

Ben W. Ansell

Nuffield College
University of Oxford
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Oxford, England

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Current Employment

Professor of Comparative Democratic Institutions, Department of Politics and International Relations and Professorial Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, July 2013-

Inaugural Director, Centre for Advanced Social Science Methods (CASSM), University of Oxford, 2025-30.

Fellow of the British Academy, 2018-

Editor (with David Samuels), *Comparative Political Studies*, September 2013-.

Past Employment

BBC Annual Reith Lecturer 2023

Principal Investigator, WEALTHPOL ‘The Politics of Wealth Inequality and Mobility in the 21st Century’, European Research Council Consolidator Grant 2017-2022.

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, 2012-2013

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, 2006–2012

Education

Ph.D. Government, Harvard University, November 2006.

Ph.D. Thesis: From the Ballot to the Blackboard: The Redistributive Political Economy of Education. *Awarded Senator Charles Sumner Memorial Dissertation Prize by Harvard University*

M.A. Political Science, University of California, Berkeley. 2001.

M.A. Cultural History, University of Manchester, 1999.

B.A. (Hons) History, First Class, University of Manchester, 1998.

Research

Books

Why Politics Fails, Penguin Random House (worldwide) and PublicAffairs (North America). 2023. (German, Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt; Spanish, Península / Planeta; Portugal, Porta Editora; Brazil, Companhia das Letras; Greece, Metaixmio; Korean, Korea Economic Daily & Business; Chinese, Horizon Publishing; Japanese, Asuka Shinsha)

Inward Conquest: The Political Origins of Modern Public Services, with Johannes Lindvall. 2021. Cambridge University Press, Studies in Comparative Politics series.

Inequality and Democratization: An Elite-Competition Approach, with David Samuels. 2014. Cambridge University Press, Studies in Comparative Politics series.

Winner of 2015 Woodrow Wilson Prize for Best Book on government, politics, or international affairs, granted by the American Political Science Association.

Winner of 2015 William H. Riker Prize for Best Book in Political Economy, granted by APSA Section on Political Economy.

Honorable Mention, 2015 Best Book Award, APSA Section for Comparative Democratization.

Social Policy in Small European States, Gary Cohen, Ben Ansell, Robert H. Cox, and Jane Gingrich (eds.), 2012, Berghahn Books, NY.

From the Ballot to the Blackboard: The Redistributive Political Economy of Education, 2010, Cambridge University Press, Studies in Comparative Politics series.

Winner of 2011 William H. Riker Prize for Best Book in Political Economy, granted by APSA Section on Political Economy

Articles

‘Why is it so Hard to Counteract Wealth Inequality? Evidence from the United Kingdom’ with Laure Bokobza, Asli Cansunar, Mads Elkjaer, Matthias Haslberger and Jacob Nystrup. *World Politics*. Forthcoming. 2025.

‘Do national innovation projects shape citizens’ public health behaviours?’, *Healthcare Management Forum* with Martin W. Bauer, Jane Gingrich and Jack Stilgoe. Forthcoming. 2024.

‘Political Inequality’ *Oxford Open Economics*, with Jane Gingrich. 2024.

‘Unemployment insurance, risk, and the acquisition of specific skills: an experimental approach.’ *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* with John Ahlquist. 4.3 (2023).

- ‘Sheltering Populists? House Prices and the Support for Populist Parties’ with Frederik Hjørth, Jacob Nyrup and Martin Vinæs Larsen. *Journal of Politics*. 84(3). 2022.
- ‘The Political Consequences of Housing (Un)Affordability’, with Aslı Cansunar. *Journal of European Social Policy*. 31(5). 2021.
- ‘Social Distancing, Wealth and Populism’ (with Aslı Cansunar and Mads Elkjær). *West European Politics*. 2021
- ‘Desk Rejecting: A Better Use of Your Time’ with David Samuels, *PS: Political Science & Politics*. October 2021.
- ‘Housing and Populism,’ with David Adler. *West European Politics*. 2020.
- ‘The Politics of Housing’, *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2019
- ‘The Future of Housing After Brexit’, with David Adler. *Political Quarterly*. 2019.
- ‘Global Capital Markets, Housing Prices, and Partisan Fiscal Policies’, with J. Lawrence Broz and Thomas Flaherty. *Economics & Politics*. 2018.
Winner of 2013 Best Conference Paper on Comparative Public Policy, granted by Public Policy Section of American Political Science Association.
- ‘Taking Credit: Redistribution and Borrowing in an Age of Economic Polarization’, with John Ahlquist. *World Politics*. 2017. 69.4: 640-675
- ‘Mismatch: University Education and Labour Market Institutions,’ with Jane Gingrich. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. April 2017.
- ‘Journal Editors and “Results-Free” Research: A Cautionary Note,’ with David Samuels. *Comparative Political Studies*. December 2016.
- ‘The Political Economy of Ownership: Housing Markets and the Welfare State’. *American Political Science Review*. May 2014.
- ‘Sorting for Schools: Housing, Education, and Inequality’, with Jane Gingrich, *Socio-Economic Review*. April 2014.
- ‘The Political Origins of Primary Education Systems: Ideology, Institutions, and Interdenominational Conflict in an Era of Nation-Building’, with Johannes Lindvall, *American Political Science Review*, August 2013.
- ‘Assets in Crisis: Housing, Preferences, and Policy in the Credit Crisis’, *Swiss Political Science Review*, January 2013.
- ‘Preferences in Context: Micro-Preferences, Macro-Contexts, and the Demand for Social Policy’, with Jane Gingrich. *Comparative Political Studies*, December 2012.
- ‘Inequality and Democratization: A Contractarian Approach’, with David Samuels. *Comparative Political Studies*, December 2010.

