

Paul Sagar

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE

8.05 Bush House (NE), Department of Political Economy, King's College London, WC2B 4BG
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EMPLOYMENT

King's College London January 2018 - present
Reader in Political Theory, Department of Political Economy

King's College, Cambridge October 2014 – December 2017
Junior Research Fellow in Politics and International Relations
Visiting Scholar at The University of California at Berkeley, 1st February – 30th April, 2016

EDUCATION

King's College, University of Cambridge Awarded October 2014
Ph.D., Faculty of History
Thesis Supervisor: Dr István Hont
Advisor: Professor John Robertson
Thesis title: 'Moral Psychology, Sociability, and the Foundations of Politics in David Hume's Science of Man'
External Examiner: Professor Jeremy Waldron
Internal Examiner: Professor Duncan Kelly

University College London and Queen Mary College, University of London 2009 – 2010
MA in Intellectual History and the History of Political Thought (Pass with Distinction)
Dissertation: 'On the Content and Context of the Right to Punish in Hobbes's *Leviathan*'
Dissertation Supervisor: Professor Quentin Skinner

Balliol College, University of Oxford 2005 – 2008
BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Class I Honours
Fletcher Exhibitioner 2007-2008

AWARDS

- Winner of the 2020 British and Irish Association for Political Thought Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research and Teaching
- Winner of the 2026 British and Irish Association for Political Thought Mid-Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research and Teaching

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- *Basic Equality* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2024)
- *Adam Smith Reconsidered: History, Liberty, and the Foundations of Modern Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022)
- *The Opinion of Mankind: Sociability and the Theory of the State from Hobbes to Smith* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018)

Edited Volumes

- *Interpreting Adam Smith: Critical Essays* (ed.) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Original Research Articles

- 'Politics and Justice: Aristotle, Rawls, and the Case for Realism in Political Theory', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (forthcoming)
- 'The Values of the Carphone Warehouse', *Social Philosophy and Policy* 44:2 (forthcoming)
- 'How to be Happy: Advice from Adam Smith', *The Smithian Mind*, ed. N. Ben-Moshe, R. Debes, and M. Schwarze (forthcoming)
- 'Adam Smith, David Hume, and the Problem of Moral Relativism', *Social Philosophy and Policy* 42:2 (2025), pp. 250-273
- 'Bernard Williams and the Relativism of Distance: A Defence', *European Journal of Philosophy* 33:3 (2025), pp. 837-853
- 'Adam Smith, Sufficiencyarian', in *Interpreting Adam Smith: Tricentenary Essays*, ed. P. Sagar (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023), pp.142-159
- 'On the Liberty of the Moderns: Adam Smith's Reply to Montesquieu and Hume', *Political Theory* 50:3 (2022), pp. 381-404.
- 'Adam Smith's Genealogy of Religion', *History of European Ideas* 47:4 (2021), pp. 1061-1078.
- 'Between Virtue and Knavery: Hume and the Politics of Moderation', *Journal of Politics* 83:3 (2021), pp. 1097-1113.
- 'Don't Be Boring: Political Realism and Social Anthropology', *Contemporary Political Theory* 20:2 (2021), pp. 410-15.
- 'Adam Smith and the Conspiracy of the Merchants', *Global Intellectual History* 6:4 (2021), pp. 463-483.
- 'Liberty, Nondomination, Markets', *Review of Politics* 81:3 (2019), pp. 409-34.
- 'Bhishma's Boon: Reflections on the Complexity of Immortality', *Journal of Value Inquiry* 53:1 (2019), pp. 91-105.
- 'Istvan Hont and Political Theory', *European Journal of Political Theory* 17:4 (2018), pp. 476-500.
- 'What is the Leviathan?' *Hobbes Studies* 31:2 (2018), pp. 75-92.
- 'Smith and Rousseau, After Hume and Mandeville', *Political Theory* 46:1 (2018), pp. 29-58.
- 'Legitimacy and Domination', in *Politics Recovered: Realist Thought in Theory and Practice*, ed. M. Sleet (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).
- 'Beyond Sympathy: Smith's Rejection of Hume's Moral Theory' *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 25:4 (2017), pp. 681-705.
- 'The State Without Sovereignty: Authority and Obligation in Hume's Political Philosophy', *History of Political Thought* 37:2 (2016), pp. 271-305.
- 'From Scepticism to Liberalism: Bernard Williams, The Foundations of Liberalism, and Political Realism', *Political Studies* 64:2 (2016), pp. 368-84. [Shortlisted for the Harrison Prize of the UK Political Studies Association for the best article published in 2016.]
- 'Of Mushrooms and Method: History and the Family in Hobbes's Science of Politics', *European Journal of Political Theory* 14:1 (2015), pp. 98-117.
- 'Minding the Gap: Bernard Williams and David Hume on Living an Ethical Life', *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 11:5 (2014), pp. 615-38.
- 'Sociability, Luxury and Sympathy: The Case of Archibald Campbell', *History of European Ideas* 39:6 (2013), pp. 791-814.

