Steven Maxwell Klein

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POSITIONS

Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in Political Theory, Department of Political Economy, King's College London, 2023-

Assistant Professor (Lecturer) of Political Theory, Department of Political Economy, King's College London, 2020-2023

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida, 2017-2020

Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute, Italy, 2016-2017

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Chicago**, Political Science, 2016

Dissertation: "The Work of Politics: Radical Democracy, Political Economy, and the Twentieth-Century Welfare State"

Committee: John P. McCormick (chair), Patchen Markell, Robert Gooding-Williams, and Lisa Wedeen

Visiting Researcher, CRC 597 "Transformations of the State", Universität Bremen, 2013-2014

M.A. **University of Chicago**, Political Science, 2012

Joseph Cropsey Prize, Best MA Thesis in Political Philosophy, University of Chicago

B.A. **University of British Columbia**, Political Science (Honours), 2008

BOOKS

Union: A Global History of an Idea, Allen Lane and Oxford University Press, forthcoming August 2027.

Translations Alianza (Spanish), Feltrinelli (Italian), and Wagenbach Verlag (German).

The Work of Politics: Making a Democratic Welfare State, Cambridge University Press, 2020.

Shortlisted for the ECPR Political Theory Prize.

Reviewed in *Political Theory*, *Review of Politics, Contemporary Political Theory, European Journal of Political Theory*, *Theory & Event, Business Ethics Quarterly*, and *Choice*.

Subject of a critical dialogue in *Perspectives on Politics* (with Benjamin L. McKean's *Disorienting Neoliberalism: Global Justice and the Outer Limit of Freedom* (Oxford 2020)).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

"A Democratic Theory of Labor Unions," *American Political Science Review,* online first.

"Rethinking Citizen Competence: A New Theoretical and Empirical Framework," *British Journal of Political Science*, Volume 55 (2025): e120.

"A Transnational Double Movement? Polanyian Reflections on Conflicts Law Constitutionalism," *European Law Open,* 4, no 1 (March 2025): 76-88.

"On the Egalitarian Value of Electoral Democracy," *Political Theory*, 52, no. 5 (October 2024): 782-807.

"Democracy Requires Organized Collective Power," *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, 30, no. 1 (March 2022): 26-47.

"European Law and the Dilemmas of Democratic Capitalism," *Global Perspectives*, 1, no. 1 (May 2020): 13378, with responses from Claus Thomasburger, Christian Joerges, Sabine Frerichs, Fernando Losada, and Vladimir Bogoeski.

"The Power of Money: Critical Theory, Capitalism, and the Politics of Debt," *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*, 27, no. 1 (March 2020): 19-35.

"Towards a Dynamic Theory of Civil Society: The Politics of Forward and Backward Infiltration," (co-authored with Cheol-Sung Lee), *Sociological Theory*, 37, no. 1 (March 2019): 62-88.

"Fictitious Freedom: A Polanyian Critique of the Republican Revival," *American Journal of Political Science*, 61, no. 4 (October 2017): 852-863

"Between Charisma and Domination: On Max Weber's Critique of Democracy," *Journal of Politics*, 79, no. 1 (January 2017): 179-192.

"'Fit to Enter the World': Hannah Arendt on Politics, Economics, and the Welfare State," *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 4 (November 2014): 856-869.

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

"Normative Political Economy," *Oxford Handbook of New Political Economy*, eds. Colin Hay and Andrew Hindmoor, forthcoming.

"Capitalism and Democracy," *De Gruyter Handbook of Democratic Theory*, eds. Cristina Lafont, Nadia Urbinati, David Ragazzoni, forthcoming.

"Putting Labour to Work," (co-authored with Lise Butler and Federick Harry Pitts), *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*, 34, no. 1 (2026): 5-9

"Corporatism," in *The Cambridge Handbook of Constitutional Theory*, eds. Richard Bellamy and Jeffrey King, Cambridge University Press, 2025.

"Life Beyond Work: On the Political Theory of Capitalism," *Political Theory* 51, no. 1 (February 2023): 271-278. [review essay of Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It)* (Princeton 2017) and Kathi Weeks, *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries* (Duke 2011)].

