

## WILLIAM TILLECZEK

Department of Political Science  
University of Montreal  
3150 Rue Jean-Brillant  
Montreal, Quebec, H3T 1P1

Email: [william.tilleczek@umontreal.ca](mailto:william.tilleczek@umontreal.ca)  
Website: <https://williamtilleczek.github.io>  
Phone: 1-514-343-6578  
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**

---

**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**

---

**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**

---

#### **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

---

- 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

---

- 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 ETHRSON 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

---

### 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**

---

### **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 Ἀσκητις 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 hypothèses* (works in progress lecture series), Université de Montréal, March 2024.

“Coercion, Capacity, and Training in the Social *Askēterion*,” *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

---

### 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, “Rousseauean 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**

---

### **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  
[danielleallen@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:danielleallen@fas.harvard.edu)

### Elizabeth Lunbeck

Professor of the History of Science  
in Residence  
Harvard University  
[lunbeck@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:lunbeck@fas.harvard.edu)

### James Faubion

Radoslav Tsanoff Chair (Emeritus)  
Rice University Anthropology  
[jdf@rice.edu](mailto:jdf@rice.edu)

### William Clare Roberts

Associate Professor Political Science  
McGill University  
[william.roberts3@mcgill.ca](mailto:william.roberts3@mcgill.ca)

### Michael Sandel

Anne T. & Robert M. Bass Professor of Government  
Harvard University

### Katrina Forrester

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

### Panagiotis Roilos

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

### Laurence McFalls

Professor Emeritus of Political Science  
Université de Montréal  
[laurence.mcfalls@umontreal.ca](mailto:laurence.mcfalls@umontreal.ca)

### Sergio Imparato

Lecturer on Government  
Harvard University  
[sergioimparato@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:sergioimparato@fas.harvard.edu)

[msandel@gov.harvard.edu](mailto:msandel@gov.harvard.edu)