

# Dan Edelstein

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## Positions

William H. Bonsall Professor of French, Stanford University	2016-
Professor of French	2013-
Courtesy appointment in Political Science	2021-
Courtesy appointment in History Department	2011-
Associate professor of French	2010-2013
Assistant professor of French	2004-2010
Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching University Center for Human Values, Princeton University	2014-2015
Senior NEH Fellow, Department of Romance Languages, University of Chicago	2009-2010

## Education

University of Pennsylvania Ph.D. in French	2004
Université de Genève, Switzerland Licence ès Lettres (French, English, Latin)	1999

## Prizes and awards

W. Warren Shelden University Fellow in Undergraduate Education	2013-23
Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award, Stanford University	2011
Oscar Kenshur Book Prize, for <i>The Terror of Natural Right</i> ASECS/The Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University	2010
William Koren, Jr. Prize, honorable mention, best published article in French history	2009
Walter J. Gores Award, highest award for excellence in teaching, Stanford University	2006
Naomi Schor Prize, best graduate student paper, <i>Nineteenth-Century French Studies</i>	2003

## Fellowships and grants

Changing Human Experience, Stanford (History of Democracy; Representing Change)	2020-2022
Stanford Fellow	2019-2021
ACLS Digital Extension Grant, PI	2016-2017
Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant, co-PI	2015-2017
The Europe Center, Freeman-Spogli Institute (FSI), Stanford, Research grant	2014-2015
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Digital Humanities Implementation Grant for "Networks in History," PI	2013-2015
Faculty College, Stanford	2011-2012
NEH "Digging into Data" Challenge Grant, for "Digging Into the Enlightenment," PI	2010-2011
National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education Fellow, Teagle Foundation	2010-2012
William H. and Frances Green Faculty Fellow, Stanford	2009-2010
NEH Fellowship at a Digital Humanities Center (ARTFL project), University of Chicago	2009-2010
Presidential Fund for Innovation in the Humanities Grant, Stanford	2008-2011
Stanford Humanities Center Fellowship	2008-2009
VPUE Faculty Grant for Undergraduate Research, Stanford	2006, '10, '12, '16
Fulbright Fellowship (at Université Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle)	2002-03

## Books

*On the Spirit of Rights* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019). Paperback 2011.

Reviews: [New York Review of Books](#), [Times Higher Education](#), [Global Intellectual History](#), [Choice](#), [Dutch Review of Books](#), [Opera historica](#) (discussion forum), [Eighteenth-Century Studies](#), [H-France](#).

*The Enlightenment: A Genealogy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). Paperback.

Reviews: [Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (review article), [Modern Language Notes](#), [Journal of Modern History](#), [Journal of European Studies](#), [The European Legacy](#), [Modern Intellectual History](#), [Annales HSS](#), [Annales historiques de la Révolution française](#), [Contributions to the History of Concepts](#), [History Today](#).

*The Terror of Natural Right: Republicanism, the Cult of Nature, and the French Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009). Paperback 2010.

Reviews (selection): [The Nation](#), [American Historical Review](#) (featured review), [Annales HSS](#), [Journal of Modern History](#), [Social History](#), [Journal of Social History](#), [Modern Intellectual History](#), [Annales historiques de la Révolution française](#), [French Forum](#), [La vie des idées](#), [H-Net](#), [H-France](#), [Esprit Créateur](#), [Small Wars Journal](#), [The European Legacy](#).

## Edited volumes

*Cambridge History of Rights*, vol. 4 (on 17th and 18th centuries), with Jennifer Pitts (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

*Power and Time*, ed. with Stefanos Geroulanos and Natasha Wheatley (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020).

*Networks of European Enlightenment*, ed. with Chloe Edmondson (Liverpool: Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment, 2019).

Reviews: [H-France](#), [MLN](#).

*Let There be Enlightenment*, ed. with Anton Matytsin (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018).

Reviews: [Journal of Jesuit Studies](#), [History: Reviews of New Books](#), [H-France](#), [Eighteenth-Century Studies](#), [Journal of Ecclesiastical History](#)

*Scripting Revolution*, ed. with Keith Baker (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015).

Reviews: [European Review of History](#), [H-Diplo](#), [H-France](#), [Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales](#), [Histoire sociale/Social History](#), [International Review of Social History](#).

*The Super-Enlightenment: Daring To Know Too Much*, editor, SVEC 2010:01 (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2010).

Reviews: [American Historical Review](#), [Journal of Modern History](#), [Eighteenth-Century Studies](#), [Dix-huitième siècle](#), [French Studies](#), [Annales historiques de la Révolution française](#), [Modern Language Notes](#), [The English Historical Review](#), [Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#).

*Myth and Modernity*, ed. with Bettina Lerner, Yale French Studies 111 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007).

## Books in progress

*The Revolution Next Time* (Princeton University Press, under contract)

## Articles and book chapters

“Rousseau, Bodin, and the Medieval Corporatist Origins of Popular Sovereignty,” *Political Theory* (2021): [\[link\]](#)

“A ‘Revolution’ in Political Thought: Translations of Polybius Book VI and the Conceptual History of Revolution,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* (forthcoming).

