

## WILLIAM TILLECZEK

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Canadian Citizen

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

History of Western Political Thought (Ancient/Modern) | Foucault | Gandhi | Anticolonial Thought  
Indian Political Thought | Continental/Critical Theory | Capitalism/Labour/Technology

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Université de Montréal** | Département de science politique et Centre d'études classiques  
*Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, 2025-2026*

**McGill University** | Department of Political Science  
*SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, 2023-2025*

**Deep Springs College** | Humanities and Social Sciences  
*Visiting Professor, Winter 2023*

### EDUCATION

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**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)

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Books

*The City and Self-Transformation: Michel Foucault and the Politics of Asceticism.* (Revise and resubmit, University of Chicago Press)

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “The Asceticism of the Oppressed: Anticolonial Ethics and the Politics of Collective Self-Transformation” (Co-authored with Dimitri M’Bama). *Political Theory* (Forthcoming, 2026).
- “Excessive Attachments: Racial Capitalism and the Failure of the Left in the Age of Neoliberalism,” *Critical International Review of Social and Political Philosophy* (Forthcoming 2025).
- “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, Reviews, Essays

- “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.
- Review: Mark Coeckelbergh, *Self-Improvement: Technologies of the Soul in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*.” *Journal of Foucault Studies*, No. 34 (2023): 52-56.
- Review: Niki Kasumi Clements, *Sites of the Ascetic Self: John Cassian and Christian Ethical Formation*.” *Journal of Foucault Studies*, No. 32 (2022): 388-391.

## Working Papers / Projects

- “Asceticism in Indian Anticolonial Activism: Charisma, Capacity, Gender” (Article in progress; first version presented APSA 2025)
- Lettres d’un ascète* [Ascetic Epistles: Letters 1-100 of Isidore of Pelusium], first modern-language translation of the Ancient Greek (with Christian Raschle; In progress, anticipated completion of manuscript May 2026)

## RESEARCH GROUPS AND GUEST RESEARCH STAYS

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- 2025-present **Université de Montréal** | *Centre d'études classiques* (researcher/translator in Prof. Christian Raschle's new edition and translation of Isidore of Pelusium)
- 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)
- 2023-2025 **McGill University** | *Research Group on Constitutional Studies*
- May 2025 **Sciences Po Paris** | *Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po* (CEVIPOF)
- May 2024 **Humboldt Universität zu Berlin** | *Lehrstuhl für Praktische Philosophie und Sozialphilosophie* (Prof. Rahel Jaeggi)
- 2019-2020 **École Normale Supérieure Paris** | *Département des Sciences de l'Antiquité*

## AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

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- 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

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

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### Instructor of Record

POL 2090: *Pensée politique prémoderne* [Premodern political thought]. (Université de Montréal). Winter 2026; Winter 2025.

POL 2050: *Représentation politique* [Political Representation] (Université de Montréal). Fall 2025.  
SOC 204: *Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil: Work and Politics* (Deep Springs College), Winter 2023.  
HUM 010: *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.

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

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

### **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**

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### **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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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

- “Practice or Product? Translation, Labour, and the ‘Ethics’ of AI,” as part of seminar “Alphabets and AI,” *American Comparative Literature Association 2026 Annual Meeting*, Montreal, 2026 (accepted).
- “Charisma and Capacity in Gandhi’s Ascetic Activism: Bodies, Collectives, Agency.” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition*, Vancouver, September 2025.
- “The Asceticism of the Oppressed: Anticolonial Ethics and Collective Politics.” (With Dimitri M’Bama). Presented two times:  
*Ethics and Politics: SciencesPo 11<sup>th</sup> 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 54<sup>th</sup> 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 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*, Chicago, April 2022.
- “Self-Production and the Politics of Inequality: From Aristotle to the Lifestyle Market via Foucault,” *Northeastern Political Science Association 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Early Modern*, Halifax NS, February 2014.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### Conference Organization and Chairing

- Conference Co-organizer and Moderator, *The Politics and Ethics of Labour: 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 54<sup>th</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference*, Boston, November 2021.
- Conference Co-organizer, *Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, Cambridge MA, 2018.

## Discussant (Workshops, Conferences)

Conference panel, “Fighting Black: The Politically Transformative Power of Black Martial Artistry,” Tré Garnett, as part of conference: *Democracy and Design: Black Feminist Perspectives on Monuments, Clearings, and Fabrication*, McGill University, Montreal, September 2025.

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 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 presentation, “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

Committee member, APSA Foundations of Political Theory Best Paper Award, 2026.

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

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### 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

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##### **Danielle Allen**

James Bryant Conant Professor  
Harvard University  
[danielleallen@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:danielleallen@fas.harvard.edu)

##### **Katrina Forrester**

J. L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences  
Harvard University  
[kforrester@g.harvard.edu](mailto:kforrester@g.harvard.edu)

##### **Elizabeth Lunbeck**

Professor of the History of Science  
in Residence  
Harvard University  
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##### **Panagiotis Roilos**

George Seferis Professor of Modern Greek Studies  
& Professor of Comparative Literature  
Harvard University  
[roilos@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:roilos@fas.harvard.edu)

##### **James Faubion**

Radoslav Tsanoff Chair (Emeritus)  
Rice University Anthropology  
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##### **Laurence McFalls**

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Université de Montréal  
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##### **William Clare Roberts**

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##### **Sergio Imparato**

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##### **Michael Sandel**

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