

# Methods in Political Theory

BIGSS-Seminar WS2016/17

Frieder Vogelmann

All files are available via seafile: <https://seafile.zfn.uni-bremen.de/d/3165f3a7fe/>  
(ask me for the password)

## I. What is Political Theory? What are its Methods?

**30 September 2016, 2–4pm, Room UNICOM 9.3280**

Grant, Ruth W. (2004): Political Theory, Political Science, and Politics. In: Stephen K. White and J. Donald Moon (ed.), *What is Political Theory?* London/Thousand Oaks/New Delhi: Sage, 174–192.

Tully, James (2002): Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity. In: *Political Theory* 30 (4), 533–555.

*If you want more...*

Dryzek, John S., Bonnie Honig and Anne Phillips (2006): Introduction. In: John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig and Anne Phillips (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3–41.

Swift, Adam and Stuart White (2008): Political theory, social science, and real politics. In: David Leopold and Marc Stears (ed.), *Political Theory. Methods and Approaches*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 49–69.

## II. Ideas and Struggles. How (Not) to Interpret History

**7 October 2016, 2pm–7pm, Room UNICOM 9.3280**

Strauss, Leo (1941): Persecution and the Art of Writing. In: *Social Research* 8 (1), 488–504.

Skinner, Quentin (2002 [1969]): Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas. In: ders., *Visions of Politics, Vol. 1: Regarding Method*. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 57–89.

Nietzsche, Friedrich (1997 [1887]): *On the Genealogy of Morals*. Translated by Carol Diethe. Ed. by Keith Ansell-Pearson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3–9 (Preface), 50–54 (Second Essay, §12 and §13).

Foucault, Michel (1998 [1971]): Nietzsche, Genealogy, History. In: idem (ed.), *Aesthetics, Method, and Epistemology: Essential Works of Michel Foucault 1954-1984, Volume II*. New York: The New Press, 369–391.

Derrida, Jacques (1992): Force of Law: The »Mystical Foundation of Authority«. In: Drucilla Cornell, Michael Rosenfeld and David Gray Carlson (ed.), *Deconstruction and the possibility of justice*. New York, NY: Routledge, 3–29 (Part I).

*Further reading:*

Pocock, John G.A. (1962): The History of Political Thought: a Methodological Enquiry. In: W.G. Runciman and Peter Laslett (eds.), *Politics, Philosophy and Society*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 183–202.

Saar, Martin (2008): Understanding Genealogy: History, Power, and the Self. In: *Journal of the Philosophy of History* 2 (3), 295–314.

Patton, Paul (2007): Derrida, Politics and Democracy to Come. In: *Philosophy Compass* 2 (6), 766–780.

**III. Political Theory between Empirical Research and Political Practice: Rational Reconstruction, Ideal Theory or Real Politics?**  
**21 October 2016, 2pm–7pm, Room UNICOM 9.3280**

Gaus, Daniel (2013): Rational Reconstruction as a Method of Political Theory between Social Critique and Empirical Political Science. In: *Constellations* 20 (4), 553–570.

Honneth, Axel (2014 [2013]): *Freedom's Right. The Social Foundations of Democratic Life*. Translated by Joseph Ganahl. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1–19, 63–67, 123–129.

Miller, David (2008): Political Philosophy for Earthlings. In: David Leopold und Marc Stears (Hrsg.), *Political Theory. Methods and Approaches*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 29–48.

Geuss, Raymond (2008): *Philosophy and Real Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1–55 (Part I).

*Further reading:*

Schaub, Jörg (2015): Misdevelopments, Pathologies, and Normative Revolutions: Normative Reconstruction as Method of Critical Theory. In: *Critical Horizons* 16 (2), 107–130.

Philp, Mark (2012): Realism without Illusions. In: *Political Theory* 40 (5), 629–649.