

The Philosophy of History as Political Epistemology

Oliver Traldi
Princeton University

Political philosophy and theory have a clear but underexplored link to the philosophy of history. Several categories of political thinkers and actors are named explicitly by their relation to history: progressives, conservatives, traditionalists. In this talk, which expands on the final chapter of my book *Political Beliefs*, I address this connection through analytic philosophy's tools of social and political epistemology. We can conceptualize different relationships to history, and different philosophies of history, as different patterns of conciliation with and deference to the political beliefs of those who lived in the past and those who will live in the future. As I give examples of these different patterns, I consider some arguments for and against them, with occasional reference to thinkers like Burke, Chesterton, and Hayek.