

OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

Damon Linker

Senior Correspondent, TheWeek.com

“The Task of Thinking in an Age of Reaction”

Friday, September 22, 2017

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Social Science Research Commons (WH 200)



Cosponsors: Tocqueville Program, CAHI, and Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Political pundit and academic book editor Damon Linker will discuss what it's like to analyze and comment on current affairs at a time of intense political partisanship and polarization. To avoid succumbing to the reactionary temptation—the tendency to respond to political provocation with an equal and opposite show of vitriol—he follows the example of such thinkers as Aristotle, Thucydides, and Tocqueville. All three thinkers strove to rise above the political fray, to avoid easy point-scoring, and to treat participants in political disputes fairly. The same ideal of intellectual equanimity is embodied in the norms of peer review that guide university press publishing. At a moment when political passions are running high and centrifugal forces sometimes seem to be tearing the country apart, the ideal of thinking beyond the distortions of partisan attachments needs to be preserved and nurtured.



Damon Linker is a senior correspondent at *TheWeek.com* and a consulting editor at the University of Pennsylvania Press. In recent years, he has taught critical writing at Penn and worked as a senior editor at *Newsweek/The Daily Beast*. Until November 2014, he was a contributing editor at *The New Republic*. Linker is the author of *The Theocons: Secular America Under Siege* and *The Religious Test: Why We Must Question the Beliefs of Our Leaders*. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and other leading publications. He has edited *First Things* magazine, served as a speechwriter for New York's Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, and taught political philosophy at Brigham Young University ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public. You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).