

**JENNIFER G. PITTS**  
[as of August 2025]

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University of Chicago  
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**Faculty Appointments**

- 2018-      Professor of Political Science and the Committee on Social Thought  
                 Chair, Political Science, 2024-  
                 Associate Chair, Political Science, 2020-2023  
2007–18    Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago  
2004–07    Assistant Professor of Politics, Princeton University  
2000–04    Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University

**Education**

- 2000      Ph.D., Political Science, Harvard University (1994–2000)  
                 “Nation, rights, and progress: the emergence of liberal imperialism, 1780–1850”  
                 Committee: Richard Tuck (chair), Stanley Hoffmann, Pratap Bhanu Mehta  
1992      B.A., *summa cum laude*, English, Yale University

**Publications**

**BOOKS**

- 2024      *The Cambridge History of Rights*, volume 4 (of 5), Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, co-edited with Dan Edelstein (Cambridge)
- 2022      W.E.B. Du Bois, *International Thought*, Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought, co-edited with Adom Getachew (Cambridge)
- 2018      *Boundaries of the International: Law and Empire* (Harvard)  
                 Reviewed in: *Political Theory*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Foreign Affairs*, *H-Diplo*, *Journal of the History of International Law*, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *The Historian*, *RECorDIP* (Spanish), *UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*.  
                 Chinese translation under contract
- 2017      *The Law of Nations in Global History*, an edited collection of the essays of Charles Henry Alexandrowicz, co-edited with David Armitage (Oxford)  
                 Reviewed in: *Jus Gentium*, *Comparative Legal History*  
                 Polish translation of the introduction forthcoming in Anna Przyborowska-Klimczak and Wojciech Staszewski, eds., *Polska Nauka Prawa Międzynarodowego–Ziedziectwo Przeszłości i Wyzwania Współczesności* (2019/2020)  
                 Japanese translation of introduction and selected essays under contract
- 2005      *A Turn to Empire: the rise of imperial liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton)  
                 Co-winner of the 2006 Best First Book award, Foundations of Political Theory section, American Political Science Association; A Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2005  
                 Reviewed in: *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Federal Lawyer*, *Foreign Affairs*, *H-France*, *H-Net*, *The Historian*, *The Historical Journal*, *History*, *History of Political Thought*, *Journal of*

*British Studies, Journal of Modern History, International History Review, Le Movement Social, Perspectives on Politics, Political Theory, Polity, Revue d'études benthamiennes, Utilitas, Victorian Studies*

French translation: *Naissance de la bonne conscience coloniale* (Paris: Éditions de l'Atelier, 2008)

Chinese translation (Phoenix Library, 2009)

Arabic translation (Dar Al-Jadawel, 2018)

2001 Editor and translator, *Alexis de Tocqueville: Writings on empire and slavery* (Johns Hopkins)

#### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2017 "International Relations and the Critical History of International Law," *International Relations* 31.3 (2017), 282–298
- 2015 "Irony in Adam Smith's Critical Global History," *Political Theory* 45.2 (April 2017), 141–63 [first published online June 8, 2015]
- 2012 "Empire and legal universalisms in the eighteenth century," *American Historical Review* 117.1 (February 2012), 92–121
- 2011 with Stephen Engelmann, "Bentham's 'Place and Time'," *Tocqueville Review* 32.1, 43–66
- 2009 "Liberalism and empire in a nineteenth-century Algerian mirror," *Modern Intellectual History* 6.2, 287–313
- 2003 "Legislator of the world? A rereading of Bentham on India," *Political Theory* 31.2, 200–234
- 2000 "Liberalism and Empire: Tocqueville on Algeria," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 8.3, 295–318

