

# David Thunder

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY RESEARCHER & LECTURER

## PROFILE

My professional passion is the study of the conditions under which a functional, free and flourishing human society can be created and preserved over time. This concern has led me to develop a special interest in governance under conditions of social diversity and fragmentation, the role of civil society associations in a free society, and the conditions under which federalism can facilitate the growth of free and flourishing communities. My innate curiosity, diverse life experiences (having lived in U.S., Mexico, Europe, and Africa) and intellectual formation (having worked many years in Anglo-American as well as continental European intellectual environments) have afforded me a broad and versatile perspective on social order. In particular, I have become keenly sensitive to the limitations of top-down, Statist models of order and the corresponding benefits of bottom-up, community-based approaches to the governance of social life. Both my academic research and my media outreach are motivated by a desire to promote and protect human freedom, both in the political and legal spheres.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Research Fellow - Institute for Culture & Society, University of Navarra

AUGUST 2012 — PRESENT

Lecturer - School of Economics & Business, University of Navarra

JANUARY 2017 — DECEMBER 2020

Lecturer - Department of Philosophy, University of Navarra

SEPTEMBER 2012 — DECEMBER 2017

Visiting Assistant Prof. - Department of Political Science, Villanova University

SEPTEMBER 2011 — JUNE 2012

Visiting Assistant Prof. - Matthew J Ryan Center, Villanova University

SEPTEMBER 2009 — JUNE 2011

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - James Madison Program, Princeton University

SEPTEMBER 2008 — JUNE 2009

Junior Visiting Fellow - Witherspoon Institute

SEPTEMBER 2007 — JUNE 2008

Visiting Assistant Professor - Bucknell University

SEPTEMBER 2006 — JUNE 2007

## EDUCATION

M.A & Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Notre Dame

SEPTEMBER 2000 — JUNE 2006

M.A. in Philosophy, University College Dublin

SEPTEMBER 1997 — JUNE 1998

B.A. in Philosophy & French, University College Dublin

SEPTEMBER 1993 — JUNE 1997

## CURRENT POSITION

Research Fellow,  
Institute for Culture & Society,  
University of Navarra,  
Spain

[dthunder@unav.es](mailto:dthunder@unav.es)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Polycentric models of governance and civil order
- Citizenship, freedom and self-government
- Theory and practice of federalism
- Freedom, cooperation & human development in organisations
- Ethics and epistemology of free speech and censorship

## SKILLS

- Leadership & Team Management
- Media Interviews & Op Eds
- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Clear & Cogent Writing
- Trilingual: English, Spanish, French

## HOBBIES

Photography, guitar, blogging

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Many of my academic writings, in addition to interviews and op eds, can be accessed directly on my website:

[www.davidthunder.com](http://www.davidthunder.com)

## LANGUAGES

English

Spanish

French

Italian

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND PROJECTS

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- **I3 Consolidation Grant**

JAN 2022 — MAR 2024

I won this consolidation grant from the Spanish government in recognition of outstanding research. **€100K in total.**

- **Ramón y Cajal Research Grant**

JAN 2017 — DEC 2021

I won this grant from the Spanish government in recognition of research excellence, to support research costs for 4 years, and co-finance my salary for the duration of 5 years. **€200K in total.**

- **RES PUBLICA: Building Res Publica in a Culturally and Morally Complex Society: A Normative Inquiry Informed by History, Law, and Social Science**

SEP 2020 — DEC 2023

I am **Principal Investigator** of this project. The project is financed by a private Spanish foundation, FUNCIVA (Fundación Ciudadanía y Valores). We investigate strategies and norms for adapting political structures and practices to the needs of complex societies. **€39K in total.**

## MONOGRAPHS

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- ***The Polycentric Republic: A Theory of Civil Order for Free and Diverse Societies.*** Routledge. Forthcoming in 2024.

“*The Polycentric Republic* reanimates a fine tradition of theorizing about the possibility of a non-sovereign, pluralist political order. In reviving the critique of sovereignty and articulating a promising alternative to the sovereign State, Thunder artfully synthesises insights from contemporary social science with a neo-Aristotelian account of human flourishing that draws sustenance from the ground-breaking work of Alasdair MacIntyre. This book is a “must read” for anyone looking for a hopeful alternative to the political status quo in our time of growing political troubles.”

