Kathleen Thelen

Ford Professor of Political Science, MIT
and
Permanent External Member, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany

Education

M.A. (1981) and Ph.D. (1987), Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
B.A. (1979), Political Science, University of Kansas (university and department honors)

Honors

2026: Guggenheim Fellow (2026-27)
2020: Friedrich Schiedel-Award for Politics & Technology, Bavarian School of Public Policy, Munich
2019: Michael Endres Research Prize conferred by the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
2019: Honorary fellow of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
2018: Honorary degree (*doctor honoris causa*) conferred by the University of Copenhagen
2018: Honorary degree (*doctor honoris causa*) conferred by the European University Institute, Florence Italy
2017: Honorary degree (*doctor honoris causa)* conferred by the London School of Economics
2017: Elected President of the American Political Science Association
2015: Election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2013: Honorary degree (*doctor honoris causa)* conferred by the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2009: Elected to the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin.
2003: Max Planck Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences, for work on German politics and political economy

Book/Article Awards and Distinctions

2026: American Political Science Association's Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the best book published in the field of U.S. national policy, for *Attention, Shoppers! American Retail Capitalism and the Origins of the Amazon Economy* (Princeton University Press, 2025)
2019: Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award of the APSA section on Public Policy for "A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change" (with James Mahoney)
2015: Barrington Moore Book Award of the American Sociological Association for "the best book in the area of comparative and historical sociology," for *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity* (Cambridge 2014)
2015: Best Book Award (co-winner), European Politics and Society Section of the American Political Science Association, for *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity* (Cambridge 2014)

2011: Stanley Hoffmann Award (for the "best English-language article on French Politics published in any peer-reviewed journal over the past two years"), for "Institutionalizing Dualism" with Bruno Palier
2006: Winner, Mattei Dogan Award for best book published in the field of comparative research in 2004/2005, for *How Institutions Evolve*
2005: Co-winner, Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award of the American Political Science Association for the best book published in 2004 on government, politics, or international affairs, for *How Institutions Evolve*
2005: Honorable Mention for the J. David Greenstone Book Award of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Politics and History, for *How Institutions Evolve*
2005: Runner-up for the Gregory Luebbert Book Award of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Comparative Politics, for *How Institutions Evolve*
2000-2020: Most cited and most downloaded contribution to the *Annual Review of Political Science* ("Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," published 1999)

Publications

Books

The Chamber of Influence: Corporate Power in American Courts (co-authored with Jingtian Chen and Morgan Gillespie). Under contract, Princeton University Press.

Attention, Shoppers! American Retail Capitalism and the Origins of the Amazon Economy Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2025.

Winner (2026) of the American Political Science Association's Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the best book published in the field of U.S. national policy.

Featured in "author meets critics" panels at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Council for European Studies (CES), and the Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE) in 2025

American Political Economy: Politics, Markets, and Power (co-edited with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson). New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis (co-edited with James Mahoney). New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Winner (2015) of the Barrington Moore Book Award of the American Sociological Association, for the "best book in the area of comparative and historical sociology"

Co-winner (2015) of the Best Book Award of the American Political Science Association's Organized Section on European Politics and Society

Featured in Symposium in Perspectives on Politics*,* January *2015*

Featured in invited "author meets critics" panels at the annual meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE) in 2014

Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power (co-edited with James Mahoney). New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Winner (2019) of the Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award of the APSA Section on Public Policy (for the introductory chapter, "A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change," with James Mahoney)

Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies (co-edited with Wolfgang Streeck). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Featured in invited "author meets critics" panel at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 2006

How Institutions Evolve: The Political Economy of Skills in Germany, Britain, the United States and Japan. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Winner (2006) of the Mattei Dogan Award for best book published in the field of comparative research in 2004/2005

Co-winner (2005) of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award of the American Political Science Association for the best book published in 2004 on government, politics, or international affairs.

