

BRIAN MILSTEIN

work: Forschungsverbund “Normative Orders”
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Academic Employment

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND LECTURER (*Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter*), Chair of International Political Theory, Excellenzcluster “Normative Orders,” Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, September 2016 to present

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Leibniz Research Group and Excellenzcluster “Normative Orders,” Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, January 2015 to September 2016

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Collège d’études mondiales, Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme, Paris, January to December 2014

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, January to December 2013

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Einstein Foundation Workgroup on “Crisis of Democracy,” John-F.-Kennedy Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin, May 2011 to December 2012

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, Department of Humanities, New School for Public Engagement, September 2006 to May 2008

Education

PH.D. (POLITICS), New School for Social Research, 2011

Major field: Political Theory

Minor field: Comparative Politics

Cumulative GPA: 3.97 (on 4.00 scale)

Dissertation: “Commercium: Toward a Critical Social Theory of the Cosmopolitan”

- Selected for the 2011 Hannah Arendt Award in Politics
- Nominated for the APSA 2012 Leo Strauss Award

Dissertation committee: Nancy Fraser (chair), Andreas Kalyvas, Richard J. Bernstein, Rainer Forst, Terry Williams (dean’s representative)

M.A. (POLITICS), New School for Social Research, 2003

Selected for the 2003 Outstanding M.A. Graduate Award, Politics

A.B. (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Vassar College, 1999

Books (as author)

Commercium: Critical Theory from a Cosmopolitan Point of View. London: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2015

- Preface by Nancy Fraser
- Back-cover endorsements by William E. Scheuerman and Rainer Forst

Books (as editor)

Nancy Fraser and Rahel Jaeggi, *Capitalism: A Conversation in Critical Theory*. Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2018

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Justification Crisis: Brexit, Trump, and Deliberative Breakdown," *Political Theory* (forthcoming)

"Security versus Democratic Equality," *Contemporary Political Theory* (forthcoming)

"Perpetual Peace and Cosmopolitical Method: The Systematic Grounds of Kant's Cosmopolitan Vision," *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy* 50, no. 1 (2017)

"A Tale of Two Demoi: Boundaries and Democracy beyond the Sovereign Point of View," *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 43, no. 7 (2017)

"Thinking Politically about Crisis: A Pragmatist Perspective," *European Journal of Political Theory* 14, no. 2 (2015)

"Kantian Cosmopolitanism beyond 'Perpetual Peace': Commercium, Critique, and the Cosmopolitan Problematic," *European Journal of Philosophy* 21, no. 1 (2013)

Book Chapters and Invited Contributions

"What Does a Legitimation Crisis Mean Today? Financialized Capitalism and the Crisis of Crisis Consciousness," in Boris Vormann and Michael D. Weinman (eds), *The Emergence of Illiberalism: Understanding a Global Phenomenon* (London: Routledge, 2021)

"On the Complementary Relation between Crisis Consciousness and Democracy: A Note on the Political Contradiction of Capitalism," in Hanna Ketterer and Karina Becker (eds), *Was stimmt nicht mit der Demokratie? Eine Debatte zwischen Klaus Dörre, Nancy Fraser, Stephan Lessenich und Hartmut Rosa* (Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2019)

"What Is Critical Theory Today? (and What Is It For?)," special issue on "Critical Theory Today," *Zeitschrift für Politische Theorie* 2017, no. 2 (2018)

"The Diversity and Unity of Critical Theory in Prague," special section commemorating the 25th annual conference on "Philosophy and the Social Sciences," *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 43, no. 3 (2017)

Academic Articles in Preparation

“Capitalism and Democracy: Complementarity, Complicity, Conflict, Compatibility”

“Whither Justice in Times of Crisis?”

“Preservation, Progress, and Pathology: Three Paradigms of Crisis Thinking in Modern Political Thought”

Non-Academic Publications

“The Brexit Vote and Trump’s Election Were Decided Democratically. So Why Don’t They Feel that Way?,” *The LSE’s Brexit Blog*, 6 November, 2018 (published online at <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2018/11/06/the-brexit-vote-and-trumps-election-were-decided-democratically-so-why-dont-they-feel-that-way/>)

“Emergency Politics Are the Wrong Path for Today’s Europe,” *openDemocracy*, 8 February, 2016 (published online at <https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/brian-milstein/emergency-politics-are-wrong-path-for-todays-europe>)

Translation Work

Wolfgang Streeck, “Small-State Nostalgia? The Currency Union, Germany, and Europe: A Reply to Jürgen Habermas,” *Constellations* 21, no. 2 (2014)

- Translated from the German, “Nostalgische Kleinstaaterei? Die Bayern, die Währungsunion, Deutschland und Europa. Eine Replik auf Jürgen Habermas”

Daniel Gaus, “Rational Reconstruction as a Method of Political Theory between Social Critique and Empirical Political Science,” *Constellations* 20, no. 4 (2013)

- Originally appeared in German as “Rationale Rekonstruktion als Methode politischer Theorie zwischen Gesellschaftskritik und empirischer Politikwissenschaft,” *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 13, no. 2 (2013)

Rahel Jaeggi, “What (if Anything) Is Wrong With Capitalism? Dysfunctionality, Exploitation, and Alienation: Three Approaches to the Critique of Capitalism,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 54, Spindel supplement (2016)

- First draft only
- Translated from the German, “Was (wenn überhaupt etwas) ist falsch mit Kapitalismus? Drei Wege der Kapitalismuskritik” (unpublished paper)

Invited and Departmental Talks

“Questions for a Political Theory of Crisis”

- Political Theory Colloquium of Professors Darrel Moellendorf and Rainer Forst, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, December 2019

“Whither Justice in Times of Crisis?”