Winner of Best Article in 2010 by the Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association.

‘University Challenges: Explaining Institutional Change in Higher Education’. *World Politics*, January 2008.

‘Teachers, Traders, and Tyrants: Democracy, Globalization and Education Spending’. *International Organization*, Spring 2008.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

‘The Political Economy of Secular Stagnation’ with Jane Gingrich, in Claudia Landwehr, Thomas Saalfeld, and Armin Schaefer, *Contested Representation*, Cambridge University Press. 2023.

‘Political Inequality’, with Jane Gingrich in *IFS Deaton Review of Inequality*. 2022.

‘Commodification and Concentration: The Political Economy of Post-Industrialism in America and Beyond’ with Jane Gingrich, in Jacob Hacker, Alex Hertel-Fernandez, Paul Pierson and Kathleen Thelen (eds.) *The American Political Economy*. 2021.

‘Wealth Inequality and Politics’, in Olivier Blanchard and Dani Rodrik, *Rethinking Inequality*, MIT Press, 2021.

‘The End of Human Capital Solidarity?’ with Jane Gingrich, in Frances Rosenbluth and Margaret Weir (eds.) *Who Gets What?*. Cambridge University Press. 2020.

‘Skills in Demand: Explaining Social Investment in Europe’, with Jane Gingrich, in Manow, Philip, Bruno Palier and Hanna Schwander, *Political Competition and Voter/Party Alignment in Times of Welfare State Transformation* Oxford University Press, 2018.

‘The Dynamics of Social Investment: Human Capital, Activation, and Care’, with Jane Gingrich, in Beramendi, Pablo, Silja Hausermann, Herbert Kitschelt and Hans-Peter Kriesi (eds.), *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

‘A Tale of Two Trilemmas: Varieties of Higher Education and the Service Economy’ (with Jane Gingrich), in Wren, Anne (ed.) *The Political Economy of the Service Transition*. Oxford University Press. 2013.

‘Introduction’ with Gary Cohen, Robert Cox, and Jane Gingrich, in Cohen et al (eds.) *Social Policy in Small European States*, 2012.

‘Humboldt Humbled? The Germanic University System in Comparative Perspective’, in Cohen et al (eds.) *Social Policy in Small European States*, 2012.

‘Crisis as Political Opportunity? The Role of Partisan Politics in the Response to the Global Credit Crisis’, in Bermeo, Nancy and Jonas Pontusson (eds.) *Coping with*

Crisis, Russell Sage Foundation. 2012.

Book Reviews

‘Critical Dialog: *Inequality and Democratization: An Elite Competition Approach* by Ben Ansell and David Samuels and *From Open Secrets to Secret Voting* by Isabela Mares, *Perspectives on Politics*, 2017.

Coalition Politics and Economic Development by Irfan Nooruddin, *Perspectives on Politics* 10(2), 2012.

Manuscripts under Review

‘Specific Skills, Unemployment Risk, and Insurance: An Experimental Approach’ with John Ahlquist (Revise and Resubmit)

Working Papers

‘Housing wealth and tax preferences across Europe: experimental evidence’ with Laure Bokobza, Asli Cansunar, Mads Elkjaer, Matthias Haslberger and Jacob Nystrup.

