

Apolline Taillandier

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Department of Politics and International Studies
Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Philosophische Fakultät
Center for Science and Thought
Universität Bonn, Germany

CNU Qualification in political science for
Assistant Professorship (MCF)

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Academic Position

2021-2024 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**

Department of Politics and International Studies
Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence
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Research Interests

-Contemporary political theory and intellectual history: history of political and economic thought (1945-present), history of American and British liberalism, transhumanism, posthumanism, feminist theory, history of the social sciences, political history of future ideas

-History of science and technology: history of artificial intelligence, history of computer engineering and technologies, science and technology studies

Current research projects

-*In the Name of Posthumanity: Visions and Justifications of Liberal Order in Contemporary Anglophone Transhumanism*. The book traces the history of contemporary Anglo-American transhumanism. Transhumanism involves biological, technological, and political ideas and practices to transform the human condition, ranging from the enhancement of individual capacities to the overcoming of planetary boundaries. Focusing on Anglo-American settings from the early 1960s onwards, it argues that transhumanism after WWII turned into a set of attempts to safeguard the liberal future. It demonstrates how transhumanist projects and arguments drew from, appropriated, and departed from conventional repertoires of liberal discourse ranging from libertarianism to utilitarianism. Bringing together the history of liberal political thought with the history of science and technology from the postwar on, it contributes to clarifying the role of technoscientific practices and imaginaries in reshaping contemporary liberalism.

-*Gendering the Machine: Feminist Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (1960s-present)*. This research investigates the historical role of feminist thought and activism in artificial intelligence scientific project, from the 1960s onwards. Focusing notably on the Logo project at MIT and Edinburgh's AI lab, it studies how Logo was recast from a libertarian to a feminist tool, and how feminist ethics, epistemology, and developmental psychology were rearticulated in this context. It follows the transnational circulation and transformation of ethics and gender justice norms and their reinterpretation and appropriation by scientists and industry actors. This contributes to the "hidden history" of women and feminist activism in AI, to the material history of AI models and software, and to the history of AI as a human science whose ambitions were shaped by ethical, psychological, and political philosophical debates of the time.

Education

2016-2021 **PhD in Political Science**, Sciences Po

Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies (MaxPo) and Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE)

Thesis Title: 'In the Name of Posthumanity: Visions and Justifications of Liberal Order in Contemporary Anglophone Transhumanism'

Supervisor: Jenny Andersson (CNRS, Sciences Po)

Awarded on 01.06.2021

2012-2015 **MPhil in Political Theory**, Sciences Po

MPhil Thesis Title: 'Transhumanist Discourses: A Study of Contemporary Justifications for Eugenics' (in French)

Supervisors: Jenny Andersson (CNRS, Sciences Po) and Frédéric Gros (Sciences Po)

Received with highest honours

2009-2012 **BA in Political Science**, Sciences Po

Academic exchanges

2019 Cambridge Sciences Po PhD Exchange Programme, University of Cambridge, Department of Politics and International Studies

2018 Fulbright Doctoral Research Fellow, University of California, Berkeley, Sociology Department

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

Publications

a) Articles in peer-reviewed journals

1. "Staring into the Singularity" and Other Posthuman Tales: Transhumanist Stories of Future Change,' *History and Theory* 60, no. 2 (June 2021), 215-233. DOI: [10.1111/hith.12203](https://doi.org/10.1111/hith.12203)
2. 'Lectures et langages du transhumanisme,' *Raisons Politiques*, 74, no. 2, *Special Issue on 'Political theories of transhumanism'* (June 2019), 73-81. DOI: [10.3917/rai.074.0073](https://doi.org/10.3917/rai.074.0073)

b) Chapters in edited volumes

3. 'AI in a Different Voice: Rethinking Computers, Learning and Gender Difference at MIT in the 1980s,' In Jude Browne, Kerry Mackereth, and Eleanor Drage (eds.), *Feminist AI* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
4. With Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal, Thomasz Hollanek, Hiro Katsuno, Yang Liu, Daniel White, 'The Meanings of AI.' In Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal, and Sarah Dillon (eds.), *Imagining AI* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
5. 'Les frontières du posthumain: mutations d'une figure critique entre transhumanisme et posthumanisme,' In Carlos Tello (ed.), *Du postmodernisme au posthumanisme. Littérature et cinéma* (Paris : L'Harmattan, 2021)

6. 'From Boundless Expansion to Existential Threat: Transhumanists and Posthuman Imaginaries,' in Jenny Andersson and Sandra Kemp (eds.), *Futures* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 333-348. DOI: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198806820.013.20](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198806820.013.20)
7. 'Le Rapport NBIC,' in Franck Damour, Stanislas Deprez and Alberto Romele (eds.), *Le transhumanisme: une anthologie* (Paris: Hermann, 2020), 171-185.