Honorable Mention for the J. David Greenstone Book Award of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Politics and History

Runner-up for the Gregory Luebbert Book Award of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Comparative Politics

Featured in invited "author meets critics" panels at the annual meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE) in 2006 and the Social Science History Association (SSHA) in 2007

Chinese and Korean translations 2010 (published by Cambridge in collaboration with Shanghai People's Publishing House and Motivebook Publishing House); Japanese translation published by Cambridge in collaboration with Ozorasha Shuppan Co.

Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis (co-edited with Sven Steinmo and Frank Longstreth; introduction "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics" by Thelen and Steinmo), New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Chinese translation by China Renmin University Press (2006)

Introduction translated into Spanish for the Handbook of Comparative Politics (Manual de Política Comparada, Rossana Castiglioni y Claudio Fuentes, Eds. Santiago: Universidad Diego Portales Ediciones, 2012)

Union of Parts: Labor Politics in Postwar Germany. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991.

Journal Articles

"Cloud Capitalism and the AI Transition" (co-authored with JS Tan), *Politics & Society* 54:2 (June 2026), 184-214.

"It Took a Village" *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 29 (2026), 1-9.

"Off-Balance: How U.S. Courts Privilege Conservative Policy Outcomes" (co-authored with Brian Highsmith and Maya Sen), *Perspectives on Politics* 24:3 (September 2026), 1162-1174.

"Coordination Rights, Competition Law, and Varieties of Capitalism" (co-authored with Chase Foster), *Comparative Political Studies* 58: 6 (May 2025), 1199-1237.

"Arrangers and Orchestrators: The Diverging Role of the State in Danish and German Vocational Education and Training," (co-authored with Christian Lyhne Ibsen), *Socio-Economic Review* (online first April 15, 2024)

"Brandeis in Brussels? Bureaucratic Discretion, Social Learning, and the Development of Regulated Competition in the European Union," (co-authored with Chase Foster), *Regulation & Governance* 18: 4 (October 2024), 1083-1103.

"The American Political Economy: Markets, Power, and the Meta Politics of US Economic Governance," (co-authored with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson) *Annual Review of Political Science* 25 (2022).

"Institutional Source of Business Power" (co-authored with Marius Busemeyer) *World Politics* 74: 3 (July 2020), 448-480.

"Employer Organization and the Law: American Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective" *Law & Contemporary Problems* 83:2 (2020), 23-48.

"Varieties of Urbanism: A Comparative View of Inequality and the Dual Dimensions of Metropolitan Fragmentation" (co-authored with Yonah Freemark and Justin Steil) *Politics & Society* 48: 2 (June 2020), 235-274.

"Are we all Amazon Primed? Consumers and the Politics of Platform Power" (co-authored with Pepper Culpepper) *Comparative Political Studies* 53(2) (February 2020), 288-318.

"The Rise of the Platform Business Model and the Transformation of Twenty-First Century Capitalism" (co-authored with K. Sabeel Rahman), *Politics & Society* 47: 2 (June 2019), 177-204.

"The American Precariat: US Capitalism in Comparative Perspective," *Perspectives on Politics* 17: 1 (March 2019), 5-27 [lead article].

"Transitions to the Knowledge Economy in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands," *Comparative Politics* (January 2019), 295-315.

"Regulating Uber: The Politics of the Platform Economy in Europe and the United States," *Perspectives on Politics* 16: 4 (December 2018).

"Diverging Solidarity: Labor Strategies in the New Knowledge Economy," (with Christian Lyhne Ibsen). *World Politics* 69: 3 (July 2017), 409-447 [lead article].

"Gender in the Journals," (co-authored with Dawn Teele). *PS: Political Science and Politics,* April 2017.

"Varieties of Capitalism: Trajectories of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity," *Annual Review of Political Science* (2012)

Chinese translation, 2015

"Duale Ausbildung und Personalpolitik: So gleich und doch so fremd? Eine vergleichende Untersuchung im Industriesektor zwischen Deutschland und der Schweiz" (Silvia Teuber, Paul Ryan, Kathleen Thelen, Karin Wagner), *Die Betriebswirtschaft* 3: 11 (Mai/Juni 2012), 217-234.

"Institutionalizing Dualism: Complementarities and Change in France and Germany," (co-authored with Bruno Palier), *Politics & Society* 38: 1 (March 2010), 119-148.

