

The Ph.D. Program in History Presents...

The 13th Annual John Patrick
Diggins Memorial Lecture

**"The Perils of Sex:
Catharine Macaulay's
Constitution of Liberty"**



Wed, Feb 25, 2026 from 6:30 PM–8:00 PM



The Segal Theatre at
The CUNY Graduate Center
365 5TH Ave. New York, NY 10016



Hybrid Event

In-Person RSVPs: email History@gc.cuny.edu
Online: Register at <https://bit.ly/2026Diggins>



Professor Mary Bilder
Boston College Law School

The influential constitutional historian Catharine Macaulay published the first female-authored constitutional plan in 1767. A mysterious revision offers a glimpse at Macaulay's desire for women to have the same independence as men in a democratical political state. Her family's rise to wealth taught her that the male constitutional state was built on the perils of sex and maternal morbidity. Her plan reflects constitutional liberty as imagined by a woman and suggests a historical foundation for an expansive conception of constitutional liberty.