

Dr. Linus Albert Westheuser

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Born: June 19, 1989—Berlin, Germany

Specialisation

Political Sociology of Inequality, Class, Morality, Cleavage Politics, Populism

Education and Academic Career

- since 2022 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin, Project "New Inequalities, New Cleavages? A Political Sociology of Contemporary Society." (working with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux)
- 2021 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Swiss Government Excellence Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich (working with Simon Bornschieer and Silja Häusermann)
- 2021 DOCTORATE in Political Science and Sociology, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence.
Thesis: *Pre-Political Bases of a New Cleavage? Social Identity, Moral Economy, and Classed Politics in Germany*. Committee: Donatella della Porta (Supervisor), Mike Savage (London School of Economics), Steffen Mau (Humboldt). Passed with the highest distinction.
- VISITING RESEARCHER: London School of Economics (International Inequalities Institute), Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, Potsdam Centre for Citizenship and Social Pluralism.
- 2016 M.A. in Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin. Thesis: *Mobilizing Against Asylum Seekers: Grievances, Opportunities, and Discourse*. Supervisor: Ruud Koopmans.
STUDENT EXCHANGES: École Normale Supérieure de Cachan; Université de Lomé, Togo.
- 2013 B.A. in Social Sciences and Philosophy, Humboldt University. Thesis: *Homology and Practice: Theorizing a Faultline in Pierre Bourdieu's Social Theory*. Supervisor: Hans-Peter Müller.
STUDENT EXCHANGE King's College London.
- 2008 ABITUR, Altes Gymnasium Oldenburg.
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, Balboa High School, San Francisco, USA.

Publications

BOOK

- 2023 “Triggerpunkte. Konsens und Konflikt in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft.” (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux). Berlin: Suhrkamp.

ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

- 2022 “Verletzte Ansprüche. Zur Grammatik des politischen Bewusstseins von ArbeiterInnen” (with Linda Beck), *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 32(2), 279–316 ([LINK](#)).
- 2022 “Class Without Consciousness. The Politics of Demobilized Class Society” (with Donatella della Porta), *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 32(2), 165–172 ([LINK](#)).
- 2020 “Populism as Symbolic Class Struggle. Metaphor, Homology, and English Ale”, *Participation and Conflict* 13(1): 256-283, ([LINK](#)).
- 2015 “Männer, Frauen und Stefan Hirschauer: Undoing Gender zwischen Praxeologie und rhetorischer Modernisierung”, *GENDER – Zeitschrift für Gesellschaft, Geschlecht und Kultur* 3: 109-125 ([LINK](#)).

AS EDITOR

- 2022 “The Politics of Demobilized Class Society” (with Donatella della Porta), Special Issue of the *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 32(2). ([LINK](#))

IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2023 “The Sociocultural Approach to Populism: Toward a Cultural Class Analysis of Populist Appeals” (with Pierre Ostiguy), in: *Elgar Research Handbook of Populism*, eds. Stavrakakis, Yannis and Giorgos Katsambekis (in print).

REVIEWS AND OTHER ARTICLES

- 2022 “This is not America: Politische Polarisierung in Deutschland als Schimäre”, *Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen* 35(2), 422-427 ([LINK](#)).
- 2020 “The Symbolic Politics of Populism Reflects the Class Alliances it Attempts to Assemble.”, *LSE British Politics and Policy Blog* ([LINK](#)).
- 2019 “The Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street, and the Great Recession”, *Mobilization* 24(4): 531-2. ([LINK](#))
- 2018 “Doing Gender”. *Gender Glossary*, ([LINK](#)).
- 2012 “‘Obviously I’m Not a D**k, Right?’ Positioning Male Identities on the Mediated Conversational Floor of a TV Game Show”. *Soziologiemagazin*, 2: 125-136 ([LINK](#)).

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Moral Roots of a New Cleavage. How Classed Lives Shape Political Worldviews.”, Book Manuscript.
- “Cleavage Politics and Common Sense. A Qualitative Perspective.” (with Koen Damhuis).
- “Cleavage Theory Meets Bourdieu. The Emergence of Cleavage Identities.” (with Delia Zollinger).
- “Triggerpoints: the Moral Economy of Controversy.” (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux).
- “Affective Consequences of Transformation Fatigue.” (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux).
- “Asymmetrical Cleavage Formation.” (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux).
- “Theorizing Cleavage Identities. The Contribution of Cultural Sociology.” Working Paper ([Preprint](#)).

Selected conference papers and invited lectures

- 2023 “Triggerpoints and the Moral Economy of Controversy.”, University of Tübingen.
2023 “Formen des Arbeiterbewusstseins in Zeiten der Demobilisierung.”, University of Münster.
2022 “Cleavage Politics and the Conduct of Life.”, University of Zurich.
2022 “Moral Roots of Ideological Divides.”, Council of European Studies, Lisbon (with Koen Damhuis).
2022 “Jenseits des Kulturkampfes.”, German Sociological Association, Bielefeld.
2021 “Cleavage Theory Meets Bourdieu.”, SciencesPo Paris and German Political Science Association (with Delia Zollinger).
2020 “Classed Identities and the Deep Structures of a New Cleavage”, University of Zurich
2020 “Workers’ Social Identity and Political Habitus.”, ECPR Joint Sessions, Toulouse (cancelled).
2020 “Populism’s Symbolic Class Politics.”, Political Studies Association (PSA), Edinburgh (cancelled).
2019 “Theorizing Cleavage Identities.”, London School of Economics and Political Science.
2019 “Populism and The Popular: Some Conceptual Disentangling.”, Scuola Normale, Florence.
2018 “Cleavage Structures and Classed Moralities.”, University of Tübingen.
2018 “Politics and Identity in German Middle and Working Class Milieus.”, Humboldt University.
2017 “Mobilizations Against Asylum Seekers.”, European Sociological Association (ESA), Athens.
2016 “The Political Conduct of Life: A Weberian Perspective on Antiracist Activism”. International Sociological Association (ISA), Vienna.

Teaching

- 2023-24 “Moral Economy: (De-)Legitimations of Inequality” (32 teaching hours), Humboldt University
2022-23 “Polarization of Public Opinion” (16 teaching hours), Humboldt University (with Thomas Lux).
2018 “Classical Sociological Theory” (30 teaching hours), University of Potsdam.

Outreach

- 2023 Keynote, annual conference of the Austrian Chamber of Labour (*Arbeiterkammer*), Vienna.
2022-23 Scientific Advisor, *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* research project “A Cartography of the Working Class in Germany” (with Thomas Lux).
2022 Green Academy of *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*: Seminar “Economic Inequality in Germany: Structural Trends and Public Opinion” (with Nora Waitkus).
2022 Keynote, *Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung* Working Group on Class Analysis: “The Everyday Political Critique of Workers” (with Linda Beck).
ongoing Media interviews and expertise at *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Deutschlandfunk*, *ARD*, *ZDF*, *Jacobin*, *LSE Blogs*, *Kontrast Magazin*, various podcasts.

Service to the profession

PEER REVIEW

British Journal of Sociology, European Societies, European Political Science Review, *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, *Berliner Journal für Soziologie*

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2022 Panel Organizer: “New Conflicts and Cleavage Formation in Western Europe.“, Council of European Studies, Lisbon (with Aljoscha Jacobi).
- 2019 Conference Organizer: “Class Without Consciousness. The Politics of Fragmented Class Identities“, two-day international conference at Scuola Normale Superiore (with Donatella della Porta).
- 2020 Discussant: “Solidarity Across Differences“, University of Cambridge.
- 2019 Chair: “The Cultural Side of Populism“, Scuola Normale Superiore.
- 2017 Discussant: “Party Realignment, Economic Crisis and Varieties of Populism in Europe“, Scuola Normale Superiore.

COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2023 Jury Member Karin Lohr Prize for Excellent Student Theses
- 2023 Member of PhD Examination Committee, Gordana Angelichin-Zhura: “Becoming Cosmopolitan. Symbolic Capital and New Imaginaries of Belonging.“, Humboldt University.
- 2023 Member of PhD Examination Committee, Christine Gerber: “Platform Capitalism and the Future of Work.“, Humboldt University.
- 2022 Member of PhD Examination Committee, Katja Schmidt: “Large-Scale Attitude Changes Toward Immigrants and Refugees.“, German Institute of Economic Research (DIW).
- since 2022 Examiner at M.A. and B.A. level.
- 2017-21 European Graduate Network Representative, Welcome Officer for academic visitors at SNS.

Other professional experience

- 2014-17 Editorial Assistant, General Sociology Unit, Humboldt University; projects included *Max Weber Handbuch* (J.B.Metzler) *Pierre Bourdieu* (Suhrkamp).
- since 2016 Freelance Translator, e.g. for *Kulturstiftung des Bundes*, Goethe-Institute, Berlin State Senate.
- 2012-13 Editorial Assistant, Berlin Institute for Critical Theory, Free University Berlin.
- 2011-12 Interviewer, Center for Social Research, Humboldt University Berlin.

Grants & Honours

- 2022 PhD thesis shortlisted for the German Study Award (*Deutscher Studienpreis*)
- 2016-21 Full PhD Scholarship at Scuola Normale Superiore
- 2008-II Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (*Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes*)
- 2010 Essay Award, *Soziologie Heute*, “Theories of Subjectivation in G.H. Mead and Judith Butler”.
- 2008 State Prize, High School Historiography Prize of the German President, “1968 on the Right”.

References

Prof. Donatella della Porta, Scuola Normale Superiore, donatella.dellaporta@sns.it
Prof. Steffen Mau, Humboldt-University Berlin, steffen.mau@hu-berlin.de
Prof. Magne Flemmen, University of Oslo, magne.flemmen@sosgeo.uio.no