

Laudation

For the Political Theory Prize 2025

The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize to **Bruno Leipold** for the **2025 ECPR Political Theory Prize**.

The jury reported the following:

The jury recommends Dr Bruno Leipold from the London School of Economics and Political Science, as the winner of the Political Theory award for his book *Citizen Marx: Republicanism and the Formation of Karl Marx's Social and Political Thought*. The goal of this study is to pay special attention to Marx's early defense, middle criticism, and later integration of republican ideals. Leipold does so by appealing to a wide range of often underexplored texts, including letters, journal entries, newspaper publications, and careful readings of classic texts such as Marx's early criticism of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*. For example, the author considers Marx's early publications that defend freedom of the press when he was a liberal editor of a journal; the early Marx's critique of constitutional monarchy, his criticism of Aristotle's *Politics*, and his close reading of Montesquieu, Hamilton, and Rousseau—not to mention his careful study of numerous constitutional documents, including those from the French and American revolutions—in preparation for his published works.

The book is a tour de force of intellectual history that fundamentally transforms our understanding of one of the most influential political thinkers through meticulously researched, and brilliantly presented material. Leipold reveals Marx as deeply embedded in an ecosystem of contemporary figures pursuing republican insight, like Arnold Ruge, Karl Grün, and Karl Heinzen. In its extensive coverage of Marx's socialist ideas, the author convincingly traces republican concerns, contouring a neglected and distinctive tension. The book is an excellent example of how to employ methods in the history of political thought to achieve novel results both within and outside our discipline (being applicable to other approaches to domination in the workplace). It excels both in identifying relevant fragments in Marx's works to support this core thesis, and in framing Marx's texts within an incredibly well researched outlook of the intellectual context. This is a landmark work that will reshape Marx studies for years to come.

Ladislav Cabada

On behalf of the Political Theory Prize Jury
European Consortium for Political Research