

Wisconsin Discussion Group on Constitutionalism  
(a/k/a the Con Law Schmooze)  
September 30-October 1, 2016

Topic: Reconstitution: Politico-legal History as Constitutional Change

Interpreting the Constitution transcends the originalism v. living constitutionalism debate, because our understanding of what is “original” is itself a changing phenomenon. Constitutional change involves a continual dialectic in which past and present reshape one another. From Sanford Levinson’s recent book *An Argument Open to All: Reading “The Federalist” in the 21st Century*, to the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*, contemporary commentators are increasingly engaging in a project of reinterpreting our political and constitutional history to debate, refocus or redirect present-day understandings of constitutional meaning. Reconstituting the past is not simply a U.S. phenomenon, as similar historiographical projects are pursued in other countries struggling with their own issues of constitutional meaning.

This year’s Wisconsin Discussion Group on Constitutionalism—more popularly known as the Con Law Schmooze—seeks to explore these historiographical and comparative dimensions of constitutional construction. We invite you to join us in a wide-ranging discussion of these questions.