

Dennis C. Rasmussen

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

tel: (617) 627-4804
fax: (617) 627-3660

dennis.rasmussen@tufts.edu

<http://as.tufts.edu/politicalscience/people/faculty/rasmussen>

EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2005

M.A., Political Science, 2002

Michigan State University

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

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Tufts University

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, 2018-present

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2014-2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2009-2014

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

Books

[The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought](#). Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017. 336 pp.

- Named *Times Higher Education* [Book of the Week](#) (September 14, 2017)
- Reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and other popular outlets
- Included in several “best books of 2017” lists, including *The Guardian* (Julian Baggini), *Bloomberg Businessweek* (Tyler Cowen), *Five Books* (Nigel Warburton), and *Project Syndicate* (Kaushik Basu)
- Shortlisted for Phi Beta Kappa’s [Ralph Waldo Emerson Award](#)
- Subject of a Hume Society Conference book panel (July 2018)
- Subject of a forthcoming symposium in *Rivista di filosofia* (December 2018)
- [Spanish](#), Italian, Chinese, and Korean translations (completed or in preparation)
- [Audiobook](#) version available via Tantor Audio

[*The Pragmatic Enlightenment: Recovering the Liberalism of Hume, Smith, Montesquieu, and Voltaire.*](#) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. Paperback edition issued in 2017. 357 pp.

- Subject of a symposium in the *Adam Smith Review* (2017)

[*The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith's Response to Rousseau.*](#)

University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008. Paperback edition issued in 2009. 208 pp.

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

Edited volumes

[*Adam Smith and the Death of David Hume: The "Letter to Strahan" and Related Texts,*](#) ed.

Dennis C. Rasmussen. Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2018. 108 pp.

[*Adam Smith and Rousseau: Ethics, Politics, Economics,*](#) ed. Maria Pia Paganelli, Dennis C.

Rasmussen, and Craig Smith. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 336 pp.

Articles

"Mutual Sympathy, Hospitals, and Balls: David Hume's Objection to the 'Hinge' of Adam Smith's Moral Theory," *Adam Smith Review* 12 (forthcoming 2019).

["Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality,"](#) *American Political Science Review* 110.2 (May 2016), 342-52.

["If Rousseau Were Rich: Another Model of the Good Life,"](#) *History of Political Thought* 36.3 (Autumn 2015), 499-520.

["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 chapters

["Rousseau and Hume: The Philosophical Quarrel,"](#) in *The Rousseauian Mind*, ed. Christopher J. Kelly and Eve Grace (New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2019).

["An Apology for Adam Smith, Friend of David Hume: The Dialogues Controversy,"](#) in *When in the Course of Human Events: 1776 at Home, Abroad, and in American Memory*, ed. Will R. Jordan (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2018), 57-75.

[“Smith, Rousseau, and the True Spirit of a Republican.”](#) in *Adam Smith and Rousseau: Ethics, Politics, Economics*, ed. Maria Pia Paganelli, Dennis C. Rasmussen, and Craig Smith (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018), 241-59.

[“Contemporary Political Theory as an Anti-Enlightenment Project.”](#) in *Rethinking the Enlightenment: Between History, Philosophy, and Politics*, ed. Geoff Boucher and Henry Martyn Lloyd (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018), 39-59.

[“Adam Smith and Rousseau: Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment.”](#) in *The Oxford Handbook of Adam Smith*, ed. Christopher J. Berry, Maria Pia Paganelli, and Craig Smith (Oxford University Press, 2013), 54-76.

Review essay

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

Invited responses

“The Infidel and the Professor: A Response to Lecaldano and Russell,” *Rivista di filosofia* (forthcoming December 2018).

[“The Pragmatic Enlightenment: A Response to Berry, Callanan, and Frazer.”](#) *Adam Smith Review* 10 (2017), 138-47.

[Response to Daniel B. Klein’s review of *The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society*,](#) in *Adam Smith Review* 7 (2014), 329-31.

[“Adam Smith on Commerce and Happiness: A Response to Den Uyl and Rasmussen.”](#) *Reason Papers* 33 (Fall 2011), 95-101.

Encyclopedia entries

[“Adam Smith.”](#) in *The Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought*, ed. Gregory Claeys (CQ Press, 2013).

[“Denis Diderot.”](#) in *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, ed. George T. Kurian (CQ Press, 2010).

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

Book reviews

[Review of Ryan Patrick Hanley, *Love’s Enlightenment: Rethinking Charity in Modernity*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2017), in *Contemporary Political Theory* 17.3 (August 2018), 127-30.

[Review of Christopher J. Berry, *The Idea of Commercial Society in the Scottish Enlightenment*](#) (Edinburgh University Press, 2013), in *Adam Smith Review* 9 (2016), 323-25.

[Joint review of Joshua Cohen, *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals* \(Oxford University Press, 2010\) and Ethan Putterman, *Rousseau, Law and the Sovereignty of the People*](#) (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*](#) (Yale University Press, 2008), in *Perspectives on Politics* 7.2 (June 2009), 402-3.