- Annual Joint Colloquium, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, December 2016

“Emergency Powers and Democratic Equality”

- Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, July 2016

“Global Consciousness, Injustice, and the Rigidities of ‘Perpetual Peace’: An Attempt to Think with Kant beyond Kant”

- Research Seminar, “Towards Perpetual Peace: Politics, Culture, and Education,” University of Aarhus, Copenhagen, November 2015

“Toward a Critique of Crisis: A Research Agenda”

- Workshop on “Crises, Order, and Knowledge,” Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, Universität Erfurt, December 2015

“A Tale of Two Demoi: Boundaries and Democracy beyond the Sovereign Point of View” (and variants)

- Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, July 2015
- Political Theory Colloquium of Professor Regina Kreide, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, June 2015
- Department of Social Sciences, NYU–Abu Dhabi, November 2014
- Collège d’études mondiales, Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme, Paris, May 2014

“Preservation, Progress, and Pathology: Three Paradigms of Crisis Thinking in Modern Political Thought”

- Collège d’études mondiales, Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme, Paris, December 2014

“Thinking Politically about Crisis” (and variants)

- Social Philosophy Colloquium of Professor Rahel Jaeggi, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, November 2013
- Political Theory Colloquium of Professor Regina Kreide, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, October 2013
- Political Theory Colloquium of Professor Rainer Forst, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, April 2013

“Taming the Boundary Paradox in Democratic Theory”

- Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, November 2013

“What Is Crisis?” (with Ethan Miller and Stefanie Wöhl)

- Politics Colloquium of Professor Margit Meyer, John-F.-Kennedy Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin, October 2011

“Kant, Commercium, and the Domain of the Cosmopolitan”

- “Works in Progress” Series, Department of Political Science, New School for Social Research, New York, March 2007

Conference Presentations

“Whither Justice in Times of Crisis? Puzzles for Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory”

- ECPR General Conference, online, August 2020

“Efficacy, Legitimacy, and Political Contradiction: The Status of Democracy in Nancy Fraser’s Conception of Capitalism”

- Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2019
- ECPR General Conference, Wrocław, September 2019

“Toward a Typology of Modern Crisis Politics”

- Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2018

“Trump, Brexit, and the New Politics of Legitimation Crises” (and variants)

- APSA Annual Meeting, Boston, August/September 2018
- Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics, University of Birmingham, May/June 2018
- Annual Conference of the “Normative Orders” Cluster of Excellence, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, November 2017

- ECPR General Conference, Oslo, September 2017
 - Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2017
- “Emergency Powers from a Cosmopolitan Point of View”
- Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2016
- “Global Consciousness, Injustice, and the Rigidities of ‘Perpetual Peace’: An Attempt to Think with Kant beyond Kant”
- Justitia Amplificata Workshop, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, February 2016
- “Reimagining Critical Theory from a Cosmopolitan Point of View” (and variants)
- Course on Critical Theory, Inter-University Center Dubrovnik, June 2015
 - Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2015
- “Thinking Politically about Crisis” (and variants)
- Symposium of the Swiss Philosophical Association, St. Gallen, June 2014
 - Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2013
 - Einstein Crisis Research Group Workshop, Berlin, November 2012
- “A Tale of Two Demoi: Boundaries and Democracy beyond the Sovereign Point of View” (and variants)
- Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2014
 - Einstein Crisis Research Group Workshop, Berlin, March 2014
- “Cosmopolitanism, Crisis, and Critical Theory: Habermas contra Habermas”
- Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2012
- “A Critical-Hermeneutic Approach to Conceptualizing Boundaries” (and variants)
- Global Studies Association Annual Conference, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, May 2009
 - Philosophy and Social Sciences Conference, Prague, May 2008
- “Kant and the Cosmopolitan Problematic” (and variants)
- APSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 2007
 - MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2007
- “The Crisis of External Sovereignty”
- Global Studies Association Annual Conference, University of California at Irvine, May 2007
- “Toward a Critical Social Theory of the Cosmopolitan”
- New England Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston, April 2007
- “Critique and Crisis in Global Society”
- Union of Political Science Students Annual Conference, “Sovereignty and the World Order,” New School for Social Research, New York, May 2004

Awards and Honors

The Hannah Arendt Award in Politics, 2011
Dean’s Fellowship, 2007/08
Frank Altschul Dissertation Fellowship, 2006/07
University Teaching Fellowship, 2006/07
Outstanding M.A. Graduate Award, Politics, 2003
New School Tuition Scholarship, 2001-2005

