

Trust and Happiness in the History of Political Thought

Third International Conference of the
European Society for the History of Political Thought



Central European University
17-19 September, 2014

Allegory of Happiness, by Agnolo Bronzino (1564)

Firenze, Uffizi

Commissioned by the Prince Regent Francesco de' Medici, this allegory represents Happiness (in the centre) with Cupid, flanked by Justice and Prudence. At her feet are Time and Fortune, with the wheel of destiny and the enemies of peace lying humiliated on the ground. Above the head of Happiness is Fame sounding a trumpet, and Glory holding a laurel garland.

http://www.artble.com/imgs/d/a/8/631923/allegory_of_happiness.jpg



Trust and Happiness in the History of Political Thought

Concept

In political and public discourse, as well as in political science and theory, debates concerning trust, fidelity, happiness, well-being, social contract and capital, and the connections between them, have intensified over the past two decades. In particular, the legitimacy of political institutions continues to be regarded as depending on the extent of their commitment to ensuring the "happiness" of citizens - the public good in the sense of the material, spiritual, cultural welfare of the generality of the people whose loyalty they claim - and on the amount of "trust" citizens hold regarding the ability and willingness of political leaders to work for the attainment of these goals. Further, besides cementing the relationship of governments and the citizenry, mutual trust and cooperation is also recognized as a principal means of securing unity of purpose among various (governmental and non-governmental) agencies tasked with promoting happiness, and, more broadly, of social cohesion, collaboration and solidarity. Yet, the recent years have seen a proliferation of critical discourses about the increasing "corruption" and the alienation of political leaders from their communities, a growing skepticism on the part of peoples vis-a-vis their government's commitment to the public good, and a consequent diffidence or "political laziness," aggravated by the experience of permanently consolidated inequalities of material wealth and of access to goods and services. Contrary voices, downplaying the significance of the phenomena at the bottom of such questionings of the sustainability of modern - national and supra-national - political systems and legitimacy, are also heard.

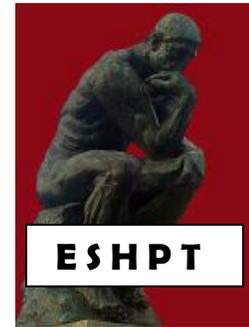
The vocabulary based on trust, happiness and related terms is indispensable for the conceptual apparatus mobilized by all sides in these debates. In spite of innovative contents and cognates of the pillars of this vocabulary, it is one that has evolved over 2500 years of political theorizing, addressing a huge variety of ideological, institutional and other challenges in the small, large and composite polities of Europe, in republican, monarchical and "mixed" states, of representative or authoritarian character, in their internal relations or in their interaction with one another - and indeed with far-away partners in increasingly intricate global entanglements. Our conference aims at historicizing the above-mentioned,

crucial debates: we have invited proposals that bring the perspectives and methods of the history of political thought to bear on their concepts and connections in ancient, medieval, and modern European contexts. Prospective participants have also been encouraged to reflect on the wider implications of their empirical topic for the state of the art and the overall relevance of the field.

The organizers are pleased to gratefully acknowledge generous support by the Central European University academic events fund, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, and the collaboration of the Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences in organizing the conference.

The organizing committee:

László Kontler (Central European University)
Lea Campos Boralevi (University of Florence)
Xavier Gil (University of Barcelona)
Mark Somos (Harvard University)



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Conference programme

Wednesday, 17 September

9:00-9:30 Registration (CEU Octogon)

9:30-11:30 Plenary session (CEU Auditorium)

9:30-9:40 Introduction: László Kontler (CEU)

9:40-9:50 Welcome: John Shattuck, President and Rector, CEU

9:50-10:15 ESHPT Presidential address: Lea Campos Boralevi (University of Florence)

10:15-11:30 Keynote 1: Steven Johnstone (University of Arizona, Tucson), *Trust and citizenship in ancient Greece*

Chair: Volker Menze (CEU)

11:30-12:00 Coffee

12:00-13:00 Session 1

Panel 1. Machiavelli on trust (Popper Room)

Chair: Lea Campos Boralevi (University of Florence)

Erica Benner (Yale University), *Machiavelli on the necessity for good faith*

Alberto Clerici (Università Niccolò Cusano, Rome), *Trust, heresy and rebellion. Reactions to Machiavelli, The Prince, 18 in the early Dutch Revolt (1572-1589)*

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 2

Panel 2. Trust and happiness in ancient Greece (Gellner Room)

Chair: Steven Johnstone (University of Arizona, Tucson)

Eleni Papadogiannaki (University of Crete, Heraklion), *A happy citizen in Euripides*

Dimitrios Mourtzilas (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt-am-Main), *Loyalty in Plato's Laws*

Hendrik Hansen (Andrássy University, Budapest), *How to generate trust among citizens? Contributions of Ancient Greek political philosophy*

Panel 3. Trust as the common root of religious, economic and political fulfillment (Popper Room)

Chair: Matthias Riedl (CEU)

Hans Blom (Erasmus University, Rotterdam - University of Potsdam), *Trust and sociability in the early Grotius*

James Livesey (University of Dundee), *Trusting God: Irish Catholic political thought in the face of defeat*

