

Apolline Taillandier

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (LCFI, POLIS, Newnham College, University of Cambridge)

Research Associate (Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po)

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Academic Position

2021-2024 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Department of Politics and International Studies, Newnham College, University of Cambridge & Center for Science and Thought, Universität Bonn

Research Interests

History of political thought (1950s-present): history of American and British liberalism; history of transhumanism; eugenics; neo-Malthusianism; intersections of environmentalist, feminist, and libertarian ideas; cyberfeminism; anarcho-capitalism; utilitarianism

Contemporary political theory: global justice; intergenerational justice; democracy, philanthropy, and expertise; care ethics and politics

History and sociology of science and technology: imaginaries of future technology; futurology, planning and scenarios; history of artificial intelligence; history of computer programming and computer education; feminist science and technology studies

Qualifications

- 2023 **Postdoctoral Research Affiliate**, Newnham College, University of Cambridge
- 2022 **Qualification to Assistant Professorship**, French National University Council
Sections 4 (Political Science) and 72 (Epistemology and History of Science)
- 2021 **PhD in Political Science**, Sciences Po Paris
Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies Programme
PhD Thesis: 'In the Name of Posthumanity: Visions and Justifications of Liberal Order in Contemporary Anglophone Transhumanism'
Supervisor: Jenny Andersson. Defence Committee: Sonja M. Amadae, Duncan Bell, Fabian Muniesa, Benoît Pelopidas, Arnault Skornicki. Awarded on 01/06/2021
- 2015 **MPhil in Political Theory**, Sciences Po Paris
MPhil Thesis: 'Transhumanist Discourses: A Study of Contemporary Justifications for Eugenics' (in French)
Supervisors: Jenny Andersson, Frédéric Gros. Awarded on 23/06/2015 with highest honours
- 2012 **BA in Political Science**, Sciences Po Paris
Modern and Contemporary History, Economics, Comparative Politics

Publications

Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals

“Cosmos-politanism: Transhumanist Visions of World Order from the First World War to the Digital Age” (with Duncan Bell). *Perspectives on Politics* (accepted)

“‘Staring into the Singularity’ and Other Posthuman Tales: Transhumanist Stories of Future Change.” *History and Theory* 60, no. 2 (June 2021): 215–233. <https://doi-org/10.1111/hith.12203>.

“Lectures et Langages du Transhumanisme.” *Raisons Politiques*, 74, no. 2 (June 2019): 73–81. <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-raisons-politiques-2019-2-page-73>.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Transhumanism as Ideology.” In *Routledge Handbook of Ideology Analysis*, edited by Juliette Faure, Mathieu Humphrey, and David Laycock. New York: Routledge, Forthcoming.

“AI in a Different Voice: Rethinking Computers, Learning and Gender Difference at MIT in the 1980s.” In *Feminist AI: Critical Perspectives on Algorithms, Data, and Intelligent Machines*, edited by Jude Browne, Stephen Cave, Eleanor Drage, and Kerry McInerney, 32–46. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192889898.003.0003>.

“The Meanings of AI: A Cross-Cultural Comparison” (with Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal, Thomasz Hollanek, Hirofumi Katsuno, Yang Liu, and Daniel White). In *Imagining AI: How the World Sees Intelligent Machines*, edited by Stephen Cave and Kanta Dihal, 16–36. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192865366.003.0002>.

“Les Frontières du Posthumain: Mutations d’une Figure Critique entre Transhumanisme et Posthumanisme.” In *Du Postmodernisme au Posthumanisme: Littérature et Cinéma*, edited by Carlos Tello, 41–60. Paris: L’Harmattan, 2021.

“From Boundless Expansion to Existential Threat: Transhumanists and Posthuman Imaginaries.” In *Futures*, edited by Jenny Andersson and Sandra Kemp, 333–348. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198806820.013.20>.

“Le Rapport NBIC.” In *Le Transhumanisme: Une Anthologie*, edited by Franck Damour, Stanislas Deprez, and Alberto Romele, 171–185. Paris: Hermann, 2020. <https://shs.cairn.info/le-transhumanisme-une-anthologie--9791037005717-page-171>.

