

WILLIAM TILLECZEK

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Canadian Citizen

William Tilleczek is a **political theorist** with **research/teaching interests in:**

Ancient Mediterranean Political Thought | Continental and Critical Theory | Capitalism and Labour
Indian Political Thought (Ancient & 20th Century) | Anticolonial Theory | Gandhi | Foucault
History of Political Thought | Ethics and Politics of Technology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

McGill University & Université de Montréal | Department of Political Science
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, 2023-2025

Deep Springs College
Visiting Professor, Winter 2023

EDUCATION

Harvard University
PhD and MA in Government (2016–2022)

Dissertation: *Powers of Practice: Michel Foucault and the Politics of Asceticism*

- Awarded the *APSA Leo Strauss Award* (for best dissertation in political philosophy)
- Committee: Danielle Allen (chair); Katrina Forrester; Elizabeth Lunbeck; Panagiotis Roilos

University of Toronto
MA in Political Science (2014–2015)

University of King's College and Dalhousie University
BA (First Class Honours) in Contemporary Studies and English, Minor in Classics (2009–2014)

RESEARCH GROUPS AND GUEST RESEARCH STAYS

May 2025 **Sciences Po Paris** | *Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po* (CEVIPOF)

2023-present **McGill University** | *Research Group on Constitutional Studies*

2023-present **Université de Montréal** | *Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes*

2023-present **Université de Montréal** | *Lost/Found in Translation* (International DAAD-funded research group, in collaboration with the CIERA)

- May 2024 **Humboldt Universität zu Berlin** | Guest, *Lehrstuhl für Praktische Philosophie und Sozialphilosophie* (Prof. Rahel Jaeggi)
- 2019-2020 **École Normale Supérieure Paris** | Traveling Scholar, *Département des Sciences de l'Antiquité*

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 APSA Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation in a Topic of Political Philosophy
- 2023 The Delphi Academy of European Studies Summer Seminar Scholarship
- 2023 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$115,000
- 2022 Jens Aubrey Westengrad Scholarship, Harvard University
- 2022 Samuel P. Huntington Doctoral Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2021 GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2020 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for GENED 1171: Justice)
- 2019 Augustus Clifford Tower Fellowship for Study in France, Harvard University (for study at the École normale supérieure and archival research at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris)
- 2018 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Language Study Grant, Harvard University
- 2018 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for ETHRSO 39: Money, Markets, and Morals)
- 2018 GSAS Summer School Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2016 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Government of Canada, \$105,000 (Awarded and Declined)
- 2016 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Government of Canada, \$80,000
- 2014 SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship, \$17,500 (Awarded and Declined)
- 2014 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto
- 2014 James W. Tupper Graduate Fellowship in English, Dalhousie University (for study at University of Toronto)
- 2013 Graham Creighton Prize in English, Dalhousie University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “Practice or Product? Labour, Training, and the “Ethics” of AI.” *Global Labour Journal*, 16(2) (May 2025).
- “Training the Philosopher King: Ancient Models of Political Action in Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault.” *Journal of the Philosophy of History*, 18(3) (November 2024), 365-391.
- “Between Authority and Care: Plato’s *Crito* as Defense of the Philosophical Life.” *Dionysius*, 39 (July 2024), 97-129.
- “On the Ownership of the Means of Training: Domination, Asceticism, and Capacities of Resistance.” *Theory & Event*, 26(4) (October 2023), 701-726.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“The Aristotelean Ethic and the Spirit of Neoliberalism: *Askesis* and Capitalism Today,” in *Mythogenesis, Interdiscursivity, Ritual*. Ed. Burkhard Fehr and Panagiotis Roilos (Leiden/Boston: Brill, August 2024), 430-456.

“Graffiti Walls: Arts-Based Mental Health Knowledge Translation with Young People in Secondary Schools,” in *Creative Approaches to Health Education: New Ways of Thinking, Making, Doing, Teaching and Learning*. Ed. Deborah Lupton and Deana Leahy (London: Routledge, 2021). (With Katherine Boydell et al.)

Translations and Accompanying Works

“Simone Weil’s ‘Rationalisation’: Translated from French & Annotated,” *Global Labour Journal*, 15(1) (January 2024), 64-74.

With scholarly introduction: “Human Being, Working Body, Working Day,” *Global Labour Journal*, 15(1) (January 2024), 58-63.

Book Reviews

“(Review of) Mark Coeckelbergh, *Self-Improvement: Technologies of the Soul in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*.” *Journal of Foucault Studies*, No. 34 (2023): 52-56.

“(Review of) Niki Kasumi Clements, *Sites of the Ascetic Self: John Cassian and Christian Ethical Formation*.” *Journal of Foucault Studies*, No. 32 (2022): 388-391.

Journal Articles Under Review

“The Asceticism of the Oppressed: Anticolonial Ethics and the Collective Politics of Self Transformation” (Co-authored with Dimitri M’Bama). Revise and Resubmit with *Political Theory*.

