody C. Barnes, Corey D.B. Walker and Thad Williamson, Elgar, 2020.

“Beyond Red and Blue: What Students Need to Learn if American Democracy is to Survive and Thrive.” In *Leadership, Populism and Resistance*, edited by Kristin M.S. Bezio and George R. Goethals, Elgar, 2019.

“‘Everybody’s Got To Wonder What’s the Matter With This Cruel World Today’: Social Consciousness and Political Commentary in ‘Love and Theft’ and *Modern Times*.” In *Tearing the World Apart: Bob Dylan in the 21st Century*, edited by Nina Goss and Eric Hoffman, University of Mississippi, 2017.

“Spiritual Leadership for Social Change in the United States.” In *Frontiers of Spiritual Leadership: Discovering the Better Angels of Our Nature*, edited by Scott Allison, George R. Goethals and Craig Kocher, Palgrave MacMillan, 2016.

“Branches of Government.” With Martin O’Neill. In *The Cambridge Rawls Lexicon*, edited by Jon Mandle and David A. Reidy, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“Taxation.” With Martin O’Neill. In *The Cambridge Rawls Lexicon*, edited by Jon Mandle and David A. Reidy, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“The Tangled Relationship of Democracy, Leadership and Justice in Urban America: A View from Richmond.” In *On Good Democratic Leadership: Prudence and Judgment in Modern Democracies*, edited by John Kane and Haig Patapan, Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Introduction.” With Martin O’Neill. In Martin O’Neill and Thad Williamson, eds. *Property-Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

“Is Property-Owning Democracy a Politically Viable Aspiration in the United States?” In Martin O’Neill and Thad Williamson, eds. *Property-Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

“Realizing Property-Owning Democracy: A Twenty-Year Strategy to Create an Egalitarian Distribution of Assets in the United States.” In Martin O’Neill and Thad Williamson, eds. *Property-Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

“Introduction.” (With Douglas A. Hicks). In Douglas A. Hicks and Thad Williamson, eds. *Leadership and Global Justice*, Palgrave, 2012.

“Leadership Towards Global Justice: Conceptual and Practical Challenges.” (With Douglas A. Hicks). In Douglas A. Hicks and Thad Williamson, eds. *Leadership and Global Justice*, Palgrave, 2012.

“Urban Sprawl.” Entry in *Oxford Companion to American Politics*, edited by David Coates, Oxford University Press, 2012.

“Justice, the Public Sector, and Cities: Re-legitimizing the Activist State.” In Clarissa Hayward and Todd Swanstrom, eds. *Justice and the Contemporary American Metropolis*. University of Minnesota Press, 2011.

“Changing the People, Not Simply the President: The Limitations and Possibilities of the Obama Presidency, in Tocquevillian Perspective.” In Brian Danoff and Joseph Hebert, eds. *Alexis de Tocqueville and the Art of Democratic Statesmanship*. Lexington Books, 2011.

“Beyond Sprawl and Anti-Sprawl.” In Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio, eds. *Critical Urban Studies: New Directions*. SUNY Press, 2010.

“Leadership and Political Traditions, I: Conservatism, Liberalism, and Civic Republicanism.” In Richard Couto, ed. *Political and Civic Leadership: A Reference Handbook*. SAGE, 2010.

“Leadership and Political Traditions, II: Radical and Left Traditions.” In Richard Couto, ed. *Political and Civic Leadership: A Reference Handbook*. SAGE, 2010.

“The Challenge of Urban Sprawl.” With David Imbroscio and Gar Alperovitz. In Nancy Kleniewski, ed. *Cities and Society*. Blackwell, 2005.

“Ecological Sustainability--Some Elements of Longer Term System Change.” With Gar Alperovitz and Alex Campbell. In Fred Gale and Michael M’Gonigle, eds. *Nature, Production, and Power*. Edward Elgar Press, 2000.

Academic Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

“Reframing Public Housing in Richmond, Virginia: Segregation, Resident Resistance and the Future of Redevelopment.” *Cities* 57 (2016): 33-39.

“Resolving Gross Domestic Product’s Ambiguities.” *Cultural Dynamics* 28 (2016): 237-240.

“Constitutionalizing Property-Owning Democracy.” *The Good Society* 22 (2013): 74-90. Also published in *Analyse und Kritik* 35 (2013): 237-253.

“Beyond Social Capital: Social Justice in Recovery and Resilience.” (In symposium on Daniel Aldrich’s *Building Resilience*.) *Risks, Hazards & Public Policy* 4 (2013): 28-31.

“Introduction” to Symposium on Erik Olin Wright’s *Envisioning Real Utopias*. *New Political Science* 34 (2012): 358-59.

“Emancipatory Politics, Emancipatory Political Science: On Erik Olin Wright’s *Envisioning Real Utopias*.” 34 (2012): 386-395.

“Introduction” to Symposium on Property-Owning Democracy. *The Good Society* 21 (2012): 1-3. With Alan Thomas.

“An Emancipatory Interpretation of Property-Owning Democracy: Rawls, Wright, Sen and Politics.” *The Good Society* 21 (2012): 74-89.

“Anchoring Wealth to Sustain Cities and Population Growth.” *The Solutions Journal* 4 (July 2012): 50-57. With Gar Alperovitz and Steve Dubb.

“Privatization, Marketization, and Neoliberalism—The Political Dynamics of Post-Katrina New Orleans.” (Part of symposium on Cedric Johnson’s *The Neoliberal Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, Late Capitalism, and the Remaking of New Orleans*.) *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (2012): 720-723.