“Back to the Future: Digital Humanities as an Analogue Practice?” *Early Modern Theater Practices and the Digital Archive*, eds. Sylvaine Guyot and Jeffrey S. Ravel (MIT Press, 2019): [\[link\]](#)

“The Historical Sublime,” *History and Human Flourishing*, ed. Darrin McMahon (Oxford: Oxford

- University Press, forthcoming).
- “Social Welfare and the Natural Order: On the Theological and Liberal Origins of Socioeconomic Rights,” *Socioeconomic Rights in History*, ed. Charles Walton and Steven Jensen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters: History of a Digital Humanities Project,” in Simon Burrows and Glenn Roe, *Digitizing Enlightenment* (Liverpool: Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment, 2020).
- “Voltaire’s European Correspondents: An Enlightenment Network?” in Lise Andries and Marc André Benier, *L’Avenir des Lumières/The Future of Enlightenment* (Paris: Ed. Hermann, 2019).
- “The Ancient Constitution and the Roman Law: On Benjamin Straumann’s *Crisis and Constitutionalism*,” *Global Intellectual History* 3, no. 3 (2018): [\[link\]](#)
- “Nature or Nation? Rights Conflicts in the Age of the French Revolution,” in David A. Bell and Yair Mintzker, *Rethinking the Age of Revolutions: France and the Birth of the Modern World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 1-40.
- “Future Perfect: Political and Emotional Economies of Revolutionary Time,” in *Power and Time* [\[link\]](#).
- “The Aristotelian Enlightenment,” in *Let There be Enlightenment*, 187-201.
- “Introduction: Historical Network Analysis and Social Groups in the Enlightenment,” with Chloe Edmondson, in *Networks of European Enlightenment* [\[link\]](#).
- “How England Fell Off the Map of Voltaire’s Enlightenment,” with Biliana Kassabova, *Modern Intellectual History* (2018) [\[link\]](#).
- “Christian Human Rights in the French Revolution,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 79, no. 3 (2018): 411-26 [\[link\]](#).
- “Retiring the ‘Radical Enlightenment,’” responses to Henry C. Clark, “How Radical Was the Political Thought of the *Encyclopédie*?” in “Liberty Matters: A Forum for the Discussion of Matters Pertaining to Liberty” (March 2018) [\[link\]](#).
- “Red Leviathan: Authority and Violence in Revolutionary Political Culture,” *History & Theory* 56, no. 4 (2017): 76-96 [\[link\]](#).
- “Historical Research in a Digital Age: Reflections from the Mapping the Republic of Letters Project,” with Paula Findlen et al., *American Historical Review* 122, no. 2 (2017): 400-24 [\[link\]](#).
- “Revolution in Permanence and the Fall of Popular Sovereignty,” in *The Scaffold of Sovereignty*, ed. Zvi Ben-Dor Benite, Stefanos Geroulanos, and Nicole Jerr (New York: Columbia University Press, 2017), 371-92.
- “Early-Modern Rights Regimes: A Genealogy of Revolutionary Rights,” *Critical Analysis of Law* 3, no. 2 (2016): 221-42 [\[link\]](#)
- “Is There a ‘Modern’ Natural Law Theory? Notes on the History of Human Rights,” *Humanity* 7, no. 3 (2016): 345-64 [\[link\]](#)
- “The French Enlightenment Network,” with Maria Comsa, Melanie Conroy, Chloe Edmondson, and Claude Willan, *Journal of Modern History* 88, no. 3 (2016): 495–534 [\[link\]](#)
- “Not Church History?” Forum on Samuel Moyn’s *Christian Human Rights*, in *The Immanent Frame* (2015) [\[link\]](#)
- “Intellectual History and Digital Humanities,” review essay, *Modern Intellectual History* 13, no. 1 (2015): 237-46. [\[link\]](#)
- “What Was the Terror?” *Oxford Handbook of the French Revolution*, ed. David Andress (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).
- “From Constitutional to Permanent Revolution: 1649 and 1793,” in *Scripting Revolution*, 118-30.
- “Enlightenment Scholarship by the Numbers: dfr.jstor.org, Dirty Quantification, and the Future of the Lit Review,” *Republics of Letters* 5, no 1 (2014) [\[link\]](#)
- “Political Thought,” *The Cambridge Companion to the French Enlightenment*, ed. Daniel Brewer