Review Essays

- 'Inheriting the Discourse', review of Istvan Hont, *Political Economy from Pufendorf to Marx: Culture, Needs, and Property Rights*, in *History of European Ideas* (forthcoming)
- 'Perils of Party', review of Max Skjönsberg, *The Persistence of Party: Ideas of Harmonious Discord in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, in *European Journal of Political Theory* 23:1 (2024), pp. 125-31.
- 'From Cicero to the Science of Man', review of Tim Stuart-Buttle, *From Moral Theology to Moral Philosophy: Cicero and Visions of Humanity From Locke to Hume*, in *History of European Ideas* 47:1 (2021), pp. 168-74.
- 'Back to Basics', review of Jeremy Waldron, *One Another's Equals: The Basis of Human Equality*, and Andrea Sangiovanni, *Humanity Without Dignity: Moral Equality, Respect, and Human Rights*, in *Contemporary Political Theory* 18 (sup.3) (2019), 153-8.
- 'Burke Unboxed', review of David Bromwich's *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke: From the Sublime and Beautiful to the American Revolution* and Richard Bourke's *Empire and Revolution: The Political Life of Edmund Burke*, in *Political Theory* 46:2 (2018), 280-98.

Academic Book Reviews

- Dan Edelstein, *The Revolution to Come: A History of an Idea from Thucydides to Lenin*, in *Intellectual History Review* 36:2 (2026), 419-21
- Darrin M. McMahon, *Equality: The History of an Elusive Idea*, in *The Journal of Modern History* 97:3 (2025), 670-1
- David Lay Williams, *The Greatest of all Plagues: How Economic Inequality Shaped Political Thought from Plato to Marx*, in *History of Political Economy* 57:3 (2025), 524-6.
- Stefan Eich, *The Currency of Politics: The Political Theory of Money from Aristotle to Keynes*, in *Perspectives on Politics* (2022), 1426-7.
- Anne Phillips, *Unconditional Equals*, in *Political Quarterly* 93:2 (2022), 357-8.
- Richard Whatmore, *Terrorists, Anarchists and Republicans: The Genevans and the Irish in Times of Revolution*, in *History of European Ideas* 47:6 (2021), 1038-40
- Judith N. Shklar, *On Political Obligation*, in *Political Quarterly* 91:1 (2020), 253-55.
- Arash Abizadeh, *Hobbes and the Two Faces of Ethics*, in *Hobbes Studies* 32:2 (2019), 248-52.
- Christopher J. Berry, *Essays on Hume, Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment*; Shinji Nohara, *Commerce and Strangers in Adam Smith*; Hye-Joon Yoon, *The Rhetoric of Tenses in Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations*, in *Journal of the History of Economic Thought* 26:4 (2019), 812-16
- Alison McQueen, *Political Realism in Apocalyptic Times*, in *Political Theory* 46:6 (2018), 959-63.
- Bernardo Zacka, *When the State Meets the Street: Public Service and Moral Agency*, in *Political Quarterly* 89:2 (2018), 339-40.
- Duncan Bell, *Reordering the World: Essays on Liberalism and Empire*, in *Political Studies Review* 15:4 (2017), 613-14.
- William Davies, *The Limits of Neoliberalism: Authority, Sovereignty, and the Logic of Competition*, in *Political Quarterly* 88:4 (2017), 735-7.
- Jacqueline A. Taylor, *Reflecting Subjects: Passion, Sympathy, and Society in Hume's Philosophy*, in *Political Theory* 45:4 (2017), 577-81.
- Anna Plassart, *The French Revolution in the Scottish Enlightenment*, in *Global Intellectual History* 1:1 (2017), 95-7.
- Achen, C. and Bartels, L.M., *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Governments*, in *Political Quarterly* 88:1 (2017), pp. 158-60