—**Kelvin Knight**, Reader in Ethics and Politics at London Metropolitan University

“This book is a methodical effort to articulate an alternative governance doctrine, based both on contemporary developments in political philosophy, and on insights from the new institutionalist revolution which has taken place in the second half of the 20th century. It is not only a work of intellectual synthesis but also a work of theoretical and institutional imagination. Moreover, it is a real contribution to the applied-level efforts to respond to the acute crisis of governance afflicting 21st century societies.”

—**Paul Dragos Aligica**, Senior Research Fellow in the F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at George Mason University

- ***Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life.*** Cambridge University Press, 2014.

“Thunder makes the most detailed and powerful case anyone has yet made...that we should give our deepest ethical commitments full play in what we do as citizens. Not only does personal ethical integrity require it; liberal democracy is in danger if citizens wall off the role of citizen from the norms and values that make for a worthy human life. *Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life* is the ‘against the grain’ book that those of us who do not buy the separationist thesis have long been looking for.”

—**Nicholas Wolterstorff**, Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology, Yale University

- ***We the Peoples: How Federalism Can Temper the Iron Law of Oligarchy.***

Book in progress.

German sociologist Robert Michels argued that any large and complex organization, be it a political party, a trade union, or a State, inexorably tends to embody oligarchic forms of rule, no matter how formally democratic its constitution may be, since it is not practical for large and complex organisations to be ruled equally by all of their members. Michels referred to this tendency as the “iron law of oligarchy.” The iron law of oligarchy explains why most democratic states, no matter how many participatory mechanisms they create, end up with a dramatic power imbalance between officeholders and ordinary citizens. As long as we assume the model of a single sovereign government ruling over the affairs of a large multitude, any institutional reform we try, such as “direct democracy” or citizen assemblies, will have limited success at tempering the effects of the iron law of oligarchy. However, as I will argue in this book, a form of “bottom-up” federalism consistent with a robust dispersal of power across the territorial and non-territorial units of the federation can go a long way toward mitigating (though not nullifying) the oligarchic tendencies latent in complex organizations.