Winner, 2011 Stanley Hoffmann Prize

Revised and abridged version, "Dualization and Institutionalization: Industrial Relations, Labor Market, and Welfare State Changes in France and Germany," in Patrick Emmenegger, Silja Häusermann, Bruno Palier, and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, eds. The Age of Dualization: Structures, Policies, Politics, and Divided Outcomes (Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 201-225.

"Beyond Comparative Statics: Historical-Institutional Approaches to Stability and Change in the Political Economy of Labor," *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Institutional Analysis* (2010)

"Economic Regulation and Social Solidarity: Conceptual and Analytic Innovations in the Study of Advanced Capitalism," *Socio-Economic Review* (January 2010), 187-207.

"Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies," *British Journal of Industrial Relations* 47: 3 (September 2009), 471-498.

"Institutional Change in Varieties of Capitalism" (co-authored with Peter A. Hall), *Socio-Economic Review*, 7: 1 (January 2009), 7-34.

"The State and Coordinated Capitalism: Contributions of the Public Sector to Social Solidarity in Post-Industrial Societies," (co-authored with Cathie Jo Martin), *World Politics* 60 (October 2007), 1-36.

"Contemporary Challenges to the German Vocational Training System," *Regulation and Governance* 1: 3 (September 2007), 247-260.

"Coordination as a Political Problem in Coordinated Market Economies," (co-authored with Ikuo Kume), *Governance* 19: 1 (January 2006): 11-42.

Translated and published in Japan in Leviathan Vol. 37 (2005).

"The Paradox of Globalization: Labor Relations in Germany and Beyond," (co-authored with Christa van Wijnbergen), *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 8 (October 2003): 859-880.

"Timing and Temporality in the Analysis of Institutional Evolution and Change," *Studies in American Political Development* 14 (Spring 2000), 102-109.

"The Effects of Globalization on Labor Revisited: Lessons from Germany and Japan" (co-authored with Ikuo Kume), *Politics and Society* 27: 4 (December 1999), 476-504.

Slightly revised and reprinted as "The Future of Nationally Embedded Capitalism: Industrial Relations in Germany and Japan," in Wolfgang Streeck and Kozo Yamamura, eds., The Future of Nationally Embedded Capitalism (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003).

"The Rise of Nonliberal Training Regimes: Germany and Japan Compared," (co-authored with Ikuo Kume), *Journal of Japanese Studies* 25: 1 (January 1999).

Slightly revised and reprinted in Wolfgang Streeck and Kozo Yamamura, eds. The Origins of Nonliberal Capitalism: Germany and Japan in Comparison (Cornell University Press, 2001)

"Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 2 (Palo Alto: Annual Reviews, Inc., 1999).

Most cited and most downloaded contribution to the Annual Review of Political Science

Translated and republished in Russian in Oikoumene (Ukraine)

Selected for inclusion in the volume, Comparative Political Science (ed. Alan S. Zuckerman), part of a four-volume series, "SAGE Library of Political Science" (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2009).

German Codetermination in Comparative Perspective, co-authored with Lowell Turner, (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Verlag, 1998), 80pp.

Translated and published as: "Die deutsche Mitbestimmung im internationalen Vergleich," in Wolfgang Streeck and Norbert Kluge, eds., Mitbestimmung in Deutschland: Tradition und Effizienz: Expertenberichte für die Kommission Mitbestimmung (Frankfurt a.M.: Campus, 1999), pp. 135-223.

"Vorteile Ausbauen" (co-authored with Lowell Turner), *Die Mitbestimmung* (June 1998).

Published in English as "Codetermination in Comparative Perspective" in a Europe-wide edition of the same publication.

"Apples and Oranges Revisited: Contextualized Comparisons and the Study of Comparative Labor Politics" (co-authored with Richard Locke), *Politics and Society* (September 1995).

Translated and published: "Comparações contextualizadas: uma abordagem alternativa para a análise da política sindical," Revista Latinoamericana de Estudios del Trabajo (Brazil) 4: 8 (1998), 109-149.