Book Reviews

“Singular Creatures: Robots, Rights, and the Politics of Posthumanism. By Mark Kingwell. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. 2022.” *International Affairs* 100, no. 4 (2024): 1781–83. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iaae155>.

“Le climat de la sécularisation [Des Empires sous la Terre: Histoire Écologique et Raciale de la Sécularisation. By Mohamad Amer Meziane. Paris: La Découverte. 2021].” *Revue Française de Science Politique* 73, no. 4-5 (2023): 21–23.

“Repenser les Choix Nucléaires: La Séduction de l’Impossible. By Benoît Pelopidas. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po. 2022.” *Politix* 144, no. 4 (2023): 207–211.

“Artificial You: AI and the Future of your Mind. By Susan Schneider. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2019.” *Philosophique* 23 (2020): 107–108.

“La Gauche Américaine en France: La Réception de John Rawls et des Théories de la Justice. By Mathieu Hauchecorne. Paris: CNRS Éditions. 2019.” *Revue Française de Science Politique* 69, no. 5–6 (2019): 958–959.

Interview

“Entretien avec Marion Fourcade: ‘La classification, c’est de la morale !’” (with Théo Bourgeron). *Revue Française de Socio-Économie* 22, no.1 (2019): 205–215.

Book and Articles in Preparation

In the Name of Posthumanity. Liberalism, Transhumanism, and the Remaking of Nature

‘Effective Altruism, Technoscience, and the Making of Philanthropic Value’ (with Neil Stephens and Samantha Vanderslott). Under review

“Homesteading in Outer Spaces: Transhumanists and the Critique of the State.” Under review

Reviewer

Centaurus, Critical Times, Ethics and Information Technology, Journal of Posthumanism, Raisons Politiques, Zygon

Fellowships and Awards

2024 Visiting Research Fellowship, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

2022 Mercator Stiftung Research Fellowship (£19.000)

2022 Academy of International Affairs NRW Workshop Grant (€10.000)

2021 Forum Humanum Fellowship, Universität Bonn (travel grant)

2021 Thomas und Ulla Kolbeck-Stiftung Postdoctoral Fellowship (4 years)

2019 Cambridge Sciences Po Erasmus+ PhD Exchange Programme, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge (€800)

2018 Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley Sociology (\$12.000)

2016 MaxPo Doctoral Fellowship (40 months)

2011-2012 Undergraduate Exchange Programme, Moscow State University, Faculty of Public Administration

Presentations

Seminars, Conferences and Workshops (selected)

18.09.2024. ‘Liberalism at the End of the World’ *Cambridge Conference on Catastrophic Risk*, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge

08.05.2024. ‘AI Safety: Knowledge and Ignorance on the Verge of Catastrophe’ *Seminar of the Centre for Science, Knowledge and Policy*, University of Edinburgh

29.04.2024. ‘Transhumanism and the Liberal Politics of Utopia’ *Utopia and the Return of History Conference*, University of Manchester

11.03.2024. ‘AI Safety: Knowledge and Ignorance on the Verge of Catastrophe’ *Revolutionary Epistemology: New Directions in Ignorance and Failure Studies*, Department of Sociology, University of Essex

20.02.2024. 'Feminist Epistemologies and Programming Languages in the United States, Britain, and France: A History of the Logo Project' *Critiques of AI Seminar*, Center for Internet and Society, CNRS

07.02.2024. 'The Harpsichord and the Hammer: Feminist Epistemologies and Programming Languages in the United States, Britain, and France' *Women in Intellectual History ISIH Seminar Series*, Online Seminar

11.01.2024. 'Undoing the Californian Ideology: Transhumanism and Justifications of Capitalism' *Digital Capitalism and Ideology Seminar*, Center for Internet and Society, CNRS

11.11.2023. 'Homesteading in Outer Spaces: Transhumanists and the Anarcho-capitalist Critique of the State' *Twentieth Annual Historical Materialism Conference*, SOAS University of London