Mark Somos (Harvard University), *The sub rosa coherence of the epistemic foundation of John Locke's writings on trust, money, and salvation*

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-17:30 Session 3

Panel 4. Hobbes on trust (Popper Room)

Chair: Mark Somos (Harvard University)

Peter Schröder (University College London), *Fidem observandam esse – Trust and fear in Hobbes's political theory*

Eva Odzuck (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), *The concept of trust in Hobbes' social contract theory*

Ioannis Evrigenis (Tufts University), *Diffidence, trust, and commodious living in Thomas Hobbes*

17:45-18:30 Inauguration of the Specialization in Political Thought at Central European University (Popper Room: Matthias Riedl, Balázs Trencsényi, László Kontler, Alexander Astrov)

18:30 Reception hosted by the Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Thursday, 18 September

9:30-10:45 Plenary session (CEU Auditorium)

Keynote 2: Ralf-Peter Fuchs (University of Duisburg-Essen), *Trust as a concept of religious plurality during the Thirty Years War*

Chair: Erica Benner (Yale University)

10:45-11:15 Coffee

11:15-12:45 Session 4

Panel 5. 'Trust' in seventeenth & eighteenth-century political thought (Popper Room)

Chair: Xavier Gil (University of Barcelona)

Camilla Boisen (University of Johannesburg), *The lineages of trusteeship 1500-1800*

Cesare Cuttica (Université Paris VIII), *'Trust' in seventeenth-century English political thought: a contested word between patriarchalism, patriotism and ochlocracy*

Ted Vallance (University of Roehampton), *Trust, the people and political representation in late seventeenth and early eighteenth century England*

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Session 5

Panel 6. Trust and mistrust as a cement and solvent in composite states (Gellner Room)

Chair: Balázs Trencsényi (CEU)

Hannes Ziegler (Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich), *Privy council deliberations on trust: the Holy Roman Empire before 1618*

Danielle McCormack (University of Poznan), *Mistrust as a defining feature of colonial political identity formation in seventeenth century Ireland*

Sara Lagi (Middlebury College), *Adolf Fischhof and the linguistic question in the Habsburg Empire: a problem of "trust" and "collaboration" amongst the Austrian nationalities*

Panel 7. Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment approaches to happiness (Popper Room)

Chair: László Kontler (CEU)

Adriana Luna-Fabritius (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico City), *Happiness in early eighteenth-century Italian political thought*

Darrin M. McMahon (Florida State University), *Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the politics of happiness*

Alexander Jordan (European University Institute, Florence), *'A valiant suffering for others': Thomas Carlyle and the critique of happiness*

Ylva Söderfeldt (University of Aachen), *Rationalizing happiness: disability and the politics of care*

16:00-16:30 Coffee

16:30-18:00 Session 6

Panel 8. Happiness, trust and distrust: seventeenth and eighteenth-century dilemmas (I) (Gellner Room)

Chair: Niall Bond (Université de Lyon)

Gábor Gángó (Institute of Philosophy, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest), *Happiness, liberty and security in Leibniz's Specimen for the 1669 Polish king election*

Endre Sashalmi (University of Pécs), *Social contract and Russian political culture*

Vladimir Ryzhkov (St. Petersburg State University), *The scope of trust in an alienated society: the case of Nikolai Karamzin (1766–1826)*

Panel 9. Trust and mistrust between the ruler and the people: the Habsburg Monarchy in the nineteenth century (Popper Room)

Chair: Ralf-Peter Fuchs (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Ferenc Hörcher (Institute of Philosophy, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest), *The Széchenyis and Metternich: trust and distrust in the Hungarian Reform Era?*

Jonathan Kwan (University of Nottingham), *Franz Joseph as a constitutional monarch: the early years, 1862-1879*

Kálmán Pócza (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest), *Distrust and constitutional crisis in Hungary at the end of the 19th century*

18:15-18:45 Book presentation *Athenian Legacies: European Debates on Citizenship* (Popper Room: Paschalis Kitromilides, University of Athens)

19:00 Conference dinner

Friday, 19 September

9:30-10:30 Session 7

Panel 10. Happiness, trust and distrust: seventeenth and eighteenth-century dilemmas (II) (Gellner Room)

Chair: Ferenc Horkay Hörcher (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

Christine Zabel (University of Duisburg-Essen), *Can they be trusted? Losers and bankrupts in French political and judicial thought*

Adrian O'Connor (University of South Florida, St. Petersburg), *"Through the bonds of sentiment": Fraternité and the possibility of politics in the French Revolution*

Panel 11. Contract, trust and happiness: philosophical and practical approaches in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Popper Room)

Chair: Alexander Astrov (CEU)

Niall Bond (University of Lyon), *Ferdinand Tönnies' pessimistic eudaemonist social philosophy*

Alexey Tikhomirov (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt-am-Main), *Mobilisation vs legitimacy in the late Soviet Union: the grammar of trust and distrust under state socialism*

10:30-10:45 Coffee

10:45-12:00 Plenary session (CEU Auditorium)

Keynote 3: John Dunn (Cambridge University), *Toleration, trust and the travails of living together globally*

Chair: Paschalis Kitromilides (University of Athens)

12:00 Conclusion, farewell

14:00-15:00 ESHPT General Assembly meeting (Gellner Room, for ESHPT members only)