



Scholar Spotlight: Alexander Hertel-Fernandez

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We elect state legislators to craft bills for us, but three large conservative groups have a huge influence in shaping - and even writing - these laws. This week's Scholar Spotlight is Alexander Hertel-Fernandez for his research on these groups in his new book, [State Capture: How Conservative Activists, Big Businesses, and Wealthy Donors Reshaped the American States—and the Nation](#). The findings have gained attention in outlets like [USA Today](#), the [New Books Network](#) podcast, and on a recent No Jargon [episode](#).

Scholar Spotlight

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Hertel-Fernandez's research currently focuses on the Democratic Party and the politics of federal tax policy; the sustainability of social insurance programs, with an emphasis on unemployment insurance and Social Security; and mobilization of business interests in state politics. Hertel-Fernandez is a member of the Roosevelt Institute Pipeline's Boston Chapter, and is a former Board Member of the National New Deal Preservation Association.