Stanford



Jennifer Burns

Edgar E. Robinson Professor of United States History and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I am a historian of the twentieth century United States working at the intersection of intellectual, political, and cultural history, with a particular interest in ideas about the state, markets, and capitalism and how these play out in policy and politics.

My most recent book is Milton Friedman: The Last Conservative. This is the first full biography of the influential economist and political figure, and was awarded the 2026 Spengler Prize for the book by the Society for the History of Economics, the 2025 Reagan Book Prize, and was a finalist for the 2024 Hayek Prize. My first book, Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right (Oxford, 2009), was an intellectual biography of the libertarian novelist Ayn Rand.

I have published articles about the history of conservatism, libertarianism, and liberalism in a number of academic and popular journals, including Reviews in American History, Modern Intellectual History, Journal of Cultural Economy, The New York Times, The New Republic, and Dissent.

At Stanford I teach courses on modern U.S. history, intellectual history, and the history of economic thought.

My writing on the history of conservatism, libertarianism, and liberalism has appeared in a number of academic and popular journals, including Reviews in American History, Modern Intellectual History, Journal of Cultural Economy, The New York Times, The New Republic, and Dissent.

Prospective graduate students: please consult my history department webpage for more information on graduate study. https://history.stanford.edu/people/jennifer-burns

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Hoover Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Professor of History, Stanford University, (2025-2026)
- Faculty Senate, Stanford University, (2024-2026)
- Director of Graduate Admissions, History Department, Stanford University, (2023-2025)

- Faculty Senate, Stanford University, (2019-2021)
- Honors Director, History Department, Stanford University, (2018-2020)
- Associate Professor of History, Stanford University, (2016-2025)
- Assistant Professor of History, Stanford University, (2012-2016)
- Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia, (2007-2012)
- Lecturer, Department of History, University of California, (2005-2007)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Age of Reagan Book Prize, Reagan Presidential Foundation (2025)
- Joseph Spengler Prize for Best Book in the History of Economics, History of Economics Society (2026)
- Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University (2016-2026)
- Fellowship for University Professors, National Endowment for the Humanities (2017-2018)
- William C. Bark National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University (2014-2015)
- Women's Leadership Fellow, Impact Center, Washington, DC (2013 - 2014)
- Research Award, University of Virginia Office of the Vice President (2011)
- Visiting Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitat (2011)
- Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians (2010 - 2016)
- Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution (2010 - 2011)
- Visiting Scholar, Centennial Center, American Political Science Association (2010 - 2011)
- Top Young Historian, History News Network (2010)
- Fellow, UVA Professors as Writers (2008 - 2009)
- Fellow, UVA Excellence in Diversity Fellowship (2008 - 2009)
- Campbell National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University (2007 - 2008)
- Kettner Prize for Best Dissertation, UC Berkeley History Department (2006)
- Research Fellow, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library (2006)
- Faculty Advisor, UC Berkeley Library Prize for Undergraduate Research (2003, 2006)
- Thomas T. Hoopes thesis prize, Harvard University (1998)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Faculty Convener, Hoover Institution Archival Workshop on Political Economy (2013 - present)
- Faculty co-organizer (with Caroline Winterer), Bay Area Consortium for the History of Ideas (2012 - present)
- Member, U.S. Civil Rights/MLK Institute Director Search Committee (2018 - present)
- Faculty co-sponsor (with Richard White and Sylvia Yanagisako), Stanford Humanities Workshop: Approaches to Capitalism (2013 - 2018)
- Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians (2010 - 2016)
- Annual Conference Chair, 2016 United States Intellectual History Conference (USIH) (2015 - 2016)
- Executive Committee, Society for United States Intellectual History (S-USIH) (2015 - 2016)
- Chair (elected), Policy Committee, Stanford History Department (2018 - 2019)
- Member (elected), Policy Committee, Stanford History Department (2013 - 2014)
- Faculty Consultant, Hoover Institution Library and Archives (2012 - present)
- referee, Journal of American History, Modern Intellectual History, History of Intellectual Culture (2010 - present)

- Member, Academic Technology Committee, Stanford History Department (2012 - 2013)
- Member, Annual Prize Committee, Society for United States Intellectual History (2013 - 2013)
- Alumni representative (elected), Board of Trustees, The Taft School (2011 - 2015)
- Resident Faculty Fellow, Brown College, UVA (2009 - 2010)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of California , History (2005)
- M.A., University of California , History (2001)
- A.B., Harvard University , History (1998)

LINKS

- www.jenniferburns.org: www.jenniferburns.org
- Goddess of the Market book page: http://www.amazon.com/Goddess-Market-Rand-American-Right/dp/019983248X
- Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/profburns
- author Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jennifer-Burns/97073665842

