

**Dr Christopher FEAR**

Lecturer in Politics and International Relations  
University of Hull

**Michael Oakeshott: Civil Association and Conservatism**

This paper introduces the life, work, and legacy of the British "idealist" philosopher and historian of political thought, Michael Oakeshott, with particular focus on his work at the LSE during the 1950s. It outlines his idea of "political education", his celebrated essay, "On Being Conservative", and the theory of "the politics of scepticism" that would later evolve into his idea of "civil association" in the 1960s and '70s. The paper then revisits some classic critiques of "civil association" that came out of the University of Hull in the 1980s and '90s, and which seem to be echoed in "post-liberal" thinking among today's conservative theorists.

**Keywords:** Oakeshott, Civil Association, Conservatism