

Rethinking Liberty before Liberalism

Opening up new histories of freedom and republicanism, this book builds on Quentin Skinner's ground-breaking *Liberty before Liberalism* nearly twenty-five years after its initial publication. Leading historians and philosophers reveal the neo-Roman conception of liberty that Skinner unearthed as a normative and historical hermeneutic tool of enormous, ongoing power. The volume thinks with neo-Romanism to offer reinterpretations of individual thinkers, such as Montaigne, Grotius and Locke. It probes the role of neo-Roman liberty within hierarchies and structures beyond that of citizen and state – namely, gender, slavery and democracy. Finally, it reassesses the relationships between neo-Romanism and other languages in the history of political thought: liberalism, conservatism, socialism and the human rights tradition. The volume concludes with a major reappraisal by Skinner himself.

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For Quentin

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This expansive and probing event raised so many new insights and questions that we felt an edited volume was in order, even if regrettably we were not able to include all the papers presented at the conference.

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