30.05.2023. 'More-Than-Human AI Justice: Conceptual Resources from Feminism' *Sustainable AI Across Borders Conference*, Sustainable AI Lab, IWE, Universität Bonn

22.05.2023. 'Engineering Spontaneous Orders: Transhumanists and the Remaking of Markets and Human Nature' *Nature and the Social Order Workshop*, Maison Française d'Oxford

26.04.2023. 'Contentious Others: Logo and Dilemmas of Difference in the US, Britain, and France' *Many Worlds of AI Conference*, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

06.04.2023. 'What's Wrong with Longtermism?' *Graduate Colloquium of the Chair of Epistemology, Modern and Contemporary Philosophy*, IZPH, Universität Bonn

19.10.2022. 'AI in a Different Voice: Rethinking Computers, Learning and Gender Difference at MIT in the 1980s' *Seminar of the Science and Technology Studies Programme*, Maastricht University

07.07.2022. "History with a French accent": The Idea of French Historiography in Anglophone Political Thought (1980s-present)' Thematic Section 'The History of Political Thought in France as Sociohistorical Object Since the Late 19th Century' *Annual Conference of the French Political Science Association*, Université de Lille, CERAPS, Sciences Po Lille

07.07.2021. 'Firestone, Haraway, Laboria Cuboniks: Mutations of the Critique of Capitalism in Technofeminism' *Student Symposium on Feminist Studies*, Philosophy Faculty, Universität Bonn

05.07.2022. 'Effective Altruism as Technoscientific World-Making: Philanthropic Metric Work in Neglected Tropical Diseases, Cultured Meat, and Artificial Intelligence Safety' Thematic Section 'Philanthropic Mobilisations' *Annual Conference of the French Political Science Association*, Université de Lille, CERAPS, Sciences Po Lille

12.05.2022. 'Computers and Women's Moral Development: Readings of Carol Gilligan's Ethics of Care in American Feminist Studies of Science (1982-present)' *Graduate Colloquium of the Chair of Epistemology, Modern and Contemporary Philosophy*, IZPH, Universität Bonn

11.04.2022. 'The Worlds of the Future: Global Order and International Thought in Contemporary Transhumanism' *Realism as a Philosophical Response to the Challenges of our Time Conference*, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, UMR 8103

14.12.2021. 'AI in a Different Voice: Rethinking Computers, Learning and Gender Difference at MIT in the 1980s' *Histories of Artificial Intelligence Mellon Sawyer Seminar Winter Symposium*, University of Cambridge

06.10.2021. 'Containing Superintelligence: Governing Global Change through AI Safety' Panel on 'Genealogies of the Human in AI Systems' *Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)*

24.09.2021. 'Engineering Spontaneous Orders: Transhumanists and the Technopolitics of Market Sovereignty' *Reading Economics as Political Theory Workshop*, Sciences Po Paris

25.06.2021. 'From Feminine Machines to Sexist Algorithms: Identity, Justice and Exclusion in debates about Artificial Intelligence from the 1980s Onwards' *Medialab Graduate Workshop*, Sciences Po Paris