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Core in American History, Part VI: HISTORY 351F (Spr)
- The United States in the Twentieth Century: AFRICAAM 150C (Spr)
- The United States in the Twentieth Century: AFRICAAM 50C (Spr)
- The United States in the Twentieth Century: AMSTUD 150C, HISTORY 150C (Spr)
- The United States in the Twentieth Century: HISTORY 50C (Spr)
- Thinking About Capitalism: CIVIC 269, HISTORY 269, HISTORY 369 (Win)

2025-26

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Neoliberalism in Chile: Ethics, Ideas, Politics: OSPSANTG 65S (Spr)
- Thinking About Capitalism: HISTORY 269, HISTORY 369 (Aut)

2024-25

- American Intellectual History, 1900-Present: AMSTUD 154B, AMSTUD 54B, HISTORY 154B, HISTORY 54B (Aut)
- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Thinking About Capitalism: HISTORY 269, HISTORY 369 (Aut)

2023-24

- Back to the Future: Media, Art, and Politics in the 1980s: AMSTUD 128B, COMM 128, COMM 228, COMM 328, HISTORY 258A, HISTORY 358A (Win)
- Graduate Research Seminar: U.S. History in the 20th Century: HISTORY 468A (Win)
- Graduate Research Seminar: U.S. History in the 20th Century Part II: HISTORY 468B (Spr)

- The History of 2023: HISTORY 1 (Aut)
- Thinking About Capitalism: HISTORY 269, HISTORY 369 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Orals Evaluator

Jennifer Depew, Max Fennell-Chametzky, Zoe Gioja

Doctoral (Program)

Jennifer Depew

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Retrospectives: Friedman and Schwartz, Disaggregated** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES*
  Burns, J.
  2024; 38 (4): 211-228
- **Samuelson Friedman: The Battle over the Free Market (Book Review)** *HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY*
  Book Review Authored by: Backhouse, R. E., Burns, J.
  2024; 56 (4): 749-754
- **Globalists: The End of Empire and the Birth of Neoliberalism (Book Review)** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Burns, J.
  2018; 123 (5): 1615–17
- **Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America (Book Review)** *HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY*
  Book Review Authored by: Burns, J.
  2018; 50 (3): 640–48
- **Ayn Rand is Dead**
  Burns, J.
  The Washington Post.
  2017
- **Trump's Favorite Intellectual**
  Burns, J.
  Die Zeit.
  2017
- **Ayn Rand's Counter-Revolution**
  Burns, J.
  The New York Times.
  2017
- **What Was Conservatism?**
  Burns, J.
  The Chronicle of Higher Education - Chronicle Review.
  2016
- **The Three "Furies" of Libertarianism: Rose Wilder Lane, Isabel Paterson, and Ayn Rand** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Burns, J.
  2015; 102 (3): 746-774
- **ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE: FREE MARKETS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT** *MODERN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY*
  Burns, J.

2014; 11 (1): 253-265

- **Milton Friedman: The Economist as Historian** *Joint Center for History and Economics*
  Burns, J.
  2013
- **In the Ayn Rand Archive** *RARITAN-A QUARTERLY REVIEW*
  Burns, J.
  2012; 32 (2): 53-74
- **Ron Paul and the New Libertarianism** *DISSENT*
  Burns, J.
  2012; 59 (3): 46-50
- **Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science (Book Review)** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
  Book Review Authored by: Burns, J.
  2012; 117 (3): 902-903
- **Paul Ryan is far from an Ayn Rand Protegee** *US News and World Report*
  Fox, L.
  2012
- **Ayn Rand's Long Journey to the Heart of American Politics** *The New Republic Online*
  Burns, J.
  2012
- **Five Minute Tute: Professor Jennifer Burns on Ayn Rand, Philosopher and Novelist** *Oxford University Cherwell*
  Burns, J.
  2012; 10
- **Will This Election Settle Republicans' Ayn Rand Debate?** *Echoes: Dispatches from Economic History*
  Burns, J.
  2012
- **Ayn Rand, maitresse a penser du candidat republicain a la vice-presidence americaine,** *Mediapart, Mediapart.fr*
  Cantaloube, T.
  2012
- **Too Many Young Men Who Smoke Pipes: Time, Inc. and the Interstitial Intellectual** *American History*
  Burns, J.
  2012; 40 (1): 101 - 105
- **Ayn Rand** *Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought*
  Burns, J.
  CQ Press.2012
- **The Measure of All Things: How Markets Beat out Citizenship to Define Our Public Life** *The American Prospect*
  Burns, J.
  2012: 79 - 80
- **Atlas Spurned** *The New York Times*
  Burns, J.
  2012
- **Sex and the Conservatives' Matriarch** *The Boston Globe*
  Weiss, J.
  2012
- **The Rise and Fall of Modern American Conservatism: A Short History (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Burns, J.

