

Arthur Ghins

CV

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Université Libre de Bruxelles
Centre de Théorie Politique
Avenue Jeanne, 44, 1050 Bruxelles

AOS: history of political thought (18th–20th c.), democratic theory, liberalism and republicanism, theories of public opinion. **AOC:** contemporary political philosophy, legal theory, history of philosophy.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2027 – Present Assistant Professor in Political Philosophy
Maastricht University
- 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
Dissertation: Public Opinion in Benjamin Constant’s Political Thought.
Supervisor: Christopher Brooke. Committee: Duncan Kelly & Jeremy Jennings.
- 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.

Cambridge University Press, “Ideas in Context” Series. 2026.

Selected as one of two titles for an “Author Meets Critics” panel at the BIAPT 2026 conference.

Refereed Journal Articles

- ‘Two Types of Public Opinion: Madame de Staël and the History of Representative Government,’ *Journal of the History of Ideas*, accepted for publication.
- ‘Scrutiny and Recall: Rousseau on Controlling the Executive,’ *American Political Science Review*, OnlineFirst.
- ‘Gouvernement représentatif versus démocratie représentative,’ *Raisons Politiques*, 102 (2026), 5-31.
- “‘The Reading Nation’”: Sieyès’ Theory of Public Opinion,’ *Political Theory* 53/4 (2025), 483-509.
- ‘The First Theorists of Liberal Democracy,’ *Constellations*, 32/2 (2025), 415-426.
- ‘What is French Liberalism?’ *Political Studies* 72/2 (2024), 551-569.
- ‘Representative Democracy versus Government by Opinion,’ *The Journal of Politics* 84/3 (2022), 1623-1637.
- “‘Popular Sovereignty that I Deny:’ Benjamin Constant on Public Opinion, Political Legitimacy and Constitution Making,’ *Modern Intellectual History* 19/1 (2022), 128-158.
- ‘Benjamin Constant and Public Opinion in Post-Revolutionary France,’ *History of Political Thought*, 40/3 (2019), 484-514.
- ‘Benjamin Constant et le beau mensonge: vérité, erreur et religion, des écrits de jeunesse aux Principes de politiques (1806),’ *Annales Benjamin Constant* (2019), vol. 44, pp. 9-27.
- ‘Benjamin Constant and the Politics of Reason,’ *History of European Ideas* 44/2 (2018), 224-243.

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.

Review Essays

- ‘Liberalism Reinvents Itself,’ On Samuel Moyn, *Liberalism Against Itself. Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times*. YUP (2023). *Intellectual History Review* 35/2 (2025), 337-345.
- ‘La puissance des masses,’ On Florence Hulak, *L’histoire libérale de la modernité. Race, nation, classe*. PUF (2023). *La Vie des idées*, 5 March 2023.
- ‘Democracy in the Mirror,’ On Gregory Conti, *Parliament Mirror of the Nation. Representation, Deliberation and Democracy in Victorian Britain*. CUP (2019). *Tocqueville21*, 2 August 2021.

TEACHING

➔ BA Level

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Science
Lead Instructor, Exercises in Political Theory (BA-level, Spring 2026)

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Department of Political Science.
Lead Instructor, Exercises in Political Theory (BA-level, Spring 2025)

Yale University, Department of Political Science.
Lead Instructor, Public Opinion, Propaganda and Democracy (BA-level, Spring 2022)

Yale University, Department of Political Science.
Lead Instructor, Popular Sovereignty and Representation (BA-level, Fall 2021)

Brown University, Department of Political Science.
Lead Instructor, The History of Liberalism (BA-level, Fall 2020)

UCLouvain (Belgium), Law Department.
Lead Instructor, Workshop in Legal Theory (BA-level, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

University of Cambridge, History and Politics Departments.
Supervisor, History of Political Thought (POL8) (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)

➔ PhD Committee Work

Member of the doctoral thesis advisory committee for Barnabé Gillet, *Liberalism in Belgium: History and Theory*, University of Namur, supervised by Laurent de Brieux (2024–present).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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| August 2025 | Book Publication Expenses Award, Institute for Humane Studies |
| June 2020 | FNRS (Belgium) Postdoctoral Fellowship [Deferred until Sept., 2024]. |
| June 2020 | British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship [Deferred until Sept., 2022]. |
| May 2020 | Yale Centre for the Study of Representative Institutions & Jack Miller Center, 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. |

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Democracy Meets Propaganda : Towards a New History and Theory (DEMPROP). ERC Starting Grant.
Submitted with Université Libre de Bruxelles, October 10, 2025. Interview, June 8 2026.

INVITED TALKS

2026 ‘Rousseau on Imperative Mandates,’ The International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Cornell University, May 14-15.