#### ESSAYS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- In press "The Good Ambassadors: Gender and Diplomacy in the Marriage of Figaro," commentary on David Armitage, "You Can't Fool Rules: Niemeyer Lectures in Political Philosophy," *Review of Politics*
- In press "Imperialism," in *Cambridge dictionary of political thought*, gen. ed. Terence Ball, (Cambridge UP) (1000 words)
- 2025 "Enlightenment cosmopolitanism and empire," in *The Oxford Handbook of Cosmopolitanism*, ed. Prathama Banerjee, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lisa Wedeen (Oxford UP, 2026) Online 2025: <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197623022.003.0002>
- 2024 "The society of nations, imperialism, and the color line: Three conceptions of the international," in *Rise of the International*, ed. Richard Devetak and Tim Dunne (Oxford UP)
- 2022 "The uses of history in the study of international politics," in *History and the Human Sciences*, ed. Richard Bourke and Quentin Skinner (Cambridge UP)
- 2022 Disclosing the Problem of Empire in Du Bois's International Thought, co-authored with Adom Getachew, in *The Oxford Handbook to W.E.B. Du Bois* (Oxford UP)
- 2021 "Liberal democracy and the tenacity of empire," *Contemporary Political Theory* exchange on "The Afterlives of Empire," ed. Inder Marwah
- 2021 "Law of nations, world of empires: the politics of law's conceptual frames," in *History, Politics, and Law*, ed. Annabel Brett, Megan Donaldson, and Martti Koskenniemi (Cambridge UP)
- 2019 "Ideas of Empire," in *Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* (volume 1: Nineteenth Century), ed. Warren Breckman and Peter Gordon (Cambridge UP), 447–469
- 2018 With David Armitage, "Charles Henry Alexandrowicz," entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

- 2017 "International Law," in *Historicism and the human sciences in Victorian Britain*, ed. Mark Bevir (Cambridge UP), 237–61
- 2014 "Enlightenment Global Histories," *A Companion to global historical thought*, ed. Prasenjit Duara, Viren Murthy, and Andrew Sartori (Wiley-Blackwell)
- 2014 « Empire colonial et universalismes juridiques au dix-huitième siècle » *Penser l'Europe au XVIIIe siècle*, ed. Antoine Lilti and Céline Spector (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation) [a version of the 2012 *American Historical Review* article above]
- 2013 "Intervention and sovereign equality: legacies of Vattel," in *Just and Unjust Military Intervention*, ed. Stefano Recchia and Jennifer Welsh (Cambridge UP)  
— Reprint in *Humanitarian Intervention*, ed. Alex Bellamy (Routledge, 2017)
- 2013 "Democracy and domination: Empire, slavery, and democratic corruption in Tocqueville's thought," in *Tocqueville and the frontiers of democracy*, ed. Ewa Atanassow and Richard Boyd (Cambridge UP)
- 2012 "Republicanism, Liberalism, and Empire in Postrevolutionary France," in *Empire and Modern Political Thought*, ed. Sankar Muthu (Cambridge UP)
- 2012 "Burke and the Ends of Empire," in *Cambridge Companion to Edmund Burke*, ed. Christopher Insole and David Dwan (Cambridge UP)
- 2012 "Liberalism and Empire reconsidered," with Uday Mehta and Matthew Fitzpatrick, in *Liberal imperialism in Europe*, ed. Matthew Fitzpatrick (Palgrave Macmillan)
- 2011 "Empire, progress, and the 'savage mind'"; in *Colonialism and its Legacies*, ed. Jacob Levy and Iris Marion Young (Rowman and Littlefield)
- 2010 "'Great and distant crimes': Bentham on Empire and International Law," *Bentham: Rethinking the Tradition*, ed. Stephen Engelmann, Yale UP
- 2010 "Political Theory and Empire," *Annual Review of Political Science* (reprinted in *Empire and Modern Political Thought*, ed. Sankar Muthu, Cambridge UP 2012)
- 2010 "Hobson's Imperialism: A Reconsideration," *Raritan* 29.3 (Winter 2010)
- 2009 "Staat und colonialismus bei Bentham und Mill," *Vom Nutzen des Staates: Das Staatsverständnis des klassischen Utilitarismus Hume – Bentham – Mill*, ed. Olaf Asbach (Baden-Baden: Nomos-Verlagsgesellschaft)
- 2009 "Constant's Thought on Empire and Slavery," in *The Cambridge Companion to Benjamin Constant*, ed. Helena Rosenblatt (Cambridge UP), 115–45
- 2007 "Boundaries of Victorian International Law," in *Victorian Visions of Global Order*, Duncan Bell, ed. (Cambridge UP), 67–88
- 2007 "Liberalism, Democracy, and Empire: Tocqueville on Algeria"; in *Tocqueville Today?*, Raf Geenens and Annelien De Dijn, eds., Palgrave Macmillan
- 2005 "Jeremy Bentham: Legislator of the World?"; in *Utilitarianism and Empire*, Bart Schultz and Georgios Varouxakis, eds., Lexington Books, 57–91.
- 2005 "L'Empire britannique, un modèle pour l'Algérie française: Nation et civilisation chez Tocqueville et J.S. Mill," in *L'esclavage, la colonisation, et après... Etats-Unis, France, Royaume-Uni*, ed. Stéphane Dufoix, Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 55–81.
- 2004 "Edmund Burke's peculiar cosmopolitanism," *Diacritica* (Portugal) 18.2, 173–204.

## BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

- 2025 Geneviève Rousselière, *Sharing Freedom: republicanism and exclusion in revolutionary France*, *History of European Ideas*
- 2024 Olivier Zunz, *The Man Who Understood Democracy*, *Journal of Modern History*
- 2023 Martti Koskeniemi, *To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth*, *Journal of the History of International Law*, doi:10.1163/15718050-12340219
- 2022 "A difficult thought for us to stay with," review of Dipesh Chakrabarty, *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age*, *Review of Politics*

- 2021 Murad Idris, *War for Peace: Genealogies of a Violent Ideal in Western and Islamic Thought, Perspectives on Politics* (Critical Dialogue)
- 2021 Stephen W. Sawyer, *Demos Assembled, H-Diplo*
- 2019 John J. Mearsheimer, *The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities, H-Diplo*
- 2018 Samuel Moyn, *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World, Political Theory* 47.2 (2019), [online December 2018]
- 2018 “Unchanged by change,” review of J.C.D. Clark, *Thomas Paine: Britain, America, and France in the Age of Enlightenment and Revolution, Times Literary Supplement*, September 7, 2018
- 2017 “Striking Back,” review of Krishan Kumar, *Visions of Empire, Times Literary Supplement*, December 8, 2017
- 2017 “‘That hippopotamus the American people’,” review of Alexander Livingston, *Damn Great Empires!*, *Theory & Event* 20.5 (July 2017), 861–866
- 2016 “Ethical Egoism,” review of John Bew, *Realpolitik, Times Literary Supplement*, September 14, 2016
- 2015 “The critical history of international law,” review essay, *Political Theory* 43.4, 541–52 (reviewing Stephen Neff, *Justice Among Nations* (Harvard, 2014) and Teemu Ruskola, *Legal Orientalism: China, the United States, and Modern Law* (Harvard, 2013). Chinese version: translated by Ma Dongfei and published in *Law Book Review* (《书评》), Vol.12 (2017), 64–74.
- 2013 Isaac Nakhimovsky, *The Closed Commercial State: Perpetual Peace and Commercial Society from Rousseau to Fichte* (Princeton, 2011), *Perspectives on Politics* 11:273–75
- 2012 “A liberal geoculture?” Review of Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System IV: Centrist Liberalism Triumphant, 1789–1914, New Left Review* 78 (Nov–Dec 2012) Spanish version: “¿Una geocultura liberal?”, *New Left Review* 78 (Enero–Febrero 2013), 147–56
- 2012 “Sovereignty, governance, law and liberalism in recent works on the East India Company,” review essay, *Radical History Review* 112 (Winter 2012), 193–200
- 2012 Theodore Koditschek, *Liberalism, Imperialism, and the Historical Imagination: Nineteenth-Century Visions of a Greater Britain* (Cambridge UP, 2011), *American Historical Review* (June 2012), 933–34.
- 2011 Domenico Losurdo, *Liberalism: A Counter-History, Times Literary Supplement*, Sept. 23, 2011
- 2010 Patrick Weil, *How to be French: Nationality in the Making since 1789*, Duke 2008, in *American Historical Review* 115, April 2010, 621–22
- 2010 Frederick Whelan, *Enlightenment Political Thought and Non-Western Societies: Sultans and Savages*, Routledge 2009, in *Perspectives on Politics* 8:352–53.
- 2010 Aurelian Craiutu and Jeremy Jennings eds., *Tocqueville on America after 1840*, Cambridge 2008, on H-France (<http://www.h-france.net/vol10reviews/vol10no16pitts.pdf>)
- 2005 Jeanne Morefield, *Covenants without Swords*, Princeton 2004, in *Perspectives on Politics*
- 2005 Martin Staum, *Labeling People: French Scholars on Society, Race, and Empire 1815–1848*, McGill-Queen’s 2003, in *Journal of Modern History*
- 2005 Georgios Varouxakis, *Victorian Political Thought on France and the French* Palgrave 2002, in *Nations and Nationalism*
- 2003 Cheryl Welch, *De Tocqueville* (Oxford UP, 2001), in *French Politics, Culture, and Society*
- 2002 Bruce Baum, *Rereading Power and Freedom in J.S. Mill* (U of Toronto Press, 2000), in *Political Theory* 30.2

GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Dissertation Committee Chair, University of Chicago, Political Science:

Sarah Johnson, PhD 2015, "The Ages We Live By: Historical Periodization in Social and Political Thought"

Emma Mackinnon, PhD 2017, "Imperial Promises: The Contested Politics of Human Rights in the Twentieth Century"

Sarita Zaffini, PhD 2018, "Real Unity and Representation in Hobbes's *Leviathan*"

Tejas Parasher, PhD 2019, "Towards Economic Democracy: Social Republicanism in Indian Constitutional Thought"

Lucas Pinheiro, PhD 2019 (co-chair), "The Rise of Capitalism in Modern Political Thought"

Alex Haskins, PhD 2019, "Integrated De-Parochialization and Comparative Political Theory in East Asia"

Nazmul Sultan PhD 2020, "Inventing Democracy in the Colonial World: The Problem of Peoplehood in Colonial Indian Political Thought"

Aditi Rajeev Shirodkar (co-chair), Political Science, PhD 2021, "Faith in Conquest: Colonialism and Christianity in Portuguese Goa, 1510-1759"

Larry Svabek (co-chair), Political Science, PhD 2022, "In Search of Emancipation: Black Freedom and the Land Question 1865-1945"

Arwa Awan, Political Science, PhD 2024, "Empire as Alienation: Marxist Humanism in Anti-colonial Political Thought"

Ibrahim Khan (co-chair), Political Science, PhD 2025 "The Use of Force in Anticolonial Thought"

Dissertation Committee Member, University of Chicago:

Daragh Grant, PhD 2012, Political Science, "On the Native Question: Understanding Settler Colonialism's Logics of Domination"

Shayna Zamkane, PhD 2015, Political Science, "The Politics of Justice for Arab Jews"

Daniel Luban, PhD 2016, Political Science, "Pride and Order: A Study of Early Modern Social Thought"

Robert Stern, PhD 2016, History, "Contracting Unequal Treaties with China: Perfect Equality, Semi-Sovereignty, and the Universalization of Modern International Law"

Gordon Arlen, PhD 2017, Political Science, "Oligarchs Among us: Wealth and Power in a Democratic Age"

Fabian Arzuaga, PhD 2017, Political Science, "Paradoxes of Individuality: Liberalism, the Crisis of Work, and the Critique of Political Economy"

Madeleine Elfenbein, PhD 2017, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "No Empire for Old Men: The Young Ottomans and the World, 1856-1868"

Amanda Maher, PhD 2017, Political Science, "The Corrupt Republic: The Contemporary Relevance of Machiavelli's Critique of Inequality and Dependence"

Jason Rosensweig, PhD 2017, Committee on Social Thought, "Forms of Life before Wittgenstein: Hume, Smith, and Burke on that which Binds Us"

Zachary Leonard, PhD 2019, History, "British Imperial Reformers in the Nineteenth Century"

Kirsty Montgomery, PhD 2019, History, "Pessimism, Pragmatism, and Extra-Parliamentary Politics in Britain, 1802-1840"

Anjali Anand, PhD 2021, Political Science, "The Corporate Origins of the Indian Imperial State, 1707-1857"

Danielle Charette, PhD 2021, Committee on Social Thought, "Machiavelli, Hume, and the Acquisitive Passions"

Oliver Cussen, PhD 2021, History, "The French Empire in the Eighteenth Century"

Dalaina Heiberg, PhD 2021, Political Science, "World-Building in Settler-Colonial Contexts"

Natasha Piano, PhD 2021, Political Science, "On Democratic Elitism: An Intellectual History of Twentieth-Century American Political Science"

Anjali Mohan, PhD 2024, Political Science, "Structural Proximity"

Burak Tan, Political Science, "The Politics of Truth and Trust in Turkey"

Chris Hong, History, "The Political Economy of Hegemony: Louis XIV's France and the Global Unravelling of the Westphalian Peace, 1667-1715"

Elaine Colligan, Political Science, “Fossil Power: A Political Theory of the Fossil Fuel Industry”  
 Marshall Pierce, “Autonomy and Articulation: The Making and Unmaking of Council Democracy in  
 Interwar Italy”

