

## Samuel Ely Bagg

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### EMPLOYMENT

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#### University of South Carolina

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2022—

#### University of Oxford

Departmental Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, 2021—2022

Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow in Politics, Nuffield College, 2019—2022

#### McGill University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Research Group on Constitutional Studies, 2017—2019

### EDUCATION

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#### Duke University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2011—2017

#### Yale University

B.A., Ethics, Politics and Economics, 2005—2009

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Books

- 2024. *The Dispersion of Power: A Critical Realist Theory of Democracy*  
Oxford University Press (print edition published March 11)
- Forthcoming. *Democracy and Competition* (co-editor, with Alfred Moore)  
Oxford University Press (under contract, publication expected mid-to-late 2025)

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024. *Sortition as Anti-Corruption: Popular Oversight against Elite Capture*  
*American Journal of Political Science* 68(1): 93-105
- 2023. *Whose Coordination? Which Democracy? On Antitrust as a Democratic Demand*  
*Politics & Society* 53(1): 364-386
- 2022. *Realism Against Legitimacy: For a Radical, Action-Oriented Political Realism*  
*Social Theory and Practice* 48(1): 29-60
- 2022. *Preaching to the Choir? Rhetoric and Identity in a Polarized Age*, w/ Rob Goodman  
*Journal of Politics* 84(2): 511-524
- 2022. *Intra-Party Democracy: A Functionalist Account*, w/ Udit Bhatia  
*Journal of Political Philosophy* 30(3): 347-369
- 2021. *Fighting Power with Power: The Administrative State as a Weapon against Private Power*  
*Social Philosophy and Policy* 38(1): 220-43.
- 2021. *Beyond the Search for the Subject: An Anti-Essentialist Ontology for Liberal Democracy*  
*European Journal of Political Theory* 20(2): 208-231.
- 2019. *An Adversarial Ethics for Campaigns and Elections*, w/ Isak Tranvik  
*Perspectives on Politics* 17(4): 973-987

- 2018. [The Power of the Multitude: Answering Epistemic Challenges to Democracy](#)  
*American Political Science Review* 112(4): 891-904
- 2018. [What Makes a Political Theory \*Politica\*?](#) Comment on Waldron  
*Political Studies Review* 16(3): 184-191
- 2018. [Can Deliberation Neutralise Power?](#)  
*European Journal of Political Theory* 17(3): 257-279  
→ most cited article in volume 17 of EJPT
- 2017. [When will a Darwinian Approach be Useful for the Study of Society?](#)  
*Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* 16(3): 259-281
- 2016. [Between Critical and Normative Theory: Predictive Political Theory as a Deweyan Realism](#)  
*Political Research Quarterly* 69(2): 233-244

#### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Forthcoming. [Democracy and Competition: Renewing Democratic Theory in an Age of Crisis](#)  
(Introduction to *Democracy and Competition* edited volume with OUP), w/ Alfred Moore
- Forthcoming. [In Praise of Friction: Mutual Interference, Parity, and the Benefits of Competition](#), w/  
Shai Agmon (for *Democracy and Competition* edited volume with OUP)

#### Other Publications

- Forthcoming. [Review of \*Democracy for Busy People\*](#) (Elliott)  
*Review of Politics*
- 2023. [What Kind of Popular Participation does Bioethics Need? Clarifying the Ends of Public Engagement through Randomly Selected Mini-Publics](#), w/ Jin K. Park and Anna C. F. Lewis  
*American Journal of Bioethics* 23(12): 82-84
- 2022. [Do We Need an Anti-Oligarchic Constitution? Review of \*Systemic Corruption\*](#) (Vergara)  
*European Journal of Political Theory* 21(2): 399-411
- 2021. [Reply to “The ‘Epistemic Critique’ of Epistocracy and Its Inadequacy”](#) (Hédoin)  
*Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 10(4): 31-36.
- 2021. [Review of \*Democratic Equality\*](#) (Wilson).  
*Political Theory* 49(3): 517-522
- 2020. [Review of \*Equality Beyond Debate\*](#) (Jackson).  
*Review of Politics* 82(1): 164-167
- 2019. [Review of \*Democracy and Truth\*](#) (Rosenfeld) and [Review of \*Political Self-Deception\*](#) (Galeotti).  
*Perspectives on Politics* 17 (4): 1153-1154
- 2014. [Encyclopedia Entry: Legitimacy](#), w/ Jack Knight  
*Encyclopedia of Political Thought*, ed. Michael Gibbons (Wiley)

