

Adam Lebovitz

Legal historian and political theorist specializing in the constitutional ideas of the Age of Revolutions.

Hamilton School, University of Florida
adamlebovitz@ufl.edu
352.394.7827

Academic Positions

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, Gainesville, FL
Assistant Professor of the Humanities, Hamilton School, 2024–present
Assistant Professor (by courtesy) at the UF Levin College of Law

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Palo Alto, CA
College Fellow, 2023–2024

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE / TRINITY HALL, United Kingdom
Fixed-Term Assistant Professor, Faculty of History, 2022–2023
WYNG Research Fellow, 2019–2022

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL HISTORY AND THEORY, Frankfurt, Germany
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2019

Visiting Scholar, EHESS (Raymond Aron Center), Paris, France, 2016–2017

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA
Raoul Berger–Mark DeWolfe Howe Legal History Fellow, 2015–2016

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York City, NY
Samuel I. Golieb Fellow in Legal History, 2014–2015

Education

Ph.D., Government, Harvard University, 2018
J.D., Harvard Law School, 2012 (magna cum laude)
B.A., Political Science, University of Chicago, 2006

Publications

Books

Republicanism After the Revolution: An 1820s Account of the Terror in the Voice of Thomas Paine. Scholarly edition of a previously unknown manuscript, with introduction and critical apparatus (c. 80,000 words). Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment (Voltaire Foundation). Liverpool University Press, 2026.

Colossus: Constitutional Theory in America and France, 1776–1799 (monograph, forthcoming).

Colossus represents the first comprehensive study of constitution-making in America and France in the revolutionary era, and the first work to document the extensive influence of the American federal and state constitutions on the French Revolution. As a doctoral dissertation, it won numerous national and international awards.

Articles

The Anti–Montesquieuan Moment in America and France. *Proceedings of the British Academy* (forthcoming).

Dictatorship in the American Founding. *Journal of American Constitutional History* (2025): 267–334.

An Unknown Manuscript on the Terror, Attributed to Thomas Paine. *William and Mary Quarterly* (2018): 687–716.

An Economy of Violence: Financial Crisis and Whig Constitutional Thought, 1720–1721. *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities* (2018): 165–238.

Franklin Redivivus: The Radical Constitution, 1791–1799. *American Journal of Legal History* (2017): 1–50.

Perpetual Peace Revisited. *Modern Intellectual History* (2016): 327–55.

Obstruction and Emergency in Late Republican Rome. *History of Political Thought* (2015): 419–51.

Book Chapters

Representation and Democracy in the French Revolution. In *Cambridge History of Democracy*, eds. Markku Peltonen and Sophie Smith (forthcoming).

Dictatorship. In *Oxford Handbook of Law and Authoritarianism*, eds. Mark Tushnet et al. (forthcoming).

Constituent Power in the American Revolution. In *Oxford Handbook of Constituent Power*, eds. Peter Niesen, Markus Patberg, and Lucia Rubinelli (2026): 88–101.

The Image of Rights in the French Revolution. In *Cambridge History of Rights*, eds. Dan Edelstein and Jennifer Pitts (2024): 260–96.

Other Publications and Invited Essays

The Declaration, Power, and International Law, in *The Declaration at 250*, ed. Richard M. Reinsch, Civitas Institute, University of Texas (forthcoming).

Awards, Grants, and Honors

Dissertation Awards:

APSA Leo Strauss Award for best dissertation in political philosophy, 2019

Robert Noxon Toppan Prize, Harvard University, 2019

2022 Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

2022 Huntington Library Exchange Fellowship, San Marino, CA

2020 GRIPP Montreal Political Theory Manuscript Prize

2019 APSA Walter Dean Burnham Award for best dissertation in politics and history (Second Prize)

2015 Charles Warren Center for American History, Summer Research Fellowship

2014 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Paris

2013 Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

2008 Harold Laski Prize Fellowship in Political Theory, Harvard University

Presentations

Invited Talks

2026 Dictatorship in the American Founding. University of Oklahoma

2026 Neptune's Trident: Submarine Warfare and Perpetual Peace in the Age of Revolutions.
Oxford Seminar in the History of Political Thought

