

OSTROM WORKSHOP TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES

Steven B. Smith

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Yale University*

"Patriotism and Loyalty"

Friday, October 25, 2019

11–12:30 • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park Ave.



Patriotism is a form of loyalty but what is loyalty? Loyalty is the first virtue of social institutions without which much of human association would be impossible. But loyalty is also a deeply problematic quality. We admire loyalty to family, friends, and country – up to a point. But loyalty sits uneasily with other virtues we also admire such as fairness, justice, mercy, and open-mindedness. What if loyalty to family or country forces me to be unfair to others? Does loyalty to country require me to put “America first?” I want to consider patriotism as a particular species of loyalty and how it can be defended against the twin poles of nationalism and cosmopolitanism. I also want to consider the ever-present problem of conflicts of loyalties.

~ TM

Steven B. Smith is the Alfred Cowles Professor of Political Science at Yale. He is the author of several books including “Hegel’s Critique of Liberalism,” “Reading Leo Strauss,” and “Modernity and its Discontents.” He is also the co-editor of the Cambridge Companion to Isaiah Berlin and has recently finished a manuscript titled “In Defense of Patriotism” from which this lecture is drawn. He is also an avid NY Yankees fan.

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Presentations are open to the public and some may be live streamed (see our website for URL and papers if available). For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).