(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

- “Enlightenment Rights Talk,” *Journal of Modern History* 84, n. 3 (2014): 1-36 [[link](#)].
- “To Quote or Not to Quote: Citation Strategies in the *Encyclopédie*,” with Robert Morrissey and Glenn Roe, *Journal of the History of Ideas* 74, no. 2 (2013): 213-36 [[link](#)].
- “A Response to Jonathan Israel,” in *Self-Evident Truths? Human Rights and the Enlightenment*, Oxford Amnesty Lectures 2009, ed. Kate Tunstall (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2012).
- “Do We Want a Revolution Without Revolution? Reflections on Political Authority,” *French Historical Studies* 35, no. 2 (2012): 269-89. [[link](#)]
- “The Classical Turn in Enlightenment Studies,” review essay, *Modern Intellectual History* 9, no. 1 (2012): 61-71. [[link](#)]
- “In 1795: Of Gods and Revolution,” in *Romantik und Revolution: Zum politischen Reformpotential einer unpolitischen Bewegung*, ed. Klaus Ries (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2012), 105-114.
- “Historiographie américaine récente de la Révolution française,” in *La République et son droit (1870-1930)*, ed. Annie Stora-Lamarre, Jean-Louis Halpérin, and Frédéric Audren (Besançon: Presses universitaires de Franche-Comté, 2011).
- “Terreur et droit naturel,” in *La République et son droit*.
- “Introduction to the Super-Enlightenment,” in *The Super-Enlightenment: Daring To Know Too Much*, SVEC 2010:01 (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2010), 1-33.
- “The Egyptian French Revolution: Freemasonry, Antiquarianism, and the Mythology of Nature,” in *The Super-Enlightenment*, 215-41.
- “Humanism, *l’Esprit Philosophique*, and the *Encyclopédie*,” *Republics of Letters* 1, no. 1 (2009): [[link](#)].
- “The Birth of Ideology from the Spirit of Myth: Georges Sorel among the *Idéologues*,” in *The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age*, ed. Joshua Landy and Michael Saler (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009).
- “War and Terror: The Law of Nations from Grotius to the French Revolution,” *French Historical Studies* 31, no. 2; special issue on “War, Culture, and Society,” ed. David A. Bell and Martha Hanna (2008): 229-62. [[link](#)]
- “*Hostis Humani Generis*: Devils, Natural Right, Terror, and the French Revolution,” *Telos: A Quarterly Journal of Critical Thought* 141 (2007): 57-81. [[link](#)]
- “The Law of 22 Prairial: Introduction and Translation,” *Telos* 141 (2007): 82-100.
- “Editors’ Preface: Mythomanies,” with Bettina Lerner, in *Myth and Modernity*, Yale French Studies 111 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007), 1-4.
- “The Modernization of Myth, from Balzac to Sorel,” in *Myth and Modernity*, 32-44.
- “Hyperborean Atlantis: Jean-Sylvain Bailly, Madame Blavatsky, and the Nazi Myth,” *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* 35 (2006): 267-91. [[link](#)]
- “Antonin Artaud,” in *The Columbia History of Twentieth-Century French Thought*, ed. Lawrence Kritzman (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).
- “Expositions,” in *Columbia History of Twentieth-Century French Thought*.
- “Between Myth and History: Michelet, Lévi-Strauss, Barthes, and the Structural Analysis of Myth,” *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History* 32, no. 4 (2004): 1-18.
- “Moving Through the Looking-Glass: Deleuzian Reflections on the Series in Mallarmé,” *L’Esprit Créateur* 40, no. 3 (2000): 50-60. [[link](#)]

## Interviews

- “Digital Keys for Unlocking the Humanities’ Riches,” by Patricia Cohen, *New York Times* (Nov. 16, 2010). [[link](#)]

“Si l’on parlait de la République?,” by Pierre Serna, *Annales historiques de la Révolution française* 364, n. 2 (2011): 211-238. [[link](#)]

“Of Pirates, Empire, and Terror: An Interview with Lauren Benton and Dan Edelstein,” by Samuel Moyn, *Humanity* 2, no. 1 (2011): 75-84. [[link](#)]

“Big Data and Culturomics,” by Kurt Anderson, *Studio360* (Aug. 9, 2013). [[link](#)]

“Mapping the Republic of Letters,” by Meredith Hindley, *Humanities* 34, no. 6 (2013) [[link](#)]

“Rethinking History,” by John Hooper, *Intelligent Life* (Nov./Dec. 2014) [[link](#)]

“On Human Rights,” by Robert P. Harrison, *Entitled Opinions* (May 2018) [[link](#)]

“Stanford Scholar Examines the Roots of Human Rights,” by Alex Shashkevich, *Stanford Report* (Jan. 2019) [[link](#)]

“Religion, Rationality, and Democracy,” by Michael McFaul, *World Class* (Jan. 2019) [[link](#)]

New Books Network (on *On the Spirit of Rights*), by Alexandra Ortolja-Baird (Sept. 2020) [[link](#)]

### News publications

“The Initiation,” *Inside Higher Ed* (June 30, 2015). [[link](#)]

“The Humanities are an Existentialism,” *Inside Higher Ed* (January 21, 2014). [[link](#)]

“Lost in the Middle of Liberal Education,” *Inside Higher Ed* (January 21, 2011). [[link](#)]

“The University vs. Liberal Education,” *Inside Higher Ed* (October 14, 2010). [[link](#)]

“How is Innovation Taught? On Liberal Education and the Knowledge Economy,” *Liberal Education* 96, no. 1 (2010). [[link](#)]

“Third Way in Liberal Education,” *Inside Higher Ed* (March 30, 2010). [[link](#)]

“Gerrymandering the Canon,” *Inside Higher Ed* (February 16, 2010). [[link](#)]

“Only English Spoken,” *Inside Higher Ed* (October 26, 2009). [[link](#)]

“*Iphigenia* and the iPhone,” *Inside Higher Ed* (August 13, 2009). [[link](#)]

“Republicans Rewrite History in Crying ‘Socialism,’” *San Jose Mercury News* (March 14, 2009). [[link](#)]

“Law and Disorder,” in “Thinking Twice: Terror,” *Stanford Report* (March 4, 2009). [[link](#)]

### Book reviews

*Men on Horseback: The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution*, by David A. Bell.  
*H-Diplo Roundtable* [[link](#)].

*You Say You Want a Revolution? Radical Idealism and its Tragic Consequences*, by Daniel Chirot,  
*Journal of Modern History* (forthcoming).

