

JAN H. WASSERZIEHR

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AREAS OF SPECIALISATION AND COMPETENCE

Specialisation: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of AI, Critical Theory
Competence: Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Technology

EDUCATION

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

AWARDS & HONOURS

- 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

Comment on Ran Wu, “Compensation for Derivative Harm”, PLP Graduate Forum, 03/24

TEACHING

Introduction to Political Theory (2023–24, 2024–25, 2026–27), LSE

Contemporary Political Theory (2026–27), LSE

Undergraduate class teaching; average course survey score 4.9/5

SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

2024–2025 Project: The AI Consciousness Debate—Ethical, Conceptual, and Political Implications (lead organiser)

- Grant by the LSE Research Impact and Support Fund, Spotlight Call AI (£2,660)
- Funding to organise an interdisciplinary and public-facing full-day workshop on artificial consciousness and machine morality at the LSE
- Organised an international speaker panel, fully planned and marketed the event, and chaired several sessions
- <https://philevents.org/event/show/134626>

2025 11th LSE Graduate Conference in Political Theory, co-organiser

- 2023–24 PLP Graduate Forum, co-chair
- 2023–24 Ideas Incubator Workshop, LSE, co-organiser

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