

Dennis C. Rasmussen

Tufts University
Department of Political Science
Packard Hall
Medford, MA 02155

tel: (617) 627-4804
fax: (617) 627-3660
dennis.rasmussen@tufts.edu
<http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/Rasmussen/>

EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2005

M.A., Political Science, 2002

Dissertation: "The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith's Response to Rousseau"

Committee: Ruth Grant (chair), Michael Gillespie, Tom Spragens, Neil De Marchi

Michigan State University

B.A., Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy, James Madison College, 2000

Graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors College

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Tufts University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2009-present

University of Houston

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and the Honors College, 2008-2009

Brown University

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Political Theory Project, 2007-2008

Bowdoin College

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government, 2005-2007

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith's Response to Rousseau. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008.*

*Honorable Mention, Delba Winthrop Award for Excellence in Political Science (2008)

Peer-reviewed articles

"Burning Laws and Strangling Kings?: Voltaire and Diderot on the Perils of Rationalism in Politics"
Review of Politics 73.1 (Winter 2011): 77-104.

“Rousseau’s ‘Philosophical Chemistry’ and the Foundations of Adam Smith’s Thought” *History of Political Thought* 27.4 (Autumn 2006): 620-41.

“Does ‘Bettering Our Condition’ Really Make Us Better Off?: Adam Smith on Progress and Happiness” *American Political Science Review* 100.3 (August 2006): 309-18.

Book chapter

“Smith and Rousseau, Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Adam Smith*, ed. Christopher Berry, Maria Paganelli, and Craig Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2012).

Review essay

“Whose Impartiality? Which Self-Interest?: Adam Smith on Utility, Happiness, and Cultural Relativism” *Adam Smith Review* 4 (2008): 247-53.

Invited responses

“Smith’s Attitude toward Rousseau: A Response to Daniel B. Klein” *Adam Smith Review* 7 (forthcoming 2012).

“Adam Smith on Commerce and Happiness: A Response to Den Uyl and Rasmussen” *Reason Papers* 33 (forthcoming Fall 2011).

Encyclopedia entries

“Adam Smith,” in *The Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought*, ed. Gregory Claeys (Washington, DC: CQ Press, forthcoming 2012).

“Denis Diderot,” in *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, ed. George T. Kurian (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2010).

“John Locke” and “Auguste Comte,” in *The International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, second edition, ed. William A. Darity, Jr. (Detroit: Macmillan, 2008).

Book reviews

Joint review of Joshua Cohen, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) and Ethan Putterman, *Rousseau, Law and the Sovereignty of the People* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), in *Perspectives on Politics* 9.3 (September 2011): 698-700.

Review of Alan Houston, *Benjamin Franklin and the Politics of Improvement* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), in *Perspectives on Politics* 7.2 (June 2009): 402-3.

Review of David Lay Williams, *Rousseau’s Platonic Enlightenment* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007), in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 42.3 (Spring 2009): 473-75.

Review of Iain McLean, *Adam Smith, Radical and Egalitarian: An Interpretation for the 21st Century* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006), in *History of Political Thought* 28.2 (Summer 2007): 371-73.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Faculty Research Award Committee (FRAC) Summer Faculty Fellowship, Tufts University
Summer stipend for research on the Enlightenment and its critics. 2011

Neubauer Faculty Fellow, Tufts University

Fellowship sponsored by the Neubauer Fund for Faculty Excellence. 2010-2011

Honorable Mention, Delba Winthrop Award for Excellence in Political Science

Annual award given by the Delba Winthrop Mansfield Memorial Fund for a first book in political science. 2008

Dissertation nominated for the Leo Strauss Award

Annual award given by the American Political Science Association for the best dissertation in political philosophy. 2006

Katherine Stern Dissertation Fellowship, Duke University

University-wide fellowship awarded to two Duke graduate students for their final year of dissertation work. 2004-2005

Program on Values and Ethics in the Marketplace Fellowship, Duke University

Fellowship awarded to a Duke graduate student working on issues that bridge ethics and marketplace concerns. 2003-2004

H. B. Earhart Fellowships (2)

Sponsored fellowship for graduate study. 2001-2002, 2002-2003

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Summer Language Grant

Grant for intensive language training at a Goethe Institute in Dresden. 2001

University Scholars Program Fellowship, Duke University

University-wide fellowship awarded to six incoming Duke graduate students for participation in an interdisciplinary community of scholars. 2000-2001

James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University

Competitive four-year fellowship for Duke graduate students. 2000-2004

Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence

National award for graduate study. 2000

Jack Chapin Memorial Prize, Michigan State University

Annual award given to the outstanding senior in political theory at Michigan State University's James Madison College. 2000

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

Conference papers

- “Burning Laws and Strangling Kings?: Voltaire and Diderot on the Perils of Rationalism in Politics.” New England Political Science Association meeting, Newport, RI, April 2010. Revised version presented at the Association for Political Theory conference, Reed College, October 2010.
- “*Philosophes* contra Foundationalism: A Separate Road to Modernity?” Association for Political Theory conference, Wesleyan University, October 2008.
- “Does ‘Bettering Our Condition’ Really Make Us Better Off?: Adam Smith on Progress and Happiness.” American Political Science Association meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 2006.
- “Rousseau’s ‘Philosophical Chemistry’ and the Foundations of Adam Smith’s Thought.” New England Political Science Association meeting, Portland, ME, April 2005. Revised version presented at the American Political Science Association meeting, Washington, DC, September 2005.
- “Adam Smith on Political Progress.” Association for Political Theory conference, Colorado College, October 2004.
- “Adam Smith and the Rousseauian Critique of Commercial Society.” New England Political Science Association meeting, Portsmouth, NH, April 2004.
- “Rousseau’s Unhappy Vision of Commercial Society.” Western Political Science Association meeting, Portland, OR, March 2004.
- “The Nineteen-Year Constitution: Thomas Jefferson on Political Legitimacy and Intergenerational Justice.” New England Political Science Association meeting, Portland, ME, April 2002.