#### FELLOWSHIPS, VISITING APPOINTMENTS, AND HONORS

2019 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring, University of Chicago  
 2011 Professeur invité, Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales  
 2006–07 Institute for Advanced Study, Member in Social Science  
 2006 Co-winner of the Best First Book award, Foundations of Political Theory, APSA  
 2003–04 John K. Castle Scholar of Ethics in Political Science, Yale University  
 2003–04 Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University, (competitive fellowship for year’s leave)  
 2003–04 Visiting research associate, Center for Human Values, Princeton University,  
 2000 Best paper, Foundations of Political Theory, APSA (for “Legislator of the World? A rereading  
 of Bentham on India”)  
 2000 Chase Dissertation Prize, Department of Government, Harvard University  
 1998–99 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1998–1999  
 1998 Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship, summer  
 1994–98 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship  
 1994–95 John Montgomery Prize Fellow in Government, Harvard University  
 1992 John Hersey Prize, the top journalism prize in Yale College

#### INVITED LECTURES

2025 “Abolition on the Eve of Revolution: Cugoano and Condorcet,” Nicolai Rubinstein Lecture,  
 Queen Mary, University of London (March 27)  
 2025 “Abolition on the Eve of Revolution: Cugoano and Condorcet,” Stanley Hoffmann Annual  
 Lecture on France and the World, Center for European Studies, Harvard University,  
 (March 11)  
 2024 “Les lumières et l’esclavage: Cuguano, Condorcet et les débats sur l’abolition à la veille de la  
 Révolution,” Collège de France (May 14, 2024) <https://www.college-de-france.fr/fr/agenda/conferencier-invite/les-lumieres-et-esclavage-cugoano-condorcet-et-les-debats-sur-abolition-la-veille-de-la-revolution>  
 2021 “Democracy’s World Shadow,” EH Carr Memorial Lecture, University of Aberystwyth, Wales  
 (November 11, 2021)  
 2019 “Empire and International Law: A Critical History,” Academia Sinica, Taiwan, Taipei  
 2019 Annual Lecture, Centre for Law and Society in a Global Context, School of Law, Queen Mary  
 University of London (January 15, 2019)  
 2018 College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series, Purdue  
 University Northwest (October 25, 2018)  
 2017 Keynote lecture, Graduate Political Theory Conference, Duke University (February 23–24,  
 2017)  
 2016 Nicholson Faculty Lecture, University of Chicago (May 5, 2016)  
 2016 Egger Lecture in Political Theory, University of Virginia (March 18, 2016)  
 2016 “Empires and the law of nations: a contribution to the critical history of international law,”  
 University of Amsterdam (January 22, 2016)  
 2015 “Empires and the law of nations: a contribution to the critical history of international law,”  
 Princeton University (October 28)  
 2014 “Global history as political thought: Irony in the *Wealth of Nations*,” Keynote lecture, London  
 Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought

- 2011–15 “Cambridge School/Skinnerian Discourse Analysis”: Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University
- 2011 “Le mondiale dans la pensée historique du siècle des lumières/The global in Enlightenment historical thought,” CERI-CNRS, Sciences Po, Paris [[http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com/publica/critique/art\\_jp.pdf](http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com/publica/critique/art_jp.pdf)]
- 2009 “Democracy and Domination: Empire, Slavery, and Democratic Corruption in Tocqueville’s Thought,” University of Richmond Tocqueville Symposium
- 2009 Keynote lecture, Biennial conference of Australian Association of European Historians, Adelaide
- 2009 “Europe, Empire, and the Boundaries of the International,” University of Sydney
- 2008 “The Rise of Imperial Liberalism,” Keynote lecture, “Imperium and Liberal Values,” Free University of Bolzano, Italy. Also Midwest Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago (31 October 2008).
- 2008 “Les penseurs libéraux et la question impériale.” Harper Lecture, University of Chicago Center in Paris; additional talks in Dijon, Grenoble, Poitiers, Université de Nanterre, Sorbonne
- 2005 “Empire and Democratic Anxiety in Victorian Britain,” University of Chicago Nicholson Center for British Studies

#### INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2024 University of Cambridge (June 6) “Cugoano, Condorcet, and the Climate of Abolition on the Eve of Revolution”
- 2023 Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (December 1) “Adam Smith: Ironie et critique de l’histoire mondiale”
- 2023 University of California at Berkeley (March 24) “Du Bois’s International Thought”
- 2023 Columbia University (February) “Tocqueville on Democracy and Empire”
- 2022 Stanford Global Dialogues (October) “Liberalism and Empire”
- 2022 Program in Experimental Critical Theory, UCLA (May 2) “Imperial Comparison as Political Thought”
- 2019 Yale University, Political Theory Workshop (April 3) “Boundaries of the International”
- 2019 University of California at Berkeley (March 22) “Boundaries of the International”
- 2019 Queen Mary, University of London, book panel on *Boundaries of the International*
- 2018 University of Bielefeld (June 7) “Boundaries of the International”
- 2018 University of Göttingen (June 6) “Boundaries of the International”
- 2018 Stanford Political Theory Workshop (May 25)
- 2017 Sciences Po (November 2017): “Boundaries of the International”
- 2016 Queen Mary, University of London (May 2016)
- 2016 Boston University School of Law (February 2016: with David Armitage, “The Law of Nations in Global History: an introduction to the life and thought of C.H. Alexandrowicz)
- 2016 Loyola University School of Law (February 2016)
- 2016 University of Amsterdam Legal History seminar (January 2016)
- 2015 Harvard International and Global History Seminar (October 21)
- 2015 University of Wisconsin—Madison, political theory workshop (February 27)
- 2015 Brown University Political Philosophy workshop (February 19)
- 2014 Texas A&M political theory workshop (December 6: “Oriental despotism and the law of nations”)
- 2014 Princeton University PEPA seminar (September 18: Global history as political thought: irony in the Wealth of Nations”)
- 2014 University of Minnesota political theory workshop (May 2: “Global history as political thought: irony in the Wealth of Nations)

- 2013 U.C. Davis speaker series on “The Scottish Enlightenment in Scotland and Abroad”: (“The Global in Enlightenment Historical Thought”)
- 2013 Harvard Political Theory Colloquium (“The Global in Enlightenment Historical Thought”)
- 2012 Indiana University, Bloomington (“Universality and the European law of nations in the eighteenth century”)
- 2012 Vanderbilt University, Political theory workshop
- 2011 McGill, Montreal, Political theory workshop/GRIPP
- 2011 Georgetown University, Political theory proseminar (“Political theory and empire”)
- 2011 University of Cambridge, Political thought seminar
- 2011 Sorbonne (Paris-IV), Franco-British history seminar
- 2011 Northwestern University, Political theory workshop
- 2011 Washington University, St. Louis, Political theory workshop
- 2009 Stanford University, Political theory workshop
- 2009 Yale University, Seminar on Transitions to Modernity
- 2009 Columbia University, Seminar on Modern Europe
- 2008 New York University, Remarque Institute seminar
- 2007 University of California, San Diego political theory workshop
- 2006 French Studies Seminar, National Humanities Center, North Carolina
- 2006 University of London
- 2005 Brown University, Political Theory Colloquium
- 2004 Columbia University, Seminar in Social and Political Thought
- 2003 Harvard University, Political Theory Colloquium

#### MEDIA

- 2023 1895 Films, “Customs and Practices,” educational film on the origins of modern democracy, interviewee
- 2023 American Prestige Podcast on Du Bois’s International Thought, with Adom Getachew, April 18, 2023 ([https://www.americanprestigepod.com/p/e93-the-international-thought-of?utm\\_source=publication-search](https://www.americanprestigepod.com/p/e93-the-international-thought-of?utm_source=publication-search))
- 2023 “Another Side of W.E.B. Du Bois,” Interview with Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins, together with Adom Getachew, on Du Bois’s International Thought, *The Nation* (May 10, 2023)
- 2019 Interview with Disha Karnad Jani on *Boundaries of the International* for the *Journal of the History of Ideas* blog (February 27)  
<https://jhiblog.org/2019/02/27/jhiblog-podcast-disha-karnad-jani-interviews-jennifer-pitts/>
- 2018 Interview on *Boundaries of the International* for the “Political Theory Review” podcast, May 1 <https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/thepoliticaltheoryreview>
- 2016 Participant in “Tocqueville’s America Revisited,” *Ideas*, CBC Radio (Canada), October 14 and October 21  
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/tocqueville-s-america-revisited-part-1-1.3803726>
- 2015 Participant on radio roundtable on Edmund Burke, *Talking History*, (Ireland)  
[https://www.newstalk.com/podcasts/Talking\\_History/Highlights\\_from\\_Talking\\_History/117146/Was\\_Edmund\\_Burke\\_Ireland's\\_greatest\\_thinker](https://www.newstalk.com/podcasts/Talking_History/Highlights_from_Talking_History/117146/Was_Edmund_Burke_Ireland's_greatest_thinker)

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2025 “Public judgment and global commerce in Smith’s political thought,” International Adam Smith Society Annual conference (Lecce, Italy, March 28-30)



