



Dr Marius Sebastian Ostrowski FRHistS FRSA

Policy Fellow and Researcher, University of Oxford

I am a political theorist, sociologist, and historian of ideas, as well as policy thought-leader and public author, with over a decade of academic and policy research experience. My specialisms cover ideology studies, the theory and history of social democracy, European integration and UK–EU relations, and European and UK geostrategy. I have worked with British, European, and global thinktanks across the ideological spectrum on initiatives in education, fiscal, foreign, industrial, and social policy, and I am regularly invited to present my research at talks and conferences. I have published books, journal articles, reports, and book chapters for specialist audiences, political parties, parliamentary bodies, and the wider public, as well as comment pieces in national and sectoral media.

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2024–25 **ESRC Policy Fellow and Researcher**, Blavatnik School of Government (BSG), University of Oxford.
2022–24 **Executive Director**, Lifelong Education Institute (LEI), London.
2020–22 **Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow**, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence.
2013–20 **Examination Fellow in Politics**, All Souls College, University of Oxford.
2015–18 **Lecturer in Politics and International Relations**, New College of the Humanities, London.
2013–18 **Lecturer in Politics**, Christ Church and Magdalen College, University of Oxford.
2012–14 **Head of Research**, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taxation, UK Parliament.

EDUCATION

- 2017 **DPhil in Politics** (no corrections), Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford. Thesis: [Twilight of the pollsters: A social theory of mass opinion in late modernity](#). Supervisor: Michael Freedon. Examiners: Will Jennings (University of Southampton), Lois McNay (University of Oxford).
2012 **MPhil in Political Theory** (Distinction), DPIR, University of Oxford.
2010 **BA (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics** (First-class), Magdalen College, Oxford.

MONOGRAPHS

- 2026 (forthcoming) [How We Think: Ten Thinker-Types to Understand Ourselves and Those Around Us](#) (Hodder Press)
Translated into: Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Romanian, Turkish.
2026 (forthcoming) (with John-Erik Hansson) [Bricolage in Intellectual History: A Modular Approach](#) (Palgrave Macmillan)
2024 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) [A Radical Bargain for Europe: Progressive Visions of a European Basic Income](#) (Rowman & Littlefield)
2022 [Ideology](#) (Polity)
2020 [Left Unity: Manifesto for a Progressive Alliance](#) (Rowman & Littlefield): [summary](#); [book launch](#).
Review: Ania Skrzypek, 'Intellectual quest to define modern left', *European Political Science* 21 (2022), 330–1.
2018– [Eduard Bernstein Collected Works](#) (Palgrave Macmillan). Total downloads: 34,054. Volumes:
 - [Eduard Bernstein on Trade Unionism and the Mass Strike: Writings on Workers' Activism](#) (forthcoming 2026)
 - [Eduard Bernstein on Socialism Past and Present: Essays and Lectures on Ideology](#) (2021)
 - [Eduard Bernstein on the German Revolution: Selected Historical Writings](#) (2019)
 - [Eduard Bernstein on Social Democracy and International Politics: Essays and Other Writings](#) (2018)Review: Ania Skrzypek, 'Revision, Reason, and Respect: What are the Valid Takeaways from Eduard Bernstein's Political Writings?', *Global Intellectual History* (2023)

ARTICLES

- 2026 (forthcoming) 'Socialism's heart of darkness: Conceptions of "Eurafrica" and Europeanist colonialism in dissident German Social Democracy, 1916–32', *History of European Ideas* 52.
2026 (forthcoming) '[Ideology and social action](#)', *Journal of Political Ideologies* 31(1).
2025 '[The apotheosis of morphology](#)', *Journal of Political Ideologies* 30(1), 1–31.
2024 '[Ideology and the individual](#)', *Journal of Political Ideologies* 29(1), 1–25.
2023 '[Europeanism: A historical view](#)', *Contemporary European History* 32(2), 287–304.
2023 '[The ideological morphology of left–centre–right](#)', *Journal of Political Ideologies* 28(1), 1–15.

