

Fifth Venice World Multidisciplinary Conference on Republics and Republicanism

## Power, Freedom and Oligarchy

Venice International University

26-28 June 2026

### **FRIDAY 26 JUNE**

**9:30 OPENING REMARKS - Room 1E**  
(plenary)

**9:45-11:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH – Room 1E**  
*Oligarchic Power as Worldmaking*  
Camila Vergara  
Senior Lecturer, University of Essex  
(plenary)

**11:00-11:20 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:20-12:50 PANELS 1-2**

**PANEL 1 – Room 1E**  
**Anti-Oligarchic Theory**

*Against Democratic Erosion: Liberal Crisis, Democratic Resilience and Republican Legitimacy*  
Sabrina Zucca  
Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Germany

*Liberal Plebeianism: A New Theory of Anti-Oligarchic Democracy*  
Gordon Arlen  
University of Melbourne, Australia

*Should Anti-Oligarchic Tribunates be Class-Specific?*  
Vincent Harting  
London School of Economics and Political Science, England

*Citizens' Assemblies between Opinion and Interest: Republican Freedom, Oligarchic Drift, and the "Minor-Key" Institution of Public Life*  
Ünsal Doğan Başkır  
İzmir Ekonomi Üniversitesi, Türkiye

**PANEL 2 – Room 1G**  
**Constitutional issues and New Frontiers**

*Republicanism and the Mutable Constitution*  
Seán Rainford  
Dublin City University, Ireland

*Constitutional Court Responsibility: Towards Reducing Domination via Republican Constitutional Pluralism*  
Max Steuer  
Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Slovakia  
/ Universität Münster, Germany

*Under the Sword of Damocles: Identity Harassment and Freedom as Non-Domination*  
Melisa Acar  
University of Glasgow, Scotland

*Involving Non-Humans in the Green Community: Sound as a Tool for Understanding Non-human Will*  
Martina Zanetti  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa, Italy

**12:50-14:20 SOCIAL LUNCH**

**14:20-15:35 PANELS 3-4**

**PANEL 3 – Room 1E**  
**Anti-Oligarchic Case Studies**

*The only True and Worthy Government:  
Democratic Responses to Oligarchy in the 17th  
century Dutch Republic*  
Pim Trommelen  
The Ohio State University, US

*Republican Order at the End of the World:  
Eugène Huzar's 'Planetary Aediles' (1857)*  
Niklas Plaetzer  
University of Chicago, US

*Political equality and "oligarchization of  
democracy": a critical-normative reflection on  
some institutional arrangements recently  
adopted in Brazil to promote republican  
citizenship*  
Rodrigo Ribeiro de Sousa  
Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
(Unicamp), São Paulo, Brazil

**15:35-16:50 PANELS 5-6**

**PANEL 5 – Room 1E**  
**Republicanism and Feminist Theory**

*Between Private Order and Public Freedom:  
Family, Gender, and the Crisis of the  
Public/Private Divide in Republican Thought*  
Keiju Vihreäsalo  
Helsingin Yliopisto / Helsingfors Universitet,  
Helsinki, Finland

*Care and Republic: Arendt and Luxemburg in  
Feminist Dialogue*  
Marcela da Silva Uchôa  
Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

*A Feminist Reading of Non-domination: The  
Active Control View*  
Maria Pia Méndez Mateluna  
Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

**PANEL 4 – Room 1G**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Century British Political Thought: Price  
and Bentham**

*Modern republicanism between virtue and  
natural law*  
Romain Cuttat  
Université de Genève, Switzerland

*Liberty as Self-Government, Representation  
and Citizenship. The Republicanism of Richard  
Price*  
Cristopher Hamel  
Université de Rouen Normandie, France

*Liberty, Security and Utility: Questioning  
Bentham's relation to republicanism*  
Emmanuelle de Champs  
CY Cergy Paris Université, France

