

THOMAS E. SCHNEIDER

Assistant Professor of Political Science
Department of History and Social Sciences
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RECENT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Jack Miller Fellow, Emory University, 2009-2010, 2008-2009

Visiting Assistant Professor, Bowdoin College, 2007-2008

Instructor, Boston University, Department of Political Science (Spring) and Writing Program (Fall), 2006-2007

Mellon Fellow (J. F. Stephen Project), Boston University, 2005-2006, 2004-2005

PRINCIPAL INTERESTS

Historical:

*American political thought, especially
the Founding period to the Civil War*

John Stuart Mill and his circle

Themes:

*Constitutionalism and representative
government*

Rights

Statesmanship and reform

Utopias and utopianism

EDUCATION

Ph.D.—Political Science, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., December 2002

Dissertation—“Lincoln and His Opponents: A Study in the Relation of
Politics, Morality, and Law”

Committee: Robert K. Faulkner (chair), Christopher Bruell, Dennis Hale
Nominated for the Leo Strauss Award, offered by the American Political
Science Association for the best dissertation in political philosophy, and
for the Hay–Nicolay Dissertation Prize offered by the Abraham
Lincoln Association

EDUCATION (continued)

Major in Political Theory; minor in American Politics.

Subfield concentrations in ancient, medieval, early modern, and
American political thought

Elective reading course on modernization in Japan

M.A.—The Graduate Institute in Liberal Education, St. John’s College,
Annapolis, Maryland, 1993

B.A.—Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle, 1985

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Lincoln’s Defense of Politics: The Public Man and His Opponents in the Crisis over Slavery. University of Missouri Press, 2006

This book, a revised version of the dissertation, examines two groups of opponents: abolitionists—Henry David Thoreau, William Lloyd Garrison, and Frederick Douglass—and states’-rights constitutionalists—Alexander Stephens, John C. Calhoun, and George Fitzhugh. Though on opposite sides of the slavery question, these groups concurred in opposing the more robustly political approach that Lincoln favored.

Editor, *James Fitzjames Stephen: On Society, Religion, and Government.* Oxford University Press, under contract

Stephen (1829-94; English jurist, essayist, and critic of John Stuart Mill) took a keen interest in the social, religious, and political questions of his day and wrote on many of them in periodicals such as the *Cornhill Magazine* and the *Saturday Review*. In spite of the high quality and enduring interest of his journalism, only a small proportion was collected during his lifetime, and very little has been republished since his death. This volume, one of eleven in preparation, will focus on Stephen’s contributions to debates on such matters as church–state relations, the dependence of morality on religion, and the challenge to traditional beliefs presented by developments in science.

“Lincoln’s Lyceum Speech as a Model of Democratic Rhetoric,” *History of Political Thought* 32, no. 3 (Autumn 2011)

In the face of an upsurge in mob violence, Lincoln in his 1838 Lyceum speech defended American political institutions. In doing so he had to rely on non-institutional, rhetorical means. Lincoln’s response invites comparison with responses by the abolitionists, who were often the victims of such violence.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (continued)

“Proportional Representation and the Framers,” *Society* 49, no. 1 (January/February 2012)

Co-written with Üner Dağlier. Takes up the question whether American democracy would be improved by the adoption of John Stuart Mill’s countermajoritarian reforms, concluding that such reforms would likely have the opposite of the desired effect.

“City on a Hill” (Review of *Christianity and American Democracy*, by Hugh Heclo), *Claremont Review of Books* 8, no. 3 (Summer 2008)

Heclo revisits Tocqueville’s treatment of the relation between Christianity and democracy in America and convincingly demonstrates their mutual influence.

“J. S. Mill and Fitzjames Stephen on the American Civil War,” *History of Political Thought* 28, no. 2 (Summer 2007)

Mill’s and Stephen’s views on the American conflict open a window on the differences in their political-theoretical stances: Mill viewed it in the light of his hopes for the improvement of mankind, which Stephen thought extravagant. First presented at a conference on the work of James Fitzjames Stephen, Boston University, April 2005.

SELECTED COURSES

POLI 212, Social and Political Philosophy

POLI 300, American Constitutional Law

POLI 302, The American Congress

POLI 305, Comparative Political and Legal Systems

POLI 306, Catholic Political Thought

POLI 312, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties