

Hugo Bonin, PhD

Political scientist | Hannah Arendt Fellow
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Political scientist (PhD Montreal/Paris, 2020) specializing in democratic theory and the history of political thought, with six years of postdoctoral experience in France, the UK and Finland. Author of three books and 17 peer-reviewed articles; international experience in two collaborative research projects in political and intellectual history centred on digital humanities and transnational intellectual exchanges. Fluent in French and English.

1. ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- April to September 2026 **Hannah Arendt Fellow**
University of Göttingen
- 2022-2025 **Postdoctoral Researcher**
University of Jyväskylä & Research Council of Finland
“Political Representation: Tensions between Parliament and the People from the Age of Revolutions to the 21st Century”; PI: Pasi Ihalainen
Co-leader of WP3 “Pressures to democratise parliamentary representation, 1860–1920”; team of four researchers
- 2020-2022 **Postdoctoral researcher**
Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)

2. OTHER RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2020-2022 **Contract researcher**
Conseil environnemental, social and économique (CESE)
Evaluation of the 2020-2022 “Citizens’ Groups”
- 2021-2022 **Consultant researcher**
Chatham House
Coordinator, with Hans Kundnani and Hélène Landemore, of the project “Democratic Audit in France, Germany and the United Kingdom”
- 2016-2020 **Research assistant**
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
Vincent Guillin; “The French reception of John Stuart Mill”
- 2018 **Research assistant**
European University Institute
Bruno Leipold; “Imperative Mandate in France”

3. EDUCATION

- 2015-2020 **PhD in Political Science**
Université du Québec à Montréal & Université Paris-VIII
Thesis: From Mixed Government to “True Democracy”: A Conceptual History of the Word “Democracy” in Britain, 1770–1920
Supervisors: Prof. Francis Dupuis-Déri and Yves Sintomer

2012-2013	Master in Political Science <i>York University, Toronto</i>
2011-2012	Minor in Women's Studies <i>Concordia University, Montréal</i>
2008-2010	Bachelor in Political Science <i>UQAM, Montréal</i>

4. PUBLICATIONS

• 3 books and 17 peer reviewed articles, incl. 9 articles as single author

Books

Forthcoming, *The Creation of 'Liberal Democracy' in France and Britain, 1919-2001*, under contract with Palgrave's Studies in Political History, publication planned for late 2026.

2024, *"At the sound of the new word spoken": Le mot démocratie en Grande-Bretagne, 1770-1920*, Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 256 p.

2017, *La démocratie hasardeuse : essai sur le retour du tirage au sort en politique*, Montréal : Éditions XYZ, 155 p. Re-edited in 2018, 203 p.

Peer-reviewed articles (single authored)

2025, "'True liberal democracy [...] belongs to Napoléon III': The rise and fall of *démocratie libérale* in the French Second Empire", *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 86(4), p. 727-758.

2025, "From *démodée* to defended : The uses of 'démocratie libérale' in France, 1920s–1970s", *French Studies*, 79(4), p. 604-621.

2025, "Liberal Democracy: From Oxymoron to Celebrated Concept, British and French Discourses, 1968–2001", *Politics and Governance*, 13, p. 1-20.

2024 [2021], "Friend or Foe? British Receptions of Tocqueville's Democracy in America, 1835–1885", *British Politics*, 19(4), p. 590-608 (published online 7 June 2021).

2021, "'Woman Suffrage Would Undermine the Stable Foundation on Which Democratic Government is Based': British Democratic Antisuffragists, 1904–1914", *Theoretical Practice*, 39(1), p. 137-160.

2021, "Between Panacea and Poison : 'Democracy' in British Socialist Thought, 1881-1891", *Intellectual History Review*, 34(4), p. 671-691.

2020, "From Antagonist to Protagonist: 'Democracy' and 'People' in British Parliamentary Debates, 1775–1885", *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 35 (4), p. 759–775.

2019, "Ambivalences libérales : l'Anti-Corn Law League and la 'democracy', 1838-1848", *Revue d'histoire du XIXe siècle*, 59, pp.167-184.

2017, "Sur la 'nature' du tirage au sort en politique: Dialogue entre hasard et élection", *Politique et sociétés*, 36(1), pp.3-23.

Peer-reviewed articles (co-authored)

2025, H. Bonin, P. Ihalainen, B. Janssen, J. Marjanen, and R. Turunen, "Extension or Expansion? Quantitative Conceptual Analysis of Parliamentary Uses of 'Democratic' in Sweden and Britain, 1950s-1990s", *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 20 (2), p. 70–96.

2025, H. Bonin, P. Ihalainen, and Z. Haaparine, "From Greater Participation to Reinforced Representation: On UK, French and German Parliamentarians Debating 'Democracy', 2000–2019", *Redescriptions*, 28(2), p. 1-23

2025, V. Guillin and H. Bonin, "Est-ce ainsi que les philosophes meurent ? : La première réception posthume de John Stuart Mill en France (1873-1874)", *Philosophiques*, 51(2), p. 325-349.