**PANEL 6 – Room 1G**  
**Greek and Venetian Republican Themes**

*The Katechon as a Proto-Republican  
Community: Eschatological Letters of  
Maximus the Greek*  
Andrei Papin  
EUSP - European University at Saint-  
Petersburg, Russia

*Stone, Space, and the Res Publica: Public and  
Private Epigraphic Speech in the Sacred  
Spaces of Renaissance Venetian Istria*  
Josip Banic  
Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Croatia

*Between Empire and Liberty: Neutrality as a  
Republican Practice of Power in Venice  
(1688–1714)*  
Stefano Cattelan  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**16:50-17:10 COFFEE BREAK**

**17:10- 18:55 PANEL 7 (plenary)**

**PANEL 7 – Room 1E  
Feminist Voices in Republicanism**

*Unfreedom as Structural Injustice: The Case of Mary Wollstonecraft*  
Signy Gutnick Allen  
Universität Zürich, Switzerland

*Feminist Republicanism: The Political Ideas of French Revolutionary Women, 1789-1794*  
Nicolai Von Eggers  
Aarhus Universitet, Denmark

*Harriet Jacobs, Sexual Violence and Feminist Republicanism*  
Alan Coffee  
Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, England

*Freedom as Non-Domination in Nineteenth-Century Czech Thought: Teréza Nováková and a  
Feminist Republican Tradition*  
Adela Radkova  
Univerzita Karlova, Prague, Czechia

*Feminist Republicanism in Early Republican Turkey: The  
Political Thought of Nezihe Muhittin*  
Banu Turnaoğlu Açıkan  
Cambridge University, England / Sabancı Üniversitesi, Türkiye

**19:30-21:30 SOCIAL DINNER**

**SATURDAY 27 JUNE**

**9:30-10:45 PANELS 8-9**

**PANEL 8 – Room 1E  
Machiavelli**

*From Classical Dictatorship to Derived  
Constituent Power: Machiavelli's Republican  
Constitutional Legacy*  
Jeremie Barthelemy  
Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine  
Paris, France

*Captains Must Be Good Orators: Machiavelli  
and the Rhetoric of Command*  
Michael Hawley  
UNC Chapel Hill, US

*Custom, Institutions, and the Loss of  
Republican Liberty in Machiavelli's  
Florentine Histories*

**PANEL 9 – Room 1G  
English and American Revolutions and  
Civil Wars**

*Locke's Experiences with Tyranny and the  
Legal Grounding of his Philosophical  
Response*  
Holly Brewer  
University of Maryland, US

*Republican language and newspaper polemics  
in Revolutionary Boston*  
Becca Palmer  
University College London, England

Piao Mao  
University of Southampton, England

### 10:45-11:05 COFFEE BREAK

### 11:05-12:20 PANELS 10-11

#### **PANEL 10 – Room 1E Visualizing Republicanism**

*Documentary Photography of the Provisional Government in Russia, March-October, 1917*  
Martin Miller  
Duke University, US

*Making Things Visible: Cartography as a Cause and a Means of Overcoming World Alienation*  
Ivan Naumov  
EUSP - European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

#### **PANEL 11 – Room 1G Politics and Revolution 1750-1850**

*The plea for the distribution of wealth and the dynamics of meritocracy in 18th century Europe (Britain, Corsica, France)*  
Myriam-Isabelle Ducrocq  
Université Paris Nanterre, France

*The Gothic Republic and Icelandic-Danish Philologists in the Revolutions of 1848*  
Svein Jóhannesson  
Háskóli Íslands – University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

*Neglected Moments of Central European Republicanism in 1848: The Discourse of the Austrian/Bohemian Revolution*  
Jan Květina  
Univerzity Hradec Králové, Czechia

### 12:20-13:50 SOCIAL LUNCH

### 13.50-15:05 PANELS 12-13

#### **PANEL 12 – Room 1E Postcolonial Republicanism**

*The Enslaver State: Republican Assimilationism and Its Critics*  
Mayaki Kimba  
Columbia University, US

