

Adrian O'Connor

University of South Florida | St. Petersburg campus
206 Williams House, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
oconnora@usf.edu
<http://history.usf.edu/faculty/aoconnor/>

Education

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, History, 2009
Dissertation: "Reading, Writing, and Representation: Politics and Education in France, 1762-1794"

B.A., University of Pennsylvania, History and Philosophy, 2003
Summa cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa

Academic employment and professional experience

Associate Professor, University of South Florida, 2017-present

Editor, *The Historian*, 2018-2023

Assistant Professor, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2011-2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2010-2011

Publications

Books

Assassination: On Concepts and Killings (under contract with Georgetown University Press, expected in 2026).

In pursuit of politics: Education and revolution in eighteenth-century France (Manchester University Press, 2017; paperback 2019).

Refereed articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries

"Reimagining the 'Common' and the 'Good' in eighteenth-century France," in Adriana Luna-Fabritius, Erica Benner, and Alberto Clerici, eds., *The Common Good in the History of Political Thought* (Brill, expected in 2026).

"Assassination," in Hugh LaFollette, ed., *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, 6th edition (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, expected in 2025).

“Rethinking assassination-as-politics,” in Luca Trenta and Kiril Avramov, eds., *Killing in the Name of the State: state-sponsored assassinations in international politics* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, expected in 2025)

“Reflections on the history of voting and elections,” *The Historian*, special issue devoted to “The History of Voting and Elections, in Principle and Practice, part II,” vol. 85, no. 1 (2023): 2-13.

“Action at a Distance: Petitions and Political Representation in Revolutionary France,” in Miguel Dantas da Cruz, ed., *Petitioning in the Atlantic World 1500-1800* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), 199-217.

“From Regeneration to Resignation: ‘Crisis’ and Crises in Revolutionary France,” in Cesare Cuttica, László Kontler, and Clara Maier, eds., *Crisis and Renewal in the History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to the Twenty-First Century* (Leiden: Brill, 2021): 149-170.

“Enlightenment and Education, Then and Now,” *Inquiry: Critical Thinking across the Disciplines* (spring 2021): 61-82; DOI: [10.5840/inquiryct202110201](https://doi.org/10.5840/inquiryct202110201)

“Culture,” *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed. by Hugh LaFollette (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021); DOI: [10.1002/9781444367072.wbiee949](https://doi.org/10.1002/9781444367072.wbiee949).

“‘Une véritable question d’état’: controversies over ceremonial robes and corporate citizenship at the University of Paris, 1766-1780,” *French History* 33:3 (September 2019): 378-398; DOI: [10.1093/fh/crz068](https://doi.org/10.1093/fh/crz068).

“Politics Lost: Civic Emotions and Political Institutions in the Early French Revolution,” in Micah Alpaugh, Robert Blackman, and Ian Coller, eds., *Becoming Revolutionaries: Essays in Honor of Timothy Tackett*, H-France Salon 11:1, #7 (2019): 1-11.

“‘Through the Bonds of Sentiment’: *Fraternité* and politics in Revolutionary France,” in László Kontler and Mark Somos, eds., *Trust and Happiness in the History of European Political Thought* (Leiden: Brill, 2018): 412-435.

“From the classroom out: educational reform and the state in France, 1762-1771,” *French Historical Studies* 39:3 (August 2016): 509-534; DOI: [10.1215/00161071-3500297](https://doi.org/10.1215/00161071-3500297).

“‘The Science of Liberty is not so simple’: teaching democratic thinking in revolutionary France,” *Partnerships: a journal of service learning and civic engagement* 6:1, a special issue devoted to the theme “Teaching Democratic Thinking” (Winter 2015): 136-160.

“‘Source de lumières & de vertus’: Rethinking *éducation*, *instruction*, and the political pedagogy of the French Revolution,” *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* 40:3 (Winter 2014): 20-43; DOI: [10.3167/hrrh.2014.400302](https://doi.org/10.3167/hrrh.2014.400302).

“Between Monarch and Monarchy: the education of the dauphin and Revolutionary politics, 1790-1791,” *French History* 27:2 (June 2013): 176-201; DOI: [10.1093/fh/crt007](https://doi.org/10.1093/fh/crt007).

