



Max Weber Programme Conference

“Thomas Hobbes and the Modern State: A 21st Century Interdisciplinary Perspective”

5th Classics Revisited MWP Conference
San Domenico di Fiesole,
Villa la Fonte, 30 March 2011

Thomas Hobbes is one of the most important intellectual founding fathers of the modern state. "Leviathan" (1651), his greatest work, is one of the founding texts of modern political thought, and has had a profound influence in the social sciences, law, philosophy, and history. In an age of European integration and globalization, his views about what a state is, what is its proper point or purpose, and his arguments for the impossibility of international regime, remain as relevant and instructive as ever.

This one day conference will include a program of internationally distinguished scholars exploring the ways in which Hobbes's views on the law, rights, freedom, sovereignty, authority, rational choice and contractarianism, and knowledge influence our thinking about the state today.

Speakers:

Eleanor Curran, Law, University of Kent

Claire Finkelstein, Law and Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania

Sharon Lloyd, Philosophy, Law, and Political Science, University of Southern California

John McCormick, Political Science, University of Chicago

Conference Organizers:

Michael Sevel, MW Fellow

Ronen Shnayderman, MW Fellow

Giulia Andrighetto, MW Fellow



Programme:

- 08:45 – 09:00 Welcome by Ramon Marimon, Director, MWP
- 09:00 – 10:15 Session 1:
"Theorising Rights in the 21st Century: Neo-Hobbesian Possibilities"
Speaker: Eleanor Curran, Law, University of Kent
Discussant: Turkuler Isiksel, Columbia University and Jean Monnet Fellow, EUI
Chair: Dunja Larise, Max Weber Fellow, EUI
- 10:15 – 11:30 Session 2:
"An Autocratic or Liberal Leviathan?: The Schmitt-Strauss Debate over the Hobbesian State"
Speaker: John McCormick, Political Science, University of Chicago
Discussant: Martin Van Gelderen, Professor of European Intellectual History, EUI
Chair: Ana Carolina Hosne, Max Weber Fellow, EUI
- 11:30 – 11:45 ***Coffee break***
- 11:45 – 13:00 Session 3:
"Hobbesian Legal Reasoning and the Problem of Wicked Laws"
Speaker: Claire Finkelstein, Law and Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania
Discussant: Michael Sevel, Max Weber Fellow, EUI
Chair: Giunia Gatta, Max Weber Fellow, EUI
- 13:00 - 14:30 ***Lunch***
- 14:30 – 15:45 Session 4:
"The Modern State Through the Hobbesian Lense"
Speaker: Sharon Lloyd, Law, Philosophy and Political Science, University of Southern California
Discussant: Christian Reus-Smit, Professor of International Relations, EUI
Chair: Stéphanie Novak, Max Weber Fellow, EUI
- 15:45 – 16:00 Concluding remarks