*Exploitation as the Domination of Racialized Labor: Property, Inequality, and the Dark Ghetto*  
Nicholas Vrousalis  
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Netherlands / University of Athens, Greece

#### **PANEL 13 – Room 1G Republicanism in the Digital Era**

*Pop-up Polis: Zuzalu and the limits of technological republicanism*  
Olga Bychkova  
Independent Scholar - formerly EUSP, Russia

*AI Prediction as Domination: A Republican Perspective*  
Hans de Zwart  
Radboud Universiteit, Netherlands / Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

*AI-Augmented Deliberation: hybrid assemblies, platforms, and republican*

*Reimagining the republic: equality, fraternity and the eradication of caste in Ambedkar's political writings*  
Manjeet Ramgotra  
SOAS University of London, England

*decision-making*  
Andrei Mogoutov  
Sciences Po, médialab, Paris, France

### 15:05-16:35 PANELS 14-15

#### **PANEL 14 – Room 1E** **Reviewing Neo-Republicanism**

*Republican Non-Domination Beyond the Polis: Interconnected Demoi and Global Capitalism*  
Peter Bloom  
University of Essex, England

*Rhetoric and Liberty in Quentin Skinner's Republican Thought*  
Giuseppe Ballacci  
Universidade do Minho, Portugal

*Liberty as non-domination: a review of Skinner and Pettit's historical interpretation*  
Alberto Ribeiro Gonçalves de Barros  
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas - Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

*The Republican Project and the Sociology of (Scientific) Knowledge in Turbulent Times*  
Rafal Pawel Wierzchoslawski  
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland

#### **PANEL 15 – Room 1G** **State, Civil Society and Freedom from Bodin to Schumpeter**

*Liberty, A Thing Much Dearer Than Life: Fatherly Sovereign and Free Subjects in Bodin*  
Bingshu Zhao  
University of Exeter, England

*Rousseau, republicanism, and the people*  
James Harris  
University of St Andrews, England

*Res Publica Duplex. The Biunity of Civil Society and the Political State in Hegel's Philosophy of Right*  
Günter Zöllner  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany

*The synergy between republican liberty and Schumpeterian theory*  
Andrea Capussela  
London School of Economics and Political Science, England

### 16:35-16:55 COFFEE BREAK

#### **16:55-18:10 KEYNOTE SPEECH – Room 1E**

*Freedom, State and Market*

**Philip Pettit**

**Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University / Australian National University (plenary)**

**SUNDAY 28 JUNE**

### 9:30-10:45 PANELS 16-17

#### **PANEL 16 – Room 1E** **Cooperative and Socialist Republicanism**

*On Liberty and Virtue: John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor's Democratic Transformations*

#### **PANEL 17 – Room 1G** **Contemporary Republican Discourses**

*Freedom, Power and Democracy in Iceland, 1990–2008: A Civic Republican Critique*

*to Republicanism*  
John Ayshford  
University of Manchester, England

Emma Björg Eyjólfsdóttir  
Háskóli Íslands – University of Iceland,  
Reykjavík, Iceland

*Governing the Shared: Housing Committees  
and the Material Foundations of Republican  
Participation, 1917–1922*  
Konstantin Tarasov  
University of Nottingham, England

*A Republican King? Republican Themes in the  
Speeches of Felipe VI*  
Francisco Beltran  
IE University, Spain

*Why Socialists should be Republicans?*  
Bruno Leipold and Tom O'Shea  
The London School of Economics and  
Political Science, England

*What Republic? Ordinary Understandings of  
Republicanism in Contemporary French  
«Cahiers de doléances»*  
Magali Della Sudda and Manon Pengam  
CNRS – Centre Émile Durkheim, Bordeaux  
and CY Cergy Paris Université, France

**10:45-11:05 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:05-12:35 CLOSING ROUNDTABLE: Freedom, Power and Oligarchy**

**Afternoon: guided visit to Biennale of Visual Art**