

Critical Perspectives on Republicanism and Democracy: Political, Economic and Social

ECPR Political Theory Section Panel Proposal
Hamburg, 22 – 25th August, 2018

Panel Organisers: Guy Aitchison (University College Dublin) and Bruno Leipold
(Goethe University Frankfurt/Free University of Berlin)

This panel brings together papers that seek to re-examine and interrogate the core principles of republican political theory, extending them to new political subjects and new domains of decision-making. The initial wave of republican studies has been increasingly criticised for its neglect of the economic and social aspects of domination; for uncritically accepting the structures of liberal democracy and for its reliance on a historical narrative that excludes non-Western and more modern instantiations of republicanism. This panel will bring together these emerging critical perspectives and will examine a number of key questions:

- Should republicans fear or embrace ‘populism’?
- Is there a republican case for workplace democracy?
- Should republicans be sceptical about markets?
- What, if anything, does republicanism add to traditional liberal models of constitutionalism?
- Is the capitalist economy a source of structural domination?
- What does republicanism have to say about the political rights of undocumented migrants, refugees, temporary workers and other migrants?
- Are border controls a legitimate expression of popular sovereignty or an unjust source of arbitrary power?
- How have republican themes been developed and interpreted within non-Western intellectual traditions?
- How can republican principles inform a critique of international, supranational and global political institutions?
- How does the republican ideal of non-domination illuminate forms of oppression rooted in social identity?
- How does republican non-domination relate to insights from critical theory and post-structuralism?

Confirmed Speakers:

- Guy Aitchison (University College Dublin): ‘Democracy and the Right to Resist’

- Annelien De Dijn (University of Amsterdam): 'Egalitarian Republicanism in the Eighteenth Century and Today'
- Dorothea Gädde (Goethe University Frankfurt): 'Towards Critical Republicanism'
- Bruno Leipold (Goethe University Frankfurt/Free University of Berlin): 'Controlling Elites through Imperative Mandates'
- Banu Turnaoğlu (University of Cambridge): 'Democracy in the Early Turkish Republic'