

French Republicanism Workshop Report 2012-2013

Chairs:

Keith M. Baker, Professor of History and, by courtesy, French
Dan Edelstein – Associate Professor in French and, by courtesy, History

Graduate Assistant:

Biliana Kassabova, French

The French Republicanism workshop took place on Friday, January 11. In this one-day workshop, six leading historians of the French 18th century presented their work on the interpretations of classical republicanism in the political thought of major figures of the French 18th century, including Montesquieu, Rousseau, Diderot, and Marat. Discussed were both philosophical and methodological questions surrounding the classical and “Atlantic” republican tradition as they figured in pre-revolutionary and revolutionary France. Each participant presented a 20-minute paper that is to be expanded into a full-length article; following each presentation, there was a 10-minute Q&A session, which addressed not only the specific paper, but also its place and relation to the others. The program of the event can be found on the next page.

The over-arching goal of this workshop, as part of a series of workshops that have been taking place in the past 4 years, is to publish a volume of essays exploring the place of French republicanism (especially in the era of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution) within the larger history of the “Atlantic Republican Tradition,” as defined by John Pocock. There have been two previous workshops at which the same participants presented earlier versions of their work – the first one also here at Stanford in 2008, the second – in Graz, Austria in 2011. The volume is expected to be ready for publication by the end of the summer of 2013. In addition to the essays by the workshop’s participants – Stanford historians Keith M. Baker, Dan Edelstein, North American scholars James Swenson (Rutgers University), Andrew Jainchill (Queen’s University), J. Kent Wright (Arizona State University) and French historian Céline Spector (Université Bordeaux 3) – another essay by Pierre Serna (Université Paris I, director of the Institute of the History of the French Revolution) will figure in the volume.

The event was attended by a highly engaged group of scholars coming from diverse fields. Faculty members from Stanford and neighbouring institutions, visiting researchers, graduate and undergraduate students from History (French and American), French literature, English literature, participated in a lively discussion that continued beyond the four hours of the workshop and into the post-workshop dinner.

France and the Atlantic Republican Tradition

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Friday, January 11, 2013, 1-4 pm

Pigott Hall, room 252

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Introduction: Keith Baker (Stanford University)

Andrew Jainchill (Queen's University): "The Marquis d'Argenson's Republican Monarchy."

Céline Spector (Université Bordeaux 3): "'Building Chalcedon with the Byzantium Shore Before His Eyes': *Oceana* from Harrington to Montesquieu."

James Swenson (Rutgers University): "On Republican Virtue."

— *Break* —

J. Kent Wright (Arizona State University): "Republican Historiography, Cult of Antiquity, French Specificity - Or, Everything But the Kitchen Sink!"

Dan Edelstein (Stanford University): "'Give Me Liberty or...What?' Resistance Theory in Enlightenment Thought and the French Revolution."

Keith Baker (Stanford University): "Roots of French Revolutionary Republicanism."

— *Discussion* —

Sponsored by the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the France-Stanford Center; the French Culture Workshop; and the Stanford Humanities Center.