#### Public Writing

- 2024. [Democratic Disenchantment](#)  
*Boston Review*
- 2024. [Would you sit on a jury to review government regulations?](#)  
*The Conversation*
- 2023. [Two Fallacies of Democratic Design](#)  
*Law and Political Economy Project*
- 2019. [Give Political Power to Ordinary People](#), w/ Michael Schulson  
*Dissent Magazine*
- 2019. [How Should We Think about Democracy?](#)  
*Law and Political Economy Project*

- 2018. **Political Theory as an Anti-Discipline**  
*Humanities Futures*

## PRESENTATIONS

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- **The Dispersion of Power: A Critical Realist Theory of Democracy** (book panels and talks)
  - 2024 November, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, New Orleans, LA (scheduled)  
*Commentators:* Juliana Bidadanure, Alex Guerrero
  - 2024 September, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA (scheduled)  
*Commentators:* Samuel Moyn, Simone Chambers, Eric Beerbohm, Lucia Rubinelli
  - 2024 May, Political Theory Seminar, University of York, UK  
*Commentators:* Udit Bhatia, Alfred Moore, Monica Brito Vieira
  - 2024 May, Climate Citizen Research Group, University of Lancaster, UK
  - 2024 May, Contemporary Political Theory Seminar, University of Cambridge, UK
  - 2024 May, Critical Theory Seminar, University of Oxford, UK  
*Commentators:* Eriqlá Şóyemí, Jasper Friedrich
  - 2024 May, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Commentators:* Enzo Rossi, James Pearson, Philip Stehr
  - 2024 May, University of Münster, Germany
  - 2024 May, Political Theory Colloquium, University of Hamburg, Germany
  - 2024 March, Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, BC  
*Commentators:* Mark Warren, Afsoun Afsahi, Anna Jurkevics, Alex Kirshner
  - 2024 February, Yale Institute for Social and Policy Studies, New Haven, CT
  - 2024 February, COMPAS Colloquium, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (link)  
*Commentators:* Naomi Scheinerman, Vladimir Kogan
  - 2024 January, Humanities Collaborative Book Launch, All Good Books, Columbia, SC
  - 2024 January, Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA  
*Commentators:* Jason Maloy, Emma Stone MacKinnon, Rob Goodman, Sonu Bedi
- **Mobilizing Political Identity**, w/ Maxime Lepoutre (→ preparing for review)
  - 2024 November, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, New Orleans, LA (scheduled)
  - 2022 September, American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC
- **Negative Egalitarianism**, w/ Teresa Bejan (→ preparing for review)
  - 2024 September, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA (scheduled)
  - 2021 February, The Politics of Egalitarianism, University of Oxford (online)
- **Acting Democratically under Clientelism**, w/ Udit Bhatia (→ preparing for review)
  - 2024 May, LSE Political Theory Seminar, London, UK
  - 2024 May, KCL Political Theory Workshop, London, UK
  - 2024 May, Nuffield Political Theory Workshop, Oxford, UK
  - 2024 May, Political Theory Colloquium, University of Münster, Germany
  - 2024 February, Political Theory Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT
  - 2021 September, American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA (online)
  - 2021 September, MANCEPT Workshop: Rethinking Elections, Manchester, UK (online)
- **Political Antimonopoly for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, w/ Alex Kirshner (→ preparing for review)
  - 2024 March, Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, BC
- **Democracy and Authoritarianism in the Long Run**, w/ Jacob Barrett (→ preparing for review)
  - 2023 November, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, New Orleans, LA
- **Beyond Democratic Authorization** (→ preparing for review)
  - 2023 September, American Political Science Association, Los Angeles (presented online)

