



Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Call for Submissions: *Starting Points*

Starting Points, an online journal of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri, invites essay submissions on the topic of “American principles and American practice.” From the issues of slavery and racial justice to the development of party politics and rising economic inequalities, questions surrounding the meaning of American ideals and their implementation in practice have always animated American political life. The recent presidential election was no exception, foregrounding questions regarding the quality of American democracy as well as the nature and meaning of American identity in the international arena.

We welcome essays that address the meaning and significance of American principles such as democracy, freedom, equality, rights, the rule of law, constitutionalism, etc., either in themselves or as they appear in particular texts and contexts, as well as essays that address the conjunction of these principles with present or past American practice. We also welcome essays in a comparative or international relations vein that shed light on American principles and their practical application. The journal will strive to reflect a wide variety of approaches to this general topic, including those characteristic of history, political science, philosophy, law, literature, and cultural studies.

Typical journal articles will be roughly 1,500 words in length and addressed to an interdisciplinary, non-specialist audience. Articles will not contain the usual scholarly apparatus (footnotes, parenthetical citations, or bibliographies). It is hoped that such articles will allow scholars from otherwise diverse disciplines to have meaningful and productive conversations about topics of crucial importance for American politics and its history.

Please send essay submissions and other inquiries to SeagraveS@missouri.edu.

S. Adam Seagrave, Editor

Founded in 2014, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy is an academic center at the University of Missouri devoted to promoting interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship on American political thought, history, and institutions. The Institute has developed a number of programs specifically designed to build collaborative research networks across disciplines and institutions by providing faculty and graduate students with opportunities to share their work with colleagues on the MU campus and at colleges and universities throughout the region and nation. These programs include: the Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History, the Shawnee Trail Regional Conference on American Politics and Constitutionalism, a biweekly colloquium series and regular public lecture series, and the *Studies in Constitutional Democracy* monograph series with University of Missouri Press. For more information, see democracy.missouri.edu.