

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 — 3:00pm-c5:15pm EST / 8:00pm-c10:15pm GMT

Location: JHU History Seminar Room (Gilman Hall, Room 308), in-person and via Zoom

Zoom information: <https://zoom.us/j/95890426281> (Meeting ID: 958 9042 6281)

The Zoom meeting will open at 2:50pm EST / 7:50pm GMT

Sponsored by the History Department, by the interdisciplinary Program in Political and Moral Thought, and by the Office of the Dean.

JOHN POCOCK'S LIFE, LEGACY, AND LANGUAGES OF HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

3:00-3:05pm — Introductory Remarks

Tobie Meyer-Fong, Chair, History, and Joshua Simon, Political and Moral Thought Program

3:05-3:10pm — “Pocock’s *The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law*”

Colin Kidd, Wardlaw Professor of Modern History, University of St Andrews, UK
and author of *Subverting Scotland's Past; British Identities before Nationalism; The Forging of Races*

3:10-3:15pm — “Pocock’s *The Machiavellian Moment: history, histories, and the language of republicanism*”

Jamie Gianoutsos, Associate Professor, Mount St Mary's University, USA
and author of *The Rule of Manhood: Gender, Tyranny and Republicanism 1600-1660; In Rome's Long Shadow (Penguin, in process)*

3:15-3:20pm — “Pocock’s *Politics, Language and Time and Barbarism and Religion: civic humanism, Enlightenment and sacred history*”

John Robertson, Professor and Chair, History of Political Thought (Emeritus), Cambridge University, UK
and author of *The Case for the Enlightenment; The Enlightenment; editor, Time, History and Political Thought*

3:20-3:25pm — “Pocock’s *Harrington and the history of republicanism*”

Rachel Hammersley, Professor of Intellectual History, University of Newcastle, UK
and author of *James Harrington: An Intellectual Biography; Republicanism; The English Republican Tradition and Eighteenth Century France*

3:25-3:30pm — “Pocock on *Burke*”

David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English, Yale University, USA

and author of *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke*; editor, *On Empire, Liberty and Reform: Edmund Burke's Letters and Speeches*

3:30-3:35pm — “The politics of politeness, Pocock’s *Virtue, Commerce and History*, and the taking of snuff”

Anna Roberts, Graduate Student, JHU (and former amanuensis of John Pocock)

3:35-3:40pm — “Pocock’s *Gibbon*: transforming our understandings of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*”

David Womersley, Thomas Warton Professor of English, University of Oxford, UK

and author of *Gibbon and the ‘Watchmen of the holy city’*; *The Transformations of the Decline and Fall*; *Cultures of Whiggism*; editor, *The Correspondence and Works of Edward Gibbon*

3:40-3:45pm — “Pocock’s Enlightenment, the *End of Enlightenment*, and Pocock’s global intellectual histories”

Richard Whatmore, Professor of Intellectual History and Director of the Institute of Intellectual History, St Andrews, UK

and author of *What is intellectual history*; *Against War and Empire*; *The End of Enlightenment*

3:45-3:55pm — “Pocock’s Plea for a new subject and the search for British history” and on behalf of John’s former graduate students

Eliga Gould, Professor, University of New Hampshire, and former JHU student

and author of *The Persistence of Empire*; *Among the Powers of the World*

3:55-4:00pm — “Pocock’s Republicanism Confronts American Liberal History”

Dorothy Ross, Arthur O. Lovejoy Professor of American Intellectual History, JHU (Emerita)

and author *The Origins of American Social Science*

4:00-4:05pm — “Pocock and the Italian Renaissance”

Christopher Celenza, James B. Knapp Dean and Professor of Renaissance Italian History and of Classics, JHU

and author of *The Intellectual World of the Italian Renaissance*; *Machiavelli: A Portrait*

4:05-4:10pm — “John Pocock”

Orest Ranum, Professor of Early Modern French History, JHU (Emeritus)

and author of *Paris in the Age of Absolutism*; *The Fronde: A French Revolution*

4:10-4:20pm — “John Pocock, Dad”

Hugh and Stephen Pocock

4:20-4:50pm — “John Pocock’s Life, Legacy and Languages of Historical and Political Thought”

Quentin Skinner, Professor of the History of Political Thought and Co-Director of the Centre for the History of Political Thought, Queen Mary, University of London; Chair of the History of Political Thought and Regius Professor of History, (Emeritus), The University of Cambridge, UK; co-creator with John Pocock of the methodological foundations of “the Cambridge School” of the history of political thought, and author of *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*; *Machiavelli*; *Liberty before Liberalism*; *Visions of Politics*; *From Humanism to Hobbes*; *Hobbes and Republican Liberty*; *Reason and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes*

4:50-5:05pm — Q & A Session with Professor Quentin Skinner

5:05pm — “An ox sits upon the tongue”

Very brief concluding remarks of thanks to our speakers, and in honor of JGA Pocock, by John Marshall, Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Professor of History and former Graduate Student, JHU and author of *Locke: Resistance, Religion and Responsibility*; *Locke, Toleration and Early Enlightenment Culture*.

There will be a reception for those who attend in-person immediately following the event (5:15pm).



John Greville Agard Pocock (1924-2023) was Harry C. Black Professor of History at JHU from 1974-1994 and Harry C. Black Professor of History Emeritus from 1994-2023. He passed away on December 12, 2023 at the age of 99. With Jerry Schneewind and Dick Flathman, J.G.A. Pocock created the interdisciplinary program in Political and Moral Thought at JHU. He taught many graduate students in Political Science and History at JHU, and supervised many PhDs.

Educated in New Zealand and then at the University of Cambridge, J.G.A. Pocock was an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. He was a Fellow of St Johns College, Cambridge and an Overseas Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, and he taught at Washington University in St Louis immediately before coming to Hopkins. He received awards and recognition from many scholarly and professional associations, including from the American Historical Association; the American Political Science Association; and the American Philosophical Society. He was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He was President of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.

A co-founder of the methodology of the contextualist study of the History of Political Thought often associated with “the Cambridge School”, J.G.A. Pocock particularly emphasized the study of historical thought and thereby of political thought, and the study of ‘languages’ of historical and political thought. His works were translated into multiple languages. He became widely regarded as one of the greatest historians in the world.

JGA Pocock was author of *The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law* (1957); *Politics, Language and Time* (1971); *The Machiavellian Moment* (1975); *Virtue, Commerce and History* (1985); *The Discovery of Islands* (2005); *Barbarism and Religion*, 6 volumes (1999-2015); *Political Thought and History: Essays on Theory and Method* (2009) and of many important articles. He was the editor or coeditor of *The Political Works of James Harrington* (1977); *John Locke: Papers read at a Clark Library Symposium* (1977); *Three British Revolutions* (1980); Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1987); James Harrington, *The Commonwealth of Politics and A System of Politics* (1992); *The Varieties of British Political Thought* (1996); and *Conceptual Change and the Constitution* (1998).

JGA Pocock was the husband of Felicity, father of Hugh and Stephen, and grandfather of four cherished grandchildren.

May his memory be a blessing.