2024, H. Bonin, Z. Kergomard, P. Ihalainen and I. Herrmann, "Importable or exceptional? Swiss direct democratic instruments in French and German parliaments, 2000-2019", *Parliament, Estates and Representation*, (published online 8 August 2024), p. 1-23.

2023, Z. Wüthrich, S. Baeckelandt and H. Bonin, "Flying Without Instruments? The Deliberative Turn of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council", *Journal of Deliberative Democracy*, 19(1), p. 1-12.

2022 [2020], H. Bonin and A. Plassart, "Democratic Struggle or National Uprising? The Canadian Rebellions in British Political Thought, 1835–1840", *Global Intellectual History*, 7(1), p. 28-46 (published online 7 Jan 2020).

- 2021, H. Bonin and V. Guillin, “Émile-Honoré Cazelles, traducteur, républicain et préfet: Le cas des ‘Fragments sur le socialisme’ de J. S. Mill”, *Revue européenne des sciences sociales*, 59(1), p. 41-76.
- 2019, H. Bonin and F. Dupuis-Déri, “Quelle approche pour quelle histoire des idées politiques ?”, *Revue française d’histoire des idées politiques*, 49, pp. 273-303.

Edited volume

Forthcoming, R. Turunen and H. Bonin (eds.), *Reading Parliaments in the Digital Age*, Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society (SKS), accepted, publication planned for late 2026.

Chapters in edited volumes

- 2025, V. Guillin and H. Bonin, “‘Au ténébreux passage...’ : L’immédiate réception posthume de J. S. Mill en France et la question religieuse”, in *Lectures, usages et réceptions de l’œuvre de John Stuart Mill*, Philippe Légé, Ludmilla Lorrain, Victor Bianchini (eds.), Paris: Éditions de la Sorbonne, 24 p. (accepted, forthcoming).
- 2025, H. Bonin, P. Ihalainen and Z. Haaparinne, “Writing digital conceptual history of democracy”, in *Writing Conceptual History*, Pasi Ihalainen and Jani Marjanen (eds), London: Bloomsbury Academic, p. 41-70.
- 2023, “La Begriffsgeschichte à l’heure du tournant digital : potentiels théoriques and défis pratiques”, in *Les historiens et la taxonomie : héritages and tendances contemporaines*, Stéphane Lamassé, Octave Julien and Léo Dumont (eds), Paris : Éditions de la Sorbonne, 16 p.

Book reviews

- 2024, “The Rise and Fall of the People’s Parties: A History of Democracy in Western Europe since 1918 – Pepijn Corduener”, *European Review of History/ Revue européenne d’histoire* 31(5), p. 819–820.
- 2023 “Freedom : An Unruly History – Annelien De Dijn”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts* 18 (2), p. 125-129.
- 2021, “Tirage au sort et politique : Une histoire suisse – Maxime Mellina, Aurèle Dupuis et Antoine Chollet”, *Swiss Political Science Review* 27(2), p.529-532.
- 2019, “The Springs of Democracy – Pasi Ihalainen”, *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 14(1), p.140-146.

Public writing

- 2025, “‘Liberal Democracy’ From Crisis to Canon and Back”, dans *Forum: The Crisis of Liberal Democracy*, M. Conway and H. te Velde (eds), *Journal of Modern European History*, p. 33-37.
- 2024, “How theory shapes perspective, or when did democracy become representative?”, *Theory of History at Work Blog*.
- 2023, H. Bonin, P. Ihalainen and Z. Haaparinne, “Peuple ou Parlement : Un débat européen”, *Revue Projet*, 395, p.4–9.
- 2023, “The last politeia ? : A short(er) history of liberal democracy”, *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*.
- 2023, S. Baeckelandt and H. Bonin, “Réforme du CESE: Échec démocratique ?”, *Revue Projet*, 393, p.4-9.

Publications under review

- H. Bonin, H. te Velde and S. Hayat, *The Principles at Thirty: Revisiting Bernard Manin’s Legacy on Representation*, special issue for *Representation*, submitted in February 2026.
- H. Bonin, “The ‘Antis’: The Opposition to Women’s Suffrage in Britain”, in *The Cambridge Companion to Women’s Suffrage in Britain*, K. Connelly (ed.), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, in evaluation.