“Nature, Nurture, and the Social Order: Imagining Lessons and Lives for Women in Ancien Régime France,” *French Politics, Culture & Society* 30:1 (2012): 1-22; DOI: [10.3167/fpcs.2012.300101](https://doi.org/10.3167/fpcs.2012.300101).

“The Educational Proposals of the French Revolution: A Case Study in the Intellectual and Cultural History of Expectations” in C. Armenteros et al., eds., *Historicising the French Revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008): 224-244.

Book reviews

Katlyn Marie Carter, *Democracy in Darkness: Secrecy and Transparency in the Age of Revolutions* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2023), review forthcoming in the *American Historical Review* (expected in 2025)

Stéphane Jettot and Jean-Paul Zuniga, eds., *Genealogy and social status in the Enlightenment*. Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2021), *Journal of Modern History* 95:4 (2023): 934-935.

Thomas Biskup, Benjamin Marschke, Andreas Pečar, and Damien Tricoire, eds, *Enlightenment at court: patrons, philosophes, and reformers in eighteenth-century Europe* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2022), *The Court Historian*, 28:3 (2023): 260-263.

Julia M. Gossard, *Young Subjects: Children, State-Building, and Social Reform in the Eighteenth-Century French World* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021), *American Historical Review* vol. 128, no. 3 (Sept. 2023): 1506-1507.

Armelle St-Martin, *Sade, la Révolution et la finance* (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2021), *H-France* vol. 22 (May 2022), no. 84: 1-5.

Véronique Castagnet-Lars, ed., *Les Associations d'élèves et d'étudiants: Entre socialisation et apprentissages (XVI^e-XX^e siècle)* (Toulouse: Presses universitaires du Midi, 2020), *French History* 36:1 (March 2022): 125-127. DOI: [10.1093/fh/crac009](https://doi.org/10.1093/fh/crac009)

Bernard de Bonnard, *Journal de l'éducation des princes d'Orléans, décembre 1777-janvier 1782*. Édition critique et introduction par Dominique Julia (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2019), *French Studies* 75:3 (July 2021): 396-397; DOI: [10.1093/fs/knab069](https://doi.org/10.1093/fs/knab069).

Yann Lagadec, Jean Le Bihan, et Jean-François Tanguy, eds., *Le Canton: un territoire du quotidien?* (Rennes, France, 2009), *French History* 26:2 (June 2012): 262-263.

Current projects

Assassination: On concepts and killings: a study of the concept and character of assassination as a specific form of political violence, its history, and its ethical implications. This book will offer a new way of understanding what assassinations are and a new argument for why democratic and open societies should refrain from the practice of politically-motivated targeted killings. To be published by Georgetown University Press.

Human Nature ~ Humans and Nature in the History of Political Thought, ed. by Adrian O'Connor and Adriana Luna-Fabritius: a co-edited volume in preparation for Brill's "History of European Political and Constitutional Thought" series.

"A Jacobin theory of the state?: the view from education" – a re-interpretation of how Jacobins in the National Convention approached the work of revolutionary statecraft, using debates and legislation regarding education as a window onto broader ideological issues.

Conference papers and presentations

"Return of the Wolf-Man: 'outlaws' and the state of nature in contemporary justifications of lethal state action," 8th biennial conference of the European Society for the History of Political Thought, Central European University, Vienna, 25-27 September 2024

"Legal lacunae and democratic norms: assassinations and open societies," State-sponsored assassinations in international politics, history, and law, Swansea University, 16 May 2023

"Reimagining the 'Common' and the 'Good': Regeneration as an Enlightenment idea and a revolutionary politics," European Society for the History of Political Thought, University of Helsinki, August 2022

"Action at a distance: petitions and the debate over political representation in revolutionary France," Petitions in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions (c. 1760-c. 1840), Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal, February 2019

"From *crise salutaire* to *j'ai vécu*: The Emotional and conceptual politics of crisis in revolutionary France," Western Society for French History, Portland, ME, November 2018

"What goes around comes around: salutary crises, political possibilities, and regenerative dilemmas in revolutionary France," Fifth International Conference of the European Society for the History of Political Thought, University of Heidelberg, October 2018

Commentator for a panel entitled "New Perspectives on the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era," Society for French Historical Studies, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2018

"Une Véritable Question d'État': Controversies over Ceremonial Robes and Corporate Citizenship at the University of Paris," American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 2018