c) Book reviews

8. Susan Schneider, *Artificial You: AI and the Future of your Mind*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019) *Philosophique*, (January 2020) 107-108.
9. Mathieu Hauchecorne, *La gauche américaine en France. La réception de John Rawls et des théories de la justice*, (Paris: CNRS Éditions, 2019) *Revue française de science politique*, 69 no. 5-6, (October 2019) 958- 959.

d) Interview

10. With Théo Bourgeron, 'Entretien avec Marion Fourcade. "La classification, c'est de la morale !"' *Revue française de socio-économie*, 22, no.1 (June 2019), 205-215.

Book chapters and articles in preparation

- With Duncan Bell, 'Transhumanist Visions of World Order, 1920-2020,' *American Political Science Review* (under review)
- With Neil Stephens and Samantha Vanderslott, 'Effective Altruism as Technoscientific World-making: Philanthropic metric work in neglected tropical diseases, cultured meat, and artificial intelligence safety,' intended for *Economy and Society*
- 'Engineering Spontaneous Orders: Transhumanists and the Technopolitics of Market Sovereignty'
- 'Transhumanism and Liberalism as Ideology,' in Juliette Faure, Mathieu Humphrey, and David Laycock (eds.) *Making Sense of Ideological Complexity: Creation, Transmission and Levels of Analysis*, London: Routledge (Expected release date: 2025)

Reviewer

Raisons Politiques, Centaurus, Journal of Posthumanism, Critical Times

Presentations at conferences and workshops (selected)

- 31.05.2023. 'Homesteading in Outer Spaces: Transhumanists and the Anarcho-capitalist Critique of the State. Neoliberal Environmental Thought Workshop, University of Oxford
- 22.05.2023. 'Engineering Spontaneous Orders: Transhumanists and the Remaking of Markets and Human Nature.' Nature and the Social Order Workshop, University of Oxford
- 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)' (in French), Thematic Section 'L'histoire de la pensée politique en France comme objet socio-historique depuis la fin du 19^e siècle,' Annual Conference of the French Political Science Association, Université de Lille/Sciences Po Lille, CERAPS

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

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

06.10.2021. 'Containing Superintelligence: Governing Global Change through AI Safety,' 4S Annual Meeting, Panel on Genealogies of the Human in AI systems (via Zoom)

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

07.07.2021. 'Firestone, Haraway, Laboria Cuboniks: Mutations of the Critique of Capitalism in Technofeminism,' Symposium für feministische Inhalte, Universität Bonn (via Zoom)

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

11.06.2021. 'The Posthuman Future as Anarcho-Capitalism: Subject, Identity and Property among the Extropians' (in French), Transhumanism, Capitalism and Politics Workshop, Université de Bordeaux (via Zoom)

01.12.2020. 'Transhumanism and Imaginaries of Artificial Intelligence,' (in French), Transhumanism, Capitalism and Politics Seminar, GREThA, CNRS-Université de Bordeaux (via Zoom)

27.11.2020. 'Posthumanism's Liberal Languages: Transhumanism between Transgression and Enhancement,' (in French) Colloquium 'Du postmodernisme au posthumanisme. Littérature et cinéma,' Université de Paris (via Zoom)

18.09.2020. 'Posthuman Futures, Cyborg Languages, and the Remaking of Postwar Liberalism,' 'Limits and Boundaries in the History of Political Thought,' 11th Annual London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought (via Zoom)

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'. 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Global Futures Panel, The New School, New York

26.06.2019. 'Containing Superintelligence: Transhumanists and the Global Future of Democracy' Economic Sociology Summer Workshop, Columbia University Sociology Department, New York

21.06.2019. 'The Social Life of the Posthuman: Transhumanist Communities and Online Future-making,' Conference 'The Web That Was: Archives, Traces, Reflections,' Past Futures Panel, The Research Infrastructure for the Study of Archived Web Materials, University of Amsterdam

29.04.2019. 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Scientists, Markets, and the Space of Posthuman Imaginaries,' Doctoral Colloquium of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne

16.05.2019. 'Futures That Matter: Transhumanist Ethics and the Limits of Justice,' (in French) Political Theory Doctoral Seminar, Sciences Po Paris

15.01.2019. 'Yes, We are Worried about AI: the Technological Singularity and the Future of Humanity' (in French) 'Digital Transitions,' Medialab seminar, Sciences Po Paris