"Beyond Corporatism: Toward a New Framework for the Study of Labor in Advanced Capitalism," *Comparative Politics* 27 (1994).

Selected for inclusion in the volume, Comparative Political Science (ed. Alan S. Zuckerman), part of a four-volume series, "SAGE Library of Political Science" (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2009).

"European Labor in Transition: Sweden and Germany Compared," *World Politics* 46:1 (October 1993), 23-49.

"Die Politik der Arbeitsumstrukturierung: Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland in vergleichender Sicht," *WSI-Mitteilungen* (January 1992).

"Codetermination and Industrial Adjustment in the German Steel Industry: A Comparative Interpretation," *California Management Review* 29:3 (Spring 1987).

Book Chapters

"Classical Institutional Theories and Institutional Change" (with Markus Hinterleitner and Fritz Sager) in *Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions* (ed. By Adrian Vatter and Rahel Freiburghaus), Edward Elgar, 2024.

”Employer Influence in Vocational Educaiton and Training: Germany and Sweden Compared” (co-authored with Marius Busemeyer), in Giuliano Bonoli and Patrick Emmenegger, eds. *Collective Skill Formation in the Knowledge Economy.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), chapter 10 (pp. 229-254).

“The Role of the Law in the American Political Economy,” (co-authored with K. Sabeel Rahman), in Hacker, Hertel-Fernandez, Pierson and Thelen (eds.) *American Political Economy.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

“American Political Economy: A Framework and Agenda for Research,” (co-authored with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson), in Hacker, Hertel-Fernandez, Pierson and Thelen (eds.) *American Political Economy.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

“The Anxiety of Precarity: The United States in Comparative Perspective” (co-authored with Andreas Wiedemann). In Frances Rosenbluth and Margaret Weir, eds. *Who Gets What? The New Politics of Insecurity.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

“Transitions to the Knowledge Economy in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands,” in Anke Hassel and Bruno Palier (eds.), *Growth and Welfare in Advanced Capitalist Economies.”* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

“The Future of Work: Good Jobs for All?” (co-authored with Werner Eichhorst), in International Panel on Social Progress, ed. *Rethinking Society for the 21st Century.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“Change without Reform, Reform without Change: The Hidden Faces of Institutional and Policy Transformation,” (co-authored with Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson) in James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen, eds., *Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

“Trajectories of Change: Industrial Relations, Corporate Governance, and Training in Europe,” (co-authored with Gregory Jackson), in Pablo Beramendi et al., eds., *The Future of Democratic Capitalism* (New York: Cambridge University Press 2015).

“Non-Standard Employment and Systems of Skill Formation in European Countries” (co-authored with Marius Busemeyer), in Werner Eichhorst and Paul Marx, eds., Non-standard Employment in Comparative Perspective (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2015)

“Institutional Change,” (co-authored with James Conran), in Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia Falleti, Adam Sheingate, eds., Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

"Origins and Change in Federal Institutions" (co-authored with Sebastian Karcher), in Arthur Benz and Jörg Broschek, eds. Federal Dynamics: Continuity, Change and the Varieties of Federalism (Oxford University Press, 2013).

"Institutional Change in German Vocational Training: From Collectivism toward Segmentalism" (co-authored with Marius Busemeyer) in Marius Busemeyer and Christine Trampusch, eds. The Comparative Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation Systems (Oxford University Press, 2011)

"Skill Formation and Training," in Geoffrey Jones and Jonathan Zeitlin (eds.), Oxford Handbook of Business History (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

"Institutions and Collective Actors in the Provision of Training: Historical and Cross-National Comparisons," (co-authored with Pepper D. Culpepper), in Karl Ulrich Mayer and Heike Solga (eds.), Skill Formation: Interdisciplinary and Cross-National Perspectives (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 21-49.

"Institutions and Social Change," in Ian Shapiro and Stephen Skowronek, eds., Crafting and Operating Institutions (New York: NYU Press, 2006).

Translated and published in abridged version as "Institutionen und Sozialer Wandel: Die Entwicklung der beruflichen Bildung in Deutschland" in Jens Beckert et al., eds. Transformationen des Kapitalismus (Frankfurt: Campus, 2006).