[Review of David Lay Williams, *Rousseau's Platonic Enlightenment*](#) (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 University Press, 2006), in *History of Political Thought* 28.2 (Summer 2007), 371-73.

Popular press and other media

[“The Best Books on Adam Smith”](#) (interview), *Five Books*, February 12, 2018.

[EconTalk podcast interview](#) on *The Infidel and the Professor*, November 6, 2017.

[“He Died as He Lived: David Hume, Philosopher and Infidel.”](#) *Aeon*, October 23, 2017.

[“The Infidel and the Professor”](#) (interview), *3:AM Magazine*, September 2, 2017.

[“National Friendship Day.”](#) *Princeton University Press Blog*, August 6, 2017.

[“The Problem with Inequality, According to Adam Smith.”](#) *The Atlantic*, June 9, 2016.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Talloires Scholar-in-Residence, Tufts University

Award to conduct research on Jean-Jacques Rousseau at the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France. 2017

Faculty Research Awards Committee Grant-In-Aid, Tufts University

Small grant to defray permissions/reproduction fees for the images in *The Infidel and the Professor*. 2016

Faculty Research Awards Committee Senior Research Fellowship, Tufts University

Semester leave for research on the friendship and philosophy of David Hume and Adam Smith. 2015

Faculty Research Awards Committee 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

Finalist, 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

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

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**Invited talks**

“The Philosophy and Friendship of David Hume and Adam Smith.” Political Economy Project, Dartmouth College, scheduled for May 2019.

- “David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought.” Department of Government, Bowdoin College, scheduled for February 2019.
- “Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality.” Department of Economics Seminar Series, Tufts University, scheduled for November 2018.
- “The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume and Adam Smith.” Reading Liberty lecture, University of Windsor, scheduled for October 2018.
- “The Problem with Inequality, According to Adam Smith.” Live Ideas Lecture Series, Kansas State University, scheduled for October 2018.
- “The Philosophy and Friendship of David Hume and Adam Smith.” Workshop in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, George Mason University, May 2018.
- “David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought.” Political Theory Institute, American University, April 2018.
- “The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume and Adam Smith.” Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program, Bridgewater State University, February 2018.
- “David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought.” Long 18th Century and Romanticism Graduate Colloquium, Harvard University, February 2018.
- “The Infidel and the Professor.” Political Theory Colloquium, Harvard University, October 2017.
- “Mutual Sympathy, Hospitals, and Balls: David Hume’s Objection to the ‘Hinge’ of Adam Smith’s Moral Theory.” History of Philosophy Roundtable, Brown University, October 2017.
- Friday Forum event on *The Infidel and the Professor*. Harvard Book Store, September 2017.
- “An Apology for Adam Smith, Friend of David Hume: The *Dialogues* Controversy.” A. V. Elliot Conference on the theme “1776,” Mercer University, March 2016.
- “Recovering the Pragmatic Enlightenment.” Keynote address, conference on “Rethinking the Enlightenment,” Deakin University (Melbourne, Australia), December 2015.
- “Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality.” Conference on “The Contributions of Adam Smith,” University of Houston, October 2015.
- “The Pragmatic Enlightenment and Other Enlightenment.” Keynote address, conference on “Conceptions of the Enlightenment,” Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, September 2015.

- “Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality.” Keynote address, conference on “Passions and the Origin of Moral Institutions and Civil Society: The British Debate from Thomas Hobbes to Adam Smith,” Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), September 2015.
- “Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality.” Conference on “Adam Smith: Critic of Capitalism?”, Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions, April 2015.
- “The Pragmatic Enlightenment of David Hume and Adam Smith.” Benjamin Franklin Initiative lecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2014.
- “The Pragmatic Enlightenment.” Political Theory Workshop, Duke University, April 2014.
- “In Defense of the Enlightenment.” Political Philosophy Colloquium, Michigan State University, January 2011.
- “The Anti-Universalism of the French Enlightenment.” Current Research Workshop, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University, October 2010.
- “Philosophes without Foundations: Re-reading the French Enlightenment.” Department of 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.
- “Adam Smith, Rousseau, and the Problems and Promise of Commercial Society.” Nuffield College, Oxford University, January 2006.

Conference papers

- “Mutual Sympathy, Hospitals, and Balls: Hume’s Objection to the ‘Hinge’ of Smith’s Moral Theory.” Presented in absentia at the International Adam Smith Society conference, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Viña del Mar, Chile), January 2018.
- “Smith, Rousseau, and the True Spirit of a Republican.” Joint meeting of the International Adam Smith Society and Rousseau Association on “Themes from Smith and Rousseau,” University of Glasgow, July 2015.
- “If Rousseau Were Rich: Another Model of the Good Life.” American Political Science Association meeting, Washington, DC, August 2014, and Northeastern Political Science Association meeting, Boston, MA, November 2014.
- “The Anti-Universalism of David Hume and Adam Smith.” New England Political Science Association meeting, Portsmouth, NH, April 2012, and American Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2013.

- “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, and 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, and 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.

