

# Quentin Skinner

**Barber Beaumont Professor of the Humanities, Queen Mary, University of London**

## **2006 Balzan Prize for Political Thought; History and Theory**

*For his formulation of a distinctive methodology for the study of the history of ideas, his major contribution to the history of political thought and his acute reflections on the nature of liberty.*

### **Institutions Administering Research Funds:**

European University Institute (EUI), Fiesole

Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge

**Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee:** Salvatore Veca

## **Balzan-Skinner Lectures and International Conferences**

### **1. An annual lecture, for a period of six years, with accompanying one-day conferences, on themes in Modern Intellectual History.**

This series of lectures is currently being delivered at the University of Cambridge under the joint auspices of the Faculty of History and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). The Managers of CRASSH, who have representation on the Appointments Committee for the Lectureship, have agreed that each lecturer should also be made a Fellow at CRASSH during the academic term in which the lecture and accompanying conference take place, thereby providing the lecturer with a period of residence at Cambridge and the opportunity to make use of the full range of its outstanding facilities for research.

The regulations for the series require that the lectureship be restricted to younger researchers (lecturers must be no further advanced in their careers than 10 years since the completion of their PhD); that each lecture should be delivered on a topic in Modern Intellectual History (1500 to the present day); and that a one-day Conference be associated with each lecture, to which other younger researchers in the relevant field are invited. The Appointments Committee has undertaken to ensure that the lecture-

ship is equally open and hospitable to researchers working in all idioms and traditions of intellectual history.

The first lecture, *Normativity of Nature*, was delivered by Dr. Hannah Dawson of the University of Edinburgh in September 2010; the second, *Radical Translation: Analytic Philosophy in America*, by Dr. Joel Isaac of Queen Mary, University of London in May 2011. The third lecture, *John Locke and the Fable of Liberalism*, was delivered in October 2012 by Dr. Timothy Stanton of the University of York. Dr. Gabriel Pacquette, Assistant Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University, delivered a lecture, *Romantic Liberalism in Southern Europe, c. 1820-1850*, in April 2013. The fifth scholarship was awarded to Dr. Karuna Mantena Associate Professor of Political Science at Yale University, whose lecture in May 2014 was entitled *Gandhi's Realism: Means and Ends in Politics*. Full details of the lectures and conferences so far held can be found on the CRASSH website. The Prizewinner, Quentin Skinner, has been able to attend all the lectures and conferences so far held. After 2015 the series will continue in the form of a lecture only.

## **2. A series of four international conferences under the general title *Freedom and the Construction of Europe*.**

These conferences have now taken place. They were held between July 2008 and September 2009 at the Conference Centre of the European University Institute (EUI) at San Domenico di Fiesole (Florence). Very grateful thanks are owed to the then President of the Institute, Professeur Yves Mény, who gave warm hospitality to the young researchers involved, as well as furnished superb facilities for the conferences and arranged help with the administration of the events. As the result of an international advertisement, over a hundred applications were received from young scholars wishing to join the core group. After dossiers and references had been read, twenty-two names were selected (12 men, 10 women).

- First Conference, 3-5 July 2008: *Religious Freedom and Civil Liberty*.
- Second Conference, 25-27 September 2008: *Liberty and Liberties in Legal and Constitutional Thought*.
- Third Conference, 2-4 July 2009: *The Freedom of Individuals*.
- Fourth Conference, 24-26 September 2009: *European Freedom and its Boundaries*.

**The senior visitors:** At each conference the core group was joined by a number of senior scholars, who were asked to deliver papers but also to give assistance and

advice to the members of the core group. At the first conferences the visitors who attended and delivered papers were:

Dr. Annabel Brett (Cambridge), Professor Thomas Kaufmann (Göttingen) and Professor John Coffey (Leicester). At the second conference the visitors were Professor Georg Schmidt (Jena), Professor Iain Hampsher-Monk (Exeter) and Professor Thomas Maissen (Heidelberg). At the third conference they were Professor Peter Stacey (California, Los Angeles) and Professor Philip Pettit (Princeton); at the fourth they were Professor Lars Magnusson (Uppsala), Professor Fonna Forman-Barzilai (California, San Diego), Professor Martina Reuter (Helsingin Yliopiston, Helsinki), Professor Michael Cook (Princeton), Dr. Noel Malcolm (Oxford) and Professor James Tully (Victoria, Canada).

### **Researchers:**

#### **The Balzan-Skinner Lecture in Modern Intellectual History since c. 1500**

#### **Balzan-Skinner Scholars**

Hannah Dawson (2010), Joel Isaac (2011), Tim Stanton (2012), Gabriel Paquette (2013), Karuna Mantena (2014).

#### **EUI Conferences: The core group of researchers**

Catherine Balleriaux, Theodor Christov, Rosanna Cox, Hannah Dawson, Serena Ferente, Felicity Green, Tomasz Gromelski, Polly Ha, Lena Halldenius, Jaska Kainulainen, Susan Karr, Lovro Kuncevic, Daniel Lee, Avi Lifschitz, Reidar Maliks, Sarah Mortimer, Eric Nelson, Alexander Schmitt, Freya Sierhius, Antti Tahvanainen, Huseyin Yilmaz and Márton Zászkaliczky.

### **Publications:**

#### *EUI Conferences*

Before the conferences were held, a steering committee was formed to work out the topics to be covered at each individual conference, and to make plans for the possible publication of the conference proceedings as a book. Members of the steering committee included the Prizewinner, Quentin Skinner, together with the Professor of Early Modern History at the European University Institute, Professor Martin van Gelderen, who acted as host to the conferences, and Mr. Richard Fisher, head of Humanities and Social Science publishing at the Cambridge University Press. Mr. Fisher kept closely in touch with the progress of the conferences, and attended the final one

in September 2009. He agreed at that stage that he would be willing to consider for the Press to publish a revised version of the proceedings of the conferences.

It was agreed at the final conference that all contributors should be given a year in which to revise, extend and annotate their papers in such a way as to turn them into chapters suitable for publication as a book. All contributors met the agreed deadline of October 2010, and the resulting chapters were then subedited and further revised by Quentin Skinner. These versions were then returned to the contributors, all of whom met the further deadline of April 2011 for producing final versions of their texts. The resulting book was at that point submitted to the Cambridge University Press to be refereed. The Press's referees reported in July 2011, and their comments on individual chapters were circulated to all contributors at once. The referees called for the removal of some chapters, the extension of others, and further revisions of the entire text. The required changes were completed by November 2011, at which point the two volumes were re-submitted to the Press and formally accepted for publication. The book was finally published in late 2012. The volumes were presented at the Announcement of the 2013 Balzan Prizewinners in Milan in September that year.

#### *Balzan-Skinner Lectures and Colloquia*

The eventual outcome will be a series of published lectures. The editorial Board of *The Historical Journal*, one of the leading Anglophone journals with a special commitment to publishing research in modern intellectual history, has agreed that it will publish each lecture in a suitably extended and annotated form. It is further hoped that it may be possible, after the completion of the series, to publish the entire set of lectures as a book.

#### **Links:**

EUI Conferences - *Freedom and the Construction of Europe*

<http://apps.eui.eu/Personal/Projects/FreedomProject/Abouttheproject.shtml>

CRASSH, University of Cambridge - *Balzan-Skinner Lectures and Colloquia*

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1026/balzan-skinner-fellowship>