"The Political Economy of Business and Labor in the Developed Democracies: Agency and Structure in Historical-Institutional Perspective," in Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., Political Science: The State of the Discipline (W.W. Norton and American Political Science Association: New York and Washington, D.C., 2002).

"How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative-Historical Analysis," in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

Translated and published as: "Comment les institutions évoluent: perspectives de l'analyse comparative historique," L'Année de la régulation, vol. 7, October 2003.

"The Explanatory Power of Historical Institutionalism," in Renate Mayntz, ed., Akteure, Mechanismen, Modelle (Frankfurt/M: Campus Verlag, 2002).

"Varieties of Labor Politics in the Developed Democracies," in Peter Hall and David Soskice, eds., Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage (Oxford University Press 2001).

"Why German Employers Cannot Bring Themselves to Dismantle the German Model," in Torben Iversen, Jonas Pontusson, and David Soskice, eds., Unions, Employers, and

Central Banks: Wage Bargaining and Macro-Economic Regimes in an Integrating Europe (New York: Cambridge University Press 1999).

"Gewerkschaftliche Interessenvertretung und Arbeitsumstrukturierung in der US-Industrie," in Andreas Drinkuth and Bernd Kaßebaum, eds., Arbeitsstrukturen und Mitarbeiterbeteiligung im Internationalen Vergleich (Cologne: Bund Verlag, 1994).

"The Politics of Flexibility in the German Metalworking Industries." In Miriam Golden and Jonas Pontusson, eds., Bargaining for Change: Union Politics in Europe and North America (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY, 1992).

"Neoliberalism and the Battle over Working-Time Reduction in West Germany," in Richard E. Foglesong and Joel D. Wolfe, eds., The Politics of Economic Adjustment (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1989)

Other publications

"Brandeis in Brussels: What American Reformers can learn from the European Union" (with Chase Foster), Law and Political Economy Blog, July 5, 2023 (https://lpeproject.org/blog/brandeis-in-brussels-american-antitrust-reform-european-union/)

Institutional Reform for Inclusive Growth," (with Anke Hassel), Research Report as part of "The Economy 2030 Inquiry: Navigating Economic Change," The Resolution Foundation (London), March 2023.

"The Role of Courts in American Political Economy," with Brian Highsmith (LPE Blogpost), February 7, 2022.

"Where Are the Employers? American Labor Relations in Comparative Perspective," Economic Policy Institute report, Unequal Bargaining Power Initiative, 2021

.

"Uber wants to limit its drivers' rights in California: User loyalty is its secret political weapon," *Washington Post* (with Henry Farrell), August 21, 2020.

"Europe has kept down pandemic unemployment, US hasn't: here's why" (with Anke Hassel) *Washington Post* April 24, 2020

"Growing Apart: Efficiency and Equality in the German and Danish VET Systems," (with Christian Lyhne Ibsen), Research Brief RB07-2020, MIT Work of the Future Project, August 2020.

Presidential Task Force Report, "Women's Advancement in Political Science," APSA, with Mala Htun and Frances Rosenbluth, 2019

"Are Political Science Journals Biased Against Women?" (with Dawn Teele). *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post,* May 2017.

"Bernie Sanders says Denmark is socialist. Forbes Magazine says it's the most business-friendly country. Who's right? *Monkey Cage/ Washington Post* (November 11, 2015)

Symposium on labor in *Perspectives on Politics*, 13 (1), March 2015: 155-58.

"Foreword" in Marius Busemeyer and Christine Trampusch, The Comparative Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation Systems (Oxford University Press, 2011)

"Varieties of Capitalism and Business History," Contribution for Roundtable on Varieties of Capitalism, Business History Review (Winter 2010).

"Symposium on Suzanne Berger's *How We Compete* in Socio-Economic Review (2009).

"Varieties of Capitalism and Institutional Change," (co-authored with Peter A. Hall), European Politics and Society Newsletter (Spring 2006).

