

# Gregory Conti

Princeton University  
Department of Politics  
111 Fisher Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544

gaconti@princeton.edu  
609-258-6270

## POSITIONS

---

**Assistant Professor of Politics**, Princeton University: 2018-

**Research Fellow**, Jesus College, University of Cambridge: 2016-18

## EDUCATION

---

**Harvard University**, Ph.D., Government, 2016; A.M., Government, 2012  
*Dissertation*: “The Politics of Diversity in Nineteenth-Century Britain”

**The University of Chicago**, B.A., English Literature, 2009.

## BOOKS

---

### Monograph:

*Parliament the Mirror of the Nation: Representation, Deliberation, and Democracy in Victorian Britain*,  
Cambridge University Press (Ideas in Context series), 2019.

### Edited Volume:

*Albert Venn Dicey: Writings on Democracy and the Referendum* (under contract at Cambridge University  
Press, Texts in the History of Political Thought series)

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

---

“Charles Dupont-White: An Idiosyncratic Nineteenth-Century Theorist on Speech, State, and John  
Stuart Mill,” *Global Intellectual History*, forthcoming.

“James Fitzjames Stephen’s Other Enemies: Catholicism and Positivism in *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*  
and Beyond,” *History of European Ideas*, forthcoming.

“John Stuart Mill and Modern Liberalism: A Study in Contrasts,” *Constellations: An International Journal*  
*of Critical and Democratic Theory*, forthcoming.

“L’âme générale d’une assemblée’: A Neglected Parliamentarian and the Restoration Theory of  
Representation,” *Global Intellectual History*, forthcoming.

“How to Read James Fitzjames Stephen: Technocracy and Pluralism in a Misunderstood Victorian,”  
*American Political Science Review*, vol. 115, no. 3 (2021): 1034-1047.

- “Inegalitarian Inclusivity: A Reading of JS Mill’s Mature Theory of Representation and Electoral Institutions in Context,” *History of Political Thought*, vol. 42, no. 1 (2021): 98-130.
- “Ostrogorski Before and After: Three Critical Views of Parties and Elites,” *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*, vol. 27, no. 2 (2020): 169-84.
- “Democracy Confronts Diversity: Descriptive Representation in Victorian Britain,” *Political Theory*, vol. 47, no. 2 (2019): 230-57.
- “Representative Institutions and the Question of Lefortian Democracy,” *The Tocqueville Review/La revue Tocqueville*, vol. 39, no. 2 (2018): 135-63.
- “The Other Side of Representation: The History and Theory of Representative Government in Pierre Rosanvallon,” *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*, vol. 23, no. 4 (2016): 548-62. Co-authored with Will Selinger.
- “Jean Barbeyrac, Supererogation, and the Search for a Safe Religion,” *Modern Intellectual History*, vol. 13, no. 1 (2016): 1-31.
- “James Fitzjames Stephen, John Stuart Mill, and the Victorian Theory of Toleration,” *History of European Ideas*, vol. 42, no. 3 (2016): 364-98.
- “What’s Not in *On Liberty*: The Pacific Theory of Free Discussion in the Early Nineteenth Century,” *Journal of British Studies*, vol. 55, no. 1 (2016): 57-75.
- “The Receptions of Élie Halévy’s *Formation du Radicalisme Philosophique* in England and France,” *Modern Intellectual History*, vol. 12, no. 1 (2015): 197-218. Co-authored with Cheryl Welch.
- “Reappraising Walter Bagehot’s Liberalism: Discussion, Public Opinion, and the Meaning of Parliamentary Government,” *History of European Ideas*, vol. 41, no. 2 (2015): 264-91. Co-authored with Will Selinger.
- “Lockean Toleration and the Victim’s Perspective,” *European Journal of Political Theory*, vol. 14, no. 1 (2015): 76-97.
- “Hume’s Low Road to Toleration,” *History of Political Thought*, vol. 36, no. 1 (2015): 165-91.

## **PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS**

---

- “Plural Voting and Popular Government in Victorian Britain,” in *People Power, 1513-1914*, eds. Chris Barker and Robert Ingram (Manchester University Press, forthcoming).
- “Before – and Beyond – *On Liberty*: Samuel Bailey and the Nineteenth-Century Theory of Free Speech,” in *Freedom of Speech, 1500-1850*, eds. Alex Barber, Robert Ingram, Jason Peacey (Manchester University Press, 2020).
- “Democracy and the Press in Rosanvallon’s Historiography,” in *Pierre Rosanvallon’s Political Thought: Interdisciplinary Approaches*, eds. Oliver Flügel-Martinsen, Franziska Martinsen, Stephen Sawyer, Daniel Schulz (Columbia University Press, 2019), 133-57.

