

Arthur Ghins

CV

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Université Libre de Bruxelles
Centre de Théorie Politique
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024-2027 Chargé de Recherches FNRS (postdoctoral researcher)
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Centre de Théorie Politique
- 2022 – 2024 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow
King’s College London, Department of Political Economy
- 2021 – 2022 Postdoctoral Associate & Lecturer
Yale University, Centre for the Study of Representative Institutions
& Department of Political Science
- 2019 – 2021 Postdoctoral Associate
Brown University, the Political Theory Project

EDUCATION

- 2015 – 2019 PhD. in Politics, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, UK
Thesis: ‘Public Opinion in Benjamin Constant’s Political Thought’
- 2014 – 2015 MSc in Political Theory, The London School of Economics, UK (Distinction)
- 2013 – 2014 MA in Philosophy, KU Leuven, Belgium (Summa cum laude)
- 2011 – 2013 Master in Law, UC Louvain, Belgium (Magna cum laude)
- 2010 – 2013 BA in Philosophy, UC Louvain (Saint-Louis Campus), Belgium (Magna cum laude)
- 2008 – 2011 BA in Law, UC Louvain (Saint-Louis Campus), Belgium (Cum laude)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The People’s Two Powers: Public Opinion and Popular Sovereignty from Rousseau to Liberal Democracy.
Accepted for Publication with Cambridge University Press, “Ideas in Context” Series.
Forthcoming January 2026.

Refereed Journal Articles

“The Reading Nation”: Sieyès’ Theory of Public Opinion,’ *Political Theory*, forthcoming.

‘What is French Liberalism?’ *Political Studies*, 72/2 (2024), pp. 551-569.

‘Representative Democracy versus Government by Opinion,’ *The Journal of Politics*, 84/3 (2022) pp. 1623-1637.

“Popular Sovereignty that I Deny:” Benjamin Constant on Public Opinion, Political Legitimacy and Constitution Making,’ *Modern Intellectual History*, 19/1 (2022), pp. 128-158.

‘Benjamin Constant and Public Opinion in Post-Revolutionary France,’ *History of Political Thought*, 40/3 (2019), pp. 484-514.

‘Benjamin Constant and the Politics of Reason,’ *History of European Ideas*, 44/2 (2018), pp. 224-243.

Review Essays

‘Liberalism Reinvents Itself,’ On S. Moyn, *Liberalism Against Itself. Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times*. YUP (2023). *Intellectual History Review*. OnlineFirst.

‘La puissance des masses,’ On F. Hulak, *L’histoire libérale de la modernité. Race, nation, classe*. PUF (2023). *La Vie des idées*, 5 March 2023. <https://laviedesidees.fr/Hulak-histoire-liberale-modernite>

‘Democracy in the Mirror,’ On G. Conti, *Parliament Mirror of the Nation. Representation, Deliberation and Democracy in Victorian Britain*. CUP (2019). *Tocqueville21*, 2 August 2021. <https://tocqueville21.com/focus/parliamentary-thinking/democracy-in-the-mirror/>

Book Chapters

‘Moderation and Religion in France after the Revolution: Germaine de Staël and Benjamin Constant,’ in *The Politics of Moderation in European History*, eds. Ido de Haan and Matthijs Lok (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019), pp. 49-65.

Under Review

‘The First Theorists of Liberal Democracy.’ Journal Article. Revise and Resubmit.

‘Censoring Representatives: Rousseau on Elite Accountability.’ Journal Article. Under Review.

Manuscripts in Preparation

‘What was Representative Government?’ Journal Article.

‘Public Opinion as the “Conscience” of Representative Government: Madame de Staël.’ Journal Article.

