

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY • 281

MEANING AND  
UNDERSTANDING IN  
THE HISTORY OF IDEAS  
AND BEYOND

Edited by  
ADRIAN BLAU

*Published for* THE BRITISH ACADEMY  
*Marketed and distributed by* Liverpool University Press

# Contents

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	ix
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
<b>Part I: Skinner's Historical and Theoretical Foundations</b>	<b>1</b>
1 Understanding 'Meaning and Understanding': Context, Content, and Discontent ADRIAN BLAU	3
2 Yet Another Contest of the Faculties? Quentin Skinner on Meaning and Understanding in the History of Philosophy JAMES GORDON FINLAYSON	39
3 Learning from the History of Political Thought: The Figure of the Cook in Skinner, Passmore, Lenin, and Plato MELISSA LANE	58
4 Quentin Skinner and the Historical Interpretation of Political Philosophy A. P. MARTINICH	77
<b>Part II: Expanding Skinner's Contexts</b>	<b>99</b>
5 Meaning, Context, Interpretations in the Islamic Tradition: Provincialising Skinnerian Contextualism HUMEIRA IQTIDAR	101
6 Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ancient Greek Political Thought CAROL ATACK	117
7 Methods vs Purposes in Skinner: For a Textualist Approach to Constitutional and Parliamentary Debates ROCHANA BAJPAI	136

<b>Part III: Ideology, Rhetoric, and Language</b>	157
8 Quentin Skinner and the Analysis of Ideology JONATHAN LEADER MAYNARD	159
9 Ideological Innovation, Rhetorical Political Analysis, and English Protest Songs ALAN FINLAYSON	176
10 How (Not) To Understand Nature: Margaret Cavendish's Response to the Rhetorical Situation of the Scientific Revolutions SOPHIA HATZISAVVIDOU	195
11 Quentin Skinner's Approach from a Sociolinguistic Perspective SALIA A. TAGLIAMONTE	211
<b>Part IV: Contextual Analysis in the Digital Age</b>	237
12 Computational Methods in Intellectual History MIKKO TOLONEN AND YANN RYAN	239
13 Contextual Analysis in the Computer Age: The Case of Hobbes JACQUELINE BASU AND ALISON MCQUEEN	261
<b>Part V: Response from Quentin Skinner</b>	287
14 A Rejoinder QUENTIN SKINNER	289
<i>Index</i>	302