## EDITED VOLUMES

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- ***The Ethics of Citizenship in the 21st Century.*** Editor & Contributor. Springer, 2017.
- ***Polycentric Governance and the Good Society: A Normative and Philosophical Investigation.*** Co-editor with Pablo Paniagua. In production with Lexington Books. Expected publication date in 2024.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- “How the Attempt to Cleanse Public Discourse of 'Misinformation' Undermines Science and Rational Inquiry.” Under review at a peer-reviewed journal.
- “Moral Parochialism and the Limits of Impartiality” - ***The Heythrop Journal***, vol. 61 (2020), pp. 24-34.
- “Can a Good Person Be a Good Trader? An Ethical Defense of Financial Trading” - ***Journal of Business Ethics***, vol. 159, no. 1 (Sep 2019), pp. 89-103. With Marta Rocchi.
- “The Public Role of Humanities Scholarship, in the Humboldtian Tradition” – ***Univ of Toronto Quarterly***, vol. 85, n. 4 (Fall 2016), pp. 46-66.
- “Rethinking the Ethics of Giving: The Normative and Motivational Inadequacy of Resource Management Approaches to Beneficence.” - ***Journal of Social Philosophy***, vol. 46, no. 3 (Fall 2015), pp. 297-317.
- “Why Respect for Freedom Cannot Explain the Content and Grounds of Human Rights: A Response to Valentini.” - ***Political Theory***, vol. 42, n. 4 (August 2014), pp. 490-497.
- “Am I My Brother’s Keeper? Grounding and Motivating an Ethos of Social Responsibility in a Free Society.” - ***Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy***, vol. 12, no. 4 (December 2009), pp. 559-580.
- “Why Value Pluralism Does Not Support the State’s Enforcement of Liberal Autonomy: A Response to Crowder.” - ***Political Theory***, vol. 37, no. 1 (February 2009), pp. 154-160.
- “A Rawlsian Argument Against the Duty of Civility.” - ***American Journal of Political Science***, vol. 50, no. 3 (July 2006), pp. 676-690.
- “Can a Good Person Be a Lawyer?” ***Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy***, vol. 20, no. 1 (2006), pp. 313-334.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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- **An Ethical Case for Bottom-Up, Polycentric Governance in a Complex Society.** In *Polycentric Governance and the Good Society: A Normative and Philosophical Investigation*. Co-edited by David Thunder and Pablo Paniagua. Forthcoming with Lexington Books.
- **“Associational Life and Liberty: A Critical Interpretation of Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*.”** In *Culture, Secularisation and Democracy: Lessons from Alexis de Tocqueville*. Edited by Hans-Martien ten Napel and Sophie van Bijsterveld (Routledge, 2024).
- **“Imagining a Post-Sovereign Polity as a Realistic Utopia.”** In *Rethinking Democracy for Post-Utopian Worlds. Alternative Political Projects After the Sovereign State*. Edited by Julia Urabayan and Jorge León Casero (Springer, 2024), pp. 209-222.
- **“The ‘Neighbourhood as a Pivotal Element of the Infrastructure of a Flourishing Society.’”** In *Happiness and Domestic Life: The Influence of the Home on Subjective and Social Wellbeing* (New York: Routledge, 2022). With Ana Cecilia Serrano-Núñez.
- **“Overcoming the Myth of the Sovereign, Self-Governing People.”** In *Dynamics of Authority in Citizenship and Political Community*, ed. Trevor Stack & Rose Luminiello. (London: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2022). pp. 125-146.
- **“From Polis to Metropolis: On the Limits of Classical Approaches to Governance in a Fragmented Social Landscape.”** In *Disciplines of the City: New Forms of Governance in Today’s Postmetropolises*, ed. Julia Urabayan & Jorge León Casero (New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2019), pp. 3-31.
- **“The Place of Conscience-Based Exemptions in the Struggle Against Injustice.”** In *Contemporary Challenges to Conscience: Legal & Ethical Frameworks for Professional Conduct*, ed. A. Stepkowski (Peter Lang, 2019), pp. 41-56.
- **“What is the Use of an Ethical Theory of Citizenship?” & “An Ethical Defense of Citizenship.”** In *The Ethics of Citizenship in the 21st Century*. Springer, 2017.
- **“Managing the Social and Moral Costs of a Culture of Choice.”** In *Margaret S. Archer sobre Cultura y Socialización en la Modernidad Tardía [Margaret S. Archer on Culture and Socialization in Late Modernity]*. Eunsa, 2015.
- **“Public Reason and Abortion Revisited.”** In *Persons, Moral Worth, and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Choice Arguments*, ed. Stephen Napier. Springer, 2011, pp. 239-254.
- **“Can the Political Priority of Liberty be Squared with the Ethical Priority of Flourishing?”** In *Reading Rasmussen and Den Uyl: Critical Essays on Norms of Liberty*. Lexington Books, 2008, pp. 27-39

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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- I have conducted **over 20 radio and podcast interviews** and **two live TV discussions** on a variety of topics of public interest, including the rise of populism, the future of the European Union, the limits of the sovereign State, and pandemic policies in the West.
- I have published **over 60 opinion articles** in English and Spanish-speaking newspapers and online media, including *The Irish Times*, *Spiked*, *Mercatornet*, *Gript*, *El Mundo*, *El País*, *Expansión*, *El Confidencial*, and *Diario de Navarra*, on a wide range of issues, including corruption in public life, the rise of populism in the West, the future of UK after Brexit, and the handling of the pandemic by Western governments.

- I have given **guest talks to numerous civic and cultural associations**, including Kratos (a Spanish/Navarran association aimed at educating the public about the nature of a free and responsible society), TASC (Think-Tank for Action on Social Change), Sociedad de Estudios Vascos (Society of Basque Studies), Encuentro Mundial de Valores (Mexico), Unión Social de Empresario Mexicanos, and World Youth Alliance.

