Abstract

Republicanism is often divided into neo-Roman and neo-Athenian versions. However, both traditions considered separately can provide only a limited and narrow understanding of republicanism and thus deprive the republican political theory of valuable insights. On the contrary, this thesis argues that it would be preferable, both historically and theoretically, to conceive of the neo-Roman and the neo-Athenian strands as branches of a single integrated republican tradition. The thesis begins with a methodological discussion focused on how such an integrated account might be formulated and explains its preference for a conceptual approach that follows the morphology-oriented methodology developed by Michael Freeden. The thesis proceeds to track down the earliest formulations of republican concepts in ancient Greece, then turns to the Roman usage of these concepts and analyses the similarities and differences between the two earliest appearances. The next part concentrates on development of these concepts during the early modern era of classical republicanism in Italy, England and America. Afterwards, the most prominent neo-Athenian and neo-Roman approaches are analysed and interrelated. The last chapter summarises and synthesises the most important findings: (1) Two separate narratives of the neo-Athenian and the neo-Roman republicanisms have been proven neither in classical antiquity nor in the eras of classical and neo-republicanism. (2) The integrated account of republicanism is internally unified by a dynamic cluster of intertwined core and adjacent concepts, which retain relatively stable meanings and morphology throughout different historical eras. A brief conceptual history of these central republican concepts is introduced as well as their graphic model illustrating their morphology and transhistorical change. The integrated account of republicanism is also conceptually contrasted with liberalism and populism. The methodological, historical, and conceptual common ground for integrated republicanism is thus established and ready to be used in various fields of political theory.