- Jeremy Waldron, *Political Political Theory: Essays on Institutions*, in *Political Quarterly* 2016 (87:3), pp. 464-6.
- Richard Tuck, *The Sleeping Sovereign: The Invention of Modern Democracy*, in *Times Literary Supplement*, 17th June 2016, p. 12.
- Shalini Satkunanandan, *Extraordinary Responsibility: Politics Beyond the Moral Calculus*, in *Times Literary Supplement*, 23rd March 2016, p. 26.
- Uwe Steinhoff (ed.), *Do All Persons Have Equal Moral Worth? On 'Basic Equality' and Equal Respect and Concern*, in *Political Studies Review* 2016 (14:1), p. 77.
- Tony Judt, *When the Facts Change*, in *Cambridge Humanities Review* 2015 (9).
- Samuel Scheffler, *Death and the Afterlife*, in *Oxonian Review*, 24th November 2014. (<http://www.oxonianreview.org/wp/our-collective-afterlife/>)
- Richard Whatmore, *Against War and Empire: Geneva, Britain and France in the Eighteenth Century*, in *Political Theory* 2014 (42:6), pp. 748-52.
- Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, in *Cambridge Humanities Review* 2014 (7), pp. 2-5.
- Raymond Geuss, *A World Without Why*, in *Oxonian Review*, 3rd June 2014. (<http://www.oxonianreview.org/wp/a-broken-clock/>)
- Bernard Williams, *Essays and Reviews, 1959-2002*, in *Oxonian Review*, 17th March 2014. (<http://www.oxonianreview.org/wp/life-as-a-humanistic-discipline/>)
- Ulrike Heuer and Gerald Lang (eds.), *Luck, Value and Commitment: Themes from the Ethics of Bernard Williams*, in *Political Studies Review* 2014 (1), pp. 98-9.
- Jeremy Waldron, *The Harm in Hate Speech*, in *Cambridge Humanities Review* 2013 (5), pp. 17-19.
- Tim Mulgan, *Ethics for a Broken World: Imagining Philosophy After Catastrophe*, in *Cambridge Humanities Review* 2013 (4), pp. 3-6.
- Robert Skidelsky and Edward Skidelsky, *How Much is Enough? The Love of Money and the Case for the Good Life*, in *Cambridge Humanities Review* 2012 (2), pp. 11-5.
- David Runciman, *Political Hypocrisy: The Mask of Power from Hobbes to Orwell*, in *Journal of Intellectual History and Political Thought* 2012 (1), pp. 296-9.
- John P. Wright, *Hume's A Treatise of Human Nature An Introduction*, in *Teaching Philosophy*, 2011 (34), pp. 189-92.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 'The Macedonianism of Fear', to Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar, the University of Cambridge, 12th November 2025.
- 'How to be Happy: Advice from Adam Smith', to Political Ideas Seminar, The Institute for Historical Research, 14th May 2025
- Workshop to discuss MS of *Basic Equality*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Graduate Seminar (held online), 26th October 2022.
- 'Adam Smith and Brexit', to The Caledonian Society of London, Little Supper, 16th January 2020.
- 'The Four Stages Theory', to *Helsinki Early Career Workshop: Medieval and Early Modern Political Thought*, 7th June 2019.
- 'Between Virtue and Knavery: Hume on the Politics of Moderation', to *The Oxford Hume Society*, 7th March 2019.
- 'Adam Smith: The Politics of Wealth and the Problems of Commercial Society', to the New Methods, Perspectives, and Approaches seminar at The Bank of England, 4th September 2018.