## RESEARCH VISITS

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- **University of Oxford**  
MAY 2017 — JUNE 2017  
Visiting Fellow, Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, Faculty of Law
- **Technische Universität of Munich**  
JUNE 2019 — JULY 2019  
Visiting Scholar, Hochschule für Politik
- **University of Leiden**  
JANUARY 2022 — MARCH 2022  
Guest Researcher, School of Law, University of Leiden
- **University of Strasbourg**  
OCTOBER 2023 — JANUARY 2024  
Visiting Fellow, DRES Research Unit (Droit, Religion, Entreprise et Société), University of Strasbourg

## TEACHING

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### UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRA, 2012-2021

- Democracy and Self-Government (Humanities & PPE elective) Spring 2021
- Society & Politics: The Quest for Order in a Fragmented World (24-hour PPE module) Spring 2019
- Etica y Orden Social [Ethics and Social Order] (module of MA in Governance & Culture of Organisations) Fall 2018, Fall 2019
- Etica, Gobierno, y Orden Social (Ethics, Governance & Social Order) (module of MA in Governance & Culture of Organisations) Spring 2017
- Ancient & Modern Political Philosophy (in Spanish) co-taught w/ M. Herrero Fall 2015 & Fall 2016
- Freedom, Power, and Authority (Advanced Undergraduate Course) Fall 2014
- Introduction to Ethics (Undergraduate course) Sept. 2012-May 2013

### VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, 2009-2011

- Globalization and Community (Undergraduate course) Fall 2012
- Religion and Politics (Undergraduate course) Fall 2012
- Social Justice (MA course) Fall 2011
- Social Justice (Undergraduate Course) Fall 2011
- Traditions in Conversation great books seminar (premodern) Fall '09, '10, & '11
- Modernity & Its Discontents (great books seminar) Spring '10 & Spring '11
- Citizenship in Practice (MA course) Fall '10

## BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY, 2006-2007

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Political Theory (two sections) | Fall 2006 & Spring 2007 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Political Thought (senior seminar)     | Fall 2006               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christianity and Democracy (senior seminar)     | Spring 2007             |

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Served on 3-person organizing committee for international conference on "The Social Ontology of Sovereignty," held at University of Navarra March 14-16, 2024
- Coordinated an international symposium, *Ex Pluribus Unum: Articulating Res Publica In a Complex Society*, Univ. de Navarra (9 experts from Spain, USA, UK, Chile, Italy and India) 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Peer Reviewer for Lexington Books, Oxford University Press.
- Peer Reviewer for *The Review of Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Political Thought*, *Political Studies*, *Polity*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Social Theory & Practice*, *Ethical Perspectives*, *Critical Review of International Social & Political Philosophy*
- Convened conference on *Ethics of Citizenship in the 21st Century*, Institute for Culture and Society, Univ. of Navarra (invited 6 experts from Europe, USA, and New Zealand) May 30th & 31st 2014
- Organizer and Convenor, *Ethics & Society Forum*, Institute for Culture and Society, University of Navarra (research roundtable for presentation of work in progress) Jan 2013-May 2015
- Editor and Research Assistant, *Mary Keys, Aquinas, Aristotle, and the Promise of the Common Good* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). 2004-2005
- Vice President for Professional Development, ND Poli Sci Graduate Organization Sep '04 – June '05
- Political Theory Representative, Dept of Political Science, Univ of Notre Dame Sep '03 – June '04
- Internal Reader, *The Review of Politics*, University of Notre Dame. Evaluated approximately 100 articles submitted to journal. Sep '02 – Sep '03

## PRESENTATIONS

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I have given over **50 public talks/presentations** between 2005 and 2024. Here is a selection of my presentations:

- 14/03/2024     **How Sovereign States Erode the Social Infrastructure of Human Flourishing.**  
—Presented at international conference on "The Social Ontology of Sovereignty," held at the University of Navarra.
- 20/10/2023     **Why Human Flourishing Requires a Robust Form of Governmental Pluralism.**

