

# Inaugural Prague Lecture in Constitutional Law and Theory - Nicholas Barber

20.3.2026 - Sojková Machoň | Právnická fakulta UK

**Katedra ústavního práva vás zve na zahajovací přednášku nové série každoročních přednášek nejvýznamnějších zahraničních osobností oboru ústavního práva a ústavní teorie.**

Sérii zahájí Nicholas Barber, který je profesorem ústavního práva a ústavní teorie na Právnické fakultě Univerzity v Oxfordu. Jedná se o jednu z nejvlivnějších současných osobností oboru, autora publikací *The Constitutional State*, *The Principles of Constitutionalism* nebo *The United Kingdom Constitution: An Introduction*.

Přednáška (v angličtině) se uskuteční dne 14. dubna od 16:00 v přednáškové místnosti č. 120. Jejím tématem bude *Constitutional Identity and the Right to Attachment*. Bližší podrobnosti budou brzy zveřejněny. Akce se uskuteční s podporou Common Law Society.

Všichni jsou vřele vítáni!

*Bio:*

*Nick Barber is Professor of Constitutional Law and Theory at the University of Oxford. He has published two books in the area of constitutional theory. The first, *The Constitutional State* (OUP: 2011), examined the nature and construction of states. The second, *The Principles of Constitutionalism* (OUP: 2018), looked at the constitutional principles that should guide this construction. His third book, *The United Kingdom Constitution: An Introduction* (OUP: 2021) used these principles to examine the functioning of a real-world constitution, that of the United Kingdom. From 2025 to 2026, he was Senior Proctor at Oxford University, and from 2026 to 2029 he will hold a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, working on 'Reason and Emotion in the Formation of Constitutional Identity'.*

*Anotace:*

*Constitutional Identity and the Right to Attachment*

*What form should our relationship with the state take? Is the state like a team, where membership is grounded primarily in reasoned consent, or is it more like a family, where membership is grounded primarily in emotional attachment? The lecture examines the differences between these two, and argues that we have good reasons for wanting our relationship with the state to be underpinned by attachment. But whilst wanting to experience attachment is rational, it is not a disposition we can choose or can be reasoned into adopting.*

*In consequence, states must rely on emotional strategies to ground attachment. The lecture ends by reflecting on the right to attachment, the limits that our reasons for wanting to experience attachment place on the emotional strategies states deploy.*

<https://www.prf.cuni.cz/aktuality/inaugural-prague-lecture-constitutional-law-and-theory-nicholas-barber>