- 2023 "L'esclavage dans les *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evils of Slavery* de Cugoano," Presented at Les libertés dans l'Europe des Lumières," Sorbonne Université, Paris 18 November 2023
- 2019 "The uses of history in the study of international politics," paper presented at History and the Human Sciences, Cambridge University, July 2019
- 2017 "Gendering Liberalism and International Law," paper presented at Gendering World History, Cambridge University, September 2017
- 2016 "Law of nations, world of empires: the politics of law's conceptual frames," lecture presented at HISTORY, POLITICS, LAW: Thinking through the international (May 16–17 2016)
- 2015 "The turn to positivism in international law," presented at the APSA annual meeting, San Francisco
- 2015 "Oriental despotism and the law of nations," International Congress for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 27–31 July 2015; also presented at "East and West: Traditions of Representation," University of Chicago, December 2015
- 2013 "Global history, judgment, and irony in the *Wealth of Nations*," presented at the APSA annual meeting, Chicago, August 2013
- 2013 "Historicism in Victorian International Law," presented at Historicism in the human sciences in Victorian Britain," U.C. Berkeley, 6–7 May 2013
- 2011 "In Europe but not of it? The Ottoman Empire and the Law of Nations," presented at "International Law and Empire," University of Helsinki, 4–6 October 2011
- 2010 "Empire and legal universalism in the 18<sup>th</sup> century," presented at "Making the British Empire, 1660–1800, University College London, March 2010; also presented at "International Law and World Order," University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, April 2010
- 2009 "Sovereignty and intervention in Wolff and Vattel," presented at "The Ethics of Military Intervention" Columbia University, September 2009.
- 2007 "Legal Pluralism and Burke's Law of Nations," presented at "Edmund Burke and the Business of Affection," Oxford University. Also presented at APSA annual meeting, Chicago.
- 2007 "Nationality and Empire in Nineteenth-Century French Liberalism," Presented at "*From Early-Modern to Modern Empire and from Empire to Nation-State*, UCLA and Clark Memorial Library. Also presented at Oxford–Princeton workshop on international relations, Princeton.
- 2006 " 'Great and Distant Crimes': Bentham on Empire and International Law," presented at "Lineages of Empire," British Academy, London.
- 2006 "Le libéralisme et la suprématie européenne," Conference on C.A. Bayly's *Empire in the Modern World*, organized by *Le Monde Diplomatique*, UNESCO, Paris.
- 2006 "Barbarism and civilization, Islam, and international law: Nineteenth-century debates," presented at "What Is "Civilization," United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative, New York
- 2006 "Ancient Empires, Modern Empires: Rome and imperialism in 19<sup>th</sup>-century British thought"; presented at "Imperial Republics? Ancient Rome and the USA," Princeton University.
- 2005 'Liberalism, Democracy, and Empire: Tocqueville on Algeria'; presented at "Destined to democracy? Tocqueville 1805–2005," UCSIA, Antwerp.
- 2004 "Boundaries of Victorian International Law." American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, Chicago, September 2–5, 2004. Cambridge University conference on *Victorian Visions of Global Order*.
- 2004 "Progress and Empire: Enlightened histories, 'backwardness', and colonial rule." Conference for the Study of Political Thought annual meeting, Chicago, April 2004.

- 2003 Respondent to lecture by Frederick Whelan. Conference on Edmund Burke, The Edmund Burke Society of America, Washington, DC, November 21–22, 2003.
- 2003 “This map of misgovernment: Edmund Burke’s cosmopolitanism” (Towards Cosmopolitan Citizenship? Arrabida, Portugal, October 12–13, 2003).
- 2003 “‘The stronger ties of humanity’: Humanitarian intervention in the eighteenth century” (APSA, Philadelphia; and International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) meeting, Los Angeles)
- 2002 “Empire and social criticism: Burke, Mill, and the abuse of colonial power” (APSA)
- 2002 “Legislator of the world? A rereading of Bentham on Empire.” (University of Chicago political theory workshop, May 13, 2002; APSA meeting, Washington, D.C., 2000)
- 2002 “Empire, rights, and democratic exclusion in Tocqueville,” (University of California at Los Angeles, Center for 17th and 18th century studies *History, Theory, and the Subject of Rights, ca. 1640–1848*)
- 2001 “Tocqueville, J.S. Mill, and the British Empire as a model for French Algeria.” (‘The legacies of colonization and decolonization on the integration of migrants in Europe and the Americas’, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)
- 2000 “Progress and pluralism in the age of empire” (Yale Political Theory Workshop; also presented at APSA, Washington, D.C.)
- 2000 “From conjectural history to the march of civilization: the transformation of ‘progress’ in the age of empire” (International Society for the Study of European Ideas, Bergen, Norway)
- 1999 “Liberalism and Empire: Tocqueville on Algeria” (APSA)
- 1998 “Nation and empire: Constant, Tocqueville and the liberal *volte-face*’. Presented at “Europe and Empire,” Harvard University

