

OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins

Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs

“Raymond Aron, Liberalism, and the Question of Antisemitism”

Monday, OCTOBER 29, 2018

4:30–6:00 PM • Global & International Studies Building (GISB) 4067



Raymond Aron is often considered the greatest French liberal thinker of the twentieth century. Yet the question concerning the nature of Aron's liberalism is far from clear. Many scholars often argue that Aron's liberalism grew out of his experience as a Jew who witnessed Hitler's rise to power, and, more generally, the emergence of totalitarian regimes. Yet how Aron's Jewish heritage relates to his mature liberal thought is no easy matter to determine. This paper tries to answer the question by suggesting that the connection between the two are overemphasized, and that Aron himself had at best a deeply ambiguous perspective of the matter. It then raises the question of how such ambiguity might explain Aron's thinking on Vichy and his strange late-life defense of former fascist sympathizers such as Alfred Fabre-Luce and Bertrand de Jouvenel. It was the logic of the Cold War, the paper will argue, that ultimately defined Aron's liberalism and his mature thinking about the Antisemitism of Vichy.



[Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins](#) is currently a lecturer at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. His work primarily focuses on twentieth-century transatlantic political and intellectual history. He is currently writing a book under contract with Columbia University Press titled, *The Neoconservative Moment in France: Raymond Aron and the United States*. His popular work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Dissent Magazine*, and elsewhere. He is the former managing editor of the *Immanent Frame*.

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Presentations are open to the public. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).