“Self-and-Other-Determination: Racism, Populism, and the Failure of the Left in the Age of Neoliberalism,” *Critical International Review of Social and Political Philosophy* (symposium piece, under review).

“Revaluing the Currency: On the Problematization of Labour and Poverty in Ancient Greece” (under review).

Books (In Progress)

The City and Self-Transformation: Michel Foucault and the Politics of Asceticism. (Manuscript completed; under consideration by Princeton University Press).

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Invited Guest Lectures

“Reading Michel Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish*,” POL614: Political Theory Proseminar, *McGill University Department of Political Science*, Montreal, November 2023. (Seminar preparing PhD students for General Exams).

Instructor of Record

POL2090: *Pensée politique prémoderne* [Premodern Political Thought] (Université de Montréal), Winter 2025.

SOC204: *Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil: Work and Politics* (Deep Springs College), Winter 2023.

HUM010: *Introduction to Ancient Greek Language & Literature* (Deep Springs College), Winter 2023.

Teaching Fellow (with two tutorial sections)

GENED 1181: *Meritocracy and its Critics*, (Harvard University), Fall 2022.

GENED 1171: *Justice: Ethics in an Age of Pandemic and Racial Reckoning* (Harvard University), Fall 2020 (Assistant Head Teaching Fellow).

GOVT E-1045: *Justice* (Harvard Extension School), Spring 2019.

ETHRSON 39: *Money, Markets, and Morals* (Harvard University), Fall 2018.

Advising and Tutoring

Senior Thesis Co-supervisor (Harvard Department of Classics) for Lincoln Herrington, *Terrorism, Rhetoric, and the Forever Wars in Rome and America*, 2020 – 2021.

Tutor in Philosophy and Philosophy of Science (Dalhousie University), *Studying for Success Program*, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014.

Course Development

Graduate Student Assistant for development of online version of *Money, Markets, and Morals* (Harvard Extension School), Summer 2019.

Graduate Student Assistant for development of *RLST 3017: The Church and the Modern World* (University of Sudbury), 2015–2016.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Presentations

Manuscript Workshop on *The City and Self-Transformation*. Sponsored by McGill's Research Group on Constitutional Studies and the University of Montreal's Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes. With the participation of: William Roberts, Margaret Kohn, Sophie Bourgault, Niki Clements, Laurence McFalls. Montreal, November 15th, 2024.

"Self-and-Other-Determination, Neoliberalism, and the Failure of the Left," Yan P. Lin Center, Research Group on Global Justice, McGill University, April 2024. (Invited roundtable presentation on Inés Valdez' *Democracy and Empire: Labor, Nature, and the Reproduction of Capitalism*).

"Reflections on Translating Ἀσκησις in Linguistic, Philosophical, and Historical Context," *Lost/Found in Translation*, DAAD Workshop on Translation Methods and Practice, Université de Montréal, Montreal, October 2023. (Invited talk for inaugural session of workshop).

"'Sex is Boring.' On Not Writing the History of Sexuality with Michel Foucault" (Public Lecture), Deep Springs College, CA, April 2023.

“Friedrich Nietzsche als Philosoph des Alltags,” *Goethe Institut Boston, Denken auf Deutsch* (German-Language Public Seminar Series), Boston, November 2022.

“Ἀνθρώπων ἄρχειν. Critique and Training as Problems of Government from Antiquity to the Enlightenment,” *Methods and Practice in Classics Workshop*, Harvard University, April 2022.

“From Athens to Paris: Foucaultian Ethics and the Cross-Cultural Politics of Asceticism,” *Weatherhead Center for International Affairs: Cultural Politics Seminar*, Harvard University, November 2020.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

“Charisma and Capacity in Gandhi’s Ascetic Activism: Bodies, Collectives, Agency.” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Vancouver, September 2025. (Accepted).

“The Asceticism of the Oppressed: Anticolonial Ethics and Collective Politics.” (With Dimitri M’Bama). Presented two times:

Ethics and Politics: SciencesPo 11th Annual Graduate Conference, Paris, May 2025.

Anticolonial Worldmaking (Panel), *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Philadelphia, September 2024.

“Ethopoetics and Ethopolitics: Training Milieus and the Government of Habit.” Presented two times:

Ancient Greek Democracy, Aesthetics, and the Cultivation of the Political (Panel), *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Philadelphia, September 2024.

Closing Online Plenary, *Foucault World Congress: Rethinking Foucault’s Historical Ontology of Ourselves*, Innsbruck, Austria and Online, June 2024.

“Why Translate? The Self, the Other, and AI in the Ethics of Translation,” *Lost/Found in Translation: The Ethics of Translation*, Université de Montréal, April 2024.

“Training the Philosopher King: Antiquity, Politics, and Tradition in Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault,” *Essais et hypotheses* (works in progress lecture series), Université de Montréal, March 2024.

“Coercion, Capacity, and Training in the Social *Asketerion*,” *Research Group on Constitutional Studies, Works in Progress Series*, McGill University, Montreal, November 2023.