- Presented at closing conference of my research project, RESPUBLICA, "Ex Pluribus Unum: Articulating Res Publica in a Complex Society," held at Institute for Culture and Society, University of Navarra.
- 01/07/2023 **A MacIntyrean Case for Governmental Pluralism**  
—Presented at 16th Annual Conference of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry, "The Practice of Governing Institutions," at the University of Navarra
- 06/10/2022 **"How the Structure of Urban Spaces Can Foster Trust Between Citizens."**  
—Online presentation at 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on philosophy and the city, "Imaginar, convivir, habitar," hosted by Núcleo Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de Desarrollo de Faro, Santiago de Chile
- 30/08/2021 **Overcoming the Myth of the Sovereign, Self-Governing People.**  
—Online presentation at annual conference of European Consortium of Political Research, on the panel, "Engaging Authority: Citizenship and Political Community." 30/8/2021. Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/KOsfKzrevvU>
- 18/08/2021 **The Social Ontology of the Sovereign State: A Critical Assessment.**  
—Online presentation at the annual conference of the International Social Ontology Society. Youtube link: [https://youtu.be/3rAUvy7\\_CaI](https://youtu.be/3rAUvy7_CaI)
- 02/09/2021 **"On the Limits of Territorial Federalism."**  
—Online presentation for the Project on Tocqueville, religion and democracy led by Prof. Hans-Martien ten Napel of the Law Faculty at the University of Leiden, Netherlands.
- 01/06/2021 **"Vaccine Passports: A Reasonable Defence of Public Health or an Attack on Bodily Integrity and Civic Equality?"**  
—Presented at conference on "Citizenship in Pandemic Times," held online by Centre for the Study of Citizenship of Wayne University and Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society, and Rule of Law of University of Aberdeen.
- 20/11/2020 **"The Limits of Representative Democracy as an Institutional Context for Good Governance."**  
—Talk at the "Zoom conference on evaluating self-governance", Department of Political Economy, King's College London
- 13/11/2020 **"The "Neighbourhood" as a Pivotal Element of the Infrastructure of a Flourishing Society."**  
—Online pre-recorded video presentation for conference on "Happy Homes Happy Society? The Contribution of Domestic Life in a Time of Social Changes," hosted by Home Renaissance Foundation.
- 23/01/20 **"Sovereign Rule and the Still-Birth of Freedom: Why a Consociational Republic May Be Preferable to a Sovereign State."**  
— Presentation of book in progress at Centre for the Study of Governance & Society, Department of Political Economy, King's College London.
- 15/07/19 **"The Social Ecology of Freedom: A Libertarian-Perfectionist Case for Polycentric, Consociational Governance."**  
— Presentation of book in progress at Political Theory Symposium, Hochschule für Politik, Tech. Universität, München.
- 04/06/19 **"Two Rival Strategies for Achieving a Free and Flourishing Society: The Consociational Republic Versus the Sovereign State."**  
— Guest Lecture, Faculty of Law, University of Münster.
- 08/02/19 **Invited panelist at "Thinking Outside the Ballot Box" event**  
—Organized by Foundation for European Progressive Studies & TASC (Think-Thank for Action on Social Change). Charleton Hilton Hotel, Dublin.