"The Politics of Institutional Change," in West European Politics Newsletter Spring 2001

"Problems of Equivalency in Comparative Politics" (co-authored with Richard Locke), APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter, January 1998.

Work in Progress

Book project: *The Chamber of Influence: Corporate Power in American Courts* (with Jingtian Chen and Morgan Gillespie), under contract with Princeton University Press, to be completed September 2026.

"Polarization and Democratic Backsliding: The Paradox of Corporate Power and Collective Business Weakness"

Ongoing Activities

Co-organizer (with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson) of Project on "The American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective" [involves annual summer school, annual research conferences, and other activities]. Funding from Hewlett Foundation.

Co-organizer (with Alexander Hertel-Fernandez) of "East Coast Consortium on the American Political Economy" [involves multi-disciplinary 'pop-up' workshops on selected topics on the American political economy]

Grants

2024-2027: Hewlett Foundation, Co-PI (with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson) for a project on "The American Political Economy," Grant #2024-09162, $1,500,000.

2021-2024. Hewlett Foundation, Co-PI (with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson) for a project on "The American Political Economy," Grant #2020-2254, $1,500,000.

2018-2020. Hewlett Foundation, Co-PI (with Jacob Hacker, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, and Paul Pierson) for a project on "The American Political Economy," Grant #2018-7845, $560,000.

Teaching Positions

Ford Professor of Political Science, MIT (2009-present)
Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University (2005-2009)
Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University (2004-2005)
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (1994-2004)
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Princeton University (1988-1994)
Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Oberlin College (1987-1988)

Recent Named Lectures (last five years)

2026: Keynote, Cloud Capitalism and the AI Transition, University of Cambridge (UK)
2024: Keynote, Tri-College Colloquium, Philadelphia
2024: The Robert A Kagan Lecture in Law and Regulation, UC Berkeley
2024: Ciampi Lecture on the American Political Economy, Florence, Italy
2023: Castle Lecture in Ethics, Politics, and Economics, Yale University
2023: Keynote, Italian Society of Law & Economics (Brescia)
2023: The American Academy Lecture (American Academy in Berlin)
2023: Böhm-Bawerk Lecture at Innsbruck University
2022: Max Weber Lecture, University Carlos III, Madrid
2021: Adam Smith Lecture in Jurisprudence, University of Glasgow
2021: The Cadario Visiting Lecture in Public Policy, University of Toronto

Fellowships and Invited Visiting Positions

2026: Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

2024: Ciampi Visiting Scholar, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence Italy
2021-2024: Hans Fischer Senior Fellowship, TUM Institute for Advanced Study, Munich
2022: Mercatur Fellowship, Wuppertal University
2019: Visiting Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
2019: Donald Gordon STIAS Fellowship, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, South Africa
2018: Otto Mønsted Fellowship, Copenhagen Business School, Department of Business and Politics
2016: Guest Scholar, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris
2015: Guest scholar, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires
2014-2015: Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg), Germany
2012- 2014: Research Fellow, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
2013: Guest scholar, Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
2011: Guest scholar, Institute for Advanced Study Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin) and Science Center (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung)
2010-2011: Matina S. Horner Distinguished Visiting Professorship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
2007-2011: Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University, Oxford UK
2010-2011: Abe Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (declined)
2010: Visiting Professor, Sciences Po, Paris
2008- : Non-Resident Senior Fellow, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Washington DC.
2005: Appointed Permanent External Scientific Member, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany
2005: Visiting Professor, International Center for Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark
2004: Invited as Scheduled Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences, Stanford/Palo Alto
2002-2003: Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)
2001: Appointment to the Society for Comparative Research (Yale University)
2000-2001: National Science Foundation POWRE grant (Professional Opportunities for Women in Research and Education)
1997-1998: Guest Scholar, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico City
1996: Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship in Comparative Public Policy and Comparative Institutions
1994: Guest Scholar, The Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame University
1992-1995: Jonathan Dickinson Bicentennial Preceptorship (Princeton University award for junior faculty providing one-year research leave)
1991: Research Fellow, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
1991-1992: Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Research Fellowship
1991: American-Scandinavian Foundation Research Grant
1990-1991: Friedrich Ebert Foundation Postdoctoral Research Grant
1988-1989: Hans-Böckler-Stiftung grant

