

## E. STEFAN KEHLENBACH

[www.stefankehlenbach.com](http://www.stefankehlenbach.com)

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

<b>University at Albany:</b> Department of Political Science Assistant Professor	2023–
<b>University of Toronto:</b> Department of Political Science Postdoctoral Fellow	2022–2023

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. <b>University of California, Riverside</b> Dissertation: <i>Behind the Silicon Curtain: A Critical Theory of Big Data</i>	2022
M.A. <b>Boston College</b> Thesis: <i>The Boss's Dilemma: Mark Twain and the Relation of Technology and Society</i>	2012
B.A. <b>University of California, Irvine</b>	2010

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

<i>Data Dispossession: Against the Property Theory of Data</i> Contemporary Political Theory ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-025-00753-0">https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-025-00753-0</a> )	March 2025
<i>The Impact of Infrastructure: Considerations of Generative AI in the Classroom</i> Journal of Political Science Education ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2024.2359439">https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2024.2359439</a> )	May 2024
<i>"Doing" Political Theory in the Classroom</i> The Palgrave Handbook of Teaching and Research in Political Science Ed. Charity Butcher, Tavishi Bhasin, Elizabeth Gordon, Maia Hallward (DOI : 10.1007/978-3-031-42887-6)	Nov. 2023
<i>The Realities Facing Graduate Students: Before, During, and After the 2020 Covid Pandemic</i> With: Pashayan, Angela; Ye, Huei-Jyun; Mueller, Grace; Willis, Charmaine. PS: Political Science and Politics ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000252">https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000252</a> )	March 2023
<i>Just Coups: A Reconsideration of Domestic Military Action</i> The Journal of Military Ethics ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/15027570.2023.2176983">https://doi.org/10.1080/15027570.2023.2176983</a> )	Feb. 2023
<i>A Study of Ungrading in Upper-Level Political Theory Courses</i> Journal of Political Science Education ( <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2022.2160336">https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2022.2160336</a> )	Dec. 2022
<i>The Subatomic Person: New Ontologies of Big Data</i> Theory & Event ( <a href="https://muse.jhu.edu/article/867314">https://muse.jhu.edu/article/867314</a> )	Oct. 2022
<i>"I am an American": The Political Consequences of Hank Morgan's Lack of Identity</i> The Mark Twain Journal	Oct. 2014

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Brubaker: *Hyperconnectivity and its Discontents* & Risse: *Political Theory of the Digital Age* Feb. 2024  
 Invited Book Review — *Perspective on Politics* (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592724000185>)

*Here's what Gandhi has to say to today's protesters*  
 Monkey Cage; Washington Post

*Why Political Scientists Should Embrace Multi-Method Grading*  
 APSA Educate Blog

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

*The Age of Data: A New Critical Theory of Technology*  
 Book Manuscript in Progress

*Data Regimes: Epistemology, Politics, and Myth in Datafied Society*  
 Under Review — *Political Theory*

*Designing the Digital Citizen: Digital Literacy and Neoliberal Responsibilization*  
 with Valérie Kindarji

*A Rhizomatic Theory of Artificial Intelligence*

*The TechnoPessimists: Twain, Adorno and Mbembe on Technological Destruction*

*Ethics or Power: Reconsidering the Utility of AI Ethics*  
 with Wendy Wong

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

UAlbany AI and Society Program Grant: AI and Democracy Critical Questions Speaker Series (\$5,000)	Submitted 2025
UAlbany UAS Program Funds Award: AI And Democracy Critical Questions Speaker Series (\$3,000)	2025
National Science Foundation — ReDDDoT Conference: ReDDDoT Phase 1: Workshop: Are Democracy and AI Incompatible? Governance Challenges in the Digital Age — Primary Investigator (\$75,000)	Submitted 2024
Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council: Connection Grant for “Sovereignty in the Age of Data” (\$25,000)	2023
Dissertation Year Program Fellowship: University of California, Riverside	2020–2021
Outstanding Teaching Award: University of California, Riverside	2020
APSA Virtual Teaching Workshop	2020
Departmental Research Grant: University of California, Riverside	2017
Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship: University of California, Riverside	2015–2016
Graduate Student Travel Grant	Multiple
Departmental Honors: Political Science, University of California, Irvine	2010

## CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

*Technological Futures: Emerging Frameworks, Unexpected Effects* April 2023

Western Political Science Association

Paper Presented: *Ethics or Power: Reconsidering the Utility of AI Ethics*

*At the Limits of Neoliberalism*

Aug. 2018

American Political Science Association

Paper Presented: *Neoliberal Zones of Conflict: Contested Ideologies Surrounding Food Politics*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Western Political Science Association

April 2025

*Data Rationality: Marcuse, Ian Hacking and the Technological Rationality of Datafication*

Critical Genealogies Workshop

April 2024

*Addiction Becomes Normal: On the Late Modern Subject* — Author Meets Critics Panel Discussant

Western Political Science Association

March 2024

*A “Fact” of Progress: Groundwork for a Critical Theory of Digital Technology*

Association for Political Theory

Oct. 2023

*A “Fact” of Progress: Groundwork for a Critical Theory of Digital Technology*

American Political Science Association

Sept. 2023

*Looking at the Power of Ethics as the Ethics of the Powerful: The Struggle to Regulate AI*

Roundtable: *ChatGPT in the Classroom*

Western Political Science Association

April 2023

*Ethics or Power: Alternative Frameworks for Governing AI*

*The TechnoPessimists: Twain, Adorno and Mbembe on Technology’s Capacity for Destruction*

