

# Dennis C. Rasmussen

Short CV, updated September 2020

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## EDUCATION

### **Duke University**

Ph.D., Political Science, 2005

M.A., Political Science, 2002

Dissertation: “The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith’s  
Response to Rousseau”

Committee: Ruth Grant (chair), Michael Gillespie, Tom Spragens, Neil De Marchi

### **Michigan State University**

B.A., Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy (James Madison College), 2000

Graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors College

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **Syracuse University**

Professor, Department of Political Science, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public  
Affairs, 2019–present

Co-director, Political Philosophy Program, 2020–present

Senior Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute, 2019–present

### **Tufts University**

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, 2018–2019

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2014–2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2009–2014

### **University of Houston**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and the Honors College, 2008–2009

### **Brown University**

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Political Theory Project, 2007–2008

### **Bowdoin College**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government, 2005–2007

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Fears of a Setting Sun: The Disillusionment of America's Founders*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, forthcoming in 2021.

*The Infidel and the Professor: David Hume, Adam Smith, and the Friendship That Shaped Modern Thought*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017. Paperback edition issued in 2019. 336 pp.

- Shortlisted for Phi Beta Kappa's [Ralph Waldo Emerson Award](#) (2018)
- Named one of the best books of the year by [The Guardian](#) (Julian Baggini), [Bloomberg](#) (Tyler Cowen), [Five Books](#) (Nigel Warburton), [Project Syndicate](#) (Kaushik Basu), and [Australian Book Review](#) (Paul Giles)
- Named book of the week by [Times Higher Education](#)
- Reviewed in the [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), and other popular outlets
- Subject of a Hume Society Conference [book panel](#) (2018)
- Subject of a [symposium](#) in *Rivista di filosofia* (2018)
- [Spanish](#), [Italian](#), Chinese, and [Korean](#) translations
- [Audiobook](#) version available via Tantor Audio

*The Pragmatic Enlightenment: Recovering the Liberalism of Hume, Smith, Montesquieu, and Voltaire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. Paperback edition issued in 2017. 357 pp.

- Subject of a [symposium](#) in the *Adam Smith Review* (2017)

*The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society: Adam Smith's Response to Rousseau*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008. Paperback edition issued in 2009. 208 pp.

- Honorable Mention, [Delba Winthrop Award](#) (2008)

### **Edited volumes**

*Adam Smith and the Death of David Hume: The "Letter to Strahan" and Related Texts*, ed. Dennis C. Rasmussen. Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2018. Paperback edition issued in 2020. 108 pp.

*Adam Smith and Rousseau: Ethics, Politics, Economics*, ed. Maria Pia Paganelli, Dennis C. Rasmussen, and Craig Smith. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018. Paperback edition issued in 2019. 336 pp.

**Articles**

“Mutual Sympathy, Hospitals, and Balls: David Hume’s Objection to the ‘Hinge’ of Adam Smith’s Moral Theory,” *Adam Smith Review* 13 (forthcoming 2021).

[“Adam Smith on What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 110.2 (May 2016), 342–52.

[“If Rousseau Were Rich: Another Model of the Good Life.”](#) *History of Political Thought* 36.3 (Autumn 2015), 499–520.

[“Burning Laws and Strangling Kings?: Voltaire and Diderot on the Perils of Rationalism in Politics.”](#) *Review of Politics* 73.1 (Winter 2011), 77–104.

[“Rousseau’s ‘Philosophical Chemistry’ and the Foundations of Adam Smith’s Thought.”](#) *History of Political Thought* 27.4 (Autumn 2006), 620–41.

[“Does ‘Bettering Our Condition’ Really Make Us Better Off?: Adam Smith on Progress and Happiness.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 100.3 (August 2006), 309–18.

**Book chapters**

[“Rousseau and Hume: The Philosophical Quarrel.”](#) in *The Rousseauian Mind*, ed. Eve Grace and Christopher Kelly (New York: Routledge, 2019), 119–29.

[“An Apology for Adam Smith, Friend of David Hume: The \*Dialogues\* Controversy.”](#) in *When in the Course of Human Events: 1776 at Home, Abroad, and in American Memory*, ed. Will R. Jordan (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2018), 57–75.

[“Smith, Rousseau, and the True Spirit of a Republican.”](#) in *Adam Smith and Rousseau: Ethics, Politics, Economics*, ed. Maria Pia Paganelli, Dennis C. Rasmussen, and Craig Smith (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018), 241–59.

[“Contemporary Political Theory as an Anti-Enlightenment Project.”](#) in *Rethinking the Enlightenment: Between History, Philosophy, and Politics*, ed. Geoff Boucher and Henry Martyn Lloyd (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018), 39–59.

[“Adam Smith and Rousseau: Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment.”](#) in *The Oxford Handbook of Adam Smith*, ed. Christopher J. Berry, Maria Pia Paganelli, and Craig Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 54–76.

**Review essay**

[“Whose Impartiality? Which Self-Interest?: Adam Smith on Utility, Happiness, and Cultural Relativism.”](#) *Adam Smith Review* 4 (2008), 247–53.

**Invited responses**

[“David Hume and Adam Smith: A Response to Lecaldano and Russell,”](#) *Rivista di filosofia* 109.3 (December 2018), 493–500.

[“The Pragmatic Enlightenment: A Response to Berry, Callanan, and Frazer,”](#) *Adam Smith Review* 10 (2017), 138–47.

[Response to Daniel B. Klein’s review of \*The Problems and Promise of Commercial Society\*,](#) in *Adam Smith Review* 7 (2014), 329–31.

[“Adam Smith on Commerce and Happiness: A Response to Den Uyl and Rasmussen,”](#) *Reason Papers* 33 (Fall 2011), 95–101.

**Popular press and other media**

[\*The Curious Task\* podcast episode,](#) interview on *The Infidel and the Professor*, June 17, 2020.

[\*Ceterus Never Paribus\* podcast episode,](#) interview on *The Infidel and the Professor* and other works, December 3, 2019.

[\*Ideas\* podcast episode,](#) CBC Radio, expert commentary on Adam Smith, October 1, 2019.

[“The Infidel and the Professor: The Friendship of Adam Smith and David Hume,”](#) *AdamSmithWorks*, November 2018.

[“The Best Books on Adam Smith”](#) (interview), *Five Books*, February 12, 2018.

[\*EconTalk\* podcast episode,](#) interview on *The Infidel and the Professor*, November 6, 2017.

[“He Died as He Lived: David Hume, Philosopher and Infidel,”](#) *Aeon*, October 23, 2017.

[“The Infidel and the Professor”](#) (interview), *3:AM Magazine*, September 2, 2017.

[“National Friendship Day,”](#) *Princeton University Press Blog*, August 6, 2017.

[“The Problem with Inequality, According to Adam Smith,”](#) *The Atlantic*, June 9, 2016.