

# Dr. Linus Albert Westheuser

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Born: June 19, 1989—Berlin, Germany

## Specialisation

Political Sociology, Inequality, Class, Morality, Cleavage Politics, Populism, Qualitative Methods

## 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. 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.
- 2007 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. ([LINK](#)).

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2024 “‘Ja, aber’. Gesellschaftliche Konflikte verstehen”, *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*, in print.
- 2024 “Cleavage Politics in Ordinary Reasoning. How Common Sense Divides” (with Koen Damhuis). *European Societies*, Online First. ([LINK](#)).
- 2024 “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.
- 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](#)).
- 2022 “This is not America: Politische Polarisierung in Deutschland als Schimäre”, *Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen* 35(2), 422-427 ([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](#)).

### OTHER ARTICLES

- 2024 “Quanto conta la classe? Struttura e concezioni in mutamento.” (with Donatella della Porta), *Parole-Chiave* 11, in print.
- 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 Dating Show”. *Soziologiemagazin*, 2: 125-136 ([LINK](#)).

### WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Moral Roots of a New Cleavage”, Book Manuscript, Under Review.
- “Cleavage Theory Meets Bourdieu. An Agenda for Studying Cleavage Identities” (with Delia Zollinger), Revise and Resubmit.
- “Theorizing Cleavage Identities. The Contribution of Cultural Sociology”, Under Review.

"Four Arenas of Inequality Conflicts" (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux), Under Review.  
 "Asymmetrical Cleavage Formation" (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux).  
 "The Moral Economy of Controversy" (with Steffen Mau and Thomas Lux).  
 "Class Interest Consciousness and Workers' Political Attitudes" (with Thomas Lux)  
 "Politicizing the Deservingness of Those Who Work. A Comparative Analysis of Parties' Moral Repertoires" (with Koen Damhuis, Susi Meret, and Paulus Wagner).

## Selected conferences & invited lectures

2024 Invited Lecture "Moral Roots of a New Cleavage", University of Oslo.  
 2024 Invited Lecture "The Politics of Common Sense" University of Duisburg-Essen.  
 2024 Council of European Studies (CES), Lyon.  
 2024 Invited Lecture "Arenas of Inequality Conflicts", University of Bergen.  
 2024 British Journal of Sociology Conference, London School of Economics.  
 2024 ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops, Leuphana University Lüneburg.  
 2024 Invited Lecture "Climate as Class Conflict?", University of Dortmund.  
 2023 Workshop "How Divided Is Europe?", University of Frankfurt.  
 2023 Invited Lecture "Workers' Consciousness in Times of Demobilization", University of Munster.  
 2023 Workshop "Exploring the Operational Logic of Morality", University of Tübingen.  
 2022 Workshop "Cleavage Politics in the 21st Century", University of Zurich.  
 2022 Council of European Studies (CES), Lisbon.  
 2022 German Sociological Association (DGS), Bielefeld.  
 2021 European Graduate Network, SciencesPo Paris.  
 2021 German Political Science Association (DVPW).  
 2020 Invited Lecture "Classed Identities and the New Cleavage", University of Zurich.  
 2020 Workshop "Solidarity Across Differences", University of Cambridge.  
 2020 ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops, Toulouse.  
 2020 Political Studies Association (PSA), Edinburgh.  
 2019 European Graduate Network, London School of Economics.  
 2019 Workshop "The Cultural Side of Populism", SNS Florence.  
 2018 Workshop "Moral Boundaries", University of Tübingen.  
 2017 Workshop "Party Realignment, Crisis, and Varieties of Populism", SNS Florence.  
 2017 European Sociological Association (ESA), Athens.  
 2016 International Sociological Association (ISA), Vienna.

## Teaching

2024-25 "Listening to People: Practicing Qualitative Research Techniques in Political Sociology" (32 teaching hours), Humboldt University Berlin  
 2023-24 "Moral Economy: (De-)Legitimations of Inequality" (32 teaching hours), Humboldt University  
 2022-23 "Polarization of Public Opinion: Qualitative Approaches" (24 teaching hours), Humboldt University Berlin (module, main instructor: Thomas Lux).  
 2018 "Classical Sociological Theory" (30 teaching hours), University of Potsdam.

## Transfer and Consultancy

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs  
Federal Ministry for the Environment  
Federal Agency for Civic Education  
National party leaderships of SPD, Bündnis90/Die Grünen, Die Linke  
Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation  
Austrian Chamber of Labour, Karl Renner Institute, Bruno Kreisky Forum  
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Agora Energiewende, Clean Energy Wire  
Diakonie, Arbeiterwohlfahrt, Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and Anti-Discrimination

Permanent Member of the Economic Policy Council (*Wirtschaftspolitischer Beirat*), Social Democratic Party (SPD)

## Service to the profession

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2022 Panel: “New Conflicts and Cleavage Formation in Western Europe.“, Council of European Studies, Lisbon (with Aljoscha Jacobi).  
2019 Two-Day International Conference: “Class Without Consciousness. The Politics of Fragmented Class Identities“, Scuola Normale Superiore (with Donatella della Porta).

### PEER REVIEW

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

### PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- 2023 Advisor: Research Project “A Cartography of the Working Class“, Friedrich Ebert Foundation  
2023 Jury Member: Karin Lohr Prize for Student Theses, Humboldt University Berlin  
2023 PhD Examination Committee: Gordana Angelichin-Zhura, HU Berlin  
2023 PhD Examination Committee: Christine Gerber, HU Berlin  
2022 PhD Examination Committee: Katja Schmidt, German Institute of Economic Research (DIW)  
2022- Examiner at M.A. and B.A. level  
2018-21 Contact Officer for International Visitors at Scuola Normale Superiore  
2018 Co-convenor Florence Intersectionality Group (FIG)  
2017-21 European Graduate Network Representative

## Grants & Honours

- 2024 Prize “Best Political Book” for *Triggerpunkte*, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (10,000€)  
2023 Best Non-Fiction 2023 by DIE ZEIT/Deutschlandfunk Kultur and Welt/Neue Zürcher Zeitung  
2022 PhD thesis shortlisted for the German Study Award (*Deutscher Studienpreis*)  
2021 Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship

- 2016-21 Full PhD Scholarship, Scuola Normale Superiore  
2008-II Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (*Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes*)  
2010 Essay Prize, *Soziologie Heute*  
2008 State Prize, High School History Competition of the German President

## References

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