PUBLISHING PROPOSALS: GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

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This form is intended to give us a clear idea of your project in a succinct manner. Please complete it as fully as possible, or feel free to use it to structure your own proposal.

On submission, your proposal will be read by the appropriate editor at Palgrave who will, if necessary, discuss it with colleagues and/or send it for review by one or more external advisers chosen by us for their specialist and/or market expertise. Further details of relevant editorial contacts can be found at [www.palgrave.com/contactus/contacts/editorial.asp](http://www.palgrave.com/contactus/contacts/editorial.asp)

We are committed to making publishing decisions as swiftly and efficiently as possible. However, obtaining reviews does take time and if there are any circumstances we should bear in mind from the point of view of timing, please do let us know.

We ask for sole consideration of the project whilst it is under review – or notification from you should you already have submitted this proposal to another publisher

**THE PROJECT**

1. **Proposed Title and Subtitle:**

**To Be Perpetually *En Voyage*: Oakeshott and Voegelin on the Nature of Philosophy**

1. **Brief Description**

Is philosophy the name of a family of things, like "mammals", so that just as there are cats and dogs and whales and rodents, there are also idealist philosophies and materialist philosophies and existentialist philosophies? It seems quite doubtful that the founders of philosophy would have thought so. For philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, philosophy was characterized by zetesis, by a search for wisdom, and not by the supposed possession of wisdom captured in a "system," such as "phenomenology" or "transcendental idealism" or "materialist reductionism."

This paper focuses on two twentieth-century thinkers who understood philosophy much as did its Greek founders: Michael Oakeshott and Eric Voegelin. Although not often thought of primarily as philosophers, but more so as political theorists, each of them regarded himself as a primarily a philosopher. And I will argue that they largely agree on the nature of philosophy.

Nevertheless, that basic agreement is followed by a great divergence: for Voegelin, philosophy has vital practical value: following Plato, it is a discipline for creating right order in the soul, which is the foundation of political order. To the contrary, Oakeshott sees philosophy as essentially worthless for guiding practical affairs. This book will also ask from whence arises this parting of the ways and demonstrate that it has significance for the history of liberalism.

1. **Proposed Content**

Chapters:

**Introduction**

**Oakeshott and Voegelin: Parallel Lives**

**Oakeshott on Philosophy**

**Voegelin on Philosophy**

**The Influence of Plato**

**Hobbes: The Fork in the Road**

**The Impact on the Politics of Oakeshott and Voegelin**

**For This Is All a Dream We Dreamed One Afternoon Long Ago**

**Conclusion**

A paper summarizing the entire book, with roughly the above chapter structure, has been submitted along with this proposal.

1. **Market**

The main audience is academics in the fields of political philosophy, political theory, and history of thought.

The book should have wide appeal outside of the academic audience, as there is significant interest in the work of both Oakeshott and Voegelin in the broader public.

This work is distinctive because no one has done an in-depth comparison of these two important figures in 20th century thought. It also discusses nature, philosophy itself, and connects, both of the thinkers to the platonic tradition, and that should be a broader interest all interested in philosophy. Finally, as contemporary political thought is largely focused on the debate between liberalism and post liberalism, this work will clarify the nature of that debate.

1. **Competition**

*The Eric Voegelin Reader: Politics, History, Consciousness*, Dr. Charles R. Embry, Glenn Hughes, University of Missouri.

*Revolt Against Modernity: Leo Strauss, Eric Voegelin, and the Search for a Post-Liberal Order*, Ted McAllister, University Press of Kansas.

*Michael Oakeshott on the Human Condition*, Timothy Fuller, Liberty Fund.

*Challenges in Classical Liberalism*, Alice L. Kassens, Joshua C. Hall, Palgrave.

*Hayek and Post-War Chinese Liberalism*, Chor-yeung Cheung, Palgrave.

1. **Additional Information**

Completion date: 16 months after project green light.

Length: 80,000 words

Keywords: Oakeshott, Voegelin, Hobbes, philosophy, liberalism, post-liberalism

No previously published work will be included.

Experts:

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Why Palgrave: I have previously published with Palgrave and had a positive experience doing so. And this classical liberalism series is now considered the top in its area.

1. **Author(s)/Editor(s) Information**

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**Short Biography**

Gene Callahan has a PhD in political theory from Cardiff University. He is the author of the books *Economics for Real People* and *Oakeshott on Rome and America*. He has also edited the volumes *Tradition Versus Rationalism*, *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism*, and *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism Revisited*. He is a charter member of the Michael Oakeshott Association, and formerly a contributing editor at *Voegelin View*.