

## TIMOTHY BRENNAN

### 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

2024- University of Austin, Associate Professor

2023-2024 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Postdoctoral Research Associate

2020-2023 University of Texas at Austin, Postdoctoral Fellow

2018-2020 University of Virginia, Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer

### Publications

#### Refereed Journal Articles

“Does Liberalism Need Free Will? Augustinianism, Pelagianism, and the *Autobiography* of Benjamin Franklin,” *Modern Intellectual History* (forthcoming)

“The Limits of Enlightened Self-Interest: Franklin’s Profession of Faith in the *Autobiography*,” *American Political Thought* (forthcoming)

“Teaching by Examples: Rousseau’s Lawgiver and the Case of Benjamin Franklin,” *Political Theory* 52 (June 2024): 348-73

“Rousseau, Franklin, and Bourgeois Liberalism,” *History of Political Thought* 45 (Spring 2024): 87-123

“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: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 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

**Research Areas**

Modern political theory; American political and constitutional thought

**Courses**

The Beginning of Politics (Winter 2025 at UATX)

Chaos and Civilization (Fall 2024 at UATX)

Knowing, Doing, Making, Wisdom (Fall 2024 at UATX)

Construction and Reconstruction of the American Republic (Spring 2024 at UTK)

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 (Spring 2019 and 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 First Book Manuscript Workshop Competition, Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (for book manuscript on Montesquieu and Rousseau – conference canceled due to Covid travel restrictions)

2016 Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College

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

**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

2025 Paper to be delivered at conference on Benjamin Franklin hosted by Mercer University (April 14-15)

2023 “The Theology of Liberalism?” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 3

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

- 2024 “Early Modern Responses to Socratic Political Philosophy,” American Political Science Association, September 6
- 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
- 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

### **Foreign Language Competence**

French (reading)

### **Professional Service**

Manuscript reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Thought*; *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*; *History of European Ideas*; *History of Political Thought*; *Journal of Politics*