2023 Dictatorship in the American Founding. University of Zurich / JustCity; University of British
Columbia Political Theory Workshop; Stanford Political Theory Workshop

2023 The Pennsylvania Constitution and its Legacy. University of British Columbia

2022 The International Thought of Joel Barlow. Cambridge (CRASSH/Quentin Skinner Seminar)

2020 The Fourth Estate: Liberty of the Press in Jacobin France. Tel Aviv University

2020 Constitution-Making in the 1780s. Chinese University of Hong Kong

2020 Thomas Paine on the Terror. Cambridge Seminar in Political Thought and Intellectual History

- 2020 Manuscript roundtable on *Republicanism After the Revolution*. Princeton University (History of Political Thought Project / UCHV)
- 2019 La constitution jacobine et ses ennemis. EHESS
- 2018 The Jacobin Constitution and its Enemies. Institute of Historical Research, London

Selected Presentations

- 2026 Revolutionary Dictatorship: A Comment on Dan Edelstein's *The Revolution to Come*. APSA (forthcoming)
- 2026 Neptune's Trident. American University in Paris/Tocqueville Society (forthcoming)
- 2026 Dictatorship: A New History. Hamilton School, University of Florida
- 2026 Thomas Paine's Maritime Imagination. University of Sussex
- 2025 Dictatorship in the French Revolution. NYU School of Law
- 2025 Dictatorship: A New History. Columbia Law School
- 2024 Constituent Power and the American Founding. Yale University
- 2024 Hobbes. Princeton University (Richard Tuck *Festschrift*)
- 2023 Dictatorship in the American Founding. University of Pennsylvania Law School
- 2022 The Transatlantic Turn Against Montesquieu. Lettres Sorbonne Université
- 2022 The Theory of Insurrection, from August 10 to January 6. Stanford Law School
- 2022 Images of Democracy, 1789–1800. Princeton University

Commenter/Panelist

- 2026 Panelist, The Declaration of Independence at 250. Florida International University
- 2026 Panelist, Teaching Originalism. University of Florida
- 2025 Commenter, Panel on *Hebraic Republicanism*, Omohundro Institute Annual Conference
- 2024 Commenter, Stanford Political Theory Workshop (paper by Jonathan Gienapp)
- 2023 Commenter, Roundtable on Jon Elster. Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin

Conference Organizing

2026 Lead Organizer, *Dictatorship Revisited* Conference, University of Florida (Hamilton School and Levin College of Law). Keynote: Adrian Vermeule.

Public Engagement and Outreach

2025 UF Virtue of Cinema Series (presentations on "Danton" [1983] and "Seconds" [1966])

2021 An American in Paris: Thomas Paine in the French Revolution. Common Sense Society, Thetford, UK (Paine's birthplace) and Trinity Hall in America Alumni Event

Teaching and Advising

University of Florida, Hamilton School

- The Constitutional Convention of 1787 (scheduled for Fall 2026)
- Political Thought of the French Revolution (upper-level seminar, enrollment: 24)
- What Is Democracy? (QUEST seminar, enrollment: 35; taught x3)
- Civil Discourse and the American Political Order (enrollment: 25)

University of Cambridge, Faculty of History

- Paper 20: Political thought, c.1700–1890 (lectures and supervisions)
- Paper 6: The history of international political thought (lectures and supervisions)
- Methods in the History of Political Thought (graduate seminar)

Service to University

- Awards Committee, Hamilton School, University of Florida, 2025–2026
- Junior Faculty Search Committee, Hamilton School, University of Florida, 2024–2025
- Planning Group, Degree in American Civilization and Law, Hamilton School, University of Florida, 2024–2025

Service to Profession

Referee for journals and presses including *Modern Intellectual History*, *American Political Thought*, *Yale Law Journal*, *Review of Politics*, Cambridge University Press, and Le Studium Institute for Advanced Study

Languages

French (reading, writing, and speaking)

German (reading)