

# Zsolt Kapelner

University of Oslo. Oslo, Norway

## EDUCATION

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- 2017–22      **PhD in Philosophy (Political Theory Track)**  
Central European University  
Supervisor: Zoltán Miklósi (Department of Political Science)  
Dissertation title: *Ruling together: an Account of the Value of Democracy*
- 2013–15      **MA in Philosophy**  
Central European University  
Supervisor: Philip Goff
- 2010–13      **BA in Liberal Arts**  
ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary  
Supervisor: Zsófia Zvolenszky

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2023–2026      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
University of Oslo  
Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas (IFIKK)  
GoodAttention Research Project
- 2022–24 Fall      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway  
Institute of Philosophy and First Semester Studies (IFF)  
Good Integration (GOODINT) Research Project
- 2022 Winter      **Visiting Faculty Member**  
Central European University, Vienna  
Department of Political Science
- 2021 Fall      **Teaching Fellow**  
ELTE University, Budapest  
Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
- 2018–20      **Scientific research assistant**  
ELTE University, Budapest  
Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities  
*Autonomous Vehicles, Automation, Normativity* Research Group

## PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

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- Forth.      “The Ethics of Agenda Setting.” *Synthese*.
- 2026      “Ignoring the Unreasonable” *Moral Philosophy and Politics*. Online first.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2025-0053>
- 2025      “Workplace democracy: the argument from the worker-society relation.” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 56(2): 167–184. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josp.12559>
- “The Democratic Theory of Immigrant Enfranchisement” *Democratic Theory* 12(1): 83-103. <https://doi.org/10.3167/dt.2025.120105>

- “Democracy and Exclusion by Patti T. Lenard: introduction to the symposium”  
*Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. Online first.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2025.2512269>
- 2024 “Why refugees should be enfranchised” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 41(1): 106–121. <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12682>
- “The state’s duty to foster voter competence.” *Episteme*. 21(3): 719–732.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/epi.2022.31>. Co-authored with Michele Giavazzi.
- “Anti-immigrant backlash: the democratic dilemma for immigration policy.”  
*Comparative Migration Studies* 12(12). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-024-00370-7>
- “Civic Friendship, the Burdens of Politics, and the Ethics of Attention” *Analyse & Kritik* 46(2): 279–287. <https://doi.org/10.1515/auk-2024-2022>
- 2023 “What does it mean to have an equal say?” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*.  
 Online first. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-023-10404-1>
- 2022 “Mutual service as the relational value of democracy.” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 25(4): 651–665. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-022-10271-2>
- 2021 “Structural injustice and the duties of the privileged.” *Social Theory and Practice* 47(2): 247–264. <https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract202148120>
- 2020 “Rethinking the Democratic Boundary Problem.” In Lee Ward (ed)  
*Cosmopolitanism and its Discontents*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. Co-authored with Zoltan Miklosi.
- “Vulnerable minorities and democratic legitimacy in refugee admission.” *Ethics and Global Politics* 13(1): 53–63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16544951.2020.1735016>
- 2019 “Revolution against non-violent oppression.” *Res Publica* 25(9): 445–461. **Winner of Postgraduate Essay Prize.** <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-019-09437-0>
- 2019 “Why not rule by algorithms?” *Hungarian Philosophical Review* 63(4): 75–90.  
[https://epa.oszk.hu/00100/00186/00063/pdf/EPA00186\\_magyar\\_filozofiai\\_szemle\\_2019\\_04\\_075-090.pdf](https://epa.oszk.hu/00100/00186/00063/pdf/EPA00186_magyar_filozofiai_szemle_2019_04_075-090.pdf)

## BOOK REVIEWS

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- 2025 “Democratic Failures and The Ethics of Democracy by Adam Lovett” *The Philosophical Quarterly*. 75(3): 1239–1241. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pq/pqae150>
- 2020 “Democratic Inclusion: Rainer Bauböck in Dialogue.” *Res Publica* 26(1): 149–154.  
 Book review. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-019-09429-0>