‘How do wealth and income affect individuals’ attitudes towards redistribution and taxation?’ with Laure Bokobza, Asli Cansunar, Mads Elkjaer, Jonas Markgraf, and Jacob Nystrup.

‘Persistent inequality: mobility and intergenerational redistribution’ with Laure Bokobza, Pablo Beramendi, and Asli Cansunar,

‘Housing wealth, information, and political efficacy’ with Mads Elkjaer and Matthias Haslberger.

‘From your house to their House? Representation, political rhetoric and housing markets’ with Laure Bokobza and Jacob Nystrup.

‘How does wealth shape societies? cross-national wealth inequality in historical perspective with Asli Cansunar and Jonas Markgraf

‘Tax Exposure and Political Preferences’ with Asli Cansunar and Mads Elkjaer

‘Housing Prices and Economic Perceptions’ with Asli Cansunar.

‘Why Inequality Does Not Undermine Democracy’ with David Samuels

‘Housing, Place, and Populism’ with Kathleen McNamara

‘The Politics of Income Mobility: Education, Labor Market Calcification and Intergenerational Mobility in the USA’ with Pablo Beramendi.

‘Inequality at the Constituency Level: Income Distribution and Politics in Late Nineteenth Century Britain’, with David Samuels and Henry Thomson.

‘Membership Matters: Radical Right Party Composition in Comparative Perspective’, with David Art.

Winner of 2010 Best Conference Paper Award granted by European Politics and Society Section of American Political Science Association.

Textbook Chapters

‘The United Kingdom’ (with Jane Gingrich) in David Samuels (ed.) *Casebook for Comparative Politics*, Longman Pearson. 2012.

Recent Newspaper and Thinktank Publications

‘Housing’ in UK in a Changing Europe *Brexit and Beyond*. 2021.

‘Social Distancing and the Brexit Divide’, UK in a Changing Europe. 2020.

‘Has Brexit changed the relationship between elections and house prices?’ UK in a Changing Europe. 2019.

‘What impact would electoral alliances have on the election result?’ with Leonardo Carella, UK in a Changing Europe. 2019.

‘Location, location, location? Brexit and the predictive power of house prices’, *The Times*, Sep 11, 2019.

‘Indicative votes: is there a majority for anything?’ with Iain McLean, UK in a Changing Europe. 2019.

Research Grants, Affiliations, and Awards since 2010

John Fell Fund, University of Oxford, Grant for ‘Coping with Covid’ £21,000. 2020-21.

Elected Fellow of the British Academy, 2018.

Member, Scientific Council of the Max Planck Institute, Cologne 2018-.

Recipient European Research Council Consolidator Award 2017-2022 for project WEALTHPOL ‘The Politics of Wealth Inequality and Mobility in the 21st Century’, 1.7m Euros.

John Fell Fund, University of Oxford, Small Grant for ‘Unemployment Insurance and Investment in Skills’, (co-PI John Ahlquist), 2017. £7,004.

Brettschneider Fellow, Government department, Cornell University, April 2016.

2015 William H. Riker Award for Best Book on Political Economy (from works published in past three years), awarded by Political Economy Section of American

Political Science Association (joint with David Samuels).

2015 Woodrow Wilson Prize for Best Book on government, politics, or international affairs, granted by the American Political Science Association (joint with David Samuels).

Honorable Mention, 2015 Best Book Award, APSA Section on Comparative Democratization (joint with David Samuels).

2013 Best Conference Paper on Comparative Public Policy, granted by Public Policy Section of American Political Science Association (with J. Lawrence Broz).

2011 William H. Riker Award for Best Book on Political Economy in 2010, awarded by Political Economy Section of American Political Science Association.

Best Article Award for 2010 from Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association (joint with David Samuels).

2010 Best Conference Paper Award granted by European Politics and Society Section of American Political Science Association (joint with David Art)

Recent Invited Presentations

‘Wealth Inequality in Political Perspective’ University of Minnesota November 2017, NYU Abu Dhabi, February 2018, IBEI, March 2018, LISER October 2018 LSE December 2018, KCL February 2018, Peterson Institute of International Economics Oct 2019, Humboldt Berlin Dec 2019, Bonn Dec 2019, Toulouse IAST (virtual) Oct 2020, Chicago (virtual) Dec 2020, Geneva (virtual) 2021.

‘Specific Skills, Unemployment Risk, and Insurance: An Experimental Approach’ with John Ahlquist. Columbia University (virtual), 2021.