*The Frankenstein of 1790 and Other Lost Chapters from Revolutionary France*, by Julia V. Douthwaite.  
*Journal of Modern History* 87, no. 1 (2015): 189-191 [[link](#)]

*The Shock of the Ancient: Literature & History in Early Modern France*, by Larry F. Norman.  
*H-France Forum* 7, no. 2 (2012). [[link](#)]

*From Deficit to Deluge: The Origins of the French Revolution*, ed. Dale Van Kley and Thomas Kaiser.  
*Journal of Modern History* 84, no. 3 (2012): 740-43. [[link](#)]

*Montesquieu and the Logic of Liberty: War, Religion, Commerce, Climate, Terrain, Technology, Uneasiness of Mind, the Spirit of Political Vigilance, and the Foundations of the Modern Republic*, by Paul A. Rahe.  
*American Historical Review* 115, no. 4 (2010): 1225-26. [[link](#)]

*A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy*, by Jonathan Israel.  
*Journal of Modern History* 83, no. 1 (2011): 143-45. [[link](#)]

*Scènes d'aumône: misère et poésie au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*, by Anne-Emmanuelle Berger.  
*French Forum* 30, no. 3 (2005): 145-147.

*Balzac, romancier du regard*, by Takao Kashiwagi.  
*Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 33, no. 3-4 (2005): 15-16.

### Invited lectures

- “Revolutions in Political Thought.” July 2022  
 Keynote, Australian Association of European Historians (AAEH),  
 Australian National University
- “Revolutionary Dictatorship.” March 2021  
 Department of History, Dartmouth College
- “Enlightenment Revolutions.” April 2021  
 Shelby Cullom Davis Center, Princeton University  
 Department of French, Columbia University Nov. 2020
- “Voltaire’s European Correspondence Network.” May 2019  
 Bodmer Lab, University of Geneva
- “Liberty as Equality: Rousseau and Roman Constitutionalism.” April 2019  
 George Rousseau Lecture (inaugural), Magdalen College, University of Oxford
- Panel discussions of *On the Spirit of Rights*  
 American Society for Legal History, Boston Nov. 2019  
 University of Vienna May 2019  
 University of Geneva May 2019  
 Enlightenment Workshop, Oxford April 2019  
 European University Institute (EUI), Florence April 2019  
 H-France webinar April 2019  
 EHESS/German Historical Institute, Paris April 2019  
 Huntington Library/USC, Los Angeles March 2019
- “Natural Constitutionalism and American Rights.” November 2018  
 Legal History Workshop, University of Minnesota
- “The Historical Sublime.” June 2018  
 Humanities and Human Flourishing Project, University of Pennsylvania, Shawnee, NJ
- “The Politics of Rights, 1572-1789.” March 2018  
 Seminar in the History of Political Ideas, Institute of Historical Research, London, UK
- “Constitutionalism and Human Rights, 1789-1948.” November 2017  
 Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy
- “How the Romans Abolished Slavery in the Enlightenment.” April 2017  
 Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University
- “Reading Texts in the Age of Data.” January 2017  
 Presidential Panel, *MLA*, Philadelphia
- “Rights of Man vs *Droits de l’homme*.”  
 Keynote lecture, Georges Rudé Seminar, Western Sydney University, Australia July 2016  
 Department of History, Princeton University March 2016
- “On Permanent Revolution.” May 2016  
 European Studies Lecture Series, University of Oregon
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters,” with Paula Findlen. October 2015  
 Art History and Communication/Interacting with Print, McGill University
- “Who Was the Enlightenment? Social Networks and Digital Humanities.”  
 Department of French, University of Pennsylvania January 2016  
 Keynote lecture, *East Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* November 2015  
 Keynote lecture, AALAC Collaborative Workshop, Wellesley October 2015

Keynote lecture, <i>International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies</i> , Rotterdam	July 2015
“In the Name of the People: Popular Sovereignty and Permanent Revolution.” Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Political Will, Cornell University	February 2015
“When did ‘Rights’ Become Rights? The Fall and Rise of a Revolutionary Concept.” Department of French, Dartmouth College	October 2015
Department of French, Bryn Mawr College	March 2015
Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures Johns Hopkins University	March 2015
Early Modern History Seminar/School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies Trinity College Dublin, Ireland	March 2015
Political Theory Colloquium/History and Theory Colloquium, Cornell University	February 2015
Early Modern History Workshop, Columbia University	October 2014
“Where are Voltaire’s Letters Concerning the English Nation? Maps, Networks, and Literary History.” Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania	March 2015
Department of French and Italian, Princeton University	February 2015
Department of French, Yale University	February 2015
Department of French and Italian, Brown University	February 2015
“Data Visualization and the Digital Archive.” Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York City	November 2014
“Digital Humanities: Potential and Perils in Research and Training.” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh	November 2014
“How to Do Things with Data: Schemas, Networks, and the Enlightenment.” Modern European History Workshop, Brown University	November 2014
“Social Network Analysis for Humanistic Research: Beyond Gephi.” Center for the Humanities, Temple University	November 2014
“On the Origins of Permanent Revolution in Marx.” Intellectual and Cultural History Seminar, CUNY	October 2014
“Visualizing Data for Historical Research: An Introduction to <i>Palladio</i> .” Department of History, Harvard University	April 2014
“Adventures in Digital Humanities.” Department of History, Boston College	April 2014
“Digital Approaches to the Enlightenment.” Department of History, Boston University	April 2014
“Humanities + Design,” with Nicole Coleman. Keynote Lecture, <i>Humanities 2.0: New Tools for the Digital Age</i> , UC Berkeley	April 2014
“Natural Right in the French Enlightenment.” Fondazione Firpo, Turin	October 2013
“How to Read a Million Letters.” Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods, Emory University	April 2013
“In the Name of Revolution.” Humanities Center, California State University at Chico	April 2013
“Digital Humanities and Intellectual History.” Modern Europe Workshop, History Department, Princeton University	April 2013
“How to Read a Million Letters and Other Adventures in Digital Humanities.” Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University	April 2013
“Enlightenment Rights Talk.” Eighteenth-Century Interdisciplinary Salon, Washington University in St. Louis	March 2013