"On Form and Substance in the Theory of Democracy," *Analysis Review* 83, no. 1 (January 2023): 197-2023. [review essay of Camilla Vergara, *Systemic Corruption: Constitutional Ideas for an Anti-Oligarchic Republic* (Princeton 2020) and Emaneula Ceva and Maria Paola Ferretti, *Political Corruption: The Internal Enemy of Public Institutions* (Oxford 2021)].

"A Missed Opportunity? Social Democracy and the Neo-Statist Moment," (co-authored with Paolo Gerbuado) *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*, 30, no. 4 (2022): 11-26.

"Finance and the Financialization of Capitalism," (co-authored with Ivan Ascher, Carolyn Hardin, Johnna Montgomery, and Emily Rosamond), in *Capitalism, Democracy, Socialism: Critical Debates*, ed. James Chamberlain and Albena Azmanova, Springer, 2022.

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Co-PI, Neubauer Collegium Research Project, University of Chicago	2025-2027
PI, ERC Starting Grant (funded by UKRI under Horizon Guarantee), (€1,149,711)	2023-2027
Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Governance and Society, KCL (£5000)	2021
Center for Humanities in the Public Sphere Workshop Grant, University of Florida ($3500)	2020
Berlin Prize, American Academy in Berlin ($20,000)	2019
University Term Professor, University of Florida, ($15,000)	2018-2020
Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, University of Florida ($8000)	2017

PUBLIC WRITING

"Pragmatic politicians are doomed to fail," *Institute of Art and Ideas*, August 22, 2025.

"Are Elections Enough? Democracy and Collective Power," *APA Perspectives on Democracy*, August 13, 2025

"Towards a Democratic Theory of Labour Unions," *Public Ethics*, Sept 28, 2023

"What Biden's Welfare State Is—And Isn't," *Foreign Policy*, May 14, 2021

"America is Learning to Reject Socialism, but Love the Welfare State," *Foreign Policy*, February 17, 2021

"Building the Welfare State is About Building Democracy," *Jacobin*, October 2020.

"Coronavirus Against the Market" (with Anton Jäger), *Tribune*, March 28, 2020.

"In the Red: Democracy in an Age of Debt," *The Berlin Journal*, Issue 34, Fall 2019.

"Socialism and Freedom: Karl Polanyi's Early Writings," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, January 25, 2019.

"The New Science Wars," *The Chronicle Review*, December 16, 2018.

"Against Civility, or Why Habermas Recommends a Wild Public Sphere," *Aeon*, September 24, 2018.

"A Serious Man" (with John Ganz), *The Baffler*, February 7, 2018.

"Right-Wing Extremists Have a Right to Speak, Not a Right to be Listened To," *The Washington Post*, November 6, 2017.

"How (Not) to Criticize Karl Polanyi," *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, June 5, 2017.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES (SELECT)

Keynote Lecture, Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference

- University of Groningen, June 17-19, 2027

"Groups, Power, and Democracy"

- Columbia Political Theory Workshop, Columbia University, March 10, 2027

"Democratic Theory Without Illusions"

- Yale Political Theory Roundtable, Yale University, September 30, 2026

"Towards a Democratic Theory of Labour Unions"

- University of Birmingham, November 13, 2024
- University of Hamburg, December 4, 2024
- University of York, March 25, 2024

"Systemic Risk and the Transformation of Democracy"

- University of Toronto, April 9, 2024
- University of Oslo, February 25, 2025

"On the Egalitarian Value of Electoral Competition"

- Political Theory Workshop, London School of Economics, November 17, 2022

"Democratic Futures: Towards a Critical Political Theory of Finance"

- Contemporary Political Theory Workshop, University of Cambridge, October 21, 2022

"On the Egalitarian Value of Electoral Competition"

- Politics Department Research Seminar, University of Reading, October 11, 2022

"Corporatism: A Constitutional Concept"

- Cambridge Intellectual History and Political Thought Seminar, January 25, 2021

"The Power of Money: Towards a Democratic Theory of Finance"

- Keynote Workshop Paper, "The Political Economy of Debt after the Euro-Crisis: Normative and Empirical Perspectives," Amsterdam Center for European Studies, University of Amsterdam, December 11, 2019

"Max Weber and the Contradictions of Political Leadership"

- Institute of Philosophy, London, November 22, 2019

"Can Democracy Tame 21st-Century Capitalism?"