- 'From Enemies to Adversaries', Keynote to London Graduate Conference in Moral Philosophy, held at King's College London, 4th May 2018.
- 'Liberty, Nondomination, Markets', to London School of Economics and Political Science seminar in political philosophy, 11th January 2017.
- 'Rousseau and Commercial Society?', for the panel 'Commercial Society Beyond the Scottish Enlightenment' at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 1st September 2017.
- 'Istvan Hont and Political Theory' to Cambridge Workshop in Political Theory, 17th October 2016, and York Seminar in Political Theory, University of York, 31st January 2017, and KU Leuven Early Career Workshop in History of Political Thought 1600-1800, 21st February 2017.
- 'Is Hobbes's State a Person? A Reply to Runciman and Skinner', to British Academy workshop on Hobbes and Personation, University of York, 6th September 2016.
- 'Humean Scepticism about Global Justice' to the Intergenerational Justice: Historical Perspectives conference at the University of Exeter, 2nd June 2016.
- 'Smith and Rousseau, After Hume and Mandeville', to the Political Thought and Intellectual History seminar, University of Cambridge, 19th October 2015, and UC Davis departmental seminar, 23rd March 2016.
- 'Is the desire for immortality a desire not to die?', to Death and the Afterlife: An interdisciplinary symposium of philosophy, social anthropology, and political theory, at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, University of Cambridge, 22nd January 2016.
- 'Legitimacy and Domination' to the 'Rethinking Responsibility' ethics and anthropology workshop at Birkbeck University, June 14 2015, and to the 'Realism and Moralism' workshop at University College London, August 2015.
- 'Hume's Other Book About Politics: The *Treatise* and the Philosophical Foundations of a History of Opinion', to Half Day Colloquium on Andrew Sabl's *Hume's Politics* organised by Queen Mary, University of London, March 14th, 2014.
- 'The Reality of Moral Distinctions: Hume Against the Sceptics', to the Institute For Historical Research Early Career Seminar, October 30th, 2013.
- 'From the Science of Man to the Science of Politics', to the History of Political Thought Early Career Research Seminar at University of Oxford, May 14th 2013.
- 'From Pity to Sympathy: Archibald Campbell and David Hume, after Bernard Mandeville', to the Scottish Reactions to Mandeville Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary, March 9th 2013.
- 'From Scepticism to Liberalism?', to the British Realism and Political Thought Workshop at MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, September 6th 2012, and to the Cambridge Political Philosophy Workshop, November 16th 2012.
- Panel Commentator, Fifth Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History, March 20th 2012.
- 'Sociability, History, and Method', to L'histoire intellectuelle: un dialogue entre historiographies française et britannique, at the Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, March 15th 2012.
- "'Realistic Realism?' Three Considerations in Assessing 'Realist' Political Philosophy", to the York Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy, November 16th 2011.
- "'Everything in this World is Judg'd of by Comparison" – Mandeville and Hume on Pride and Sociability', to the London Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History, May 9th 2011.
- 'British Government Attitudes to British Tax Havens: An Examination of Whitehall Responses to the Growth of Tax Havens in British Dependent Territories 1967-75'. Co-presented with John Christensen to The Political Economy of Taxation conference at Loughborough University, September 29th 2010.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICE

- AI lead for Department of Political Economy, and member of King's College London working group on AI, September 2026-present
- Associate Editor of *Political Studies*, October 2020 – present, and *European Journal of Political Theory*, September 2026-present
- External Examiner for the School of History, Queen Mary University of London (MA in Intellectual History and the History of Political Thought; BA modules in British History), 2022-present
- Director of BA Politics, King's College London DPE January 2019 – September 2021; reprised September 2022-2023; 2024-present.
- Workshop Organiser for Adam Smith: Critical Essays, held via King's College London, January 10th 2022.
- Convenor of Political Theory Research Group, Department of Political Economy, King's College, London, January 2018 – September 2021
- Co-editor of special issue of *The European Journal of Political Theory* on 'István Hont and Political Theory', with Dr Christopher Brooke (University of Cambridge, published November 2018).
- Organiser (with Dr Ross Carroll, University of Exeter) of the panel 'Commercial Society Beyond the Scottish Enlightenment', at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 1st 2017.
- Full member of King's College, Cambridge Council (executive body for the running of the college), 2017.
- Convenor of the Cambridge seminar for political thought (invited speaker series), Michaelmas Term 2016, with Dr John Filling.
- Organiser of the conference Death and the Afterlife: An interdisciplinary symposium of philosophy, social anthropology, and political theory, held at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, University of Cambridge, 22nd January 2016.
- Co-editor of forthcoming special issue of the *European Journal of Political Theory*, on the theme 'István Hont and Political Theory'.
- Postdoc Representative to the Faculty of Politics and International Studies, 2014-15, 2015-16.
- Interviewer for King's College undergraduate admissions selections, December 2015, 2016, 2017.
- Convenor of the Cambridge workshop in political theory, Michaelmas Term 2015, 2016.
- Editorial assistant to Dr Michael Sonenscher and Dr Béla Kapossy, spring 2014, in the preparation of István Hont's unpublished 2009 Carlyle Lectures, published as *Politics in Commercial Society: Adam Smith and Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015).
- Co-Convenor of the Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar 2, Faculty of History Research Seminar, 2012-2013, with Dr Dmitri Levitin and Dr Sam James.
- Co-organiser of Realism and Twentieth Century British Political Thought Workshop at MANCEPT Political Theory Workshops September 5th-7th 2012, with Dr Edward Hall (LSE) and James Hodgson (York).
- Member of the 2012 Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History organising committee.
- Research assistant to Dr István Hont and Dr Duncan Kelly, 'A Cultural History of the History of Political Thought', research programme financed by The Centre for Research in the Arts and Social Sciences and the Mellon Foundation, October-December 2011.
- Assistant to the weekly Cambridge Faculty of History research seminar in Political Thought and Intellectual History, 2010-211.
- Member of the 2011 Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History organising committee.

