

Niklas Plaetzer

PhD, Sciences Po Paris (2025)

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PhD candidate, University of Chicago (expected 2026)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

History of political thought (19th–20th centuries, especially France and Brazil); sovereignty and its critics; transnational circulation of ideas; republicanism and democratic theory; law and social movements

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

PhD Candidate in Political Science (political theory, comparative politics), defense in June 2026

- Thesis: *The Plebeian International: Radical Republicans and the Future of Lost Causes*

- Committee: Linda Zerilli, John McCormick (co-chairs), Adom Getachew

- Graduate Certificates in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) and Human Rights

Sciences Po Paris

PhD in Political Theory/Philosophy, awarded on December 12, 2025

- Thesis: *L'institution insurgeante : Démocratie radicale et formes politiques* (in French)

- Jury: Frédéric Gros (advisor), Hourya Bentouhami, Martin Breugh, Justine Lacroix, Oliver Marchart

University of Chicago

M.A., Political Science, 2021

Sciences Po Paris

M.A., Political Science, *summa cum laude*, 2017

Sciences Po Paris, Euro-American Campus in Reims

B.A., Social Sciences, *summa cum laude*, 2015

- Visiting Student, Columbia University, Department of Political Science, 2014–2015

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 “Insurgent Legality: Luiz Gama’s Plebeian Republicanism between Law and Prefiguration.”
Contemporary Political Theory 24 (3): 428–47.

2023 “Refounding Denied: Hannah Arendt on Limited Principles and the Lost Promise of Reconstruction.”
Political Theory 51 (6): 955–80.

- 2023 “Eichmann in Plettenberg: Carl Schmitt Reads Hannah Arendt.” *Modern Intellectual History* 20 (1): 270–97.
- 2021 “Decolonizing the ‘Universal Republic’: The Paris Commune and French Empire.” *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 49 (3): 585–603 (special issue on the Paris Commune).

Edited Volumes

- 2023 With Katia Genel, *Croisements critiques : L'actualité de l'École de Francfort*, Lormont, Le Bord de l'eau. Contributions from Axel Honneth, Oliver Marchart, Eva von Redecker, Daniel Loick, among others.

Invited Contributions

- 2026 “Internationalism of the Stateless: Hannah Arendt on Institutions beyond Sovereignty.” In *Arendt's Origins of Totalitarianism at 75*, edited by Ari-Elmeri Hyvönen and Maria Robaszkiewicz. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.
- 2026 “Plebeian Internationalism.” In *Routledge Handbook of Ideology Analysis*, edited by Juliette Faure, Matthew Humphrey, and David Laycock. London: Routledge, forthcoming.
- 2025 “Insurgent Democracy, the Morning After: Miguel Abensour on Institutions.” In *The Legacy of Miguel Abensour*, edited by Martin Breugh and Paul Mazzocchi. Albany: SUNY Press, forthcoming.
- 2024 “Pearl-Diving as Method: Arendt, Glissant, and the History of Broken Traditions.” In *Creolizing Hannah Arendt*, edited by Neil Roberts and Marilyn Nissim-Sabat, Rowman & Littlefield, 73–100.
- 2022 “How to Make the Moment Last? On Rupture and Institutions in Massimiliano Tomba's *Insurgent Universality*.” *Historical Materialism* 30 (4): 108–24. Book symposium with a response by the author.
- 2022 “Eine Geschichte namens Verfassung: Hannah Arendts Rechtsdenken zwischen Isonomie und Autorität,” *Rechtsphilosophie* 8 (3): 261–84.
- 2021 “Notes from the Cracks of the Pantheon: On Symbolic Friction and the Possibility of Counter-Institutions.” In *New Geographies* 12, edited by Mojdeh Mahdavi and Liang Wang. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 85–93.
- 2021 “Sur les routes de l'universel : le ‘retour du politique’ dans l'Atlantique noir,” *Les cahiers philosophiques de Strasbourg* 50, 103–29. Special issue edited by Javier Burdman and Franck Fischbach.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS (selection)

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- 2025 Visiting Doctoral Fellowship, University of Bologna, Italy, host: Giovanni Giorgini (July 2025)
- 2024 Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) Doctoral Exchange Fellowship, Paris
- 2022 Affiliated Graduate Fellow, Association for Global Political Thought (AGPT), Harvard University

- 2021 Center for Latin American Studies, Mellon Research Travel Fellowship, UChicago
- 2020 Affiliated Doctoral Researcher, Centre Marc Bloch, Humboldt-Universität Berlin (2020-2023)
- 2019 Conference Organization Grant, *Centre International de Recherche sur les Esclavages* (CIRES)
- 2018 Doctoral Research Contract (*Contrat doctoral*, 2018-2021), Sciences Po Paris
- 2014 Andrew Wellington Cordier Essay Award, Columbia University, *Journal of International Affairs*

