Republicanism Lecture Series

**11.4.-15.4., FDS**

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# Annotation

The lecture series aims to provide its participants with a solid understanding of republican political philosophy and its basic concepts. It will explore the development of this tradition in time and space and focus on republicanism’s relation with democracy, liberalism, and populism. Lecture 1 will be primarily methodological, Lectures 2 and 3 are going to be oriented towards the history of political thought, and Lectures 4 and 5 will engage in contemporary political theory.

# **Approaching Traditions in Political Thought: The Case of Republicanism – 11.4.2022., 15.00-16.30**

Lecture 1 will be oriented methodologically. It will address the issues of how to research traditions in political thought generally and how to reconstruct the intellectual legacy of republicanism in particular. The contextualist approach developed by professor Quentin Skinner of the Cambridge School of Intellectual History and the morphological approach of the Oxford professor Michael Freeden will be the two primary theories of interest.

# **Ancient Roots of Republicanism – 12.4.2022., 16.45-18.15**

Lecture 2 will engage with the origins of key republican concepts in classical antiquity. It will highlight the development of republican concepts in the intellectual environment of Ancient Athens and in the texts of influential Greek thinkers, including Plato and Aristotle. The lecture will also track how these concepts were gradually assembled into republican doctrine by political thinkers reflecting the fortunes of the Roman Republic, most notably Polybius and Cicero.

# **Classical Republicanism – 13.4.2022., 11.30-13.00**

Lecture 3 is going to focus on the so-called “Italo-Atlantic” tradition of republicanism. It will begin with an exploration of the re-emergence of republican concepts in early-modern Italy, most importantly in the civic humanist tradition and in the work of Machiavelli. The lecture will explore how this republican set of beliefs expanded to England and eventually to Northern America, where it informed the political thought of the American Revolution and the new republic.

# **Neo-Roman Republicanism – 14.4.2022., 16.45-18.15**

Lecture 4 will concentrate on the political thought of contemporary neo-Roman republicanism. It will first turn to Quentin Skinner’s reconstruction of the neo-Roman tradition of thinking about the concept of *liberty* and its difference from the liberal tradition. The lecture will then focus on how this conceptualisation is reflected in Philip Pettit’s ideal of *freedom* as *non-domination* and how this account may be helpful in thinking about designing our democratic institutions and particular republican policies.

# **Neo-Athenian Republicanism – 15.4.2022., 11.30-13.00**

Lecture 5 will be devoted to Neo-Athenian thinkers Hannah Arendt, Charles Taylor and Michael Sandel. The lecture will focus on their emphasis on *self-rule* and *political participation* as well as on their analysis of the shortcomings of liberal democracy built on the neutralist vision of Rawlsian “procedural republic”. Finally, the lecture will introduce a morphological model of republicanism and compare neo-republicanism with liberalism and populism, including arguments as to why neo-republicanism might be preferable to both of these influential public philosophies of the contemporary world.

# Recommended Sources

## Literature

Michael Freeden - The Morphological Analysis of Ideology In: *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies*

Polybius - Histories, Book VI.

Niccolò Machiavelli - Discourses on Livy, Book I: Preface, 1, 2, 5, 16, 49, 55, 58; Book II: Preface, 1, 2.

The Federalist Papers - Federalists No. 5, 10, 48, 51, 62, 78.

Quentin Skinner - The neo-roman theory of free state In Liberty before Liberalism.

Philip Pettit - Civic Republic Theory In: A Political Philosophy in Public Life.

Hannah Arendt - What is Freedom? In Between Past and Future.

Michael Sandel - America’s Search For a New Public Philosophy. The Atlantic Monthly.

## Videos

Philip Pettit - *How Do You Know If You're Truly Free?* (TEDx Talk):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rTEOU67zCo&t=600s&ab_channel=TEDxTalks>

Michael Sandel M. J.: *The Tyranny of Merit*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qewckuxa9hw&ab_channel=TED>