“Colonial Caesarism” versus “Liberal Democracy,”” Journal Article.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- June 2020 FNRS (Belgium) Postdoctoral Fellowship [Deferred until Sept., 2024].
June 2020 FWO (Belgium) Postdoctoral Fellowship [Declined]
June 2020 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship [Deferred until Sept., 2022].
May 2020 Yale Centre for the Study of Representative Institutions, Postdoctoral Fellowship.
March 2020 University of Chicago, Harper and Schmidt Fellowship [Declined]
Feb. 2020 Princeton University, James Madison Postdoctoral Fellowship [Declined]
Dec. 2019 Brown University, The Political Theory Project, Postdoctoral Fellowship.
July 2018 Wiener Anspach Foundation, Université Libre de Bruxelles. Research Stay Bursary.
Oct. 2018 Society for the Study of French History (UK), Conference Bursary.
July 2015 Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, Leslie Wilson Major Scholarship.
May 2015 Cambridge Trust, Cambridge European PhD Scholarship.
May 2015 Cambridge School of Humanity and Social Sciences, PhD Bursary.
March 2015 Cambridge Arts and Humanities Research Council, Doctoral Studentship.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 ‘What was Liberal Democracy?’ The French Legacy in Intellectual History and Political Philosophy Conference, Duke University, 17-18 May.
- 2023 ‘On Political Genealogies,’ History & Theory Workshop, Centre for Critical Democracy Studies, American University of Paris, 7-8 July.
- 2021 ‘Liberalism: A Tradition-Building History,’ Workshop in Political Theory, University of Genoa, Italy, 13 December.
- 2020 ‘What is French Liberalism?’ NYU Classical Liberal Institute, 2 November.
- 2019 ‘Benjamin Constant’s 1819 Lecture: a Reassessment,’ Two-Hundredth Anniversary of Constant’s Lecture on the Ancients and the Moderns, Indiana University, Bloomington, 13 December.
- “Benjamin Constant on Opinion and Political Legitimacy,’ History of Political Ideas Early Career Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London. 13 November.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (Selected)

- 2025 “Colonial Caesarism” versus “Liberal Democracy,” Acting Democratically: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the Politics of Exclusion Workshop, University of Málaga, Spain, Feb. 6-7.
- ‘Les premiers théoriciens de la démocratie libérale,’ SciencesPo Théorie Politique Workshop, Paris, Jan. 28.
- ‘What was Representative Government?’ Parliamentary Junctures in Continental Europe Workshop, Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Warsaw, Jan. 23-24.

- 2024 ‘The First Theorists of Liberal Democracy,’ Rethinking Representation, 5th Ideas in Politics Conference, Institute of Political Studies, Charles University, Prague, Nov. 20-22.
- ‘What was Liberal Democracy?,’ the John Patrick Diggins Memorial Conference, the Graduate Center, CUNY, April 4-5.
- ‘Liberal Democracy and Public Opinion,’ Panel on ‘Public Opinion: Eighteenth Century European Debates.’ Co-panelists: Elena Yia-Jia Zang (Cambridge) and Richard Whatmore (St Andrews), Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought Conference, Jan. 4-6.
- 2023 Book Manuscript Workshop, *The People’s Two Powers. Public Opinion and Popular Sovereignty from Rousseau to Tocqueville*. Commentators: Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht), Robin Douglass (KCL), Adam Lindsay (Nottingham), Iain McDaniel (Essex), Anna Plassart (Open University), and Julia Nicholls (KCL), September 13.
- ‘Book Introduction: *The People’s Two Powers*,’ Political Theory Workshop, King’s College London, May 24.
- 2022 ‘Opinion publique et religion chez Staël et Constant.’ 12e Colloque de Coppet. Universität Göttingen, November 9-11.
- ‘What is French Liberalism?,’ APSA Annual Meeting, Montréal, September 15-18.
- ‘How Liberalism Became European: The French Case,’ Rethinking Liberal Europe, XIII Annual Conference of the Research Network on the History of the Idea of Europe, Fondazione Luigi Einaudi & University of East Anglia, Turin, June 29 – July 1.
- 2021 ‘Liberalism: A Tradition-Building History,’ Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, November 30.
- 2020 Book Project Workshop, The Political Theory Project, Brown University. Commentators: Gregory Conti (Princeton), Bryan Garsten (Yale), Geneviève Rousselière (Duke) and Lucia Rubinelli (Cambridge). April 16.
- 2021 ‘What is French Liberalism?,’ ‘Liberalism and its History’ Conference, Brown University. October 8.
- ‘“Responsibility of Opinion:” Germaine de Staël and Benjamin Constant on Political Mandates,’ APSA Annual Meeting (Online), September 13.
- 2019 ‘Representative Democracy versus Government by Opinion,’ Political Theory Project Postdoctoral Workshop, Brown University, October 28.
- 2018 ‘Benjamin Constant on Representation,’ 9th Annual London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought, Representation & Misrepresentation in the History of Political Thought, June 28-29.