American Political Science Association

Sept. 2022

*TechnoPlatonism: The Epistemology of Big Data*

*A Study of Ungrading in Upper-Level Political Theory Courses (TLC at APSA)*

Western Political Science Association

April 2022

*TechnoPlatonism: The Epistemology of Big Data*

American Political Science Association

Sept. 2021

*The Biopolitical Impact of Educational Technology (TLC at APSA)*

Western Political Science Association

April 2021

*The Biopolitics of Big Data*

*The Subatomic Person: New Ontologies of Big Data*

Western Political Science Association

April 2020 (Canceled)

*The Biopolitics of Big Data*

Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference

Feb. 2020

*The Biopolitics of Big Data*

Socialism After Populism Conference at UC Riverside

Nov. 2019

*The Biopolitics of Big Data*

Western Political Science Association

April 2019

*Neoliberal Zones of Conflict: Contested Ideologies Surrounding Food Politics*

Western Political Science Association

April 2017

*Millennials and the Limits of Free Speech: The Relationship Between the Acceptability of Objectionable*

*Speech and Generational Cohorts* (With Justin Freebourn)

*Moral Neoliberal Citizenship: Using Food Citizens to Understand Moral Neoliberalism*

Midwest Political Science Association

April 2017

*Millennials and the Limits of Free Speech: The Relationship Between the Acceptability of Objectionable*

*Speech and Generational Cohorts* (With Justin Freebourn)

*Moral Neoliberal Citizenship: Using Food Citizens to Understand Moral Neoliberalism*  
 Northeast Political Science Association Nov. 2012  
*"I am an American": The Political Consequences of Hank Morgan's Lack of Identity*

#### CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Association for Political Theory Oct. 2022  
 Chair: *Political Theory in Anglo-American Literature*  
 Chair: *Sovereignty and Self-determination*  
 Discussant: *Technologies and/as Political Frontiers*  
 Western Political Science Association April 2022  
 Discussant: *Biopolitics and the Politics of Biology*

#### INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

*Preparing for an AI Future Workshop: Democracy and Governance* April 2025  
 Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada – Invited Workshop Participant  
*What is This Thing Called Technology: Technology, Politics, and Progress* April 2025  
 Hamilton College  
*Lunch and Learn: Critical Perspectives on AI: How AI Shapes Government, Politics and Public Policy* Oct. 2024  
 University at Albany, Rockefeller College  
*Let's Chat About AI: Questions with Neighbors* April 2024  
 Spencertown Academy Arts Center, Spencertown, NY  
*"Teaching in the Time of ChatGPT"* Jan. 2024  
 WPSA Virtual Community on Inclusive Pedagogy  
*What Is This Thing Called Technology? Technology, Politics, and Progress* March 2024  
 University of British Columbia — PPE Forum  
*A Study of Ungrading in Upper-Level Political Theory Courses* Feb. 2023  
 University of California, Riverside  
*The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* Sept. 2022  
 Massey College  
*Data: Truth or Myth? The Challenge for Democracy* Sept. 2022  
 Bentley University  
*What Does it Mean to do Contemporary Political Theory?* Sept. 2022  
 Bentley University  
*The Subatomic Person: A New Ontology of Big Data* Dec. 2021  
 Western Political Science Association Virtual Community  
*Google = Truth?* May 2021  
 Untenured Tracks Podcast  
*Introduction to Data Ethics: Tools for Graduate Students* Nov. 2019  
 Claremont Graduate University

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Albany  
 RPOS 399: Politics of Technology  
 RPOS 103: Political Theory  
 RPOS 503: Contemporary Political Theory: Technology and Social Thought

University of California, Riverside	
Instructor of Record:	2018–2022
“Modern Political Theory: The Political Theory of Technology”	Fall 2021
“Political Ideologies”	Spring 2020
“Modern Political Theory: Foucault”	Summer 2018 & 2019
“Capitalism, Socialism and Political Theory”	Summer 2020 & 2021
Teaching Assistant (Selections):	2015–2022
“The Politics of Congressional Elections”	
“Political Ideologies”	
“Modern Dictatorships”	
“Political Thinkers in Depth, the Political Thought of Mahatma Gandhi”	
“World Politics”	
“Introduction to Political Theory”	
“Democracy and The Social Contract”	
Irvine Valley College	
Adjunct Professor	2014–2023
Riverside Community College	
Adjunct Professor	2018–2023
Saddleback College	
Adjunct Professor	2018–2023
Norco College	
Adjunct Professor	2013–2018
Santiago Canyon College	
Adjunct Professor	2013–2018
Santa Ana College	
Adjunct Professor	2012–2018

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## SERVICE

Association for Political Theory	2023–
Standing Committee on Mentoring and Professional Development —	
Summer Panel Subcommittee	
SUNY Artificial Intelligence STRategic Research InVEstment (STRIVE) Taskforce	2023–
	2024
Social Impact, Ethics and Trustworthiness Working Group	
Governance of Emerging Technologies (GET) Group	2022–
Co-Director	
Sovereignty in the Age of Data Symposium — University of British Columbia	2022–2023
Project Manager and Postdoctoral Fellow	
American Political Science Association	
Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession	2020–2022

Ask Me Anything: Landing a PostDoc	2022
UC Riverside	
Learning Outcomes Committee	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
Graduate Student Advancement and Placement Committee	2022
Curriculum Development Committee	2019
Alumni Relations Committee	2019
Socialism After Populism Conference at UC Riverside	
Organizing Committee	2019
Irvine Valley College	
Student Learning Outcome Assessment Committee	2015
Reviewer:	
American Political Science Review	
Cornell University Press	
Theory & Event	
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	
American Political Science Association (APSA)	
Western Political Science Association (WPSA)	
Association for Political Theory (APT)	
Coalition for Independent Technology Research	