

JAN H. WASSERZIEHR

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Areas of specialisation

Political Philosophy, Philosophy of AI, Critical Theory

Areas of competence

Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Technology

Education

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| 2022–2027 | MRes/PhD, Political Theory, London School of Economics
Thesis: <i>Fleeting Freedom: Technical Progress and the Fate of Modernity</i>
Supervisor: Katrin Flikschuh, Advisor: Lea Ypi |
| 2019 | MSc, Political Theory, London School of Economics
Thesis: <i>Towards a Political Theory of the Internet (Distinction)</i> |
| 2017 | BA, Sociology, Politics and Economics, Zeppelin Universität
Thesis: <i>Machiavellian Ethics in the 21st century (Grade: 1.1)</i> |

Awards & honours

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| Spring 2026 | Visiting Scholar, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Philosophy (Sponsor: Rahel Jaeggi) |
| Fall 2025 | Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, Department of Philosophy (Sponsor: Axel Honneth) |
| 2022–2026 | LSE Studentship for Doctoral Research (full fees and maintenance expenses) |
| 2015–2019 | Fellow of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (monthly stipend and travel grants) |

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Can Technical Progress Make Us Free? *European Journal of Political Theory*. 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14748851261472308>

Are Conscious Machines Valuers? *AI & Society*. 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-026-02959-1>

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Moral Ambiguity of the AI Consciousness Debate. In *Social Robots with AI: Prospects, Risks, and Responsible Methods*. IOS Press, pp. 65–76. 2025. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.3233/FAIA241490>

UNDER REVIEW

Artificial Consciousness and Rational Desire: a Kantian View (with Tom Bailey) (Conditional accept in *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*)

Heidegger's Frage nach der Technik as an Immanent Critique of Modernity (Under review in *Philosophy & Social Criticism*)

PUBLIC WRITING

Does Mamdani's victory show that "radical" is the new normal? *LSE Government Blog*, 2025. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/government/2025/12/15/does-mamdani-victory-show-that-radical-is-the-new-normal/>

Don't blame AI for its mistakes. *Institute of Art and Ideas*, 2025. <https://iai.tv/articles/dont-blame-ai-for-its-mistakes-auid-3421>

Talks & conferences

"Technical Progress and Freedom from Labour"

- 16th Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy, University of Minho, 06/26
- Political Theory Doctoral Seminar, LSE, 05/26

"Heidegger's Frage nach der Technik"

- British Society for Phenomenology Annual Conference, Sussex University, 05/26
- Political Theory Doctoral Seminar, LSE, 03/25

“Does Non-Valenced Consciousness Ground Moral Status?”

- Artificial Consciousness & The Morality of Machines, LSE, 07/25

“The Question Concerning Technology as a Question in Political Theory”

- GAP Workshop in Political and Social Philosophy, FU Berlin, 07/25
- Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Harvard University, 10/24
- Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Sciences Po, 05/24
- Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory, University of Warwick, 02/24
- Political Theory Doctoral Seminar, LSE, 11/23

“The Moral Ambiguity of the AI Consciousness Debate”

- Robophilosophy Conference, Aarhus University, 08/24

“What’s Wrong With Machine Intelligence?”

- Which Smartness? Whose Intelligence?, University of Lisbon, 05/24

Comments

“Compensation for Derivative Harm”

Ran Wu, PLP Graduate Forum, 03/24

Impact & Engagement

- 2024–2025 Project: The AI Consciousness Debate–Ethical, Conceptual, and Political Implications
- Grant by the LSE Research Impact and Support Fund, Spotlight Call AI (£2,660)
 - Funding to organize an interdisciplinary and public-facing full-day workshop on artificial consciousness and machine morality at the LSE
 - Organized an international speaker panel, fully planned and marketed the event, and chaired several sessions
 - <https://philevents.org/event/show/134626>

Teaching

- 2024–2025 *Introduction to Political Theory* (undergraduate), LSE, 3 groups, course survey score 4.9/5
- 2023–2024 *Introduction to Political Theory* (undergraduate), LSE, 2 groups, course survey score 4.9/5

Administrative experience

- 2025 LSE Workshop: Artificial Consciousness & The Morality of Machines, lead-organizer
- 2025 11th LSE Graduate Conference in Political Theory, co-organizer
- 2023–24 PLP Graduate Forum, co-chair
- 2023–24 Ideas Incubator Workshop, LSE, co-organizer

Professional experience (selection)

- 2019–2022 **Head of Growth**, Cosmonauts & Kings, Berlin, Germany
- Data-based consulting and campaign services for political parties, NGOs, interest groups, and the government.
 - Responsible for research, new business, and innovation.
 - Managed a permanent team of four, led project teams up to 15 people.

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (B2)

References

Katrin Flikschuh, Professor of Political Theory, London School of Economics, k.a.flikschuh@lse.ac.uk

Lea Ypi, Ralph Miliband Professor of Politics and Philosophy, London School of Economics, l.l.ypi@lse.ac.uk

Zeynep Pamuk, Associate Professor of Contemporary Political Theory, University of Oxford, zeynep.pamuk@politics.ox.ac.uk

Paul Kelly, Professor of Political Philosophy, London School of Economics [teaching reference], p.j.kelly@lse.ac.uk