- 2022 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) [‘Into the unknown: Empirical UBI trials as Social Europe’s risk insurance’](#), *European Journal of Social Security* 24(3).
- 2022 [‘From “noble patriotism” to the “republic of peoples”’: Eduard Bernstein and the “national question” in Social Democracy’](#), *History of Political Thought* 43(3), 517–54.
- 2022 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) [‘The state of the UBI debate: Mapping the arguments for and against UBI’](#), *Basic Income Studies* 17.
- 2022 [“Reform or revolution”, redux: Eduard Bernstein on the 1918–19 German Revolution’](#), *Historical Research* 95(268), 213–39.
- 2022 [‘Ideology studies and comparative political thought’](#), *Journal of Political Ideologies* 27(1), 1–10.
- 2021 [‘Social Democracy and “positive” foreign policy: the evolution of Eduard Bernstein’s international thought, 1914–1920’](#), *History of Political Thought* 42(3), 520–64.
- 2021 [‘How \(Not\) to Form a Progressive Alliance: Lessons from the History of Left Cooperation’](#), *The Political Quarterly* 92(1), 23–31.
- 2019 [‘Social democracy and the “Europe question”: Lessons from Weimar?’](#), *Renewal* 27(1), 41–51.
Reproduced in Danish as [‘Socialdemokratisme og det europæiske spørgsmål: Læren fra Weimar’](#), *Kritisk Debat* (15 August 2020), 83–94.
- 2014 (with Matthew Lakin) [‘Ideology in the age of the coalition: the strange rebirth of British centrism’](#), *Journal of Political Ideologies* 19(1), 15–40.
- 2013 [‘Towards libertarian welfarism: protecting agency in the night-watchman state’](#), *Journal of Political Ideologies* 18(1), 107–28.

POLICY REPORTS

- 2026 (forthcoming) [Progressive geostrategy for Europe: Lessons from left history](#) (Foundation for European Progressive Studies)
- 2025 (with Lucy Smith, Zainab Agha, Benjamin Clayton, Philip Bray, and Alex Downing) [The National Strategy Playbook: Guidance on the cycle of national strategy](#) (BSG)
- 2025 [UK national strategy in historical perspective: Turning points and ideological developments, 1850–2025](#) (BSG)
- 2025 [National capacities: A model for national strategy](#) (BSG)
- 2025 [Mapping the course: Regional Education Partnerships for continuous skills development](#) (LEI)
- 2024 [Making skills work: The path to solving the productivity crisis](#) (City & Guilds and LEI)
- 2024 (with Maísa Edwards) [UK General Election 2024: What can we expect for lifelong learning?](#) (LEI)
- 2023 [Hungry to learn: Lifelong Learning Pathways for the agri-food sector](#) (LEI)
- 2023 [Behaving to learn: Best practice lessons for the behavioural turn in English schools policy](#) (ResPublica)
- 2023 [Behavioural standards and learning outcomes in the English comprehensive school system](#) (ResPublica)
- 2022 (with Dominic Afscharian) [Building Resilient Democracies: Challenges and Solutions across the Globe](#) (Foundation for European Progressive Studies)
- 2021 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) [The European Basic Income: Delivering on Social Europe](#) (Foundation for European Progressive Studies)
- 2014 [Replacing Barnett: Social justice and UK devolution](#), F/S4/14/21/1, written evidence submitted to the Scottish Parliament Finance Committee, 21st meeting (session 4), 25 June.
- 2013 [Achieving Autonomy: What the independence referendum means for Scotland’s fiscal future](#) (All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taxation, UK Parliament)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2026 (forthcoming) [‘Bricolagisme as ideology, ideology studies as bricolage’](#), in John-Erik Hansson and Marius S. Ostrowski (eds.), *Bricolage in Intellectual History: A Modular Approach* (Palgrave Macmillan).
- 2026 (forthcoming) (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) [‘Social Sustainability and a European Basic Income: Hopes and Pitfalls’](#), in Ulrich Schachtschneider and Bernhard Neumärker (eds.), *Social Sustainability and Basic Income* (LIT Verlag)
- 2024 [‘A new treaty agenda for a progressive Europe’](#), in László Andor, Maria Maltschnig, Andreas Schieder, and Ania Skrzypek (eds.), [Progressive Ambition: How to shape Europe in the next decade](#) (Foundation for European Progressive Studies), 134–64.
- 2023 (with Mathew Humphrey) [‘Ideology’](#), in Marco Giugni and Maria Grasso (eds.), [Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Sociology](#) (Edward Elgar), 229–33.
- 2023 [‘Germanizing Shakespeare during the First World War’](#), in Amy Lidster and Sonia Massai (eds.), [Shakespeare at War](#) (Cambridge University Press), 111–20.
- 2022 [‘Forward-looking: building a better world one step at a time’](#), in Vanesha Singh and Kate Murray (eds.), [Enduring Values](#) (Fabian Society), 76–81.
- 2021 [‘Bernstein, Eduard’](#), in Mortimer Sellers and Stephan Kirste (eds.), [Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy](#) (Springer Netherlands)
- 2021 [‘You’ve got to ask the right expert: Who gives political advice?’](#), in Colin Kidd and Jacqueline Rose (eds.), [Political Advice](#) (I.B. Tauris), 161–76.

