

# Citizenship, War and the Origins of International Ethics in American Political Philosophy 1960-1975

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## The Author

Katrina Forrester is a Research Fellow in Political Thought at St John's College, Cambridge. She received her BA, MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge, and has also studied at Harvard University. Her articles have appeared in *Modern Intellectual History* and the *European Journal of Political Theory*, and forthcoming in *The Historical Journal*. She is currently working on a book about Anglo-American political thought in the 1960s and 1970s, and (with Sophie Smith) editing a volume on *Political Thought and the Environment*.

## The Paper

This paper examines a series of debates about civil disobedience, conscription and the justice of war that took place among American liberal philosophers, lawyers and activists during the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War. My aim is to show how these debates fundamentally reshaped American political philosophy, by shifting the focus from the welfare state to the realm of international politics. In order to chart this shift from the domestic to the international, I focus on the writings of two influential political theorists, John Rawls and Michael Walzer. I argue that the turn to international politics in American political philosophy has unexpected origins in their arguments about domestic citizenship.

The paper has four parts. The first section begins with philosophical debates about political obligation and civil disobedience, with a focus on Rawls's contribution. The second and third sections examine the place of conscription and just war theory in debates about conscientious refusal. The fourth section shows how Rawls's and Walzer's use of just war theory provided the grounds for major shifts in political thought - not only by shaping how philosophers understood the duties of citizens and their leaders in times of war and emergency, but also by preparing the way for the later shift from national to international political theory.