

## [LETTER FROM THE EDITORS]

Dear Reader,

We are proud to present the Winter issue of the *Journal of Political Thought* and welcome you into its pages.

The *Journal* is committed to political thinking in all its dimensions: from normative examinations of political institutions and ethical challenges, to historical explorations of the fundamental categories and thinkers in the history of political thought, to integrated treatments of normative, historical, and empirical questions. The best way to showcase this diversity is to turn to the articles themselves.

In our first piece, Christopher McGill examines arguments in environmental ethics that pertain to weighing current lives against future lives. Through a series of stylized thought experiments in the tradition of analytic philosophy, he interrogates various candidate moral propositions to argue that current people's rights narrowly assume priority over those of future people.

In our second piece, Aaron Greenberg explores the politics of history through a critical comparison of Michel Foucault's "Nietzsche, Genealogy, and History," and Walter Benjamin's "Theses on the Philosophy of History." Both deeply wary of the dangers of received universalizing progressive narratives of history, these two thinkers differ importantly on the role history can play in a politics of emancipation and revolution.

In our third piece, J.A. Rudinsky delves into Michael Oakeshott's legal theory of adjudication. Situating Oakeshott between legal realism and formalism, Rudinsky argues that Oakeshott makes a unique contribution to the common law tradition. Integrating his theory of law with broader themes in Oakeshott's political philosophy, Rudinsky nuances our understanding of both Oakeshott and the common law more generally.

In our interview feature, Bruce Ackerman reflects on his career as both a legal scholar and political theorist—a background that provides unique insight into the relationship between constitutionalism and political philosophy. Our wide-ranging conversation touches upon enduring tensions among liberalism, republicanism, and cosmopolitanism, and the ways in which these traditions inform conceptions of citizenship for the twenty first century.

We hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,  
The Editorial Board