



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES

Ryan Hanley

Professor of Political Science, Boston College

Moderator:

Aurelian Craiutu, Professor Political Science, IUB

Discussant:

Kuangyu Zhao, Political Science, IUB

Friday, November 13, 2020: 12:00 – 1:30 pm EST

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



The Political Philosophy of Fénelon

Fénelon was a nuanced and influential diagnostician of the ills of European society, one who carefully analysed phenomena as wide-ranging and complex as egocentrism, absolutism, and imperialism. Despite his influence there has been to date no interpretive monograph in English devoted specifically to his thought. Ryan Patrick Hanley's recent monograph *The Political Philosophy of Fénelon* (Oxford, 2020) aims to correct this oversight, providing the first book-length interpretative study of Fénelon's writings to appear in English. A companion volume to Hanley's comprehensive English translation of Fénelon's moral and political writings (*Fénelon: Moral and Political Writings*, Oxford 2020), this book focuses on Fénelon's political thought as a method of understanding his impact on areas ranging from economics and statecraft to religion and literature. This talk will provide an overview of some of the book's central arguments, including the claims that Fénelon is better understood as a moderate and modern thinker rather than as a radical or reactionary, and that Fénelon deserves to be seen not merely as a political thinker but as a political philosopher, one whose work has direct relevance to our political world today.

Ryan Patrick Hanley is Professor of Political Science at Boston College. Prior to joining the faculty at Boston College, he was the Mellon Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Marquette University, and held visiting appointments or fellowships at Yale, Harvard, and the University of Chicago. A specialist on the political philosophy of the Enlightenment period, he is the author of *Adam Smith and the Character of Virtue* (Cambridge, 2009), *Love's Enlightenment: Rethinking Charity in Modernity* (Cambridge, 2017), and *Our Great Purpose: Adam Smith on Living a Better Life* (Princeton, 2019). His most recent books are *The Political Philosophy of Fénelon* (Oxford, 2020) and a companion translation volume, *Fénelon: Moral and Political Writings* (Oxford, 2020).

Cosponsors: Tocqueville Program, IU Department of Political Science

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu)