

TIMOTHY BRENNAN

Curriculum Vitae

August 2023

Institute of American Civics
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Boston College, 2018
M.A., Political Science, Boston College, 2013
B.A., Political Science and Philosophy, University of Melbourne, 2010

Employment

2023- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Institute of American Civics,
Postdoctoral Fellow

2020-2023 University of Texas at Austin, Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of
Core Texts and Ideas, Postdoctoral Fellow

2018-2020 University of Virginia, Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy,
Research Associate and Lecturer

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

“Teaching by Examples: Rousseau’s Lawgiver and the Case of Benjamin Franklin,” *Political Theory* (forthcoming)

“Rousseau, Franklin, and Bourgeois Liberalism,” *History of Political Thought* (forthcoming)

“Teaching by Contradictions: Montesquieu’s Subversion of Piety in *The Spirit of the Laws*,” *The Review of Politics* 84 (Fall 2022): 520-44

“Montesquieu’s *Dur-Commerce* Thesis,” *History of European Ideas* 47 (2021): 698-712

“‘The Strength and Vigor of the Soul’: The Broader Meaning of Virtue in Rousseau’s *First Discourse*,” *The European Legacy* 26 (April 2021): 466-83

“‘I Believe I Have Demonstrated It’: The Status of Rousseau’s Original State of Nature,” *History of Political Thought* 41 (Winter 2020): 588-621

“Thomas Jefferson and the Living Constitution,” *The Journal of Politics* 79 (July 2017): 936-48

Other

“The Case Against (and For) Gulliver: An Introduction to *Gulliver’s Travels*,” *Interpretation* 49 (Winter 2023): 137-54

Review of *Montesquieu’s Liberalism and the Problem of Universal Politics* by Keegan Callanan, *History of Political Thought* 40 (Winter 2019): 722-25

Teaching Interests

Modern political philosophy; American political thought and constitutionalism; ancient political philosophy; contemporary political thought

Courses Taught

Construction and Reconstruction of the American Republic (upcoming at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Constitutional Principles: Core Texts (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 at UT Austin)

Critics of Modern Liberalism (Spring 2022 at UT Austin)

American Political Economy (Fall 2019 at UVA)

Democracy and Its Critics (Spring 2019 at UVA)

The American Political Tradition (Fall 2018 and Spring 2020 at UVA)

The Question of Justice (Spring 2016 at BC)

Awards and Honors

2020 Winner of the First Book Manuscript Workshop competition run by the Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (workshop canceled because of Covid travel restrictions)

2016 Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College

2014 Behrakis Prize for Outstanding Essay in Hellenic Political Thought, Boston College

2010 Percival Serle Bequest Prize for Final Combined Honors Assessment, University of Melbourne

2010 Laurie Prize for Combined Honors, University of Melbourne

2007 Rosemary Merlo Prize in History, University of Melbourne

Grants and Fellowships

2014-18 Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy Fellowship

2017-18 Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship

2017-18 Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship

2014-16 Bradley Foundation Grant

2014-16 Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Grant

Conference Activity

Papers Presented

2023 “Benjamin Franklin and the Limits of Enlightened Self-Interest,” Southern Political Science Association, January 12

2022 “Benjamin Franklin and the Theology of Liberalism,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 8

2019 “Beyond Gentleness and Moderation: Montesquieu’s Case for Popular Enlightenment,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 9

2019 “Montesquieu vs. Rousseau on Popular Rule,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 5

2019 “Montesquieu vs. Rousseau on Popular Rule,” George Washington Forum, Conference on Populism and Popular Sovereignty, March 16

2018 “The State of Nature in Montesquieu and Rousseau,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 6

2017 “Cosmopolitanism and Patriotism in the Thought of Montesquieu and Rousseau,” Northeastern Political Science Association November 10

2017 “Elites and the People in the Thought of Montesquieu and Rousseau,” New England Political Science Association, April 22

2016 “Montesquieu, Rousseau, and the English Paradox,” New England Political Science Association, April 23

2014 “Periodic Constitutional Conventions: Did Jefferson Have a Case?” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 15

Discussant

2022 “Religion and Modern Politics,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 8

2019 “Human Historicity, the Limits of Liberalism, and the Crisis of Modernity,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 9

2019 “Problems of Knowledge and Self-Knowledge in Rousseau,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 5

Roundtable Participant

2023 Jack Miller Center Jeffersonian Seminar (“Democracy and the Nation”), April 29

2021 Jack Miller Center Jeffersonian Seminar (“Lincoln and the Paradox of Democratic Sovereignty”), November 20

2018 Jack Miller Center Summer Institute (“What is America?”), June 25-July 3

2016 Institute for Humane Studies Seminar (“Moral Foundations of Liberty”), January 22-24

2015 International Association of Constitutional Law Workshop on Comparative Constitutional Amendment, Boston College Law School, May 15

2012 Workshop on Kant’s *Rechtslehre*, Boston College, July 23-24

Campus Talks

2022 “Rousseau and Bourgeois Education,” Democracy and Enlightenment: The Challenge of Rousseau (conference), Boston College, November 11

2021 “Benjamin Franklin and America’s Unwritten Constitution,” University of Houston, December 1

2021 “Modernity and Its Discontents in the *Persian Letters*,” Montesquieu’s *Persian Letters* at 300 (conference), Boston College, November 12

2021 “Benjamin Franklin and America’s Unwritten Constitution,” Constitution Day Lecture, University of Texas at Austin, September 16

2019 “Rousseau and the Liberal Impetus of Populism,” University of Texas at Austin, December 2

- 2018 “Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Populism,” Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, February 13
- 2016 “Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in the Thought of Montesquieu and Rousseau,” Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, November 22
- 2016 “Montesquieu, Rousseau, and the English Paradox,” Political Science Department, Boston College, March 14
- 2015 “Montesquieu’s ‘Reply’ to Rousseau on the Question of Enlightenment,” Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, September 22
- 2015 “The Earth Belongs to the Living Constitutionalists,” Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy, Boston College, February 24

References

- James W. Ceaser
Department of Politics
Gibson Hall 153, 1540 Jefferson Park Ave.
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904
434-924-7903
jwc2g@virginia.edu
- Christopher J. Kelly
Department of Political Science
McGuinn Hall 224, 140 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
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- Lorraine Smith Pangle
Department of Government
Mezes Hall 3.134, 158 W 21st St.
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