Teaching

- “Capitalism and Its Discontents,” B.A.-level proseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Wintersemester 2020/21
 - Wintersemester 2019/20
- “Frontiers of Socioeconomic Justice,” M.A.-level seminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Wintersemester 2020/21
 - Wintersemester 2019/20
- “Emergency and Exception,” M.A.-level seminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2020
- “Questions in International Thought,” B.A.-level proseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2020
 - Sommersemester 2019
- “The Democratic Citizen in Modern Society,” seminar, Institut für Allgemeine Erziehungswissenschaft (Institute for General Educational Science), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2019
- “Introduction to Political Theory,” B.A.-level introductory lecture course, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Wintersemester 2018/19
- “Democracy and Deliberation,” M.A.-level seminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2018
- “Modern Theories of Freedom,” B.A.-level proseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2018
- “The Nation-State and Its Discontents,” B.A.-level proseminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Sommersemester 2017
- “Theorizing Crisis,” M.A.-level political theory seminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
- Wintersemester 2015/16
- (with Ethan Miller) “History and Philosophy of American Pragmatism,” M.A.-level interdisciplinary seminar, Graduate School of North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
- Sommersemester 2012
- “Modern Political Philosophy,” B.A.-level seminar, Humanities Department, New School for General Studies
- Spring 2008
 - Fall 2007
 - Fall 2006

University and Professional Service

Peer-Reviewer:

American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Political Studies; European Journal of Political Theory; Journal of International Political Theory; Political Research Quarterly;

Constellations; Philosophy and Social Criticism; Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy; Revista Idéias; Incipiens; Springer Press

Panel or Paper Discussant:

panel on "Competing Approaches to Political Philosophy," ECPR General Conference, August 2020, online; Paper by William E. Scheuerman, "Constituent Power and Civil Disobedience: Beyond the Nation-State?," Civil Disobedience and the European Crisis, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, March 2019; panel on "The Past and Future of Democratic Community: Theoretical Foundations and Institutional Challenges," ECPR General Conference, August 2018, Hamburg; paper by Tamara Jugov, "Interpersonal and Structural Exploitation: A Domination-Based Conception," Critical Theory Revisited: The Intertwining of Exploitation and Domination, Justitia Amplificata, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, March 2018; paper by Dimitrios Efthymiou, "EU Migration and Welfare Rights," Workers of the World: Labour, Migrations, and Solidarity, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, July 2017; commentator, Manuscript Workshop on Simon Caney's *On Cosmopolitanism*, University of Birmingham, January 2017; commentator, Manuscript Workshop on John Baker's *Arguing for Equality*, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, December 2016; panel on "Eurocrisis and the End of Cosmopolitanism?," Critical Theory Roundtable, Yale University, New Haven, October 2015; paper by Charles Sabel, "Producing Justifiable Pluralism," Justitia Amplificata Annual Conference, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Bad Homburg, July 2015; panel on "Capitalism's Polities: Crisis of Europe, Crisis of Democracy," Rethinking Capitalist Crisis: Ecology, Society, Democracy, Freie Universität Berlin and Einstein Stiftung Berlin, November 2014; paper by Albena Azmanova, "The 'Crisis of Capitalism' and the State," Workshop on Crisis, Capitalism, Critique II, Collège d'études mondiales, Paris, November 2013; paper by Rahel Jaeggi, "Critique of Capitalism as Life Form," Workshop on Crisis, Capitalism, Critique I, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, November 2012

Co-Organizer (with Darrel Moellendorf), international conference, "Interpreting the Anthropocene: Hope and Anxiety at the End of Nature," Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, June 2019

Executive Committee Member, Research Committee on Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, International Political Science Association, January 2019 to present

Co-Organizer (with Darrel Moellendorf), manuscript workshop on Idil Boran's *Political Theory and Global Climate Change Action*, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, May 2018

Co-Organizer (with Darrel Moellendorf and Merten Reglitz), manuscript workshop series on Simon Caney's *On Cosmopolitanism*, University of Birmingham (UK) and Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, January 2017

Coordinator, Guest Lecturer Series on "Crisis of the American Democracy," J.F.K.-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin, Wintersemester 2011/12

Editorial Assistant, *Constellations*, September 2003 to October 2008

Student Representative, Political Theory Faculty Search Committee, New School for Social Research, Fall 2006

Research Assistant to Professor Rainer Forst, New School for Social Research, February to May 2006

Admissions Liaison for Political Science, New School for Social Research, January 2005 to June 2007

Conference Organizer and Co-Chair (with Maya Joseph), "20 Years after Foucault," Graduate Student Conference, New School for Social Research, April 2004

Participant, Graduate Institute on "Democracy and Diversity," Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, Cracow, Poland, July 2002

Areas of Specialization

Contemporary political thought
Critical social theory
Theories of crisis
Immanuel Kant's political and social thought
Jürgen Habermas's political and social thought
Nationalism and the state

Areas of Competence

International theory
Comparative politics
History of political thought
Classical social theory
Macro-social theory
American pragmatism

Languages

English (native); German (proficient, B1); French (beginner, A2)

ORCID iD



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