

Gary Wickham,

Law, History, and Rival Positions: Time does not weary rivalries

Drawing on some work by J.G.A. Pocock, particularly his *Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law: A Study of English Historical Thought in the Seventeenth Century*, and some by Ian Hunter, particularly his *Rival Enlightenments: Civil and Metaphysical Philosophy in Early Modern Germany*, this paper will argue that time does not change fundamental intellectual rivalries. Using legal thinking as its main example, it will argue that the project of dialectical synthesis is not the route to a happy meeting of minds but rather the expression of yet another rival position, one no less determined to impose itself on its rivals than any of the others. As Weber says, one cannot escape from the politics of intellectual work by pretending that there is an intellectual space free from such politics.

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