5. FUNDING & DISTINCTIONS

2026	Hannah Arendt fellowship at Göttingen University	Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture	€ 46 000, total budget
2021-2026	Academy professorship for P. Ihalainen; co-writer of the application	Research Council of Finland	€ 1 570 600, total budget
2020-2022	Postdoctoral fellowship	Québec Research Fund – Society and Culture	\$CA 110,000 total budget
2016-2020	Doctoral fellowship	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council - Canada	\$CA 105,000 total budget

2020	Winner of Paul-Gérin-Lajoie prize of Québec Research Fund – Society and Culture, May 2020	For the article “From Antagonist to Protagonist” in <i>Digital Scholarship in the Humanities</i> (2020)
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6. SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Organisation of scientific activities

- 2025, Member of the conference committee ‘*We, the People*’ and the *Future of Democracy: Interdisciplinary Approaches*, Oxford University, July 2025.
- 2025, co-organiser with Pasi Ihalainen, *Political Representation: Workshop with Marnix Beyen*, JYU, March 2025
- 2025, co-organiser with Henk te Velde of the workshop *The Principles of Representative Government : Thirty Years Later*, Leiden University, February 2025.
- 2024, organiser of the seminar “Writing a table of contents”, JYU, June 2024.
- 2024, co-organiser with Pasi Ihalainen of the workshop *Writing the long-term history of democracy*, Helsinki University, February 2024.
- 2023, organiser of the panel “Alpine Exceptionalism? Studying the conceptual history of direct democratic instruments through the French, German and Swiss lenses”, *Annual Conference of the History of Concepts Group*, University of Warsaw, October 2023.
- 2023, organiser of the panel “Democracy in Interwar Europe”, *Annual Conference of the Finnish Political Science Association*, JYU, May 2023.
- 2019, organiser of the panel “Reassessing Democratic & Antidemocratic Discourses in Post-1832 Britain”, *Northeastern Conference on British Studies*, McGill University, October 2019.

Editorial responsibilities in scientific journals

Book review editor, *Contribution to the History of Concepts*, Berghahn Journals.

Peer-reviewing activities

Reviewer for academic journals (*Philosophiques*; *Politiques et sociétés*) and conferences (Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries Conference 2022, Association for Computers and Humanities Conference 2019).

Membership of scientific associations and research groups

Member of the *History of Concept Group* (since 2018) and the *French Association for Political Science* (since 2020).

Doctoral supervision

Since 2022: second doctoral supervisor of two PhD students in history, University of Jyväskylä

7. COMMUNICATIONS (selection)

• 30 presentations in 11 countries since 2015

- 2025, “Liberal Democracy: Genealogy of a Conceptual Apparatus”, *History of Concept Group Annual Conference*, Bologna University, October 2025.
- 2025, “Triumph? A History of Liberal Democracy in France and the United Kingdom, 1920-2000”, *European Social Science History Conference*, Leiden University.
- 2024, “Liberal democracy: A short conceptual history and three propositions”, *ECPR General Conference*, University College Dublin.
- 2024, “‘True liberal democracy [...] belongs to Napoléon III’ : The rise and fall of démocratie libérale in the French Second Empire”, *Association for Political History Conference*, Stockholm.
- 2023, “From counter-concept to celebration: ‘Liberal democracy’ in British and French parliamentary debates, 1970s-2000s”, *History of Concepts Group Annual Conference*, Warsaw.

- 2023, “A Product of the 1980s ? A History of ‘Liberal Democracy’ in British Political Discourse, 1930s-1980s”, *Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Toronto.
- 2022 with S. Baeckelandt, “Institutionnaliser le tirage au sort en temps de crise : Le Collectif Citoyen Vaccination, une délibération malmenée ?”, *Congrès 2022 du GIS Démocratie et Participation*, Paris.
- 2022, “When Democracy meets Liberalism: Understanding French “Liberal Democracy” in the 20th Century”, *Society for the Study of French History Annual Conference*, Oxford.
- 2020, “Democracy in Britannia: British Reception of Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, 1835–1870”, *Annual Graduate Conference in Intellectual History*, European University Institute.
- 2019, “‘The world resists the despotism of a democracy equally with the despotism of an aristocracy’ : “Democracy” and the Anti-Corn Law League, 1838–1848”, North-eastern Conference on British Studies, McGill University, October 2019.
- 2019, “Intellectual History from Below? Applying Corpus Linguistic Tools to the 19th Century British Periodical Press”, Association for Computers and Humanities Conference, Pittsburgh, July 2019.
- 2019, “Between Panacea and Poison: “Democracy” in British Socialist Thought, 1881–1891”, 10th London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought, University College London, June 2019.

8. TEACHING

- *Four courses taught in three different universities, totalling 148 hours*
- 2023-2025, lecturer, University of Jyväskylä, course “Intellectual and Conceptual History: Political Culture” (in English), January to May 2023, 2024 and 2025, 30 h., with Z. Haaparinne and J. Kurunmäki.
- 2022, co-lecturer, University of Jyväskylä, course “Text-Mining in Digital Humanities: An Intensive Course for Humanities and Social Sciences Doctoral Students’, 28h, with J. Guldi.
- 2021, lecturer, Institut de Philosophie Comparée (IPC), Paris, courses “Introduction to Political Science” and “Political Philosophy: John Locke” (in English), September to December 2021, 45 h. each.
- 2019, lecturer, Political science department, UQAM, “Introduction to Political Science” (in French), September-December 2019, 45 h.