- Daimler Lecture, American Academy in Berlin, November 5, 2019

"Democratic Institutions, Political Equality, and Organized Collective Power"

- Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, October 29, 2019
- Technische Universität Darmstadt, October 29, 2019

"The Power of Money: Towards a Critical Theory of Finance"

- Georgetown University, November 11, 2019
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, November 14, 2019
- Freie Universität Berlin, October 16, 2019

"Political Equality and Collective Power: Elements of a Theory of Democracy"

- The Rice Workshop in Humanistic Ethics, April 12-13, 2019, Houston

"Karl Polanyi and the Enduring Dilemmas of Democratic Capitalism"

- "The Political in the Economy and its Law: Symposium in Honour of Professor Christian Joerges," Dec. 5, 2018, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

"Towards a Worldly Political Economy"

- "Economics Through the Lens of Political Theory," *Relationships Matter: EU Policy-Making Borne from Relational Political Agents*, December 5-7, 2018, European Commission, Brussels

SUPERVISION

PhD Students Supervised to Completion

Alec Dinnin, "Democracy and Disorientation: José Ortega y Gasset's Post-Imperial Liberalism," University of Florida, 2020 (co-chaired)

Current position: Tenure-Track Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Current PhD Supervision (Chair)

Nicholas Jeyarajah, "Democracy, Now!: Can community organising create radical democratic transformation?," expected defense: spring 2029

Dulyaphab Chaturongkul, "Compromise, Agonism and Realist Democracy," expected defense: spring 2027

Daniela Paz Horta Cortes, "AI Governance and Women's Labour: Decolonial and Gendered views on Chile's AI Policy," expected defense: spring 2027

Current PhD Supervision (Committee Member)

Lauren Sheppard, "Understanding power in multilateral trade negotiations: the hidden relational dynamics that trade negotiators operate within," expected defense: fall 2026

Mel Cullinan, "The post-democratic nature of British electoral events since 2010," expected defense: fall 2028

James Mowatt, "Solidarity and its Discontents: The Lengths and Limits of Solidarity in the 'Long Sixties' (1955-75)," expected defense: fall 2029

Tarun Gidwani, "Fairness & Competition in International Trade" (Philosophy PhD), expected defense: fall 2020

MA Theses – 15 supervised at the University of Florida and King's College London

BA Theses – Over twenty supervised at King's College London

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

"Critical Theory," King's College London, 2024
"The Political Theory of Finance," King's College London, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021
"Introduction to Political Theory," King's College London, 2020, 2021, 2022
"Freedom, Capitalism, and the Welfare State," University of Florida, 2020
"Problems of Democracy," University of Florida, 2020
"The Good Life," University of Florida, 2019
"Introduction to Political Theory," University of Florida, 2017, 2018
"Classics of Social and Political Thought," University of Chicago, 2016
"The Welfare State and its Discontents," University of Chicago, 2015

Graduate

"The Political Theory of the European Union," Directed Study Course, University of Florida, 2020
"Contemporary Democratic Theory," University of Florida, 2019
"Contemporary Political Theory," University of Florida, 2018
"Theory and Politics," University of Florida, 2018

Nominated for a King's Education Award, 2021 and 2025

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Director of Research, Department of Political Economy, King's College London, 2025-

Political Theory Research Group Coordinator, King's College London, 2021-2023

Placement and Professionalization Coordinator, University of Florida, 2017-2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Political Theory Co-Editor, *Perspectives on Politics*, 2026-

Editorial Board, *Class, Power, and the State in the 21st Century* Book Series, De Gruyter

Contributing Editor, *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*

Editorial Board Member, *The Journal of Politics* (2020-2024) and *Emancipations: A Journal of Critical Social Theory*

Founding Co-Convening, London Political Theory Network

External Examiner, Department of Politics, University of Edinburgh

Grant Reviewer, SSHRC

Book Manuscript Reviewer: *Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Yale University Press, Polity*

Article Manuscript Reviewer: *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Political Theory, Political Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Sociological Theory, Constellations, European Journal of Political Theory, Raison Politique, Philosophy and Social Criticism, Political Research Quarterly, Democracy and Security, Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*