## EDITORIAL WORK

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Guest editor of book symposium on Patti T. Lenard’s *Exclusion and Democracy* (OUP, 2023) in *Critical Review of Social and Political Philosophy*. 2025.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

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““Flooding the zone” and the politics of attention” Post on the *Justice Everywhere* blog. 10.03.2025. [Link](#)

- “Aufmerksamkeit ist Macht. Und die müssen wir brechen.” DIE ZEIT. 10.03.2026.  
Medforfatter: Good Attention Research Group. [Link](#)
- “Formuesskatten har fått langt meir merksemd enn den fortener” [“The wealth tax has gotten far more attention than it deserves”] 15.09.2025. Co-authored with Eirik Tangeraas Lygre. [Link](#)
- “Rejoinder to discussion on Anti-immigrant backlash: the Democratic Dilemma for immigration policy” Discussion on the *EUI Migration Policy Centre: The Ethics of Migration Policy Dilemmas* site. [Link](#)
- “Structural Injustice and the Dilemmas of Search and Rescue in the Mediterranean” Discussion on the *EUI Migration Policy Centre: The Ethics of Migration Policy Dilemmas* site. [Link](#)
- “Det nye oppmerksomhetstyranniet.” [“The new attentional tyranny”] Opinion piece in *Klassekampen*, 03.03.2025. Co-authored with Sebastian Watzl. [Link](#)

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2025 “Democracy Embattled” *AUTHLIB Workshop on the normative boundaries of interventions aiming to safeguard the liberal order*. Central European University, Democracy Institute, Budapest.
- 2024 “The Ethics of Agenda Setting”
- *Salience in Society: The Nature and Ethics of Collective Attention* workshop, University of Vienna.
  - *Science and Democracy Seminar Series*. University of Oslo.
- “Democratic attention” *Philosophy and Psychology of Attention Norms* workshop. University of British Columbia.
- “Ignoring the Unreasonable” *Colloquium in Social and Political Philosophy*. LMU Munich.
- 2021 “In defence of the priority of morality in politics.” *ECPR Joint Sessions*. Online event.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2025 “The Ethics of Agenda Setting.”
- *ECPR Political Theory Standing Group Seminar Series*.
  - *Nordic Network of Political Theory Annual Conference*. Norwegian Nobel Institute, Oslo
  - *Attention, politics, democracy* conference. University of Oslo.
- 2024 “The Civic Duty of Attention” *Norwegian Practical Philosophy Network Workshop*. University of Oslo.
- “We should not accommodate anti-immigrant backlash” *New Horizons in Justice and Migration*. KU Leuven.
- “Ignoring Extremists” *Extremism and Subjectivity* workshop. VU Amsterdam. Planned.
- 2023 “The democratic dilemma for immigration policy.” *The ethics of immigration policy dilemmas* workshop. EUI.

- 2022 “Agents of justice: power, agency, and the justification of democracy.”
- *ECPR Political Theory Standing Group Seminar Series.*
  - *Nordic Network of Political Theory Annual Conference.* University of Tromsø.
- “Denying empathy to political adversaries.” *MANCEPT Workshops 2022.* University of Manchester.
- 2021 “Workplace democracy and the value of the worker-society relation.” *Labor Justice and Transformation of Work Conference.* Online event.
- “On having an equal say.” *ECPR Joint Sessions.* Online event.
- “Mutual service as the value of democracy.”
- *Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory.* Duke University.
  - *2nd Geneva Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy.* University of Geneva.
- 2020 “Service and the value of democracy.” *1st Princeton-CEU Workshop in Political and Legal Theory.* Princeton University.
- 2019 “Structural injustice and the duties of the privileged.” *LSE Graduate Conference in Political Theory.* LSE.