- **Beyond Participatory Inclusion** (→ *Dispersion of Power*, ch. 3)
  - 2022 December, Utrecht University Futures of Democracy Seminar Series (online)
  - 2022 June, Experts, Citizens, and Knowledge Problems in Democracy, KCL, London, UK
  - 2022 May, The Promises of Democracy, Villa Vigoni, Italy
  - 2020 February, New Political Imaginaries Conference, Oxford, UK
  - 2019 October, Law and Political Economy in Europe, Oxford, UK
  - 2019 September, iSEE Congress, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- **The Irrelevance of Benevolence**, w/ Ying Chan (→ preparing for review)
  - 2022 November, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, New Orleans, LA
- **In Praise of Friction**, w/ Shai Agmon (→ forthcoming in edited volume)
  - 2022 October, Association for Political Theory, Houston, TX
  - 2022 May, Democracy and Competition Workshop, University of York, UK
- **Debating Sortition** (panel w/ Brett Henning, Cristina Lafont, Sonia Bussu)
  - 2022 August, ECPR Standing Group on Democratic Innovations (online)
- **Organizing for Power: An Agenda for Democratic Action** (→ *The Dispersion of Power*, ch. 8)
  - 2022 July, Association for Social and Political Philosophy, Durham, UK
  - 2020 November, Association for Political Theory, Amherst, MA (online)
  - 2020 April, Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles (online)
- **Reconciling the Liberal and Radical Demands of Democracy** (→ *The Dispersion of Power*, ch. 7)
  - 2022 June, What is Democracy? Theories, Practices, Values, Oxford, UK
  - 2022 May, Democracy Under Duress, University of Uppsala, Sweden
  - 2019 September, MANCEPT Workshop: Democratic Realism, Manchester, UK
  - 2019 August, American Political Science Association, Washington DC
- **Antitrust, Antimonopoly, and Democracy** (→ P&S 2023)
  - 2021 September, American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA (online)
  - 2021 April, Constitutionalism and the Free Society, McGill University (online)
  - 2021 January, Law and Political Economy Junior Scholars Workshop, Yale Law School (online)
- **Intra-Party Democracy: A Functionalist Account**, w/ Udit Bhatia (→ JPP 2021)
  - 2020 November, REDEM Workshop, Bucharest (online)
- **Fighting Power with Power: Using the State to Disperse Private Power** (→ SPP 2021)
  - 2020 February, King's College London Political Economy Research Seminar, London, UK
  - 2019 December, Social Philosophy and Policy (SPP): "The Administrative State," Tucson, AZ
  - 2019 November, University of Reading Political Science Research Seminar, Reading, UK
- **Sortition as Anti-Corruption** (→ AJPS 2022)
  - 2019 October, Nuffield Political Theory Workshop, Oxford, UK
  - 2018 December, New Directions in Global Justice, Justitia Amplificata, Freie Universität, Berlin
  - 2018 October, Association for Political Theory, Philadelphia
- **Philanthropy as Democratization** (→ preparing for review)
  - 2019 April, Western Political Science Association, San Diego
- **Realism Against Legitimacy: For a Radical, Action-Oriented Political Realism** (→ STP 2022)
  - 2018 November, Northeast Political Science Association, Montreal
  - 2017 April, Western Political Science Association, Vancouver
- **Resisting State Capture: A Realistic Defense of Democratic Institutions** (→ APSR 2018)
  - 2018 May, Political Theory In/And/As Political Science, McGill University, Montreal
  - 2017 November, Realist Theories of Legitimacy, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
  - 2016 September, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia
  - 2016 March, Western Political Science Association, San Diego

