

Samuel Woodall

INTELLECTUAL HISTORIAN | DOCTORAL RESEARCHER | UNIVERSITY TEACHER

Surrey, UK | theintellectualhistorian.com | Contact via website

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Doctoral researcher in Intellectual History at the University of Buckingham, specialising in political thought, party, faction, loyal opposition and moderation in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Britain. Brings three years of undergraduate teaching experience alongside seminar leadership, academic service, podcasting and public-facing research communication.

RESEARCH FOCUS

Political and religious conflict after the Glorious Revolution; the emergence of legitimate party division and loyal opposition; Paul de Rapin de Thoyras, John 'Estimate' Brown and Josiah Tucker; Whig and Tory thought; contextual intellectual history; European political thought; religion and constitutional argument.

EDUCATION

PhD in Intellectual History | Humanities Research Institute, University of Buckingham | **2023-present**

Thesis: From Unity to Difference: The Rise of Faction, Party, and Loyal Opposition in England.

Research examines how political thinkers responded to enduring division and developed arguments for legitimate opposition, with particular attention to Rapin, Brown and Tucker.

MLitt in Intellectual History | University of St Andrews | **2022-2023**

Dissertation on Robert Bellarmine's political thought in the contexts of the English Oath of Allegiance and the Venetian Interdict.

BA Hons in History and Politics | University of Exeter | **2019-2022**

Dissertation: The Social Contract, An Unsocial Construct: A Post-Pandemic Critique of Social Contract Theory as a Mode of Citizenship.

ACADEMIC AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

History Seminar Leader | Humanities Research Institute, University of Buckingham | **September 2023-present**

Teach undergraduate classes in eighteenth-century British history and nineteenth-century political thought.

Design and lead seminars, structured reading activities and coursework; support students in historical argument, source analysis and contextual interpretation.

Established additional political-thought reading sessions and provide individual academic support to students with differing learning needs.

Visiting Lecturer and Seminar Leader | University of Buckingham | **2024-2025**

Contributed to Britain in the Eighteenth Century and Science and Religion in the Age of Enlightenment.

PUBLICATION

Moderation and Memory: Rapin de Thoyras, Party Conflict, and the Problem of Political Fragmentation in Early Eighteenth-Century Britain

Published conference proceedings contribution, HAPI Tension and Fragmentation | **2026**

SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Moderation and Memory: Rapin de Thoyras, Party Conflict, and the Problem of Political Fragmentation in Early Eighteenth-Century Britain

HAPI Tension and Fragmentation Conference, University of Bristol | **17-19 August 2026**

Presented a 20-minute conference paper on Rapin's historicisation of party conflict, political moderation and the constitutional containment of division.

Moderation and Memory: Rapin de Thoyras and the Making of English Party

University of Buckingham Research Day | **February 2026**

Presented doctoral research on Rapin, party, political disagreement and moderation in a 20-minute paper with accompanying slides.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Founder and Host | *Beyond the Text* | **Ongoing**

Produce and host an academic podcast that makes intellectual history, political thought and contemporary political ideas accessible to wider audiences.

Research episodes, develop interview questions, conduct long-form interviews and oversee editorial production. Guests have included Anthony Pagden, Ritchie Robertson, Dominic LaCapra, Jesse Norman, Hilary Benn and Tom Brake.

Co-organisier | *History of Ideas and Political Thought Reading Club* | **2024-present**

Develop accessible sessions on themes including liberty, heritage and revolution for participants without prior specialist knowledge.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Student Representative | *Faculty Research Committee, University of Buckingham* | **Current**

Represent postgraduate researchers and contribute to faculty-level discussion of research activity and the doctoral experience.

Participate in doctoral annual review and wider postgraduate research activities.

Postgraduate Development Officer | *University of St Andrews Students' Association* | **2022-2023**

Supported postgraduate academic and professional development and worked with students and university stakeholders on postgraduate-facing activities.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Library Experience | *University of St Andrews Library* | **Approximately one year**

Worked in a university library environment, gaining direct experience of academic-library operations and supporting library users.

Editorial Research Assistant | *Westminster Forum Projects* | **2024**

Undertook research and editorial work supporting policy-focused conferences and professional events.

Earlier legal and professional-services roles with Vivash Brand LLP, Setfords Solicitors and 160 Fleet Street Chambers developed skills in document preparation, research, client communication, organisation and confidential case administration.

SKILLS

Teaching: seminar leadership, discussion facilitation, coursework design, academic support and inclusive teaching. **Research:** intellectual history, political thought, close textual analysis, historiography, archival and library research, academic writing. **Communication:** conference papers, public speaking, podcast production, interviewing, event programming and research communication.

References available on request