## REVIEW ESSAYS

---

“Some Quasi-Methodological Reflections,” in *Tocqueville Review* Roundtable “Parliamentary Thinking,” 4 Aug. 2021 <<https://tocqueville21.com/Blog/focus/parliamentary-thinking>>.

“James Fitzjames Stephen and the Landscape of Victorian Political Thought,” *Modern Intellectual History*, vol. 18, no. 1 (2021): 261-74.

“Response,” in H-Diplo Roundtable XXI-49, 3 July 2020 <<https://hdiplo.org/to/RT21-49>>: 21-9.

“The Lost History of Political Liberalism,” *History of European Ideas*, vol. 46, no. 3 (2020): 341-54. Co-authored with Will Selinger.

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

“John Stuart Mill’s Views on the Working Class: A Reconstruction and Contextual Study”

*Honest Democracy: Albert Venn Dicey, the Referendum, and the Transformation of Liberalism*

“Was There a Liberal Theory of Progress in the Nineteenth Century? A Sketch”

“The Structure of Anti-Democratic Thought in Nineteenth-Century Britain” (for the *Cambridge History of Democracy*)

“On the Nadir of Natural Rights Theory in Nineteenth-Century Britain” (for the *Cambridge History of Rights*)

“Fake News and Democratic Authority: The Caesarist Case against Free Speech in the French Second Empire”

## ACADEMIC TRANSLATIONS

---

Of Claude Lefort, “Democracy and Representation” (“Démocratie et représentation”), in *The Constructivist Turn in Political Representation*, eds. Lisa Disch, Mathijs van de Sande, Nadia Urbinati (Edinburgh Univ Press, 2019): 104-17.

Of Bernard Manin, “Political Deliberation and the Adversarial Principle” (“Délibération politique et principe du contradictoire”), *Daedalus*, vol. 146, no. 3 (2017): 39-50.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

---

“What Might Be Wrong with Electoral Individualism?”

- Center for the Study of Political Thought, Conference on Democratic Representation, Cornell University, May 15, 2021

“Parties before the Party System”

- Symposium on Max Skjönsberg’s *Persistence of Party*, University of Liverpool, April 28, 2021

“Why Not Write the History of Liberalism before ‘Liberalism?’”

- Symposium on Arthur Ghins’s *Public Opinion vs. Popular Sovereignty*, Brown University, April 16, 2021

“Auguste Comte and the Birth of Conservatism”

- Symposium on the French Right, Abigail Adams Institute, Cambridge, MA, Mar. 27, 2021

“On the Nadir of Natural Rights Theory in Victorian Britain”

- Workshop on the History of Rights, the University of Chicago, Mar. 19, 2021

Symposia on *Parliament the Mirror of the Nation*

- Centre for Political Thought, Cambridge University, Jan. 28, 2021 (discussants: Tejas Parasher, Mira Siegelberg). In conjunction with Will Selinger’s *Parliamentarism*.
- Political Theory Speaker Series, Georgetown University, Nov. 13, 2020. In conjunction with Will Selinger’s *Parliamentarism*.
- Institute of Intellectual History <<https://intellectualhistory.net>>, May 21, 2020
- Whitney Humanities Program and the Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, Yale University, Feb. 21, 2020 (discussants: Isaac Nakhimovsky, Giulia Oskian, Noah Rosenblum). In conjunction with Will Selinger’s *Parliamentarism*.
- UCHV & Politics Dept., Princeton University, Oct. 4, 2019 (discussants: Richard Bourke, Bryan Garsten, Bernard Manin, Helena Rosenblatt)
- APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Aug 29, 2019 (as “Author Meets Critics” Panel; discussants: Giulia Oskian, Jennifer Pitts, Lucia Rubinelli, Shannon Stimson)

“John Stuart Mill’s Mature Theory of Representation in Context”

- International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Chicago, IL, July 30-31, 2020 [postponed]

“Mill’s *On Liberty*”

- Contemporary Civilization Course Colloquium, Columbia University, Feb. 18, 2020

“Is There a Crisis of Democracy?”

- Manuscript Workshop on Jacob Eisler’s *Election Law and the Crisis of Mass Democracy*, Southampton University Law School, July 11, 2019

“L’âme générale d’une assemblée’: Pierre-François Flaugergues’s Political Theory”

- Political Theory Workshop, Columbia University, Oct. 15, 2019
- Visitors’ Seminar, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS), Rome, June 27, 2019
- Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, University of Chicago, May 13, 2019
- Workshop on Liberalism in the History of Political Thought, University of Cambridge, Jan.