- 24/11/18 **“Populism is a Symptom of the Dysfunctionality of Sovereign Rule”**  
— Presented on panel at international conference, “In the Name of the People: Representing the People in Twenty-First Century Politics.” Conference hosted by the [University of Navarra](#), Pamplona.
- 26/10/18 **“¿Cómo cohesionar un territorio conformado por diferentes comunidades?”**  
— Guest speaker at 18th conference of [Sociedad de Estudios Vascos](#) (Society of Basque Studies), held at Pamplona’s Civic center (civic center).
- 23/10/18 **“Why Republican Freedom Requires the Abolition of the Sovereign State, and What Might Come Next.”**  
— Guest speaker at Department of Political and Social Science, [Universitat Pompeu Fabra](#), Barcelona.
- 11/9/18 **“Interrogating the Ideology of Sovereignty: A Civic Republican Critique of Sovereign Rule.”**  
— Presented at Manchester Political Theory workshop, “Independence, Self-Determination & Secession,” [University of Manchester](#).
- 3/9/18 **“The Missionary and Secessionist Impulses of Radical Democracy.”**  
— Presented at Radical Democracy workshop organized by Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society, and the Rule of Law, [University of Aberdeen](#).
- 14/10/17 **“The Tyranny of Popular Sovereignty: From the Unitary State to the Polyarchal Republic.”**  
— Presented at annual meeting of Association for Political Theory at [University of Michigan](#), Ann Arbor.
- 7/10/17 **“Renovando la vida cívica desde la sociedad civil”** [Renewing civic life from the heart of civil society].  
— Guest speaker. [Ninth Worldwide Meeting on Human Values](#), Monterrey, Mexico. Conference theme: Being Citizen – Democratic Participation and Civic Culture for a Social Transformation.
- 22/9/17 **“The Myth of Popular Sovereignty and Its Implications for Rational Self-Government.”**  
— Presented as part of a colloquium on *We the People: Rethinking Narratives of Popular Sovereignty*, held at [Princeton University](#) and cosponsored by the James Madison Program (Princeton University) and Institute for Culture & Society (University of Navarra).
- 13/9/17 **“Can a Good Person be a Good Trader? An Ethical Defense of Financial Trading.”**  
(co-authored with Marta Rocchi).  
— Presented at MANCEPT (Manchester Centre for Political Theory) annual workshop, [University of Manchester](#).
- 12/6/17 **“Two Conceptions of Civic Order: The Sovereign People vs. The Polyarchal Republic.”**  
— Presented at [Oxford University](#) as part of a seminar series in constitutional theory, organized by the Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, based in the Faculty of Law.
- 28/1/17 **Participated in 2-hour colloquium on my book *Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life***, sponsored by political theory faculty at the [University of Notre Dame](#). Commentator was Eric Beerbohm, Professor of Government, Harvard University.
- 27/1/17 **“Overcoming The Tyranny of Popular Sovereignty: From Statist to Associative Democracy.”**  
— Guest speaker at political theory colloquium, Dept. of Political Science, [University of Notre Dame](#).
- 2/12/16 **“Dispersed Governance and the Myth of the Sovereign People.”**  
— Guest speaker at colloquium on “Exploring the Ideas of Political Community, Democracy and Self-Government: Interdisciplinary Perspectives,” at [University of Málaga](#). Organized by the *Center for Citizenship, Civil Society, and Rule of Law* (Univ. of Aberdeen) and the project Civic Constellation II: Debating Democracy and Rights (Spain's National Research Fund, FFI2014-52703-P) (Univ. of Málaga).
- 10/6/16 **“In Defense of Local Self-Government.”**  
— Guest speaker at colloquium on “Trust and the Common Good,” sponsored by Programme for the Foundations of Law and Constitutional Government, [Oxford University](#).



- 13/5/16 **Presented my book, *Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life* (2014) to James Madison Program, Princeton University.**
- 22/1/16 **“De la libertad e integridad de la universidad”** [“On the freedom and integrity of the university”].  
— **Keynote speaker** at annual plenary faculty meeting, Universidad de los Andes, Santiago, Chile.
- 16/11/15 **Presented my book, *Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life* (2014) to Cardinal Wilschinsky University's Philosophy faculty and students, Warsaw.**
- 3/9/15 **“Rethinking the Ethics of Giving: The Normative and Motivational Inadequacy of Resource Management Approaches to Beneficence.”**  
— Manchester Political Theory Workshop on Duties of Beneficence, **University of Manchester**.
- 5/9/15 **“Doing the Right Thing No Matter the Cost: The Personal and Social Value of Acting According to Conscience.”**  
— Guest speaker, *Ordo Iuris* International Law Conference, Warsaw Univ, Poland. Conference on “Medical Professionals’ Rights of Conscience - Theoretical Frameworks, Legal Challenges & Opportunities.”
- 9/6/15 **“The Practice of Humanities Scholarship and Its Institutional Embodiment”**  
— Presented at Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) Public Humanities Workshop, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, Canada.
- 17/2/15 **Author Meets Critics: Roundtable on my book, *Citizenship and the Pursuit of the Worthy Life* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014) with Alfredo Cruz and Mariano Crespo. Ethics & Society Forum, University of Navarra.**
- 25/6/14 **“Responsibility for Justice and Its Distribution Under Nonideal Conditions.”**  
— Presented at Political Community workshop organized by Center for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law (CISRUL), University of Aberdeen, Scotland.
- 31/5/14 **“The Creative Dimension of Citizenship and Its Neglect in Law-Based Paradigms of Justice.”**  
— Presented at the *Ethics of Citizenship in the 21st Century* conference at the Institute for Culture & Society, Univ. of Navarra.
- 31/8/13 **“The Call to Action: What the Idea of Vocation Can Add to a Theory of Our Global Obligations.”**  
— Presented at American Political Science Association annual conference, Chicago.
- 14/4/12 **“The Ethical Gap in Modern Ideals of Citizenship: A Diagnosis and a Proposal.”**  
— Presented at annual Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago
- 22/10/10 **“How, Why, and For Whom Should We Care? Prospects for a Vocational Theory of Responsibility.”**  
— Presented at annual Association for Political Theory conference, Portland, Oregon.
- 4/9/10 **“The Defense of Reasonable Faith? A Commentary on Rawls’s Senior Thesis.”**  
— Presented at annual American Political Science Association conference, Washington, DC
- 21/11/09 **Commentator on concluding panel of conference on “The Ethics of Patriotism.”**  
— Organized by Political Science Department, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Haven.
- 26/09/09 **“How, Why, and for Whom Should We Care? Coping with the Psychological and Cognitive Burdens of the Responsibility to Care.”**  
— Presented at World Youth Alliance conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- 5/9/09 **“Why We Should Reject the Reasonable Endorsement Test as a Standard of Public Reason.”**  
— Presented at annual American Political Science Association conference, Toronto.