- **Basic Income Against Oligarchic Democracy** (→ *The Dispersion of Power*, chs. 6-7)
  - 2018 May, The Great Transition Conference, Montreal
  - 2017 May, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), The Hague, Netherlands
- **What is an Agent? A Scientific, Multidisciplinary, Postmodern View** (→ EJPT 2021)
  - 2016 April, Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory
  - 2015 October, Association for Political Theory, Boulder
  - 2015 September, American Political Science Association, San Francisco
  - 2015 March, Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago
- **Realism as Pragmatism: A Deweyan Approach to Judgment and Political Theory** (→ PRQ 2016)
  - 2014 October, Harvard Graduate Conference in Political Theory
- **Sincerity and Reciprocity in Deliberative Democracy** (→ EJPT 2018)
  - 2014 January, Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans
- **The Circumstances of the Political: Jeremy Waldron's Conception of Politics** (→ PSR 2018)
  - 2013 March, University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics Graduate Conference

## AWARDS

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- Best Dissertation Award, Department of Political Science, Duke (2017)
- Graduate Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke (2013–2017)
- Research Fellow, Council for European Studies, Duke (2014–2017)
- Vienna International Summer University Fellowship, Duke (2016)
- Summer Language Study Grant, German Academic Exchange Service (2012)
- James B. Duke Scholarship (prize fellowship), Duke (2011–2015)
- University Scholarship (prize fellowship), Duke (2011–2012)
- Kilborne Fellowship for Summer Research, Yale (2007)

## TEACHING

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### University of South Carolina

- Social and Political Philosophy (undergraduate, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Contemporary Political Theory (undergraduate, 2022, 2024)
- Capitalism and Democracy (honors undergraduate, 2023)

### Oxford University

- Core Seminar in Non-Analytical Political Theory (graduate, co-taught, 2022) – see [syllabus](#)
- Theory of Politics (undergraduate, 2020-2022) – regular lecturer for standard curriculum

### McGill University

- Liberal Political Theory (undergraduate, 2019) – see [syllabus](#)
- Capitalism and Democracy (undergraduate, 2018) – see [syllabus](#)

### Duke University – as teaching assistant

- Introduction to Political Science (2017), Ethics of Violence and War (2014), Challenges of Living an Ethical Life (2014), Introduction to Political Philosophy (2013)

## SERVICE

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- *Seminar Convener*: USC Political Science Research Workshop (2022–); Nuffield Workshop in Political Theory (2020–2021); Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Fellows Seminar (2015–2017);

- Duke-UNC Graduate Political Theory Group (2013—2017); University Scholars Program Seminar (2012—2013, 2015—2016); Duke Political Science Graduate Student Colloquium (2014—2015)
- *Conference Organizer*: What is Democracy? Theories, Practices, Values (2022, Oxford); The Politics of Egalitarianism (2021, Oxford); Graduate Conference in Political Theory (2015, 2016, 2017, Duke)
  - *Section Organizer*: SPSA – Political Theory (2024); MPSA – Critical and Normative Theory (2023)
  - *Reviewer*: Oxford University Press; Routledge; American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Perspectives on Politics; Political Studies; Journal of Political Philosophy; Political Theory; European Journal of Political Theory; Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy; Political Research Quarterly; Constellations; Journal of Social Philosophy; Ethical Perspectives; Social Theory and Practice; Social Epistemology; Theoria; Ergo; Representation; Political Research Exchange; Revista Ética, Política, & Sociedad; Planning Theory and Practice; Business Ethics, Environment, and Responsibility (see [publons](#) profile)

## REFERENCES

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**1. Jack Knight**, Frederic Cleaveland Professor of Law and Political Science, Duke University  
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**3. Jacob Levy**, Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory, Political Science, McGill University  
855 Sherbrooke St. West, Montréal, QC H3A 2T7  
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**5. Jonathan Wolff**, Alfred Landecker Professor of Values and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford  
Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG  
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**2. Cécile Laborde**, Nuffield Professor of Political Theory, University of Oxford  
Nuffield College, New Road, Oxford, UK, OX1 1NF  
[cecile.laborde@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cecile.laborde@nuffield.ox.ac.uk) / +44 1865278500

**4. Arash Abizadeh**, Professor of Political Science, McGill University  
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