23, 2019

“Fichte’s Dilemmas and the Politics of the Suspension Period”

- Manuscript Workshop on Stefan Eich’s *Currency of Politics*, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University, April. 5, 2019

“Lessons on Publishing in Political Theory”

- Half-Baked Workshop Series, Politics Department, Princeton University, Mar. 28, 2019

“Plural Voting and Popular Sovereignty in Victorian Britain”

- Conference on Popular Sovereignty and Populism, Ohio University, Mar. 15-16, 2019

“Fake News in Nineteenth-Century France”

- Conference on Free Speech in Troubled Times, Princeton-Humboldt Universität, Berlin, June 14-15, 2019
- Mercer House Speakers Series, Princeton University, Nov. 30, 2018
- Human Values Form, Princeton University, Oct. 15, 2018

“Ostrogorski Before and After: Three Moments in Anti-Partyism and ‘Elite Theory’”

- Political Theory Research Seminar, Princeton University, Sept. 25, 2018
- APSA Annual Meeting, Boston, Aug. 30, 2018
- Conference on Elites and Democracy in Modern Political Thought, CRASSH, University of Cambridge, Dec. 7, 2017 (as “Three Moments in Thinking about Parties and Elites”)

“James Fitzjames Stephen and the ‘-Isms’ of Victorian Political Thought”

- Conference on the History of Political Thought in the Age of Ideologies, Queen Mary University of London, May 31-June 1, 2018

“Before *On Liberty*: Samuel Bailey and the Nineteenth-Century Theory of Free Speech”

- Political Thought Seminar, Oxford University, Oct. 13, 2017
- Princeton-Universitat Pompeu Fabra Political Theory Conference, Barcelona, Nov. 2-3, 2017
- Conference on Freedom of Speech, 1550-1850, Ohio University, April 7-8, 2017

“What Is Democracy? A Few Different Ideas”

- POLIS Sutton Trust Summer School, University of Cambridge, Aug. 16, 2017

“Did the Nineteenth Century Believe that Parliaments Had Minds and Wills of Their Own?”

- Conference on the History of Thinking about Artificial Intelligence and Agency, Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, Mar. 20, 2017

“Interpreting Trump’s Victory”

- Panel on the 2016 Election, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, Jan. 20, 2017

“Democracy Confronts Diversity: Deliberation and Representation in Victorian Britain”

- Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar, University of Cambridge, Oct. 17, 2016
- Princeton University Politics Department, Nov. 12, 2015

“Representative Institutions and the Character of Lefortian Theory”

- APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Sept. 1, 2016

“Victorian Democratic Theory and the Problem of Representation”

- Political Theory Workshop, Harvard University, Sept. 16, 2015
- Fellows Workshop, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Jan. 29, 2015 (as “Democracy, Diversity, and Contestability: Democracy against the Variety of Suffrages”)

“John Stuart Mill and the Pacific Theory of Toleration”

- APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Sept. 3, 2015
- Sciences Po Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Paris, June 19, 2014 (as “What’s Not in *On Liberty*: A Forgotten Nineteenth-Century Argument for Freedom of Discussion”)

“Diversity without Democracy: The Theory of the Variety of Suffrages”

- Fellows Workshop, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Apr. 2, 2015

“James Fitzjames Stephen and the Victorian Theory of Toleration”

- Political Theory Workshop, Harvard University, Feb. 11, 2015

“Walter Bagehot, Liberalism, and Parliamentary Government”

- Center for European Studies Workshop, Harvard University, Nov. 14, 2014. Presentation with Will Selinger

“Jean Barbeyrac, Supererogation, and the Search for a Safe Religion”

- Political Theory Workshop, Harvard University, Sept. 10, 2014

“Lockean Toleration and the Victim’s Perspective”

- Political Theory Workshop, Harvard University, Feb. 26, 2014

“Hume’s Low Road to Toleration”

- Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Jan. 15, 2014
- MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 12, 2013
- Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Princeton University, April 5, 2013

“What Exactly Mill and Tocqueville Thought about Diversity of Opinion”

- NEPSA Annual Meeting, Portland, ME, May 3, 2013

“Diversity of Opinion: A History”

- Political Theory Workshop, Harvard University, Nov. 14, 2012

## TEACHING

---

### Princeton University

*Graduate Research Seminar in Political Theory*, Convener. 2021-22. Yearlong symposium for discussion of works in progress.