- 01.12.2020. 'Transhumanism and Imaginaries of Artificial Intelligence' *Transhumanism, Capitalism, and Politics Seminar*, GREThA, CNRS, Université de Bordeaux
- 27.11.2020. 'Posthumanism's Liberal Languages: Transhumanism between Transgression and Enhancement' *Du Postmodernisme au Posthumanisme: Littérature et Cinéma Colloquium*, Université de Paris
- 18.09.2020. 'Posthuman Futures, Cyborg Languages, and the Remaking of Postwar Liberalism' *11th Annual London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought*
- 22.08.2019. 'Containing Superintelligence: Transhumanists and the Global Future of Democracy' Research Network 'Science and Technology' *14th Conference of the European Sociological Association*, University of Manchester
- 27.06.2019. 'Containing Superintelligence: Transhumanists and the Global Future of Democracy' Panel on 'Global Futures' *31st Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*, The New School for Social Research
- 26.06.2019. 'Containing Superintelligence: Transhumanists and the Global Future of Democracy' *Economic Sociology Summer Workshop*, Sociology Department, Columbia University
- 21.06.2019. 'The Social Life of the Posthuman: Transhumanist Communities and Online Future-making' Panel on 'Past Futures' *The Web That Was: Archives, Traces, Reflections Conference*, University of Amsterdam
- 29.04.2019. 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Scientists, Markets, and the Space of Posthuman Imaginaries' *Doctoral Colloquium of the MPIfG*, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
- 16.05.2019. 'Futures That Matter: Transhumanist Ethics and the Limits of Justice' *Political Theory Doctoral Seminar*, Sciences Po Paris
- 15.01.2019. "Yes, We are Worried about AI: The Technological Singularity and the Future of Humanity" *Medialab Seminar*, Sciences Po Paris
- 09.01.2019. 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence. Crisis and Responsibility in Transhumanist Imaginaries' *Seminar of the Chair on Ethics and Transhumanism*, Université Catholique de Lille
- 04.05.2018. 'From Boundless Expansion to Existential Threat: Transhumanists and Posthuman Imaginaries' *Postcolonial STS Symposium*, Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society, University of California, Berkeley
- 27.04.2018. 'Cyborgs, Selfish Genes, Moral machines: Posthuman Beings and Transhumanist Desires' *Posthuman Ethics Global Symposium*, New York University
- 22.11.2017. 'Cyborg Citizenship, Antispeciesism and Identity in Transhumanist Movements' *Colloquium 'La Citoyenneté en Débat(s)'*, Université Sorbonne-Paris Cité, Université Paris-Diderot, Sciences Po

Invited Discussions

- 18.12.2023. Discussant for Florence Hulak (Université Paris 8/LabTop-Cresppa), *L'Histoire Libérale de la Modernité. Race, Nation, Classe* (PUF, 2023) *Annual Workshop of the SHHIP Network*, Université Paris Lumières
- 04.08.2022. Discussant for Nicholas Agar (University of Waikato), *Panel on 'Posthuman Transformation Then and Now'*, Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University
- 28.01.2022. Discussant for Benoît Pelopidas (Sciences Po), *Repenser les Choix Nucléaires. La Séduction de l'Impossible* (Presses de Sciences Po, 2022), CERI, Sciences Po Paris
- 20.04.2021. Discussant for Cécile Laborde (Nuffield College, University of Oxford) 'Laicity, Separation and Progressivism: India and Comparative Political Theory' *General Seminar of the Centre for European Studies*, Sciences Po Paris

15.07.2020. Discussant for Jason Edward Lewis (Concordia University) *Histories of AI Mellon Sawyer Seminar*, University of Cambridge

04.12.2018. Discussant for Joachim Englisch (Münster University) 'Taxing Robots?' *General Seminar of the Centre for European Studies*, Sciences Po Paris

12.12.2018. Discussant for Mark Coeckelbergh (De Montfort University Leicester), *Chair of Ethics and Transhumanism Workshop*, Université Catholique de Lille

Participation in Non-academic Events

08.02.2024. Night of Ideas, Panel on 'The Limits of the Body' UK French Institute

18.11.2023. Presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Thomas und Ulla Kolbeck-Stiftung

14.06.2023. Presentation on 'Surviving the Age of Nuclear Vulnerability: American Cryonicists and the Cold War' Cap Sciences Museum, Bordeaux

30.05.2022. Poster Presentation 'From Feminine Machines to Sexist Algorithms' Diversity Days, Universität Bonn

16.03.2019. Roundtable on 'Prospective,' Grenoble Geopolitics Festival

08.11.2018. Debate on Transhumanism, Premiere of 'Les Eternels' by Gilles Verièpe and Ingrid Thobois, Théâtre de Rungis

Teaching Experience

Course Organiser

Gender and AI. Graduate Module, MPhil in Ethics of AI, Data & Algorithms, University of Cambridge. Course organiser (Fall 2023)

The Philosophy of AI. Undergraduate Paper, Jesus College, University of Cambridge. Course organiser (Spring 2023)

Feminist Political Theories. Undergraduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Winter 2022)

International Politics and Technology. Graduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Winter 2022)