Invited talks

- “In Defense of the Enlightenment.” Political Philosophy Colloquium, Michigan State University, January 2011.
- “The Anti-Universalism of the French Enlightenment.” Current Research Workshop hosted by the Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University, October 2010.
- “*Philosophes* without Foundations: Re-reading the French Enlightenment.” Political Science Brown Bag Research Seminar, Tufts University, March 2010.
- “Contemporary Political Theory as an Anti-Enlightenment Project.” Political Philosophy Workshop, Brown University, October 2007.
- “Smith, Rousseau, and the Problems and Promise of Commercial Society.” Nuffield College, Oxford University, January 2006.

Other conference participation

Commentator, book workshop on Emily Nacol's *Dimensions of Risk in Early Modern British Political Thought*, hosted by the Vanderbilt University Political Science department, November 2011.

Participant, colloquium on "Modern Liberty and Commercial Society: Montesquieu v. Rousseau," sponsored by Liberty Fund, Hermosa Beach, CA, March 2011.

Chair, panel on "Empathy, Sympathy and Agonistic Democracy." Northeastern Political Science Association meeting, Boston, MA, November 2010.

Organizer and chair, roundtable on "Two New Books on Adam Smith." American Political Science Association meeting, Washington, DC, September 2010.

Panelist, roundtable on Michael Frazer's *The Enlightenment of Sympathy*. New England Political Science Association meeting, Newport, RI, April 2010.

Facilitator, panel on "Civic Engagement and the Media in the Age of Obama." Symposium on Barack Obama and American Democracy, Tufts University, March 2010.

Participant, colloquium on "Montesquieu's *Pensées*: Society, History, and Liberty," sponsored by Liberty Fund, San Diego, CA, March 2008.

Participant, book workshop on John Tomasi's *Free Market Fairness*, hosted by the University of Arizona Philosophy department, March 2008.

Panelist, roundtable on Knud Haakonssen's *The Cambridge Companion to Adam Smith*. American Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, IL, September 2007.

Chair and discussant, panel on "Rousseau and Subjectivity." American Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, IL, September 2007.

Participant, colloquium on "The Political Economy of the Scottish Enlightenment," sponsored by Liberty Fund, Charleston, SC, November 2006.

Organizer, panel on "Hume, Smith, and the Rise of Modern Liberty." American Political Science Association meeting, Washington, DC, September 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT

Tufts University (2009-present)

Western Political Thought II

Liberalism and Its Philosophical Critics

The Meaning of America

Contemporary Political Theory

Romanticism and Revolution: The Political Philosophy of Rousseau (in Talloires, France)

Enlightenment Political Thought (seminar)

University of Houston (2008-2009)

The Human Situation: Modernity (team-taught, interdisciplinary honors course)
Liberalism and Its Critics (honors seminar)
Modern Political Thought (graduate seminar)

Brown University (2007-2008)

The Political Theory of Capitalism (co-taught with John Tomasi)

Bowdoin College (2005-2007)

Political Theory and Utopia (first-year seminar)
Liberalism and Its Critics
American Political Thought
Modern Political Philosophy
Contemporary Political Philosophy
Introduction to American Government
Independent Study on Lincoln, Churchill, and Democratic Statesmanship

North Carolina State University (2005)

Introduction to Political Theory

Duke University (2002-2004)

Introduction to Political Philosophy (teaching assistant for Ruth Grant)
American Political Thought
The Challenges of Non-Liberal Politics (special topics course, co-taught with Bill Curtis)

PROFESSIONAL, UNIVERSITY, AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Referee, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *History of Political Thought*,
Columbia University Press

Member, American Political Science Association, Foundations of Political Theory section of APSA,
New England Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory, Hume Society,
Adam Smith Society, Rousseau Association

Tufts University

Minors program representative, Department of Political Science, spring 2011
Transfer student advisor, Department of Political Science, 2010-2011
Subcommittee on the European Center at Talloires, 2010-present
Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honor society) faculty advisor, spring-fall 2010
Senior honors thesis reader, Department of Political Science, 2009-2010 (3), 2010-2011 (1)
Transfer of credit representative, Department of Political Science, 2009-2011
International Relations Core Faculty member, 2009-present

University of Houston

Faculty Committee, *Phronesis: A Program in Politics and Ethics*, 2008-2009
Graduate Committee, Department of Political Science, 2008-2009

Bowdoin College

Men's basketball team faculty liaison, 2006-2007

Senior honors thesis reader, Department of Government, 2005-2006 (2), 2006-2007 (3)

Duke University

"Pathways to the Professoriate" teaching workshop series, spring 2004

Kenan Ethics Graduate Colloquium member, 2003-2004