‘Social Distancing, Populism and Wealth’, UK Home Office (virtual) July 2020

Inward Conquest: The Nineteenth Century Revolution in the Art of Government and How it Shaped the Modern World with Johannes Lindvall. Cornell University, April 2016, University of Nottingham, May 2016, University of Manchester, May 2016, Liepp conference on political history, Paris, May 2016, Harvard University Workshop on Inequality and Social Policy, December 2016, LSE Conference on Historical Political Economy, Feb 2017, Duke book Workshop October 2018.

Professional Service and Administration

University of Oxford

Nuffield College

Fellow of Governing Body, 2013-

Co-convenor (with Andrew Dilnot, Jane Green, and Iain McLean) of Nuffield Post-Election Conference with British Election Study and Gwilym Gibbon Policy Unit, June 2015.

Information Systems Fellow, 2014-

Harassment Advisor, 2013-

Department of Politics and International Relations

Director of Research Training 2020-

Chair of MPhil Examiners, 2016-17 (Examiner 2014-16).

Co-convenor (with Andrew Eggers) of Annual Graduate Student Workshop in Politics (for UK-based PhD students in politics), May 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019.

Director of Graduate Students, Professional Training, 2014-17, 2019-20

Graduate Studies Committee, Member 2014-

General Purposes Committee, Member 2014-

Departmental Finance Review Team, Member 2014-

Division of Social Sciences

Participant - PAN-Oxford ERC Workshop, Warsaw, Poland

Clarendon DPhil funding committee 2019

ESRC funding committee 2021

Profession

Member of the American Political Science Association Council, 2019- ; Member of Executive Committee of APSA 2020-

Scientific Advisory Board, Max Planck Institute, Cologne. 2018-

APRC Departmental Review of LSE Department of Government, Panel Member, December 2016

Section Head, Politics of Advanced Industrial Societies, American Political Science Association, August 2014.

Section Head, Comparative Politics (Advanced Industrial Countries), Midwest Political Science Association, April 2013.

Prize Committees: Riker Prize for best book in Political Economy 2012, European Politics Best Paper Prize 2012.

Manuscripts reviewed for University of Chicago Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press.

Articles reviewed for *International Organization*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Politics*, *European Journal of Social Policy*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*.

Discussant: 2007, 2008, 2013 Annual Meeting of MPSA; 2010 Meeting of APSA

University of Minnesota

University and College of Liberal Arts

CLA Graduate Fellowship Program Committee Member Spring 2013

Bologna Process Advisory Committee Fall 2012-

Faculty Senator, University Senate 2012-2015.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Awards Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2011-13.

Future of European Studies Advisory Committee to CLA Dean, Spring 2011.

European Studies Consortium Travel Grant Committee, Summer 2010.

Advisory Committee Member, European Studies Consortium, 2009-2011.

Hella Mears Fellowship Reviewer for Center for German and European Studies, 2009-2013.

Steering Committee, Conference on Small European States, Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota, 2007-8

Center for German and European Studies Faculty Member, 2006-2012

Department

International Relations Search Committee, Fall 2007, Fall 2012.

Undergraduate Work Committee, 2011-2012.

Methods and Models Field Chair, 2010-2011

Formal Theory Search Committee, Fall 2009, Fall 2010

Merit Advisory Committee, 2009-2010

Convenor of Minnesota Political Economy Colloquium, 2007-2008

International Relations Field Chair, 2007-2008

Graduate Work Committee, 2006-2007

European University Institute

Presentation on how to give effective presentations and job talks, December 2008.

Roundtable on 2008 US Election, October 2008 and two in November 2008 (one for James Madison University graduate program).

Media and Broadcast

Host 'Rethink', BBC Radio 4 2024-25.

Host, 'What's Wrong with Democracy?', Tortoise Media and Open Society Foundation. 2024.

BBC Annual Reith Lecturer 2023.

Op-Eds in The Times, Daily Telegraph, Financial Times.

Community Engagement

Guest on 'Start the Week' with Andrew Marr, BBC Radio 4 Jan 2020.

Organiser of 'What do we Know About Wealth Inequality in the UK Today?' at the Nuffield Foundation, April 2018.

Organiser of post-General Election conference at Nuffield College (with Jane Green, Andrew Dilnot, and Iain McLean), June 23rd 2015.

'Views from the U' Pre-election event, October 2012. Coffman Theater. University of Minnesota.

Moderator and Organizer of 'Baby Marx Townhall' event at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, August 2011.

TV and radio interviews: WCCO, KFAI, Radio 4.

Government Consulting

Advising MPs on voting rules before indicative voting during Brexit debates 2019.