‘Benjamin Constant on Representative Government,’ International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH) Conference, University of St Andrews, June 10-13.

2017 ‘Libéralisme et vérité chez Benjamin Constant,’ Séminaire Général du CEVIPOF, SciencesPo Paris, March 7.

‘The French Exception: Constant, Tocqueville and the Religious Underpinnings of Liberalism’, International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH) Conference, American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, May 30.

2016 ‘The French Exception: Constant, Tocqueville and the Religious Underpinnings of Liberalism’, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Charles University, Prague, September 8.

‘Moderation in Germaine de Staël and Benjamin Constant’, International Conference on Political Moderation at the Research School in Political History, University of Amsterdam, November 22.

TEACHING

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Science.

Lead Instructor, Exercises in Political Theory (Spring 2025)

Yale University, Department of Political Science.

Lead Instructor, Public Opinion and Democracy (Spring 2022)

Yale University, Department of Political Science.

Lead Instructor, Popular Sovereignty and Representation (Fall 2021)

Brown University, Department of Political Science.

Lead Instructor, Liberalism: A History (Fall 2020)

UCLouvain (Belgium), Law Department.

Lead Instructor, Human Rights and their Critics (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

University of Cambridge, History and Politics Departments.

Teaching Assistant, History of Political Thought (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer

American Political Science Review

European Journal of Political Theory

French Studies

Political Studies

Conferences, Workshops and Panels Organized

- 2022 Panel Coordinator, 'Liberalism in Crisis,' APSA Annual Meeting. Co-Panellists: Joshua Cherniss (Georgetown), Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht), Bryan Garsten (Yale). Chair: Gianna Englert (SMU). September 15-18.
- 2020 Organizer and Moderator, 'Liberalism and its History,' International Conference, Brown University, the Political Theory Project. Invited Speakers: Jacob Levy (McGill), Helena Rosenblatt (CUNY), Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht) and Quinn Slobodian (Wellesley). 8-9 October 8-9. Available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1BLZlPi91M>
- Panel Coordinator, 'Reassessing French Liberalism,' APSA Annual Meeting. Co-Panellists: Lucia Rubinelli (Cambridge), William Selinger (University College London), Giulia Oskian (Yale). Chair: Cheryl Welch (Harvard). 13 September.
- 2018 Organizer, 'Reassessing Benjamin Constant's Constitutional Theory,' International Workshop, KU Leuven. Invited Speakers: Helena Rosenblatt (CUNY), Alain Laquière (Paris-Descartes), Emmanuelle Paulet-Grandguillot (Nantes). June 7-8.

RESEARCH STAYS

- Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2018 Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Host: Justine Lacroix.
- Oct. 2017 – Jun. 2018 KU Leuven, Belgium. Host: Raf Geenens.
- Jan. 2017 – Jun. 2017 SciencesPo Paris. Host: Lucien Jaume.

THINK TANKS

- 2017 – 2024 Group Member, The Friday Group, Belgian Policy Think Tank
- 2016 – 2017 Research Associate, Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies

MEDIA (Selected)

- Quoted in 'France separates Church and State. So who's responsible for Notre-Dame?,' *The Washington Post*, 19 April 2019.
- 'Macron's Speech to the French Bishops: a Poisonous Gift?,' *LSE Religion and Global Society Blog*, 11 April 2018.
- 'On religion, Politics and the Brussels attacks,' Interview for the *Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies* (CIRIS), 9 May 2016.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.