“Self-Transcendence and Consumerism in Late Capitalism: From Dichotomy to Dialectic,” *Religion in the Public Sphere: From the Ancient Years to the Post-Modern Era, Thirteenth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society*, University of Athens, June 2023.

“The Practice Imperative, or: Is the Care of the Self a Neoliberal Trap?,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 54th Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2022.

“Alienation, Asceticism, and the Entrepreneurship of the Self: Towards an Anthropology of Ascesis Today,” *Traveling Texts: From Traditions to Religions, Twelfth International Conference on*

Religion & Spirituality in Society, University of Córdoba Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, June 2022.

“Maximize and Alienate: Self-Improvement, Marxism, and Freedom in Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*,” *Midwest Political Science Association 79th Annual Conference*, Chicago, April 2022.

“Self-Production and the Politics of Inequality: From Aristotle to the Lifestyle Market via Foucault,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 53rd Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2021.

“Biography of an Ascetic: Reading With and Against Context in the Oeuvre of Michel Foucault,” *Context(s): Dialogues Between the History of Ideas and Political Theory, SciencesPo 8th Annual Graduate Conference*, November 2021.

“On Practice, Habit, and Anthropotechnics: Towards an Ascetological Foucault,” *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, Harvard University, October 2020.

“Revaluing the Currency: On the Problematization of Labour and Poverty in Classical Athens,” *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, Harvard University, January 2018.

“Severity Must Cure it: Morality and Politics in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*,” *University of King's College 2nd Annual Conference of the Early Modern*, Halifax NS, February 2014.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference Organization and Chairing

Conference Co-organizer and Moderator, *The Politics and Ethics of Labour: 43rd Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society*, Montreal, April 2024.

Panel Chair and Organizer, “Democracy, Education, and the Politics of Self-Cultivation,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 54th Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2022.

Panel Chair, “Political Philosophy in a Pandemic: Albert Camus' *Plague*,” *2022 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Montreal, September 2022.

Panel Organizer, “The Political Theory of Habit: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 53rd Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2021.

Conference Co-organizer, *Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, Cambridge MA, 2018.

Discussant (Workshops, Panels)

Conference panel, “New Directions in Hannah Arendt's Political Thought,” *2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Los Angeles, September 2023.

Conference panel, “Political Philosophy in a Pandemic: Albert Camus' *Plague*,” *2022 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Montreal, September 2022.

Conference panel, “Critiques of Liberalism, Market, and Populism,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 53rd Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2021.

Workshop, “How Should Historical Injustice Affect How We Think About Patriotism?,” Jacob Hoerger, *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, November 2020.

Workshop, “A Pre-History of the Concept of ‘Historical Injustice,’” Jacob Hoerger, *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, February 2019.

Conference, “Hegel on Religion, Education, and Modernity,” Darren Nah, *Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, October 2018.

Workshop, “Pragmatism Confronts the Publicity Agent: Locating John Dewey on Propaganda,” Justin Pottle, *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, October 2018.

Workshop, “Rousseauian Pity Revisited: A New Justification for its Naturalness and Moral Significance,” Antong Liu, *Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, October 2017.

Workshop, “Incarceration as Theory and Practice in Plato,” Jacob Abolafia, *Harvard Political Theory Workshop*, September 2017.

Other Service

Peer Reviewer, *Philosophy and Society*, 2025.

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the Philosophy of History*, 2024.

Course Reviewer, *Modern Greek for Classicists*, Paideia Institute, 2024.

Peer Reviewer, *The Review of Politics*, 2023.

Organizer, Deep Springs College German & French Language Tables, 2023.

Co-organizer, Harvard Dudley House French Table, 2018 – 2019.

SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Languages

Modern Languages (speaking, listening, reading, and writing)

- English: Native Language
- French: **Fluent** (C2)
- German: **Fluent** (C1)
- Modern Greek: **High-Intermediate** (B2)

Ancient Languages

- Ancient Greek: **Advanced** reading, w/ training in prose composition & spoken Attic Greek
- Latin: **Intermediate** reading knowledge
- Sanskrit: **Basic** reading knowledge

Advanced Training and Certificates (Extra-curricular/postdoctoral; selection)

Genre et droits humains en Inde (Gender and Human Rights in India, PLU6911A), Summer intensive seminar, Université de Montréal, May 2025

Displacement, Migration, Memory, The Delphi Academy of European Studies Seminar, European Cultural Center of Delphi, Greece, June 2023.

Goethe-Zertifikat C1, Goethe Institut Boston, August 2022. Completed with highest distinction (“sehr gut”).

Français global et actes de paroles I-II et Langue et société québécoise, Université de Québec à Chicoutimi, May-June 2019.

REFERENCES

Danielle Allen

James Bryant Conant Professor
Harvard University
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Elizabeth Lunbeck

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in Residence
Harvard University
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James Faubion

Radoslav Tsanoff Chair (Emeritus)
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