

Quentin Skinner's 'Meaning and Understanding' after 50 Years: interdisciplinary perspectives

**Wednesday 7 - Thursday 8 July 2021
Online**

Hosted by The British Academy, London

Convenors:

Dr Adrian Blau, King's College London

Dr Joanne Paul, University of Sussex



The British Academy

Day 1: Wednesday 7 July 2021

- 12:00 **Introduction**
Dr Adrian Blau (King's College London)
- 12:15 **Session 1: Revisiting Skinner's 'Meaning and Understanding'**
Chair: Dr Julia Nicholls (King's College London)
- Professor Melissa Lane (Princeton University, USA)
"The cook should not participate": reading Plato on politics in a Skinnerian light
- Dr Carol Atack (University of Cambridge)
Meaning and understanding in the history of Ancient Greek political thought
- Professor Gordon Finlayson (University of Sussex)
Another contest of the faculties? On reconstruction and interpretation in the history of political philosophy
- 13:30 *Lunch**
- 14:30 **Session 2: Rethinking Skinner's 'Meaning and Understanding'**
Chair: Dr Vanessa Lim (School of Advanced Study, University of London)
- Dr Adrian Blau (King's College London)
Racist political theory and the mythology of coherence
- Dr Samuel Bruce (University of Oxford)
Two Cambridge Schools: historically informed practice in music and intellectual history
- Professor Al Martinich (University of Texas at Austin, USA)
The two communications of historical interpretation
- 15:45 *Break*
- 16:00 **Session 3: Response to commentators and discussion**
Chair: Dr Teresa Bejan (University of Oxford)
- Professor Quentin Skinner FBA (Queen Mary University of London) in conversation with Dr Teresa Bejan (University of Oxford)
- 17:00 End of first day of conference*

Day 2: Thursday 8 July 2021

- 12:00 **Introduction**
Dr Joanne Paul (University of Sussex)
- 12:15 **Session 4: Comparative political theory**
Chair: Dr Leandro Losada (I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Italy and State University of San Martin, Argentina)
- Dr Rochana Bajpai (SOAS, University of London)
Comparative political thought as interpretive social science
- Dr Humeira Iqtidar (King's College London)
Meaning, context, interpretations in the Islamic tradition
- Professor Leigh Jenco (London School of Economics)
The emergence of historicism in early modern China: an alternative vision of history of political thought
- Professor Sor-hoon Tan (Singapore Management University, Singapore)
Texts and traditions
- 13:45 *Lunch**
- 14:45 **Session 5: Rhetoric and ideological analysis**
Chair: Dr Erica Benner, Political philosopher and writer
- Tribute to Dr Judi Atkins (Aston University)*
- Professor Alan Finlayson (University of East Anglia)
Political theory in the wild
- Dr Sophia Hatzisavvidou (University of Bath)
How (not) to understand nature
- Dr Jonathan Leader Maynard (King's College London)
Ideology as infrastructure
- 16:00 *Break*
- 16:30 **Session 6: Digital humanities and quantitative text analysis**
Chair: Dr Benjamin Martin (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- Dr Jacqueline Basu (Stanford University, USA) and Professor Alison McQueen (Stanford University, USA)
Christian burlesque: Thomas Hobbes's scriptural strategies
- Dr Mark J. Hill (University of Helsinki, Finland) and Professor Mikko Tolonen (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Metadata, quantitative text analysis, and social networks: new contextual insights into historical ideas

Professor Sali Tagliamonte (University of Toronto, Canada)
Quentin Skinner from a sociolinguistic perspective

17:45 *Break**

18:15 **Session 7: ‘Meaning and Understanding’ revisited:
response to commentators and discussion**
Chair: Dr Adrian Blau (King’s College London)

Professor Quentin Skinner FBA (Queen Mary University of London)

19:30 End of conference

*You can join other attendees and speakers during lunch on both days, at the end of Day One, and the final break on Day Two in breakout rooms via Zoom Meetings, allowing you to network and talk in groups as you would at an in-person conference. This aspect will be managed by the conference convenors rather than the British Academy and further details will be made available to attendees ahead of the conference.