## **AWARDS AND PRIZES**

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- 2020 *Award for Advanced Doctoral Students.* Central European University
- 2019 *Post Graduate Essay Prize of Res Publica.*
- 2015 *Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.* Central European University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Oslo**

- Science and Democracy: Philosophical Perspectives (BA)** 2026 Spring  
Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas
- Examen Philosophicum Seminar (BA in Norwegian)** 2025 Fall, 2026 Spring  
Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas

### **UiT – The Arctic University of Norway**

- Migration, integration, and diversity (MA)** 2023 Fall  
Department of Philosophy and First Semester Studies (IFF)

### **Central European University**

- Structural injustice – race, class, and gender in political theory (MA)** 2022 Winter  
Department of Political Science
- Political philosophy from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (BA)** 2022 Winter  
Department of Political Science, PPE
- Foundations of political philosophy (MA; Role: TA)** 2020 Fall  
Department of Political Science  
Partially asynchronous online course

**The epistemology of democracy (PhD/MA; Role: TA)** 2020 Winter  
Department of Philosophy

**ELTE University**

**Democratic Theory (BA)** 2021 Fall  
Department of Philosophy

**Critical Theory (BA)** 2021 Fall  
Department of Philosophy

**SUPERVISION, EXAMINATION, AND STUDENT MENTORING**

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2026 BA Thesis supervisor (1 student), Philosophy, University of Oslo.

BA Thesis supervisor (1 student), PPE, University of Oslo.

BA Thesis examiner. PPE, University of Oslo.

2025 MA Thesis examiner. Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law,  
University of Oslo.

External examiner for PhD Comprehensive Examination at ELTE University,  
Hungary.

**TEACHING OUTSIDE HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**Milestone Institute (Budapest)**

**Political ideologies** 2022 Spring  
Pre-undergraduate preparation course.  
Role: Instructor (responsible for developing syllabus).

**Introduction to political thought** 2021 Summer  
Pre-undergraduate preparation course.  
Role: Instructor.

**Social science tutorial** 2020 Fall, 2021 Fall  
Pre-undergraduate online preparation course.  
Role: Co-instructor.

**State theory** 2019 Fall, 2020 Summer, 2021 Summer  
Pre-undergraduate preparation course.  
2020 Summer instalment online.  
Role: Instructor (responsible for developing syllabus).

**Minority and identity** 2019 Fall  
Pre-undergraduate preparation course.  
Role: Instructor.

**SERVICE**

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**Peer review**

I served as a referee for the following journals: Philosophy and Phenomenological Research; Synthese; Analytic Philosophy; Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy; Politics, Philosophy and Economics; Ethical Theory and Moral Practice; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Critical

Review of International Social and Political Philosophy; Social Theory and Practice; Res Publica; Moral Philosophy and Politics; Law, Ethics, and Philosophy; Ethics and International Affairs; American Review of Political Science; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Social Philosophy; The Journal of Politics; Political Studies Review; European Journal of Political Theory.

I served as an invited reviewer for the CEU Institute for Advance Studies' Senior/Core Fellowship (2026).

### **Academic events (co-)organized**

- 2025 Attention, Politics, and Democracy. Conference. UiO.
- 2024 The Claim against Inferiority - the Philosophy of Social Hierarchy. UiT.
- 2023 Exclusion, Integration, and Democracy. UiT.
- 2022 GOODINT Workshop: Immigration and Social Cohesion. CEU
- 2021 Rawls 100. Conference. ELTE University, Budapest.
- 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> POLEMO Symposium. CEU.
- 2018 7<sup>th</sup> International Graduate Conference in Philosophy. CEU.

### **Student research groups chaired**

- 2019– Political, Legal, and Moral Theory (POLEMO) Research Group
- 2020 Central European University.

### **Student Union Representative**

Central European University (AY 2012/13, 2019/20)

### **LANGUAGES**

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English	Fluent
Norwegian	Fluent
German	Intermediate
Hungarian	Native