The Future as Political Problem (1950-2020). Graduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Winter 2022)

Writing the History of Political Thought. Graduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Winter 2021)

The Future as Political Problem (1950-2020). Graduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Summer 2021)

Feminist Approaches to Science and Technology. Undergraduate Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, Universität Bonn. Course organiser (Summer 2021)

Comparative Politics. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Course organiser (Fall 2018)

The Ethics of War. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Course organiser (Fall 2017)

Teaching Assistant

The Great Transition: Social, Technological, and Environmental Issues. Graduate Lecture, Sciences Po. Teaching assistant (Fall 2017)

Environmental Politics. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Teaching assistant (Fall 2017)

The Concept of Race. Philosophical, Anthropological, and Historical Perspectives. Graduate Lecture, Sciences Po. Teaching assistant (Spring 2017)

Gender and Political Science. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Teaching assistant (Spring 2017)

Economics and its Laws in the 19th Century French Novel. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Teaching assistant (Fall 2016)

Advisor for MSt in AI Ethics and Society, University of Cambridge (2021-2024)

Thesis Supervisor

Joline Kretschmer (Universität Bonn), 'Gender as Deeply Diverse: How to Dissolve the Gender Category Dilemma,' BA Thesis (completed)

Laurin Tirpitz (Universität Bonn), 'Context Matters: How the Categories Dominant Context and Resistant Context Help Theorizing Gender,' BA Thesis (completed)

Joanna Koch (Universität Bonn), 'Moving beyond the Headscarf Dilemma: Revisiting Liberal Feminism for Education,' BA Thesis (completed)

Helen Wimmers (Universität Bonn), 'The Minimum of Negative Liberty in I. Berlin's "Two Concepts of Liberty,"' BA Thesis (completed)

Emma Muller (Radboud University), 'Toward a Politics of Ontological Plurality: A Critical Evaluation of Bruno Latour's Proposal for a Cosmopolitics,' MA Thesis (completed)

Laura Michler (Universität Bonn), 'From Anthropocentrism and Division to Reciprocity and Holism: Towards an Environmental Philosophy based on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Indigenous Environmental Justice,' MA Thesis (completed)

Claudia Schettini (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa), 'Cybersecurity in the Age of Posthumanism: A Critical Analysis of Technology, Power, and International Relations,' PhD Thesis, external advisor

Research Networks

2023-2025. Desirable Digitalisation: Rethinking AI for Just and Sustainable Futures (coord. Stephen Cave and Markus Gabriel)

2023-2024. Hyperhumain. Cerveau, machine : modèle, analogie, identité (coord. David Pucheu)

2022-2024. Séminaire Histoire des idées politiques : nouveaux objets, nouvelles approches (coord. Isabelle Gouarné, Mathieu Hauchecorne and Arnault Skornicki)

2022-2023. Realism as a Philosophical Response to the Challenges of our Time (coord. Jocelyn Benoist)

Organisation of Scientific Events

HAPOC

23.04.2024. Internal Humanities Workshop, Institute for Technology and Humanity, University of Cambridge

16.07.2024. EASST/4S Conference Panel on 'Philanthropy, Technoscience, and Transformation' Amsterdam

Fall 2023. CST Research group on 'Philosophy in the AI Lab' (with Charlotte Gauvry), Universität Bonn

23.06.2022-24.06.2022. 'The Global Politics of Artificial Intelligence: Historical, Comparative, and Critical Perspectives' Workshop, Academy of International Affairs NRW, Bonn

08.11.2021. 'AI and Mental Health: The Politics of Digital Health' Workshop (with Charlotte Gauvry), CST, Universität Bonn

Administrative Responsibilities

2024 UCU representative, LCFI, University of Cambridge

2018-2020 PhD student elected representative, Sciences Po Scientific Council

Professional Associations Membership

Association Française de Science Politique

Society for Social Studies of Science

Other Professional Experience

2015-2016 CNRS Editions, Paris, Assistant to Press and Foreign Rights Offices

Languages

French: native language

English: proficient

Russian: read, spoken

German: read

Spanish: read

Arabic: basic notions