“Inactive by Design? Neighborhood Design and Political Participation.” *Political Behavior* 34 (2012): 79-101. With Daniel Hopkins.

“Putting Experts in Their Place: The Challenge of Expanding Participation While Solving Problems.” (In symposium on Mark Bevir’s *Democratic Governance*.) *International Journal of Organizational Theory and Behavior* 14 (2011).

“Who Owns What? An Egalitarian Interpretation of John Rawls’s Idea of a Property-Owning Democracy.” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 40 (2009): 434-453.

“Property-Owning Democracy and the Demands of Justice.” *Living Reviews in Democracy* 1 (2009).

“The Good Society and the Good Soul: Plato’s *Republic* on Leadership.” *Leadership Quarterly* 19 (2008): 397-408.

“Sprawl, Spatial Location, and Politics.” *American Politics Research* 36 (2008): 903-933.

“Local Policy Responses to Globalization: Place-based Ownership Models of Economic Enterprise,” *Policy Studies Journal* 31 (2003): 231-252. With David Imbroscio and Gar Alperovitz.

"True Prophecy? An Analysis and Critique of the Mainline Church's Social Witness," *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 51 (1997): 79-116.

Additional Scholarly Essays and Reviews (Invited)

“The Almost Inevitable Failure of Justice,” (Review of Tommie Shelby’s *Dark Ghettos*), *Boston Review, Fifty Years Since MLK* Forum, February 2018.

“Free Market Fairness: Is There a Moral Case for Free Markets?” (Review of John Tomasi’s *Free Market Fairness*), *Boston Review*, November 5, 2012. With Martin O’Neill.

“Beyond the Welfare State: Rawls’s Radical Vision for a Better America.” *Boston Review*, October 24, 2012. With Martin O’Neill.

“The Promise of Pre-Distribution.” *Policy Network* feature essay (online), September 28, 2012. With Martin O’Neill.

“Philosophical Foundations for ‘Good Capitalism’? Labour’s Business Agenda, John Rawls, and Property-Owning Democracy.” *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy* 20 (2012): 20-32. With Martin O’Neill.

“The Triple Threat to Community,” *Indicators: The Journal of Social Health* 2 (2003): 84-102. With David Imbroscio and Gar Alperovitz.

“Sprawl, Politics, and Participation: A Preliminary Analysis,” *National Civic Review* 91 (2002): 235-244.

“The Usefulness—And Limitations—of Social Capital as an Analytic Tool for Progressives,” *Antipode* 34 (2002): 809-811.

"Monica, Bill, and Ethics," *Cross Currents: The Journal of the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life* 49 (1999): 153-163.

Book Reviews and Public Writing

See www.thadwilliamson.com for an extensive listing of additional public and academic writing.

Public Sector Experience

Director, Office of Community Wealth Building, City of Richmond, June 2014-May 2016. (Granted leave of absence from University of Richmond during this time.) The Office of

Community Wealth Building (OCWB) is a dedicated agency charged with designing and leading implementation of the City's long-term strategy to reduce poverty. Selected highlights:

- Developed integrated strategy to tackle City of Richmond's 25% poverty rate involving workforce development, economic development, education, housing and transportation
- Led program design for component parts of the strategy in collaboration with other staff and community members, with focus on workforce development, collaborative education strategies, and support for public housing residents, with total programmatic budget of \$3.4 million (FY 2015)
- Made ongoing policy and budgetary recommendations to the Mayor, participated in City budget process, developed and managed annual OCWB budget of approximately \$1.3 million (FY 2016)
- Hired nine new staff members and managed total staff of fifteen people (encompassing the City's workforce development initiative, policy researchers, community engagement specialist, and administrative staff)
- Wrote and filed first legally required annual report to City Council of the Office of Community Wealth Building (March 2016) on behalf of Mayor Dwight C. Jones
- Received grant support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Developed policy proposal for statewide community wealth building initiative in partnership with the policy organization Virginia First Cities; \$7.5 million initiative was adopted in spring 2017 for FY 2018, leading to \$2 million, renewable grant to Richmond Office of Community Wealth Building to support workforce development efforts

Transition Director, Richmond Mayor-elect Levar M. Stoney; Senior Policy Advisor for Opportunity, Mayor's Office, City of Richmond. November 2016-June 2018. (Served while also teaching full-time at University of Richmond.) Selected highlights:

- Managed orderly transition of power from Mayor Dwight C. Jones to Mayor-elect Levar M. Stoney, working with forty-one person transition team;
- Worked with Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to refine and monitor implementation of action plan encompassing key policy priorities across all City agencies
- Led development, community engagement process, and final negotiations of the RVA Education Compact, a collaborative framework between the Mayor's Office, Richmond City Council, and Richmond Public Schools aimed at addressing the needs of children, families and schools in Richmond, adopted in August 2017.
- On behalf of Mayor Stoney and Chief Administrative Officer, developed an initial strategic plan for comprehensive organizational, encompassing all agencies and establishing citywide priorities; plan published in November 2017.
- Worked with Director of Budget and Strategic Planning to overhaul the application and evaluation process for the City's non-departmental grant program to promote greater alignment of grants with City's key policy priorities
- Worked with Chief Administrative Officer to establish a new Performance Management Office focused on internal reform processes, launched in 2018.