- 25/3/08 **“The Relational Basis of Human Solidarity: Why Humanitarian Duties Are Not Enough.”**  
— Presented at *International Solidarity Forum* organized by the World Youth Alliance, UN Headquarters, NYC
- 6/3/08 **“Rising to Rawls’s Challenge: Towards a Virtue-Ethical Conception of Public Reason.”**  
— James Madison Program seminar, Princeton University.
- 10/10/08 **“Rehabilitating Public Reason: Steering a Path Between Dogmatic and Permissive Ideals.”**  
— Association for Political Theory annual conference, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
- 11/04/08 **“Am I My Brother’s Keeper? Towards a Realistically Utopian Ideal of Responsible Agency.”**  
— Guest speaker, *Political Theory Symposium*, Department of Political Science, Univ. of Notre Dame
- 13/10/07 **“Citizenship Beyond the Procedural Republic: Channeling Civic Responsibility through Friendly Associations.”**  
— Association for Political Theory annual conference, London, Ontario.
- 30/3/07 **“Respect Me, Not Just My Rationality: Rethinking Universal Respect.”**  
— Guest speaker at Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of Virginia.
- 4/11/06 **“What Can Liberalism Learn From Virtue Ethics About Respect?”**  
— Presented at Association for Political Theory conference at Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 28/12/05 **“Response to Rasmussen and Den Uyl’s *Norms of Liberty: A Perfectionist Basis for Non-Perfectionist Politics.*”**  
Symposium on Rasmussen and Den Uyl’s *Norms of Liberty* (Penn. State Univ. Press, 2005).  
— Presented at Eastern Division of American Philosophical Association annual conference, New York.
- 22/10/05 **“Rethinking Political Deliberation and Pluralism in Light of the Virtues: From Rawls to Aristotle.”**  
— Presented at Association for Political Theory annual conference at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 23/8/05 **“The Entrepreneurial and Dynamic Dimensions of Responsibility in a Modern Society.”**  
— Guest speaker at Universidad Panamericana, Bonaterra, Mexico.
- 27/8/05 **“La experiencia Católica ante la Democracia en las Sociedades. ¿Ha Sido Promotora o Inhibidora?”**  
(The Catholic Encounter with Modern Democracy: Has it Been Constructive or Inhibiting?).  
— Guest speaker, Fifth Annual Meeting of *Unión Social de Empresarios Mexicanos* at Bonaterra Business School, Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- 19/3/05 **“A Rawlsian Critique of the Duty of Civility.”**  
— Presented at *Political Science Graduate Conference*, Marquette University, Milwaukee.
- 15/4/04 **Discussant on panel on “Rawls and Political Liberalism.”**  
— Midwest Political Science Association annual conference at Hilton Hotel, Chicago.