

The Seventh Balzan-Skinner Lecture and Colloquium

Keynote speaker: Teresa M. Bejan

Acknowledging Equality

Venue: CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities)
Alison Richard Building, West Road, Cambridge

Date and time: Friday 22 April 2016, 11.00-17.30

Programme

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| 11.00 – 11.30 | Arrival and coffee |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | Welcome and Introduction
Session 1: (chair: Mark Goldie)

Teresa Bejan (Politics, University of Oxford)
<i>Acknowledging Equality</i> |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | Session 2: (chair: Kate Peters)

Martin Dzelzainis (English, University of Leicester)
<i>'The Vulgar only Scap'd who Stood Without':
Milton and the People</i>

Jon Parkin (History, University of Oxford)
<i>Reading Equality in Seventeenth-Century England</i> |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Tea |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | Session 3: (chair: Annabel Brett)

Justin Champion (History, Royal Holloway, London)
<i>Trust and Authority: the Problem with 'Unpleasing Priests'
and the Kingdom of Christ in Hobbes's Thought</i>

Ross Carroll (Politics, University of Exeter)
<i>The Test of Ridicule in Shaftesbury's Politics</i> |
| 17.30 – 18.15 | Reception |

Teresa M. Bejan is Associate Professor of Political Theory at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Oriel College. She received her PhD from Yale (2013), having taking her BA from Chicago and the MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History at Cambridge. She has been a Fellow in the Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities and has taught at the University of Toronto. Her research brings

perspectives from early modern Anglophone political thought to bear on questions of contemporary theory and practice. Her first book, *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Toleration* is forthcoming with Harvard UP.

As the core premise of modern moral and political philosophy, equality demands more allegiance than investigation. Political theorists have generally set aside the question of its historical emergence as a social and political ideal in favor of identifying the causal and constitutive harms of various forms of inequality – whether social, political, or economic. Historians, too, have taken the increasingly widespread application of a legal and mathematical concept in seventeenth-century English thought as the dawning of a new radical—or, at very least, secular—and incipiently *modern* age in thinking about social, political, and economic arrangements. What accounts for this persistent blind spot in political thought and intellectual history? In answering that question, this talk will explore ideas of equality as a political principle, a religious commitment, and a social practice in seventeenth-century England. These fascinating but forgotten visions of “equality before egalitarianism” shed light on the development of a central concept in modern political thought while bringing some much-needed analytical clarity and historical insight to contemporary debates.

Ross Carroll is Lecturer in Political Theory at the University of Exeter. He took a BA in politics and philosophy at University College Dublin, an MSc in International Relations at the LSE, and a PhD in political science from Northwestern University. He has taught at the College of William and Mary, Virginia. His current book project is *Cultivating Contempt: Ridicule in Eighteenth-Century Political Thought*.

Justin Champion is Professor of the History of Early Modern Ideas at Royal Holloway, University of London. He took his BA and PhD from Cambridge. He is the author of *The Pillars of Priestcraft Shaken* (1992) and *Republican Learning: John Toland and the Crisis of Christian Culture* (2003). He is currently completing a book on the later Hobbes and editing (with Mark Goldie) *Thomas Hobbes: On Heresy and Church History*. He is President of the Historical Association.

Martin Dzelzainis is Professor of Renaissance Literature and Thought at the University of Leicester. He took his PhD from Cambridge, on Milton’s history writing. He is editor of Milton’s *Political Writings* (1991), and co-editor of *Marvell and Liberty* (1999) and *The Prose Works of Andrew Marvell* (2003). He is engaged in projects on the political thought, literature, and historical writings of Marvell, Milton, and Edward Hyde, earl of Clarendon.

Jon Parkin is Fellow and Tutor in History at St Hugh’s College Oxford. He has held posts at Cambridge, London, and York Universities, and is author of *Science, Religion, and Politics in Restoration England* (1999) and *Taming the Leviathan* (2007). He is editor (with Timothy Stanton) of *Natural Law and Toleration in the Early Enlightenment* (2013).

The Balzan-Skinner Fellowship

The lecture and colloquium were established by the generosity of Professor Quentin Skinner to mark the award of the Balzan Prize and to provide early career scholars with an opportunity for a research term in Cambridge working on a project in modern intellectual history. The Balzan-Skinner lectures are intended to be submitted for

publication in the *Historical Journal*. Informal expressions of interest in applying for future fellowships are welcome from scholars in any field of intellectual history since c.1500, who are within ten years of completing a doctorate, and should be addressed to Dr Elizabeth Haresnape, Administrator, Faculty of History (eh273@cam.ac.uk).

Previous fellows are: Hannah Dawson (2010), Joel Isaac (2011), Timothy Stanton (2012), Gabriel Paquette (2013), Karuna Mantena (2014), and Anna Becker (2015). For further details of their lectures see the CRASSH website.

Register online at CRASSH:

£25.00; £12.50 for students (includes tea, coffee, lunch, wine reception)