TEACHING

Lecturing

- 'Liberalism', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2021-22 Semester 2; 2022-23 Semester 1) [Module Convenor]
- 'Contemporary Issues in Political Theory', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2022-23; 2024-2025; 2025-2026) [Module Convenor]
- 'Freedom and the State', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2026-2027) [Module Convenor]
- 'Advanced Texts in Political Theory', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2019, 2020, 2022) [Module Convenor]
- 'Advanced Texts in the History of Political Thought', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2024-2025; 2025-2026) [Module Convenor]
- 'History of Western Political Thought', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (2018, 2019, 2020, 2022) [Module Convenor]
- 'Introduction to Political Philosophy', Department of Political Economy, King's College London (5 Lectures: 2018, 2019, 2020) [Module Convenor]
- 'John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*', for the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge (8 lectures: Michaelmas Term 2015, Lent Term 2016).
- 'From Idealism to Realism', for the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge (4 lectures: Michaelmas Term, 2016)
- 'David Hume's Political Thought', for the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge (2 lectures: Michaelmas Term 2015).

Seminars and small group supervising

King's College London

- Undergraduate teaching (first year): 'Introduction to Political Philosophy'
- Undergraduate teaching (second year): 'History of Political Thought', 'Contemporary Issues in Political Theory', 'Freedom and the State'
- Undergraduate teaching (third year): 'Advanced Texts in Political Theory', 'Liberalism', 'Advanced Texts in the History of Political Thought'
- Graduate teaching: 'Methods in Political Theory'

University of Cambridge

- Undergraduate Supervisor: The Analysis of Modern Politics (HSPS Tripos Part I, Paper 1)
- Undergraduate Supervisor: The History of Political Thought c. 1700-1890
- Undergraduate Supervisor: Ethics and World Politics (HSPS Tripos Part IIA, Pol.3)
- Undergraduate Supervisor: Set Texts (Philosophy Tripos Part I)

External Examining

- Queen Mary, University of London: BA History modules (British History and History of Political Thought), 2022.
- Queen Mary, University of London: MA Intellectual History and the History of Political Thought (all modules), 2022-present.

Internal Examining

- Primary examiner for written timed examination paper 'The Modern State and its Alternatives', University of Cambridge (2015, 2016, 2017)

- MA co-examiner for coursework (essays and final dissertations) submitted to the MA in Political Thought and Intellectual History, University of Cambridge (2015, 2016, 2017)
- MA co-examiner for dissertation submitted to MA in Intellectual History and the History of Political Thought, Queen Mary University of London (2018, 2019, 2022)
- MA co-examiner for dissertations submitted to the MA in Public Policy and MA in Political Economy, King's College London (2018, 2019, 2020, 2022)
- BA examiner for all modules convened at KCL since 2018, as well as numerous BA dissertations each year since 2018.

LANGUAGES

- French (fluent speaker)