

Research

Political science chair Mark Button's primary field of research is political theory, focusing on the history of political thought, ethics, and deliberative democracy. His overall research agenda is driven by a commitment to draw upon the history of political thought to gain insights into some of the important moral and political challenges for our time. Among these challenges, a principal one that spurs Button's research is the concern to show how the justice and stability of pluralistic liberal democracies depend not only on certain laws and institutions, but also even more fundamentally on the character and capabilities of its citizens and leaders. If a liberal political order is to endure, it must find a way to generate and sustain a liberal political *ethos* that can provide the ethical motivations and moral commitments necessary to secure such a way of life over time. He believes that political theory can play an important role in this task by orienting citizens to these ideals, and by contributing to a defense of those principles and qualities upon which liberal political societies depend for their long-term sustainability.

Publications

"Reading Emerson in Neoliberal Times: Contesting the Abandonment of Autonomy" (forthcoming in the journal *Political Theory*)

"Hubris Breeds the Tyrant': The Anti-Politics of Hubris from Thebes to Abu-Ghraib," *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 8, 2 (June 2012): 336-363. Link: <http://lch.sagepub.com/content/8/2/305.full.pdf+html>

"American Liberalism from Colonialism to the Civil War and Beyond," in *The Cambridge Companion to Liberalism*, ed. Chandran Kukathas and Steven Wall.

"Virtue," in *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought* (Wiley-Blackwell), ed. Michael T. Gibbons

"Deliberative Impartiality: Embodied Ethics in Deliberative Democracy," Western Political Science Association, spring 2013

Book Manuscript: *Democratic Vices/Democratic Souls*

Awards

Tanner Humanities Center, Virgil C. Aldrich Research Fellowship, spring 2013.