

The Limits of the Atlantic Republican Tradition

Organized by

Margaret C. Jacob, UCLA

Catherine Secretan, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris

Wijnand Mijnhardt, Universiteit Utrecht

Co-sponsored by the

Consulate General of the Netherlands, Los Angeles

April 17-18, 2009

Friday, April 17

9:30 a.m. Morning Coffee

10:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

Session 1 – The Dutch Republic

Margaret C. Jacob, UCLA

‘Was the Eighteenth-Century Republican Essentially Anti-Capitalist?’

Catherine Secretan, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris

“True Freedom” (Johan de Witt) and the Dutch Tradition of True Republicanism

Wijnand Mijnhardt, Universiteit Utrecht

The Economic and Intellectual Foundations of Holland Republicanism

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Session 2 – *Varieties of European Republicanism*

Matthew Kadane, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Anti-Trinitarianism and the Republican Tradition in Enlightenment Britain

Mary Lindemann, University of Miami

Republicanism in Practice: Hamburg, 1550-1799

Thomas Maissen, Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg

‘Why did the Swiss miss the Atlantic Republican tradition?’

History, Myth, Imperial and Public Law in the Early Modern Swiss Confederation

5:00 p.m. Reception

Saturday, April 18

9:30 a.m. Morning Coffee

10:00 a.m. Session 3 – *Republicanism and Revolution*

Luc Foisneau, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris
Rousseau's General Will and the French Republican Tradition

Jacob Soll, Rutgers University
John Adams' Tacitism and the Evolution of Classical Republican Culture

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Session 4 – *The Atlantic Tradition Revisited*

Marco Geuna, Università degli Studi di Milano
The Republican Tradition and the Scottish Enlightenment

J.G.A. Pocock, Johns Hopkins University
The Lost Atlantis, or Where Does Europe End? Inventing, De-inventing, and Re-inventing a Republican Tradition

3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks,
Lynn Hunt, UCLA

In present-day historiography one model seems to prevail for the interpretation of modern republicanism: that of an Atlantic republican tradition. Although a simple linear development from the “humanist liberty” of the Renaissance political theorists to the high-minded ideals of the American Declaration of Independence has now been recognized[omit by the main historians of the Cambridge School] as hard to maintain, yet quite a few of the European varieties of republicanism still wait to be taken into consideration. The underestimated influence of the Dutch experience as an important force in the creation of an Anglo-American republican tradition is particularly striking. In a two-day conference, we would like to put in the forefront such cases as the German free cities, the Swiss confederation, the ancestry of the French republicanism, and to compare them with English or Italian models. The main characteristics of their intellectual context, the legacy of the Cambridge School (freedom of the individual, a commercial or capitalist ethic, trust/distrust towards military power) should help define very specific ideologies and contribute – we hope – to a revised history of modern republicanism.