- “The Jacobin Melodrama: On Political Theory as Literary Genre.” March 2013  
Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis
- “The Myth of Revolution: Reflections on Political Authority.” February 2012  
Colloquium on Intellectual History, Harvard University
- Presidential panel on “New Directions on Spatial History.” January 2012  
American Historical Association, Chicago
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” November 2011  
Early Modern Cosmopolitanisms series, UCLA
- “The Myth of Revolution.” June 2011  
Christian Delacampagne Memorial Opening Lecture  
Institute of French Cultural Studies, Dartmouth College
- Roundtable on *The Enlightenment: A Genealogy*. March 2011  
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris
- “Comment écrire l’histoire du droit naturel à l’orée de la Révolution française?” March 2011  
Institut historique de la Révolution française, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Roundtable on *The Enlightenment: A Genealogy*. February 2011  
Intellectual History seminar, New York University
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” February 2011  
Bard Graduate Center, New York
- “Rethinking the History of Natural Right.” November 2010  
Department of French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies, University of British Columbia
- Roundtable on *The Terror of Natural Right*. November 2010  
Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Indiana University
- “How to Think About Revolutions.” October 2010  
Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University
- “Counter-Mythologies.” October 2010  
University Seminar on Early Modern France, Columbia University
- “Citation Strategies in the *Encyclopédie*” and “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” April 2010  
Society for French Historical Studies, Plenary session, Arizona State University
- Roundtable on *The Terror of Natural Right*. February 2010  
Department of Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley
- “Inventing the Enlightenment.” February 2009  
Department of French and Italian, University of Minnesota
- “The Super-Enlightenment.” February 2009  
Theorizing Early-Modern Studies (TEMS), University of Minnesota
- “Was the Enlightenment French After All?” December 2008  
Department of History, Johns Hopkins University
- “Terreur et droit naturel.” November 2008  
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris
- “The Tyrant and the Outlaw: Inventing the Terror.” May 2007  
Modern France Workshop, University of Chicago
- “Ideology and the End of the Enlightenment.” November 2004  
Department of Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins University

### **Papers delivered**

- “Political Liberty as Legal Equality: Rousseau and Roman Constitutionalism.” July 2020  
International Political Science Association, Lisbon
- “Thomas Paine’s Republican Critique of the Terror.” Feb. 2020



- University Center for Human Values (UCHV), Princeton
- “Political Liberty as Legal Equality: Rousseau and Roman Constitutionalism.” Nov. 2019  
Center for Medieval and Early-Modern Studies (CMEMS), Stanford
- “A ‘Revolution’ in Political Thought: On Translating Polybius Book VI.” Oct. 2019  
History of Political Thought workshop, Stanford
- “Counting the Ways They Differ: Speech Patterns of the Montagnards and Girondins,” July 2019  
with Katherine McDonough  
International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), Edinburgh, UK
- “First He Took London, then He Took Berlin: Voltaire’s European Correspondents.” July 2019  
International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), Edinburgh, UK
- “Marx Mediates Revolutions: 1793-1848-1917.” April 2017  
Society for French Historical Studies, Washington, D.C.
- “Socio-Economic Rights in Eighteenth-Century France: A Hidden History.” March 2017  
Socioeconomic Rights in History Workshop, Harvard Law School
- “Natural Constitutionalism and American Rights.” February 2017  
Political Theory Workshop, Stanford
- “How to Study Networks Without ‘Edgy’ Data.” April 2016  
*Networks of European Enlightenment*, Stanford
- “Natural Law and Order in the French Enlightenment.” April 2016  
Law and Humanities workshop, Stanford
- “The Sans-Culottes, Marx, and the ‘Revolution in Permanence.’” September 2015  
American Political Science Association, San Francisco
- “Future Perfect: Political and Emotional Economies of Revolutionary Time.” May 2015  
*Time and Political Authority*, NYU-Berlin
- “When did Rights Become ‘Rights’? The Fall and Rise of a Revolutionary Concept.” April 2015  
*Rethinking the Age of Revolution*, Princeton University
- “Early-Modern Social Network Analysis.” March 2015  
*The Republic of Letters Goes Digital*, National University of Ireland
- “Mind the Gap: Between the Early-Modern and Modern Histories of Human Rights.” February 2015  
History of Political Thought Project, Princeton University
- “Is there a ‘Modern’ Theory of Natural Law? Notes on the History of Human Rights.” December 2014  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellows seminar, Princeton University
- Roundtable on David Armitage and Jo Guldi, *The History Manifesto* November 2014  
Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University
- “French Studies in the American University.” September 2014  
*The Future of French and Francophone Studies*, Columbia University
- “(Super)natural Right Theory.” May 2014  
*Let There be Enlightenment: The Religious and Mystical Sources of Rationality*,  
Stanford University
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” April 2014  
Society for French Historical Studies conference, Montreal
- “Data-Mining the Lit Review: dfr.jstor.org, Dirty Quantification, and the Case  
of Enlightenment Scholarship.” February 2014  
Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution, Stanford
- “Linked Data: The Next Frontier” January 2014  
American Historical Association, Washington, D.C.
- Roundtable participant, panel on “Sovereignty in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> c. France.” January 2014  
Modern Language Association, Chicago