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “The 1848-49 Praieira Revolt and Plebeian Internationalism in 19th Century Brazil,” panel on *The People’s Republic and Democratic Revolution*, invited by Valeria Coronel (FLACSO Ecuador) and Luciana Cadahia (PUC Chile), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Paris
- 2025 Author-Meets-Critics Panel: Anna Jurkevics, *Contested Territory* (Oxford UP, 2025) American Political Science Association (APSA), Vancouver, invited by Turkuler Isiksel (Columbia)
- 2024 “Integral Association’: Recovering the Plebeian Internationalism of Antônio Pedro de Figueiredo,” Political Theory and Latin American History Workshops, University of Chicago
- 2024 Author-Meets-Critics Panel: Samuel Hayat, *Revolutionary Republicanism* (Routledge, 2023), American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia, invited by Lisa Disch (Michigan)
- 2023 “The Living Principle of Association: Michèle Riot-Sarcey and the Insurgent Republic of Working Women,” *Futures Past: Feminism and the Radical Democratic Imaginary*, Vienna
- 2020 “The Migrant as Citizen and as Maroon: Rights Claims and Multidirectional Memory,” Immigration Theory Workshop, University of Houston, invited by Daniel I. Morales

CONFERENCES (selection)

Conference Organization

- 2024 – *Power to the Plebs: The Meaning of Plebeian Democracy*, Chicago Center on Democracy University of Chicago, with John McCormick and Martin Breugh
- 2024 – *Crises of the Republic: Hannah Arendt Now*, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory University of Chicago, with Neil Roberts and Marilyn Nissim-Sabat
- 2019 – *Penser le marronnage : vers une autre histoire de l’émancipation*, Reid Hall, Columbia Center in Paris With Hourya Bentouhami and Kaiama L. Glover
- 2019 – *Crossroads of Critique: Axel Honneth and the Frankfurt School Project* Sciences Po Graduate Political Theory Conference, Keynote: Axel Honneth
- 2016 – *Forms of Pluralism and Democratic Constitutionalism*, Sciences Po Paris and Columbia University Assistant for Jean L. Cohen, Andrew Arato, and Astrid von Busekist

Conference Presentations (selection)

- 2025 – “Federalism against Usurpation: Proudhon’s Republic of the Dispossessed”
American Political Science Association (APSA), Vancouver, Canada
– “Arendt after Empire: *On Revolution* in the Word,” Arendtian Counciliarism: Visions and Care for Democracy, Arendt Center for Political Studies, University of Verona, Italy
– “Democratic Power at the End of the World: Eugène Huzar’s Planetary Aediles (1857).”
Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Seattle
– “Arendt after Empire: *On Revolution* in the Word,” The Revolutionary Spirit: Hannah Arendt and Black Political Thought, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
- 2024 – “‘The Social Movement’ vs. the State: Lorenz von Stein and Institution-Blindness,”
American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia
– “‘Organized Humanity’ against Global War: Antônio Pedro de Figueiredo, a Plebeian Internationalist in Brazilian Slave Society,” World Conference on Republics and Republicanism, Venice
– “The Political Form, At Last Discovered? Merleau-Ponty’s Theory of Institution between Rome and Haiti,” Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Vancouver, Canada
- 2023 – “‘Integral Association’: Recovering the Plebeian Internationalism of Antônio Pedro de Figueiredo,” Association for Political Theory, Union College, Schenectady, New York
- 2022 – “‘Resistance, which is a civic virtue’: Luiz Gama and the Global History of Plebeian Republicanism,” Association for Political Theory (APT), Houston, Texas
– “Fear of a Black Commune: Luiz Gama on Resistance as Civic Virtue,”
Inaugural Conference, Association for Global Political Thought (AGPT), Harvard University
– “Fear of a Black Commune: Luiz Gama between Law and Prefiguration,”
Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Portland, Oregon
- 2019 – “‘Rights of Struggle’: Reading Ernst Bloch as a Radical Democrat,”
Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Oxford University

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

University of Chicago

Winter 2021 Racial Universalisms (Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture)

Sciences Po Paris, Euro-American campus in Reims

Fall 2020 Migration and Citizenship

Fall 2019 Political Theory in the Atlantic World

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Department of Social Sciences

Spring 2021 Breaks in Tradition: Decolonizing Political Theory

Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC), Department of Philosophy

Spring 2018 Universalisme et politique des droits de l'homme (in French)

Spring 2018 Philosophie des sciences humaines (in French)

Teaching Assistant**University of Chicago**

Winter 2023 Machiavelli's Political Thought (for John McCormick)

Spring 2022 Introduction to Political Theory (for Matthew Landauer)

Sciences Po Paris

Spring 2022 Introduction to Political Theory (for Samuel Hayat, Franco-German campus in Nancy)

2019-2020 Race and Equality in the United States (for Daniel Sabbagh, Paris campus)

2018-2019 The Question of Evil in Politics (for Julie Saada, Euro-American campus in Reims)

Spring 2018 Introduction à la science politique (for Dominique Reynié, Paris campus)

Droit et politique (for Julie Saada, Sciences Po Law School)

Spring 2017 Introduction à la science politique (for Jean-Marie Donegani, Paris campus)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Membership

American Political Science Association (APSA), Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Association for Political Theory (APT), Law and Society Association (LSA), Association for Global Political Thought (AGPT), American Historical Association (AHA), Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW), Deutsche Gesellschaft für französischsprachige Philosophie (DGFP), Association française de science politique (AFSP).

Manuscript reviewer

Routledge (Law and Politics Series), *Raisons Politiques*, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* (CRISPP), *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Studies of Transition States and Societies*, *Dissonância: Revista de Teoria Crítica*, *City*, *HannahArendt.net: Zeitschrift für politisches Denken*, *Éditions Vrin*, *Historical Materialism*, *Perspectives on Politics, Philosophy and Society*, *Arendt Studies*.

LANGUAGES

German (native), English (C2), French (C2), Spanish (B2), Brazilian Portuguese (C1)