

Flattery and the History of Political Thought

Flattery is an often overlooked political phenomenon, even though it has interested thinkers from classical Athens to eighteenth-century America. Drawing a distinction between moralistic and strategic flattery, this book offers new interpretations of a range of texts from the history of political thought. Discussing Cicero, Pliny, Castiglione, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Mandeville, Smith, and the Federalist/Anti-Federalist debates, the book engages and enriches contemporary political theory debates about rhetoric, republicanism, and democratic theory, among other topics. *Flattery and the History of Political Thought* shows both the historical importance and continued relevance of flattery for political theory. Additionally, the study is interdisciplinary in both subject and approach, engaging classics, literature, rhetoric, and history scholarship; it aims to bring a range of disciplines into conversation with each other as it explores a neglected—and yet important—topic.

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That Glib and Oily Art

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Acknowledgments

This book was quite a while in the making, longer than I thought it would be. This has to do in no small part to the birth of my son in the fall of 2012 – not long after I had been awarded an advance contract for this book, in fact. My wife and I had no idea what we were getting into: how much time could a baby take, after all? Like all other new parents, we were radically unprepared, because whatever you read or hear is sure not to apply to your child (there are no normal sleepers). More than four and a half years later, the book is done – and it would not be done were it not for the loving support of my wife, Eunsook Jung, to whom I dedicated my first book with these words from Catullus 51: *Nam simul te aspexi, nihil est super mi*. These words are no less true today than they were then.

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