09.01.2019. 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence. Crisis and Responsibility in Transhumanist Imaginaries' (in French), Seminar of the Ethics and Transhumanism Chair, 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' (in French); Colloquium 'La Citoyenneté en Débat(s),' Université Sorbonne-Paris Cité, Université Paris-Diderot, Sciences Po Paris

Invited discussions

04.08.2022. Discussant for Nicholas Agar (University of Waikato), Virtual Panel on 'Posthuman Transformation Then and Now,' Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University (via Zoom)

28.01.2022. Discussant for Benoît Pelopidas (Sciences Po, Paris), Roundtable 'Les sciences humaines et sociales au défi des armes nucléaires' on Benoît Pélopidas, *Repenser les choix nucléaires. La séduction de l'impossible*. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2022 (via Zoom)

20.04.2021. Discussant for Cécile Laborde (University of Oxford, Nuffield College), 'Laicity, Separation and Progressivism: India and Comparative Political Theory,' Centre for European Studies General Seminar, Sciences Po (via Zoom)

15.07.2020. Discussant for Jason Edward Lewis (Concordia University), 'Introduction to Seminar Theme: Cognitive Injustice,' Mellon Sawyer Seminar on 'Histories of AI, A Genealogy of Power,' History and Philosophy of Science Department, University of Cambridge (via Zoom)

04.12.2018. Discussant for Joachim Englisch (Münster University), 'Taxing Robots?,' Centre for European Studies General seminar, Sciences Po

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

Organisation of scientific events

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), Universität Bonn, Center for Science and Thought

Communication to non-expert audiences

30.05.2022 Bonn University Diversity Days, Poster session

16.03.2019. 'La prospective,' Roundtable, Grenoble Geopolitics Festival

08.11.2018. 'Le transhumanisme en trois questions,' Debate for Premiere of 'Les Eternels' by Gilles Verièpe and Ingrid Thobois, Théâtre de Rungis

Fellowship and awards

2022 Mercator Stiftung (as part of "Desirable Digitalisation" Project)

2022 Academy of International Affairs NRW Workshop Grant

2021 Thomas und Ulla Kolbeck Stiftung "Ethics of AI" Postdoctoral Fellowship

2019 Erasmus+ Programme Cambridge-Sciences Po academic exchange

2018 Fulbright Visiting Student Grant

2016 MaxPo Doctoral Fellowship

Teaching experience

a) Course organiser

-*The Philosophy of AI*. Paper for the Jesus College Cambridge / Harvard Social Studies Study Abroad Programme, University of Cambridge (Lent Term 2023)

-*Feminist Political Theories*. Undergraduate Seminar, Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Bonn (Winter 2022)

-*International Politics and Technology*. Graduate Seminar, Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Bonn (Winter 2022)

-*Writing the History of Political Thought*. Graduate Seminar, Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Bonn (Winter 2021)

-*The Future as Political Problem (1950-2020)*. Graduate Seminar, Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Bonn (Summer 2021, Winter 2022)

-*Feminist Approaches to Science and Technology*. Undergraduate Seminar, Philosophische Fakultät, Universität Bonn (Summer 2021)

-*Comparative Politics*. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Course organiser: Laura Morales (Fall 2018)

-*The Ethics of War*. Undergraduate Seminar, Sciences Po. Course organisers: Amélie Ferey and Marine Guillaume (Fall 2017)

b) Teaching assistant/course advisor

-Mst in AI Ethics and Society, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education (2021-2022; 2022-2023)

-*The Great Transition: Social, Technological, and Environmental Issues*. Master's Core Curriculum, Sciences Po. Course organisers: Marie-Laure Djelic, Dominique Cardon and Eloi Laurent (Fall 2017)

-*Environmental Politics*. Undergraduate Course, Sciences Po. Course organiser: Florence Faucher (Fall 2017)

-*The Concept of Race. Philosophical, Anthropological, and Historical Perspectives*. Master's Core Lecture, Sciences Po. Course organiser: Justin E. H. Smith (Spring 2017)

-*Gender and Political Science* (in French). Undergraduate Course, Sciences Po. Course organiser: Réjane Sénac. (Spring 2017)

-*Economics and its laws in 19th c. French novel* (in French). Undergraduate Course, Sciences Po. Course organiser: Christophe Reffait (Fall 2016)

Supervision

Master and Bachelor theses on the following topics: feminist philosophy, political ecology, history of political thought (mid-twentieth century-present)

Administrative experience

2018-2019 MaxPo Doctoral Seminar Convenor

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

Other professional experience

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

Languages

French: mother tongue

Russian: read, spoken

English: proficient

German, Spanish: basic knowledge