“Politics Lost: Thinking about Contestatory and Constitutional Politics in the Early French Revolution,” Becoming Revolutionaries: A Conference in Honor of Timothy Tackett, September 2017, Irvine, CA

“Of Laws and Men: Judicial Reform and Sentimental Citizenship in Revolutionary France, 1789-1791,” Western Society for French History, Cedar Rapids, IA, November 2016

“Designing a Sentimental Regime in Revolutionary France, 1789-1791,” Society for French Historical Studies, Nashville, TN, March 2016

“What do turning points look like? An eighteenth-century case study from the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris,” Society for the Study of French History, University of St. Andrews, July 2015

“‘Through the Bonds of Sentiment’: *Fraternité* and the possibility of politics in the French Revolution,” European Society for the History of Political Thought, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, September 2014

“‘A source of moral existence, and so truly indispensable’: Letter-Writing, Participatory Politics, and the General Will in Revolutionary France,” American Historical Association, Washington D.C., January 2014

“A line too finely drawn: *éducation, instruction*, and the place of festivals in the political pedagogy of the French Revolution,” Society for the Study of French History, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, July 2011

“The Suspensive Veto’s Success: Letter Writing and the General Will under the Legislative Assembly,” Society for French Historical Studies, Charleston, SC, March 2011

“Teaching in a Failed State: Pedagogy, Performance, and Political Allegiance in Revolutionary France, 1792-94,” History of Education Society, Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 2009

“‘*La science de la liberté n’est pas si simple*’: Educational Reform and Revolutionary Politics in the Thought of Honoré de Mirabeau,” Society for French Historical Studies, St. Louis, MO, March 2009

“The Educational Proposals of the French Revolution: A Case Study in the Intellectual and Cultural History of Expectations,” Historicising the French Revolution, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, November 2007

“‘*L’Éducation devant préparer des Citoyens à l’Etat*’: The question of national education in France during the 1760s,” Barnes Club Annual Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, March 2006

Invited Talks

“Global Leadership Styles: Mandela to Maduro,” roundtable discussion at the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, St. Petersburg, FL, February 2021

“Institutions, Emotions, Citizens: Rethinking Civil Society in the Age of Revolutions,” invited talk at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, January 2020

“When the Mississippi River spoke French: New France as Atlantic Empire,” invited talk to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Tampa, FL, March 2015

“The French Revolution: culture, politics and the modern museum,” invited talk to the docents of the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL, February 2014

“Elizabeth and the Unification of the Church of England,” Cathedral Church of St. Peter Speaker Series, St. Petersburg, FL, March 2012

“From Depression to Blitzkrieg: Economics and Politics in Inter-War Europe,” Florida Humanities Council Teacher Training Program, St. Petersburg, FL, March 2011

Fellowships, honors, and awards

Faculty International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2024-2025

USF CAS-ORS Humanities Project Completion Summer Stipend, 2023

USF Humanities Institute Summer Research Fellowship, 2023

Faculty International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2022-2023

Faculty Research Grant, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2019-2020

Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2018-2019

College of Arts & Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2018-2019

Faculty International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2018-2019

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminar Fellow, 2018

Faculty Research Grant, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2016-2017

Faculty International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2014

Faculty Merit Award, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2012

College of Arts & Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, 2011-2012

School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2008-2009

Gilbert Chinard Fellowship, Institut Français de Washington, 2008

Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2007

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-2008

Miscellaneous professional service, talks, and publications

Manuscript reviewer for Manchester University Press; Palgrave MacMillan; *French History*; *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*; *Politics, Religion, and Ideology*; *Women's Writing*

Executive Committee, European Society for the History of Political Thought, 2022 - present

"The publishing process for first-time authors and early career researchers," *Phi Alpha Theta* biennial convention, San Antonio, TX, January 2020

"What do you mean, controversy?" *Thinking Through... Controversy*, History & Politics 2017-2018 speaker series, October 2017

"All that is solid melts into Sieyès," *Thinking Through... Research*, History & Politics 2016-2017 speaker series, October 2016

"Telling the Tale of Rights: a history of progress or peril?" *Thinking Through... Rights*, History & Politics 2015-2016 speaker series, September 2015

"Culture & Cataclysm: From the Trenches to Total War," inaugural lecture in the History & Politics Department series *Thinking Through... World War I*, September 2014

"The Enlightenment," Letters, *The Times Literary Supplement*, July 2013, 6.