

Montesquieu, A Philosopher for the Early American Republic ?

International Conference | Colloque International

Maison de la Recherche, 28 rue Serpente

A CNRS-University of Chicago Joint Program Initiative

Wednesday, 15 June

9:30 **Opening of the Conference**

9:30 Hugo Toudic: Welcome Speech
Organizer of the Conference

9:45 Alain Schuhl: Opening Remarks
Deputy CEO for Science, *CNRS*

10 - 12:15 **From *The Spirit of the Laws* to the US Constitution**
Chair: Céline Spector

10 Jack Rakove: "Montesquieu's "Influence" on Madison: Some Problems,
Some Puzzles"
Professor Emeritus of History, *Stanford University*

11 *Pause*

11:15 Hugo Toudic: "'They are the sign – the people are the thing signified.'
Political representation according to Brutus and Publius"
PhD Candidate, *CNRS-University of Chicago/Sorbonne University*

12:15 - 14 *Lunch: Le Bouillon Racine*

14:30 - 17 **Montesquieu's most astute reader?**
Chair: Céline Spector

14:30 Paul Cheney: "Terror and Revolution: Montesquieu and the American
Founding in Arendt's Political Philosophy"
Professor of History, *The University of Chicago*

15:30 Sharon Krause: "Montesquieu, Arendt, and the 'Constitutio Libertatis':
Relational Power, Plural Freedom"
Professor of Political Science, *Brown University*

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Thursday, 16 June

9:30 - 12h30

The Oracle of Political Science

Chair: Paul Cheney

9:30

Adam Lebovitz: "The Transatlantic Turn Against Montesquieu, 1770-1815"
Research Fellow, *University of Cambridge*

10:30

Michael Zuckert: "Anglophilia and the American Founding"
Professor, *University of Notre-Dame*

11:30

Pause

11:45

Odile Tourneux: "Souveraineté et républiques fédératives"
PhD, *ENS de Lyon*

13 - 14:30

Lunch: Les Editeurs

15 - 17:30

The Modernities of Montesquieu

Chair: Hugo Toudic

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Paul O. Carrese: "A Defensible Liberal Republic: The Montesquieuan Foundations of American Foreign Policy"
Professor of Political Science, *Arizona State University*

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Jacob T. Levy: "An ancient constitution built from modern materials"
Professor of Political Science, *McGill University*

Friday, 17 June

9:30 - 12

From Europe to America. And Back **Chair : Paul Cheney**

9:30

Luke Foster: "Montesquieu's Case for Honor in The Federalist: Transposing the Society of Orders to the Commercial Republic"
PhD Candidate, *The University of Chicago - University of Notre Dame*

10:30

Nicolas Arens: "From virtue to patriotism, from Europe to America, and back: When Tocqueville tests Montesquieu in America"
Post Doctorant, *UC Louvain*

11:45 - 13:45

Lunch: *Le Procope*

14 - 16:30

AMERICA 2026 Roundtable

Chair: Patrick Spero

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Bertrand Van Ruymbeke: "Translating American State Constitutions into French (1780s-1790s). Lost in translation?"

Professor of American History, *University of Paris 8*

14:30 - 15

Iris de Rode: "Military Enlightenment on the Grounds - The French and American Independence."

Research fellow, *Mount Vernon*

15 - 15:30

Jean-Baptiste Goyard: "The Small-Republic Thesis Before 1787: An Anachronism?"

PhD Candidate in History, *University of Paris 8*

15:30 - 16:30

Patrick Spero: Conclusion of the Roundtable

Librarian and Director, *American Philosophical Society*

16:30

Closing Speech

Robert Morissey: "A l'ombre des Lumières. L'invention du discours victimaire dans les Lettres persanes"

Professor of French Literature

17:15

Final Reception at the Sorbonne

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