

William Tilleczek

*The City and Self-Transformation:  
Michel Foucault and the Political Theory of Asceticism*

A Manuscript Workshop

With: Sophie Bourgault, Niki Clements, Margaret Kohn, Dimitri M'Bama, Laurence McFalls,  
William Roberts

Sponsored by the Research Group on Constitutional Studies (McGill University) and  
Le centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes (Université de Montréal)

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2024  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
Sherbrooke 680 1041, McGill University

Program

**Opening/Welcome, 9:00am**

William Tilleczek, McGill University (Department of Political Science)

**Panel 1. Foucault, Asceticism, and the General Theory of “Training”**

9:00am – 10:30am

William Roberts, McGill University (Department of Political Science), on *Chapter 1. Turning to Ethics, Turning from Politics?*

Dimitri M'Bama, Institut National de la recherche scientifique (INRS) and Collectif de recherche Action Politique et Démocratie (CAPED), on *Chapter 2. Michel Foucault: Postwar, Post-Marxist, French Classicist Queer Ascetic Activist*

Niki Clements, Rice University (Department of Religion), on *Chapter 3. Towards a Comparative Ascetology: Askesis Beyond Deprivation and Spiritual Exercise*

Chair: William Roberts

With response from William Tilleczek

**Coffee Break**

10:30am – 11:00am

**Panel 2. Training as a Stake of Politics**

11:00am – 12:30pm

Margaret Kohn, University of Toronto (Department of Political Science), on *Chapter 4. Habit as a Problem of Government*

Sophie Bourgault, University of Ottawa (Political Studies), on *Chapter 5. Coercion and Capacity in the Social Askerion*

Laurence McFalls, Université de Montréal (Département de science politique), on *Chapter 6. Self-Entrepreneurs and Ascetic Revolutionaries: From the Death of Politics to the Demos in Training*

Chair: Sophie Bourgault  
With response from William Tilleczek

**Lunch**

12:30pm – 2:30pm

**Panel 3. *L'esprit de l'escalier*: Roundtable and Closing Discussion**

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Sophie Bourgault  
Niki Clements  
Margaret Kohn  
Dimitri M'Bama  
Laurence McFalls  
William Roberts

Chair: Margaret Kohn  
With closing remarks from William Tilleczek

**Reception**

4:00pm – 5:00pm