Other conference participation

- Commentator, conference on “Adam Smith, David Hume, Liberalism, and Esotericism.” George Mason University, scheduled for November 2018.
- Participant, Liberty Fund colloquium on “Montesquieu on Pathways to Liberty.” Miami, FL, scheduled for September 2018.
- Participant, Liberty Fund colloquium on “Freedom and Domination in Market Society.” San Francisco, CA, scheduled for September 2018.
- Chair, session on Bowen Chan’s “Scepticism, Custom, and Hume: Philosophy’s Place in Common Life.” Hume Society Conference, Budapest, Hungary, July 2018.
- Respondent, book panel on *The Infidel and the Professor* (with commentators Michael B. Gill and John Scott). Hume Society Conference, Budapest, Hungary, July 2018.
- Discussant (in absentia), panel on “Smith’s Sympathy.” International Adam Smith Society conference, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Viña del Mar, Chile), January 2018.

- Discussant, session on Benedetta Giovanola's "(Un)equal Respect and Agents of Justice."
Political Theory Workshop, Tufts University, September 2017.
- Chair, session on Mark Spencer's "Was Hume a Plagiarist?: A Submission from His *History of England*." Hume Society Conference, Providence, RI, July 2017.
- Chair and discussant, panel on "The Passions and Interests of Commerce in Montesquieu and Rousseau." New England Political Science Association meeting, Providence, RI, April 2017.
- Commentator, book workshop on Michelle Schwarz's *Violent Passions and Liberal Citizenship*.
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Political Science, December 2016.
- Discussant, workshop on "Hume and Montesquieu: Method, *Moeurs*, and Republican Monarchy." Yale University and the International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, December 2014.
- Respondent, lecture by Arthur Melzer on "Philosophy and Secrecy: The Forgotten Practice of Esoteric Writing." Boston College Department of Political Science, October 2013.
- Chair, panel on "Legitimacy of the State." New England Political Science Association meeting, Portsmouth, NH, April 2012.
- Commentator, book workshop on Emily Nacol's *An Age of Risk: Politics and Economy in Early Modern Britain*. Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science, November 2011.
- Participant, Liberty Fund colloquium on "Modern Liberty and Commercial Society: Montesquieu v. Rousseau." 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.
- Commentator, roundtable on Michael Frazer's *The Enlightenment of Sympathy*. New England Political Science Association meeting, Newport, RI, April 2010.
- Chair, panel on "Civic Engagement and the Media in the Age of Obama." Symposium on Barack Obama and American Democracy, Tufts University, March 2010.
- Participant, Liberty Fund colloquium on "Montesquieu's *Pensées*: Society, History, and Liberty." San Diego, CA, March 2008.
- Participant, book workshop on John Tomasi's *Free Market Fairness*. University of Arizona Department of Philosophy, 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, Liberty Fund colloquium on "The Political Economy of the Scottish Enlightenment."
Charleston, SC, November 2006.

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

TUFTS COURSES

PS 004 – Capitalism, For and Against

PS 042 – Western Political Thought II

PS 105 – Constitutional Law

PS 140 – Liberalism and Its Philosophical Critics

PS 144 – The Meaning of America

PS 149 – Contemporary Political Theory

PS 154 – Romanticism and Revolution: The Political Philosophy of Rousseau

PS 156 – Enlightenment Political Thought

PS 157 – Markets, Morals, and Religion: The Political Theory of David Hume and Adam Smith

SERVICE

Professional service

Advisory Council, Liberty Fund's "Adam Smith's Enlightened World" Project, 2017-
present

Board of Directors, Rousseau Association, 2015-present

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar Program reviewer, 2018

Reviewer, Bloomsbury Publishing, Broadview Press, Cambridge University Press,
Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press,
Penn State University Press, Polity Books, Princeton University Press, Routledge,
University of Rochester Press

Referee, *Adam Smith Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political
Science Review*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *History of Political
Thought*, *Huntington Library Quarterly*, *Journal of Politics*, *Polity*, *Review of
Politics*

University service

Academic Awards Committee, 2013-2018

Subcommittee on the European Center at Talloires, 2010-2015

Instructor, Tufts in Talloires, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2018

Mock classes for Jumbo Days, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Mock classes for Voices of Tufts, 2010, 2012

International Relations Program Awards Committee, 2011
International Relations Program Core Faculty, 2009-present

Department service

Thesis Exchange coordinator, 2018-present
Workload Committee, 2018-present
Assessment Committee, 2017-present
Tufts in Washington program coordinator, 2012-2018
Credit Committee, 2016-2017
External Review Committee, 2015-2016
Awards Committee, 2015
Minors program representative, spring 2011
Transfer student advisor, 2010-2011
Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honor society) faculty advisor, spring-fall 2010
Transfer of credit representative, 2009-2011

Advising

Pre-major advising (Curricular Advising Program course), 2013-2014, 2016-2017
Summer Scholars Program mentor, 2013, 2015
Senior honors thesis supervisor, 2013-2014, 2016-2017
Senior honors thesis second/third reader, 2009-2010 (3), 2010-2011, 2013-2014, 2016-2017
M.A. field exam committee member and thesis reader, Department of History, 2012-2013