- “Social Networks and Intellectual History.” September 2013  
Workshop on Digital Humanities, Observatoire de Paris
- “From Gutenberg to Zuckerberg: Social Media in the Enlightenment.” September 2013  
Conference on Computational Social Science, Stanford University
- “Enlightenment Rights Talk.” April 2013  
Society for French Historical Studies conference, Cambridge, MA
- “‘Give Me Liberty or...What?’ Resistance Theory in Enlightenment Thought and the French Revolution” January 2013  
*France and the Atlantic Republican Tradition* workshop, Stanford
- “On the Cultural History of the *Declaration of the Rights of Man*” (in absentia) January 2012  
*Human Rights: The Historical Formation of a Research Field*, Duke University
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” January 2012  
*American Historical Association*, Chicago
- “Two Concepts of Revolutionary Authority.” November 2011  
*Scripting Revolution*, Stanford University
- “Enlightenment Rights Talk.” October 2011  
*Enlightenment 2.1.3*, UC Berkeley
- “Republicanism, Natural Right, and the Abolition of Slavery: Reflections on the *Déclaration des droits de l’homme et du citoyen*.” July 2011  
International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), Graz, Austria
- “Digging Into the Enlightenment.” June 2011  
Digging into Data Challenge Conference, Washington, D.C.
- “Revolutionary Authority and Political Violence.” March 2011  
*Terror and the Making of Modern Europe*, Sciences Po, Paris
- “Where are the Letters Concerning the English Nation? Voltaire’s Correspondence.” March 2011  
Republic of Letters Conference, Fondazione Cini, Venice
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters.” February 2011  
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara
- “Thinking about Revolutions.” January 2011  
Political Theory Workshop, Stanford
- “Social Networking in the Enlightenment.” January 2011  
Modern Languages Association, Los Angeles
- Roundtable discussion on *Inventing Human Rights*, by Lynn Hunt September 2010  
San Francisco Rights Conference, San Francisco State University
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters” (with Nicole Coleman). May 2010  
Human-Computer Interaction Group, Department of Computer Science, Stanford
- “The Myth of Revolution: Reflections on Political Violence.” April 2010  
*Rethinking European Revolutions*, European Studies Council, Yale University
- “From *Libertas* to *Liberté*? Fénelon, Rousseau, and the French Revolution.” February 2010  
*The Politics of Antiquity in the Early Enlightenment*, University of Chicago
- “Terror Laws: Lessons from the French Revolution.” October 2009  
Forum on Contemporary Europe, Stanford University
- “Inventing the Enlightenment.” October 2009  
Interdisciplinary Colloquium in the Humanities, Stanford University
- “In 1795: Of Gods and Revolution.” June 2009  
*Romantik und Revolution*, Historisches Institut, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
- “Naturalizing Philosophy: Myth and Enlightenment.” May 2009  
Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution, Stanford University

- “Myth and Nature in the French Enlightenment.” December 2008  
Modern Language Association, San Francisco
- “Historiographie américaine récente sur la Révolution française.” November 2008  
*La République et son droit (1870-1930)*, Plenary lecture, Université de Besançon
- “La république naturelle des Jacobins.” November 2008  
*La République et son droit (1870-1930)*, Université de Besançon
- “The Egyptian French Revolution: Freemasonry, Antiquarianism, and the Mythology of Nature.” Oct. 2008  
*New Paradigms in Revolutionary Studies*, University of Notre Dame
- “Law and Terror: Toward a Theory of Totalitarian Justice.” October 2008  
*Terrorism and Modernity*, German Historical Institute/Tulane University
- “The Jacobin Republic of Nature.” July 2008  
Society for the Study of French History, University of Aberystwyth, UK
- “Two Concepts of Exceptionality: On Political Violence during the French Revolution.” April 2008  
*Terror and the Making of Modern Europe*, Stanford University
- “Humanism in the *Encyclopédie*.” March 2008  
*Research conference on the ‘Encyclopédie,’* University of Chicago
- “Voltaire’s Republicanism.” March 2008  
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Portland
- “Humanist Encyclopedism and *l’esprit philosophique*.” November 2007  
*The Republic of Letters: Between Renaissance and Enlightenment*, Stanford
- “The Case of the Missing Constitution.” October 2007  
Western Society for French History, University of Colorado
- “Humanities Research and the Future of the Library” (w. Michael A. Keller and Charles Henry) Oct. 2007  
Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University
- “Beyond the *bornes de l’esprit humain*: Traditional Authority and the Super-Enlightenment.” July 2007  
International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), Montpellier, France
- “Enemies of Humanity: Violence and Natural Right.” July 2007  
International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), Montpellier
- “Natural Right and Total War: On a Liberal Genealogy of the Terror.” December 2006  
Modern Language Association, Philadelphia
- “The Terror of Natural Right: *Droit des gens* in Revolutionary France.” October 2006  
Western Society for French History, California State University, Long Beach
- “Terror and Territory: National Sovereignty and Natural Right.” July 2006  
Society for the Study of French History, University of Sussex (UK)
- “Off With Their Heads: Death and the Terror.” May 2006  
French Culture Workshop, Stanford University
- “The Metaphysical Panopticon: The Great Terror and the Festival of the Supreme Being.” April 2006  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky
- “Restoring the Golden Age: The French Revolution and the Mythical Ideology of Nature.” February 2005  
Debartolo Conference, University of South Florida
- “The Golden Age of Atlantis: Revolution, Science, and Millenium.” October 2004  
Nineteenth-Century French Studies, Washington University
- “The Atlantis Theory: Jean-Sylvain Bailly and the Rise of Occult Orientalism.” April 2004  
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Boston College
- “The Re-invention of Mythology: Court de Gébelin and the Masonic Code.” December 2003  
Modern Language Association, San Diego
- “Balzac and the Invention of Mythical Modernism: Rewriting Faust in *Le Père Goriot*.” October 2003

Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Arizona	
“Filling Saussure’s Shoes: C. S. Peirce and Literary Theory.” Twentieth-Century French Studies, University of Connecticut	April 2002
“Reimagining the Romantic Imagination.” Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Wisconsin at Madison	October 2001
“Against <i>Bricolage</i> as a Theory of Cultural Transmission.” Twentieth-Century French Studies, University of California at Davis	March 2001
“La traversée des mythes dans <i>The Waste Land</i> de T. S. Eliot.” Groupe d’études du XX <sup>e</sup> siècle, Université de Genève	March 1999

### Digital projects

*Humanities + Design* (founding faculty director; 2013-): one of the three original research labs in the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis ([CESTA](http://cesta.stanford.edu)) at Stanford. Dedicated to developing digital tools for humanistic research, and training graduate students in digital humanities: <http://hdlab.stanford.edu/>

*The French Revolutionary Digital Archive* (faculty advisor, 2006-2013), in collaboration with Stanford University Libraries, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and ARTFL: full-text searchable versions of the *Archives parlementaires*, other revolutionary archives, and an image gallery of 14’000 prints: <http://frda.stanford.edu/>

*Mapping the Republic of Letters* (Principal Investigator, with Paula Findlen and Nicole Coleman; 2008-): funded by a three-year Presidential Fund for Innovation in the Humanities grant; an NEH “Digging Into Data Challenge” grant; by the Stanford Dean of Research; and by an NEH Digital Humanities Implementation grant, this project uses visualizations to map the correspondence networks, travel itineraries, imaginary geographies, and book distribution of early-modern Europe and America: <http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>. See my [study](#) of Voltaire.

*Republics of Letters* (founder and editor, 2008-2017) is an online, peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal dedicated to the study of knowledge, politics, and the arts, in their changing historical and cultural configurations; sponsored by the DLCL at Stanford University: <http://rofl.stanford.edu>.

*The Super-Enlightenment Project* (faculty coordinator, 2009), in collaboration with Stanford University Libraries: a full-text searchable archive of “illumunist” late-eighteenth-century texts, with scholarly apparatus: <http://collections.stanford.edu/supere>.

### Courses taught at Stanford

“Reinventing Republicanism: How Florence Turned an Ancient Idea into a Revolutionary Project” OSPFLOR 72 (Overseas Center, Florence)	2019
“Humanities Core: Great Books, Big Ideas — Europe, Modern” with Debra Satz/Keith Baker HUMCORE 13	2017-2020
“CAPITALS: How Cities Shape Cultures, States, and People,” with Adrian Daub and Lisa Surwillo DLCL 100	2017-2020
“When Europe Spoke French: The Power of Culture and the Culture of Power” French 208	Fall 2016
“Introduction to Graduate Studies: Criticism as Profession,” with Grisha Freidin DLCL 396 (required course for incoming DLCL graduate students)	Fall 2013
“Honors Thesis Seminar” DLCL 189A (required seminar for senior honors students)	Fall 2013
“Networks: Ecological, Revolutionary, Digital,” with Deborah Gordon <i>Thinking Matters</i> (THINK 29)	2013, ’14

“Education as Self-Fashioning” <i>Thinking Matters</i> (THINK 36/A, ESF 3/A, ESF 15/A)	2012-2019
“The Age of Enlightenment” MLA 285, graduate seminar for Masters in Liberal Education	Winter 2012
“Revolution! A Global History from 1640 to the Present,” with Keith Baker FRENGEN 146/ HISTORY 104A	Fall 2011
“French Classics: The Novel” FRENLIT 121	Winter 2010
“Coffee & Cigarettes: The Making of French Intellectual Culture” FRENLIT 120/FRENLIT 38N (freshman seminar)	2010-12
“Inventing the Enlightenment” FRENLIT 203, graduate seminar	2010, 2016
“Texts in History: Enlightenment to the Present” HUMANITIES/FRENGEN 163	Spring 2008
“Revolutions in Prose: The 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century French Novel” FRENLIT 204, graduate seminar	2007, ’11, ’12
“Research Seminar on the Digitized <i>Encyclopédie</i> ,” with Keith Baker FRENGEN/HISTORY 345, graduate seminar	Spring 2006
“Introduction to the Humanities: Epic Journeys, Modern Quests” IHUM 3	2004-2011
“Machiavelli and Sons” FRENGEN 49N, freshman Seminar	Fall 2006
“The World According to Jean-Jacques: Rousseau, Rousseauism, and the Enlightenment” FRENLIT 236, graduate seminar	Spring 2006
“Absolutism, Enlightenment, and Revolution in 17 <sup>th</sup> - and 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century France” FRENLIT 131	Winter 2006
“Killing Romanticism: Nineteenth-Century French Poetry,” with Joshua Landy FRENGEN 251, graduate seminar	Winter 2006
“Give me <i>Libertinage</i> or Death: The Politics of Pleasure” FRENLIT 221, graduate seminar	Winter 2005
“Theological Poets: Gods, Laws, and Rhythms in European Romanticism” FRENGEN 248, graduate seminar	Winter 2005
“Kings and Philosophers: Ruling and Writing in the Age of Enlightenment” FRENGEN 48N, freshman seminar	Fall 2004