Policy analyst for Her Majesty's Treasury, Productivity Team.

Author of 'The Next Generation of Skills in the UK' education policy forecast for Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, July 2004.

Member of Leitch Review of Skills, an independent review established under Lord Sandy Leitch to examine British skills policy to 2020. Served 2005 to 2007

Teaching

University of Oxford

Formal Analysis (G), Hilary 2014, Hilary 2015, Hilary 2016, Hilary 2017

Challenges of Democratisation (G), Trinity 2014 , Trinity 2015, Trinity 2016
(Blavatnik School of Government)

Democratisation: Theory and Practice (G), Michaelmas 2014, Michaelmas 2015, Michaelmas 2016.

Politics Prelims (lectures) (U) 2014-

Comparative Political Economy (lectures) (U) 2014-

European Politics and Society Core Course (classes) G 2014-

Comparative Government (lectures) (U) 2015-

University of Minnesota

Transatlantic Summer Institute: Class, Church and Community: The Historical Origins of European Social Policy (with Johannes Lindvall, Lund University) (G), University of Minnesota June 10-22, 2012.

POL 8440/8660 (G): Theories of Political Economy, Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2013.

POL 8405 (G): International Political Economy Spring 2007, Spring 2010, Spring 2012.

POL 8601 (G): Comparative Politics Core, Fall 2007

POL 8060 (G): Colloquium in Methods and Models, Fall 2007, Spring 2008.

Graduate Student Math Camp (G), Fall 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011.

POL 1905 (U): Puzzles in Politics and Economics, Fall 2006, Fall 2009

POL 3410 / 4410 (U): Globalization and Domestic Politics, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Spring 2009, Spring 2010.

POL 3410/3465 (U): Introduction to Political Economy, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011 Fall 2012.

POL 3410 (U): Politics of Inequality, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2013.

POL 3833 (U): The US and the Global Economy: Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012.

Advising: Graduate

DPhil Advisees

Oxford

Nina Yancy, 2015-18 (Associate, McKinsey & Co.)

Silvia Spodaru, 2015-

Katerina Tertychnaya, 2015-17 (Assistant Professor, UCL)

Alexa Zeitz, 2015-19 (Max Weber Fellow EUI, Assistant Professor, Concordia University from 2020)

Jacob Nyrup, 2016-20: Postdoc Aarhus

Vuk Vukovic, 2016-19 (Oracle Intelligence Systems)

Helen Baxendale, 2016- (Arizona State University Board of Regents)

Valerie Belu, 2016-

Seung-un Chae, 2017-

Laure Bokozba, 2018-

Leo Carella, 2019-

Ashrakat Elshahewy, 2019-

David Adler, 2020-

Ashley Wright, 2020-

Ph.Ds completed, Committee Member

Minnesota:

Lucas Lockhart, Ph.D. 2017 (supervisor), US Bank, Forensic Data Scientist

Andrew Lucius, Ph.D. 2015, Hennepin County, Research Manager / Data Scientist

Henry Thomson, Ph.D. 2014, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Arizona State University, Previously, Postdoctoral Prize Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford. Winner 2015 Juan Linz Best Dissertation Prize from Comparative Democratization Section of APSA.

Geoff Dancy, Ph.D. 2013, Assistant Professor, Tulane University.

Jonas Bunte, Ph.D. 2013, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Dallas

Joel Malen, Ph.D. 2013 (Carlson School of Management), Assistant Professor,
Hitotsubashi Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy

David Leon, Ph.D. 2011, Assistant Professor, Keuka College.

Erica Owen, Ph.D. 2009, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, previously
Assistant Professor Texas A&M University, and Niehaus Center on Global
Governance postdoc at Princeton University

Jennifer Rutledge, Ph.D. 2008 Assistant Professor, John Jay College (CUNY),
previously Wooster College.

Susan Kang, Ph.D. 2007, Assistant Professor, John Jay College (CUNY)

Elsewhere:

Duke: Thomas Gift IV, from 2016 Assistant Professor of Political Science, University
College London

European University Institute: Anna Auf dem Brinke, Charlotte Haberstorh (postdoc
University of Oxford)

Advising: Undergraduate

Summa Theses

Brett Arenz, 2007, Caroline Abadeer, 2011, Alex Stephenson, 2011

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Dylan Nitzorski, Caroline Abadeer, Alex Stephenson, Joseph Spanjers

Harvard University

Contemporary Puzzles in Politics and Economics, Junior Tutorial, Fall 2004.

Math Prefresher for Graduate Students, Fall 2004.