#### DISCUSSANT AND ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT

- Discussant, Niemeyer Lectures in Political Philosophy, David Armitage, “You Can’t Fool Rules: Opera and International Thought,” April 12, 2024
- Discussant, Book panel on Gregory Conti, *Parliament the Mirror of the Nation*, APSA meeting, Washington, D.C., September 2019
- Participant, Roundtable on “Postcolonial Studies and Political Theory,” APSA meeting, San Francisco, September 2017
- Discussant, Anglicization of Law conference, Newberry Library, April 2016
- Participant, Panel on the work of Carlo Ginsburg, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, December 2, 2015
- Discussant, Panel on “Empire: the view from the provinces,” APSA meeting, San Francisco 2015
- Discussant, Panel on “Sociability and its Discontents,” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2012
- Presenter, “Roundtable on Imperialism/Colonialism and Political Theory: Taking Stock,” APSA 2011, Seattle
- Presenter, Panel on John McCormick’s *Machiavellian Democracy*, University of Chicago Center in Paris, March 2011
- Presenter, “New Directions in Eighteenth-Century Studies,” Lewis Walpole Library, October 2009
- “Tocqueville on America after 1840,” APSA meeting, Toronto 2009
- “Tocqueville and the Frontiers of Democracy,” University of Chicago, 2/5/09
- J.G.A. Pocock’s “Historiography and Political Thought,” Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago conference, 12/05/08
- “Tocqueville and the Intellectual Origins of French Liberalism,” APSA meeting, Boston 2008
- “Pluralism Before Pluralism,” APSA meeting, Boston 2008
- “Law in 18th Century European International Political Thought,” Commemorative Conference on Alberico Gentili, New York University Law School, 3/13–15/08

“Bentham in the World,” Centre for History and Economics, Harvard University, 6/5/06  
 “Genealogies of Empire,” APSA meeting, Washington, DC, 2005  
 “Radical reinterpretations of Tocqueville,” APSA meeting, Philadelphia 2003  
 “Sites of Comparison: Empire and Encounter in Modern Political Thought,” APSA meeting, Boston, 2002  
 “Tocqueville on Democracy,” APSA meeting, San Francisco, 2001

#### CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

2024 “Tropical Marxism,” University of Chicago Center in Paris (March 1-2)  
 2018-19 “Theorizing Indian Democracy,” Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, year-long conference series: faculty adviser  
 2015 “East and West: Traditions of Representation,” a joint University of Chicago-Collège de France conference, Chicago, December 4–5  
 2015 “New Directions in Global History: Rethinking Scale and Temporality,” University of Chicago, April 9  
 1998 “Europe and Empire: encounters, transformations, legacies,” graduate student conference, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University (October 1998)

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

2017-18 Member, APSA Nomination Committee  
 2009– Member, Editorial Board, *Ideas in Context* Series, Cambridge University Press  
 2013– Trustee, Toynbee Prize Foundation  
 2011 Member, Search committee for editor of *Political Theory*  
 2009– Member, Conseil scientifique, *Critique internationale*, Presses de SciencesPo  
 2008–09 Chair of Walter Lippincott Award Committee, APSA  
 2007– Member of the executive committee, Conference for the Study of Political Thought  
 2007– Editorial Advisory Board, *Studies in Burke and his Time*  
 2006–07 Member of David Easton Award Committee, APSA, Foundations of Political Theory  
 2006 Advisory Committee, John Stuart Mill Bicentennial Conference, 1806–2006, University College London

Member: American Political Science Association, Conference for the Study of Political Thought, American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy

Referee: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Theory*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Review of Politics*, *Constellations*, *Histoire sociale/Social History*

At the University of Chicago:

July 2024– Chair, Department of Political Science  
 2020-2023 Associate Chair, Department of Political Science  
 2019– France Chicago Center Faculty Board  
 2017– Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT)  
 2008– Pozen Center for Human Rights  
 2008– Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows

2019–2021 University of Chicago Board of Publications  
 2015–18 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science  
 2010–14 Franke Institute for the Humanities  
 2007–14, 2017-19 Nicholson Center for British Studies

2008–12 Women’s Leadership Council  
2009–11 Program on Language, History, and Political Theory  
2008–11 College Council