2011; 97 (4): 1093-1095

- **The Root of All Good: Ayn Rand's Meaning of Money** *Journal of Cultural Economy*
  Burns, J.
  2011; 4 (3): 329 - 347
- **How Randian was Ayn Rand?** *The Washington Post*
  Burns, J.
  2011
- **Isabel Paterson** *American National Biography*
  Burns, J.
  Oxford University Press.2011
- **Rose Wilder Lane** *American National Biography*
  Burns, J.
  Oxford University Press.2011
- **IN SEARCH OF A USABLE PAST: CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT IN AMERICA** *MODERN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY*
  Burns, J.
  2010; 7 (2): 479-494
- **From Hollywood to the Federal Reserve: The Making of Ayn Rand's Objectivism** *The Age of Conservatism: From Opposition to Power in France, Britain, and the United States*
  Burns, J.
  2010
- **The Right Since Obama: The Rise of Market Fundamentalism** *Dissent Magazine*
  Burns, J.
  2010
- **Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s (Book Review)** *SOCIAL HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Burns, J.
  2010; 35 (2): 235-237
- **Book Notes: Phillip Lopate's Notes on Sontag** *Virginia Quarterly Review*
  Burns, J.
  2009
- **Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right**
  Burns, J.
  Oxford University Press.2009
- **How Free Should the Market Be: Was Ayn Rand a Prophet or a Scapegoat** *Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star*
  Burns, J.
  2009
- **Vita: Ayn Rand: A Brief Life of an Iconoclastic Individualist** *Harvard Magazine*
  Burns, J.
  2009
- **Ayn Rand and America's New Culture War** *The Christian Science Monitor*
  Burns, J.
  2009
- **The Root of All Good: Ayn Rand and the Meaning of Money** *Beyond Liquidity: After the Crash Interdisciplinary Conference*
  Burns, J.
  2009
- **Howard Roark in New Delhi: The Surprising Popularity of a Libertarian Hero in India** *Foreign Policy*
  Burns, J.

2009

- **Russia and the American Right** *Russia and the USSR in American Intellectual History*
  Burns, J.
  2008
- **0 Libertarian, Where is Thy Sting?** *Journal of Policy History*
  Burns, J.
  2007; 19 (4): 452 - 471
- **Liberalism and the Conservative Imagination** *Liberalism for a New Century*
  Burns, J.
  edited by Jumonville, N., Mattson, K.
  University of California Press.2007: 58–72
- **Godless Capitalism: Ayn Rand and the Conservative Movement** *American Capitalism: Social Though and Political Economy in the Twentieth Century America*
  Burns, J.
  edited by Lichtenstein, N.
  University of Pennsylvania Press.2006
- **In Retrospect: George Nash's The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945** *Reviews in American History*
  Burns, J.
  2004; 32 (3): 447 - 462
- **Godless Capitalism: Ayn Rand and the Conservative Movement** *Modern Intellectual History*
  Burns, J.
  2004; 1 (3): 359 - 385
- **Skyscraper on a Hill: Ayn Rand and the Cultural Politics of American Capitalism** *Capitalism and Its Culture: Rethinking Mid-Twentieth Century American Social Thought*
  Burns, J.
  2003
- **Leatherstocking Tales** *Dictionary of American History*
  Burns, J.
  Charles Scribner's Sons.2002
- **Mysticism** *Dictionary of American History*
  Burns, J.
  Charles Scribner's Sons.2002
- **Modernism, Religious** *Dictionary of American History*
  Burns, J.
  Charles Scribner's Sons.2002
- **Modernism, Religious** *Dictionary of American History*
  Burns, J.
  Charles Scribner's Sons.2002
- **Forever: De Beers and U.S. Antitrust Law** *Harvard Business School Case 700-082*
  Burns, J., Spar, D. L.
  Harvard Business School Press.2000: 1–25
- **Hitting the Wall: Nike and International Labor Practices** *Harvard Business School Case 700-047*
  Burns, J., Spar, D. L.
  Harvard Business School Press.2000: 1–23
- **Network Associates: Securing the Internet** *Harvard Business School Case 799-087*
  Burns, J., Spar, D. L.

Harvard Business School Press.1999: 1–20

- **Agricultural Biotechnology Brief, 1999** *Harvard Business School Case 700-066*
  Reinhardt, F., Burns, J.
  Harvard Business School Press.1999
- **Environmental Risk Management at Chevron Corp** *Harvard Business School Case 799-062*
  Reinhardt, F., Mandelli, M. M., Burns, J.
  Harvard Business School Press.1999: 1–28