

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
ROUSSEAU'S SOCIAL CONTRACT

What is freedom? What is equality? And what is sovereignty? A foundational text of modern political philosophy, Rousseau's *Social Contract* has generated much debate and exerted extraordinary influence not only on political thought, but also modern political history, by way of the French Revolution and other political events, ideals, and practices. *The Social Contract* is regularly studied in undergraduate courses on philosophy, political thought, and modern intellectual history, as well as being the subject of graduate seminars in numerous disciplines. The book inspires an ongoing flow of scholarly articles and monographs. Few texts have offered more influential and important arguments in political philosophy than Rousseau's *Social Contract*, and in this new Cambridge Companion, a multidisciplinary team of contributors provides new ways to navigate this masterpiece of political philosophy – and its animating questions.

DAVID LAY WILLIAMS is Professor of Political Science at DePaul University. He is the author of *Rousseau's Platonic Enlightenment* (2007) and *Rousseau's "Social Contract": An Introduction* (2014), as well as the coeditor of *The General Will: The Evolution of a Concept* (2015). His "*The Greatest of All Plagues*": *How Economic Inequality Shaped Political Thought from Plato to Marx* will be published by Princeton in 2024.

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The Cambridge Companion to
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In memory of Patrick Riley (1941–2015)

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