1986: Phi Beta Kappa dissertation scholarship
1985: Henry Robert Braden Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
1984-1985: German Academic Exchange (D.A.A.D.) Dissertation Fellowship
1984: Council for European Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

Professional Activities

Elected Positions in Professional Associations

2022-2023: Co-president, American Political Science Association Organized Section on the American Political Economy

2017-2018: President, American Political Science Association (led a Presidential Task Force on "Advancement of Women in the Profession")

2016-2017: President-Elect, American Political Science Association

2015-2017: Vice President, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section of the American Political Science Association

2013-2016: Treasurer, American Political Science Association (and appointed member of the Council's Administrative and Finance Committees)

2011-2014: Elected Member, Executive Council of the American Political Science Association (and appointed member of the Council's Administrative and Finance Committees)

2011-2013: President, Comparative Politics Organized Section, American Political Science Association

2009-2011: Vice President, Comparative Politics Organized Section, American Political Science Association

2008-2009: President, Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE)

2007-2008: President, American Political Science Association's organized section on Politics and History

2002-2006: Chair, Council for European Studies (based at Columbia University)

2003-2005: Executive Committee of Qualitative Methods Section of American Political Science Association

2002-2004: Executive Council of Comparative Politics Section of American Political Science Association.

2000-2003: Executive Committee of Organized Section on European Politics and Society of American Political Science Association (2000-2002 as Treasurer)

1995-1997: Executive Council, Organized Section on Politics and History, American Political Science Association

Selected Other Professional Service Roles:

2023-present: Member, At-Large Membership Committee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

2017-2023: Chair, American Academy of Arts and Sciences Selection Committee for Section III: 3 (Political Science and International Relations); previously (2015-17) served as committee member

2018- 2020: Member, MIT Task Force on Work of the Future

2015-2020: Member, Steering Committee of Swiss Project on Vocational and Professional Education and Training (Swiss government)

2012-present: Steering Committee, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University

2011- present: Co-chair, Seminar on State and Capitalism since 1800, Center for European Studies, Harvard University

2008-2014: Academic Advisory Board, Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)

2008-2015: Board of Trustees, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

2003-2007: Scientific Advisory Board (Fachbeirat) of the Social Science Research Center of Berlin (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung)

2003: Chair, American Political Science Association Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award committee for best book in government, politics and international affairs

2001-2005: Scientific Advisory Board (Fachbeirat) of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany (Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung)

2002: Chair, Program Committee of Organized Section on Comparative Politics (for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association)

2000: Chair, Program Committee for the International Biennial Conference of Europeanists (sponsored by the Council for European Studies, Columbia University).

1999-2001: Social Science Research Council Committee for International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship Program

1995: Keynote speaker at Japanese Political Science Association Meetings, Tokyo.

1994: Chair, Program Committee for Organized Section on Politics and Society in Western Europe, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

1991-1993: Member (elected), Faculty Advisory Committee to the Chair of the Department of Politics (Princeton University).

Editorial Boards:

General Editor of Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics, Cambridge University Press (2014-2024); previously Assistant General Editor (2009-2014); Associate Editor (2005-2009)

American Political Science Review (June 2020- present)
World Politics (January 2016-present)
Comparative Politics (2012-present)
Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal (2010-present)
German Politics and Society (2008- present)

Teaching/Recent Courses

The American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective (graduate)
Contemporary Issues in Comparative Political Economy (graduate)
Varieties of Capitalism and Social Inequality (graduate)
Western European Politics (undergraduate)

Select University Activities and Committees (last 5 years)

2019-2024 MIT Presidential Council on Family and Work
2021: Member, Search Committee for Dean of MIT's School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2019- present Co-chair, Gender Equity Committee, MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Sciences
2018- present Faculty Director, MISTI-Denmark (MIT International Science and Technology Initiative)
2023- present Interim Faculty Director, MISTI-Germany
2018- 2020: Member, MIT Task Force on Work of the Future

(updated November 2026)