The People’s Two Powers. Public Opinion and Popular Sovereignty from Rousseau to Liberal Democracy.
Yale Political Theory Workshop, May 6.

- ‘Public Opinion, Liberalism, and Democracy,’ Commentator, Book Panel on Stuart Jones’ *Liberal Worlds: James Bryce and the Democratic Intellect* (Princeton), UManchester, March 24.
- The People’s Two Powers. Public Opinion and Popular Sovereignty from Rousseau to Liberal Democracy.*
Oxford Political Thought Seminar, February 3.
- 2025 ‘Rousseau on Elite Accountability,’ Political Thought and Intellectual History Seminar, University of Cambridge, October 20.
- ‘Marx, Council Democracy, and the French Revolution,’ Marx and Republicanism Workshop, KU Leuven, Belgium, June 17.
- ‘Propaganda and Democracy: Towards A History,’ Politics and Aesthetics in the Era of Culture Wars Conference, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, June 2-3.
- ‘What was Representative Government?’ Bernard Manin’s *Principles of Representative Government: Thirty Years Later* Workshop, University of Leiden, February 20-21.
- ‘Les premiers théoriciens de la démocratie libérale,’ SciencesPo Théorie Politique Workshop, Paris, January 28.
- 2024 ‘What was Liberal Democracy?’ The French Legacy in Intellectual History and Political Philosophy Conference, Duke University, May 17-18.
- 2023 ‘On Political Genealogies,’ History & Theory Workshop, Centre for Critical Democracy Studies, American University of Paris, July 7-8.
- 2021 ‘Liberalism: A Tradition-Building History,’ Workshop in Political Theory, University of Genoa, Italy, December 13.
- ‘The Meta-History of Liberalism,’ Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, November 30.
- 2020 ‘What is French Liberalism?’ NYU Classical Liberal Institute, November 2.
- 2019 ‘Benjamin Constant’s 1819 Lecture: A Reassessment,’ Two-Hundredth Anniversary of Constant’s Lecture on the Ancients and the Moderns, Indiana University, Bloomington, Dec 13.
- ‘‘Benjamin Constant on Opinion and Political Legitimacy,’ History of Political Ideas Early Career Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London. November 13.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (Selected)

- 2026 ‘Le républicanisme de Rousseau,’ *Conférence de l’Association française de science politique.* Lyon, 24-26 juin.
- ‘American French Liberalism,’ 250 Years of Franco-American Relations Conference, Paris May 28-29.
- 2025 ‘The Tribunal of Censors,’ Forgotten Institutions in the History of Political Thought Workshop, University of Vienna. April 1-2.
- ‘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*.
Commentators: Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht), Robin Douglass (KCL), Adam Lindsay (Nottingham), Iain McDaniel (Sussex), 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.
- 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.
- 2020 ‘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.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer

2018-Present: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *AI and Society*, *French Studies*, *Political Studies*.

Conferences, Workshops and Panels Organized

2026 Organizer, “The History and Theory of Democracy: New Perspectives,” International Conference, Université Libre de Bruxelles. June 25-26.

Organizer, with Stephen Sawyer. “Current Perspectives on Rousseau’s Political Philosophy,” International workshop, American University of Paris, 26 March.

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 T. Levy (McGill), Helena Rosenblatt (CUNY), Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht) and Quinn Slobodian (Wellesley). October 8-9. Available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1BLZIPi91M>

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). September 13.

2018 ‘Reassessing Benjamin Constant’s Constitutional Theory,’ International Workshop, co-organized with Raf Geenens, KU Leuven. Invited Speakers: Helena Rosenblatt (CUNY), Alain Laquière (Paris-Descartes), Emmanuelle Paulet-Grandguillot (Nantes). June 7-8.

RESEARCH STAYS

Jan. 2025 —June 2025 SciencesPo Paris. CEVIPOF. Host: Samuel Hayat.

Oct. 2018—Dec. 2018 Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Host: Justine Lacroix.

Oct. 2017—June 2018 KU Leuven, Belgium. Host: Raf Geenens.

Jan. 2017—June 2017 SciencesPo Paris. CEVIPOF. 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)

Interviewed for ‘France separates Church and State. So who’s responsible for Notre-Dame?’, *The Washington Post*, April 19, 2019.

‘Macron’s Speech to the French Bishops: a Poisonous Gift?’, *LSE Religion and Global Society Blog*, April 11, 2018.

‘On religion, Politics and the Brussels attacks,’ Interview for the *Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies* (CIRIS), May 9, 2016.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French: native language — English: bilingual — Dutch: good passive knowledge — Italian: reading knowledge — German: reading knowledge with the aid of a dictionary

REFERENCES

Upon request.