

Hugo Bonin, PhD

Profile: Political scientist (PhD 2020) specializing in democratic theory and the history of political thought, with six years of postdoctoral experience across France, the UK, and Finland. Author of three books and 17 peer-reviewed articles; strong experience in collaborative research projects; fluent in French and English; expertise in conceptual history, digital humanities, and transnational intellectual exchanges.

1. ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- April to September 2026 **Hannah Arendt Fellow**
University of Göttingen
“Liberal Democracy in Europe, 1989-2025: Conceptual Transformations and Political Contestations”
- 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, 1860s-1920”; team of four researchers
- 2020-2022 **Postdoctoral researcher**
Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
“Liberal Democracy: Entangled Genealogies in Canada, France and the United-Kingdom, 1918-1991”

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 as a 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. Baeckelantdt 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 textonométrie : 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 Corduwener”, *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.

Manuscripts

- 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 Pasi Ihalainen (PI); 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*

Peer-reviewing activities

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

Membership of scientific associations and research groups

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

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.

Since 2022: co-supervisor of two PhD students in history at JYU.