*John Stuart Mill's Politics: Ideas and Context*. Spring 2021. Seminar for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

*Political Theory of the French Revolution*. Spring 2020, Spring 2022. Seminar for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

*Representation and Representative Institutions in Political Theory*. Fall 2019, Fall 2021. Seminar for junior concentrators in Politics, in preparation for their required research projects.

*Alexis de Tocqueville and John Stuart Mill: Liberalism, Democracy, Revolution, Empire*. Spring 2019. Seminar for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

*Modern Political Theory*. Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2022. Survey lecture course for undergraduates. Also led one discussion precept.

Reading Courses/Independent Studies: *Progress and Civilization in Nineteenth-Century Political Theory* (Spring 2019); *Max Weber on Politics* (Fall 2021)

### University of Cambridge

*B.A. Tutorial in Politics*, Supervisor, Easter 2017.

*MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History*, Supervisor for MPhil Paper, Lent 2017; Examiner for MPhil Papers, Michelmas 2017-Lent 2018

## SELECTED AFFILIATIONS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

---

Grant, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education, Magic Project, Learning Across Borders Fund, to plan and carry out a new course on the French Revolution to be held in Paris (joint with Flora Champy)

Member, New York-Area History of Political Thought Group

Fellow, Remarque Institute, New York University, Spring 2021 [postponed]

Visiting Fellow, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, Summer/Fall 2020

Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, for research assistance and conference travel, 2020  
[two awards]

Associated Faculty, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2018-

Research Grant, University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Princeton University, 2020

Research Grant, University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Princeton University (two awards), 2019

Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, for conference travel, 2017

Charles Sumner Dissertation Prize, Harvard University 2016

Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2015-16

Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, 2015 Harvard University

Graduate Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2014-15

Recipient of the Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2013 and Spring  
2014

Graduate Student Affiliate, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University,  
2013-6

GSAS Summer Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (grant for travel and language acquisition), Harvard  
University, 2012

Jens Aubry Westengard Scholarship (grant for travel and language acquisition), Harvard University,  
2012

GSAS Summer School Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University, 2011

Judith Nisse Shklar Fellow in the Government Department, Harvard University, 2010-2011

Napier Wilt Prize for Outstanding Thesis in English Literature, University of Chicago, 2009

Honors from the College, University of Chicago, 2009

Honors from the Department of English Literature, 2009

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago, 2008 (early induction)

National Merit Scholarship, 2005

Robert Byrd Scholarship, 2005

## **CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION**

---



*Organizer and Chair:* “Thomas Paine on the French Revolution: History and Theory,” Conference for the Project in the History of Political Thought, Princeton University, Feb. 28, 2020

*Organizer:* “Caesarism: Historical and Normative Perspectives,” Conference for the Project in the History of Political Thought, Princeton University, Nov. 15-16, 2019

*Organizer and Chair:* “Thomas Paine and the Terror: Exploring a Discovery,” Panel for the APSA Annual Meeting, Boston, Sept. 1, 2018

*Co-Organizer:* “Elites and Democracy in Modern Political Thought” Conference for CRASSH, University of Cambridge, Dec. 7, 2017

*Organizer and Chair:* “Modern French Liberalism,” Panel for the APSA Annual Meeting, Sept. 1, 2016

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

*Reviewer:*

Journals: American Political Science Review, European Journal of Political Theory, Eighteenth-Century Studies, Global Intellectual History, History of European Ideas, History of Political Thought, Journal of Politics, Modern Intellectual History, Perspectives on Politics, Political Studies, Review of Politics

Book Manuscripts: Harvard UP, Cambridge UP

*Member, Chair’s Advisory Committee,* Politics Department, Princeton University, 2019-20

*Political Theory Subfield Coordinator,* Politics Department, Princeton University, 2019-20

*Member, Senior Thesis Prize Committee,* Politics Department, Princeton University, Spring 2020

*Graduate Committee and Admissions Committee, Representative for Political Theory,* Politics Department, Princeton University, 2019-20

*Member, Executive Committee of the James Madison Program,* Princeton University, 2019-

*Senior Thesis Poster Session Committee,* Politics Department, Princeton University, Spring 2019

*Faculty Fellow* of First College, Princeton University, Spring 2019-

*Member* of the Jesus College Council and College Trustee, 2017-18

*Departmental Writing Assistant,* Harvard Government Dept., Spring 2013

## **LANGUAGES**

---

*French* (fluent), *Italian* (advanced), *Spanish* (conversational), *Latin* (basic reading knowledge), *German* (rudimentary)