### **Professional service and activities**

#### *Positions*

Christensen Faculty Director, Stanford Introductory Studies (SIS), VPUE, Stanford	2019-2022
Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate, Stanford	2019-2020
Chair, Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (DLCL)	2015-2019
Co-Director, Humanities Core <a href="#">[link]</a>	2016-2019
Faculty director, Humanities + Design research lab, CESTA, Stanford <a href="#">[link]</a>	2013-
Director, Stanford Summer Humanities Institute <a href="#">[link]</a>	2011-
Co-Director, French Culture Workshop, Stanford	2005-
Chair of Graduate Studies, French, Stanford	2015-2017
Editorial board, Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment, Voltaire Foundation	2015-

Editorial board, <i>French Historical Studies</i>	2015-2018
Editorial board, <i>Modern Intellectual History</i>	2015-
Faculty director, Education as Self-Fashioning (ESF)	2016-17, 18-19
Resident Fellow, Humanities (Ng) House	2015-2017
Member, Faculty Senate	2013-14, 18-20
Director, Department of French and Italian	2013-2014
Director of Undergraduate Studies, DLCL, Stanford	2010-2014
Chair of Undergraduate Studies, French, Stanford	2010-2014
Editor, <i>Republics of Letters</i>	2008-2016
Co-Director, Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution, Stanford	2007-2008
Academic Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Program, Stanford	2004-2006
<i>Committees</i>	
Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, Stanford	2019-2020
Faculty Steering Committee, Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford	2019-2022
Search Committee (Digital Humanities), University of Geneva	2019
Co-chair, First-Year Shared Intellectual and Experience Design Team, Stanford	2018-19
Advancement and Promotions (A&P), Humanities section, School of H&S, Stanford	2015-19
First-year Exploration and Shared Intellectual Experience, co-chair	2018-19
Affordability Task Force (faculty sub-committee)	2018-19
Advisory Board, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (VPTL)	2016-2018
Breadth Governance Board, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)	2013-2017
Bing Overseas Studies Program (BOSP) Faculty Oversight Committee, VPUE	2012-2014
Undergraduate Advisory Council (UGAC), VPUE	2012-2014
Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, selection committee	2012-2013
Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies (SPCS), Faculty Advisory Committee	2012-2014
Academic Council Committee on Libraries (C-LIB)	2011-2014
Master of Liberal Arts Program, Steering Committee	2011-2012
Humanities Curriculum Committee, School of Humanities & Sciences	2010-14, '18-
Study of Undergraduate Education at Stanford (SUES), subcommittee on breadth	2010-2011
DLCL Executive Committee	2010-
DLCL Undergraduate Affairs Committee, chair	2010-2014
DLCL website redesign committee, chair	2010-2012
Search Committee (digital humanities), DLCL & English	2011-2012
Search Committee, Academic Technology Specialist, DLCL	2011-2012
Search Committee ( <i>Francophonie</i> ), French and Italian	2010, 2013
Executive Committee, The Europe Center, Freeman-Spogli Institute, Stanford	2010-2014
Executive Committee, France-Stanford Center	2009-2014
Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, Steering Committee	2006-2007
Planning and Personnel Committee, DLCL	2006-2007
Program in Modern Thought and Literature (MTL), Committee in Charge	2005-2006

*Conferences and workshops organized*

“Art and Power,” Stanford (with Andrei Petic)	Feb. 2018
“Networks of European Enlightenment,” Stanford	April 2016
“Time and Political Authority,” NYU-Berlin (with Stefanos Geroulanos and Natasha Wheatley)	May 2015
“New Histories of Human Rights,” Princeton (with Jan-Werner Mueller)	Feb. 2015
“Let There be Enlightenment,” Stanford (with Anton Matytsin)	May 2014
“Scripting Revolution,” Stanford (with Keith Baker)	Nov. 2011
“French Republicanism” workshop, Stanford (with Keith Baker)	2008, 2012
“The Republic of Letters,” Stanford (with Jacob Soll and Paula Findlen)	Nov. 2007
“Empire Lost: France and Its Other Worlds,” Stanford (with Elisabeth Boyi)	April 2006

*Research Affiliations*

UCLA Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies and William Andrews Clark Memorial Library

The Europe Center, Freeman-Spogli Institute, Stanford

Bodmer Lab, comité scientifique, Université de Genève & Fondation Martin Bodmer

**Languages**

Native speaker of English and French; proficient in German and Italian; reading knowledge of Latin.

**Membership in Professional Organizations**

American Historical Association; Society for French Historical Studies; Modern Language Association; American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.