- 2021 (with Esther Brown) 'Patriotism in a globalised world: Implications for progressive foreign policy', in Jack Jeffrey (ed.), [Belonging, Place, and the Nation](#) (Compass), 34–9.
- 2019 ['Eduard Bernstein and the lessons of the German Revolution'](#), in James Muldoon and Gaard Kets (eds.), [The German Revolution and Political Theory](#) (Palgrave Macmillan), 137–58.

BLOGPOSTS

- 2024 ['Skills matter: A vision for Government'](#), *Lifelong Education Institute*, 12 March.
- 2023 ['Labour need to get creative to tackle the class ceiling'](#), *Lifelong Education Institute*, 7 July.
- 2023 ['Review: Freedenism from the past to the future of ideology studies'](#), *Ideology Theory Practice*, 20 February.
- 2023 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) ['No Simple Policy – Designing a European Basic Income'](#), *UBIE*, 2 February.
- 2022 (with Dominic Afscharian, Viktoriia Muliavka, and Lukáš Siegel) ['A European basic income?'](#), *Social Europe*, 25 March.
- 2021 (with Esther Brown) ['Yellow Squares, Green Circles?: Germany's Coalition Kingmakers'](#), *Policy Network*, 3 October; [reproduced](#) for *Progressive Britain*, 5 October.
- 2021 ['More drama and reality than ever before'](#), *Ideology Theory Practice*, 23 August.
- 2020 (with Fay Niker) ['Left Unity: An Interview with Marius Ostrowski'](#), *Justice Everywhere*, 23 April.
- 2020 ['What are the values of the left?'](#), *Justice Everywhere*, 5 March.
- 2020 ['Cooperation is not a dirty word'](#), *Compass*, 24 February; [reproduced](#) for *Policy Network*, 4 March.
- 2019 ['Gibraltar after Brexit: why Spain, not Ireland will decide the UK's fate'](#), *The Conversation*, 28 February.

NEWS ARTICLES

- 2024 ['Reform is coming for the apprenticeship levy – but what it needs is a revolution'](#), *FE Week*, 15 February.
- 2023 ['Agri-food holds the seeds for a strategic skills revolution'](#), *Farmers Guardian*, 7 November.
- 2023 ['Why Manchester's proposals could lead straight MBacc to square one'](#), *FE Week*, 18 June.
- 2023 (with Ann Limb) ['The Lifelong Education Institute stands ready to save our skills now'](#), *FE Week*, 31 March.
- 2022 ['Making the most of the LSIP opportunity'](#), *FE News*, 1 December.
- 2022 (with Phillip Blond) ['The government should make further education the powerhouse of levelling up'](#), *WonkHE*, 10 May.
- 2022 (with Phillip Blond) ['Want to welcome Ukrainian refugees? Give them the language skills they need to thrive'](#), *New European*, 10 April.
- 2022 ['Rethinking how we fund lifelong learning'](#), *FE News*, 31 March.
- 2022 ['The lifelong loan entitlement doesn't fit around the situations of learners'](#), *FE Week*, 14 March.
- 2022 ['Give communities a real stake in skills improvement'](#), *Municipal Journal*, 8 March.
- 2022 ['How to achieve genuine flexibility in lifelong learning'](#), *FE News*, 7 March.
- 2022 ['To level up, empower regions to invest in education'](#), *Times Higher Education*, 7 February.
- 2021 ['Letter: Labour's route to power is in a progressive alliance'](#), *Financial Times*, 11 June.
- 2019 ['What do the polls suggest the best Brexit strategy for Labour would be?'](#), *New Statesman*, 30 July.
- 2019 ['How the German left is looking to Jeremy Corbyn for inspiration'](#), *New Statesman*, 11 February.
- 2015 ['Twilight of the pollsters: what should the polling companies do next?'](#), *New Statesman*, 14 May.
- 2013 ['Stark question fails to reflect what most Scottish voters want'](#), *Times*, 25 November.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2023– **Editor-in-Chief**, [Journal of Political Ideologies](#).
- 2022– Member of the **International Editorial Advisory Board**, [Transactions of the Royal Historical Society](#).
- 2021– **Founding Editor**, [Ideology Theory Practice](#) (blog affiliated to the *Journal of Political Ideologies*)
- 2021–23 **Co-Editor**, and **Online and Social Media Editor**, *Journal of Political Ideologies*.
- 2020– Member, **Compass Associates** advisory panel of academics, activists, and policymakers.
- 2020–21 Researcher, **Young Academics Network**, Foundation of European Progressive Studies.
- 2015–20 Member of the Theory of Politics subject panel (15 members) and Curriculum Reform and Diversification working group (10 members), Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford.
- 2013–20 Member of the Governing Body (75 members), All Souls College, University of Oxford.
- 2015–19 Examination Fellowship Co-examiner in Politics (1 of 2) and member of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship candidate selection committee (8 members), All Souls College, University of Oxford.
- 2015–18 Member of Politics Faculty (6 members), New College of the Humanities, London.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024– **Honorary Assistant Professor**, Centre for Research into Ideas and the Study of Political Ideologies, University of Nottingham, UK.
- 2023– **Founding Member of the Chamber of Legal Sciences**, Nicolaus Copernicus Academy, Poland.
- 2022– **Research Fellow**, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

- 2021– **Fellow of the Royal Historical Society** (FRHistS), UK.
 2021– **Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts** (FRSA), UK.
 2019 **Visiting Fellow**, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.
 2018– Member, **German History Society**, UK.
 2017– Member, **Political Studies Association**, UK.

GRANTS/FUNDING

Total value: £1,124,170.

2024–25	Economic and Social Research Council: Policy Research Fellowship. Researcher on the Heywood Fellowship programme. Project: <i>Long-term, national strategy</i> . Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. (Co-I; PI Lucy Smith)	£162,000.
2023–26	Ecctis. Project: <i>Principles for a new skills settlement</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-PI; Co-PI Tom Colville)	£85,000.
2023–26	Anglia Ruskin University. Projects: <i>Opportunities Hub; Level 8 Apprenticeships</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-PI; Co-PI Andy Forbes)	£70,000.
2023–26	University of Derby. Project: <i>Apprenticeships and the nuclear industry</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-PI; Co-PI Andy Forbes)	£44,000.
2023–26	University of Greater Manchester. Project: <i>Class and access barriers to skills</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (PI)	£50,000.
2023–25	Newcastle University and Newcastle College. Project: <i>Education Partnerships for Continuous Skills Development</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (PI)	£52,000.
2023–24	City & Guilds London Institute. Project: <i>The Path to Solving the Productivity Crisis</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (PI)	£60,000.
2022–23	Harper Adams University. Project: <i>Skills training pathways for the agri-food sector</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (PI)	£25,000.
2022–23	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council. Project: <i>Skills and innovation hubs</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-PI; Co-PI: Mark Morrin)	£49,000.
2022–23	Keystone Tutors (and supporting consortium). Project: <i>School behaviour and learning outcomes</i> . Lifelong Education Institute/ResPublica. (PI)	£50,000.
2022–23	Chartered Institute for Further Education. Project: <i>Dual professionalism for 21st century skills</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-I; PI Andy Forbes)	£12,500.
2022	Ascentis, Leicester College, NCG, New City College, South Thames College, and WEA. Project: <i>English Language Training Entitlement</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-I; PI Andy Forbes)	£17,150.
2022	Staffordshire University. Project: <i>The Role of Microcredentials in Modular Learning</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-I; PI Mark Morrin)	£50,000.
2022	University of Salford. Project: <i>The Future of Higher Technical Education in England</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-I; PI Mark Morrin)	£50,000.
2022	Doncaster Council. Project: <i>Learning ecosystems to level up local skills</i> . Lifelong Education Institute. (Co-I; PI Mark Morrin)	£50,000.
2020–22	European University Institute: Max Weber Fellowship. 2-year fully funded postdoctoral research fellowship. Project: <i>Europe: Roads Not Taken</i> . (PI)	€48,000 (£42,500).
2013–20	All Souls College, University of Oxford: Examination Fellowship in Politics. 7-year fully funded doctoral and research prize scholarship. Projects: <i>A social theory of mass opinion in late modernity; Eduard Bernstein Collected Works</i> (2 translated volumes).	£147,500.
[2012–15]	Economic and Social Research Council: Studentship (declined in favour of alternative offer). 3-year fully funded doctoral research award. PhD in Politics and International Studies. Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge.	£43,020.
2010–13	Magdalen College, University of Oxford: Senior Mackinnon Scholarship. 3-year fully funded graduate study award. MPhil in Political Theory, DPhil in Politics. Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford.	£64,500.

CONFERENCES

- 2021 Co-organiser, *Healing and Renewal*, 15th European University Institute Max Weber Fellows June Conference. Florence. 65 speakers, 90 attendees.
- 2018 Co-organiser, *Make Revolution Great Again: The context and legacy of the 1918-19 German Revolution*, Conference. Oxford. 9–10 November. 20 speakers, 60 attendees. Total funding: £6,900. Sources: German History Society; Oxford Centre for European History; All Souls College.
- 2014 Co-organiser, *Democracy in Global Perspective: Globalisation, Neoliberalism, and Resistance*, 3rd Oxford Political Theory Graduate Conference. Oxford. 28–29 April. 14 speakers, 40 attendees. Funding sources of up to £2,000: Oxford Centre for the Study of Social Justice; All Souls College.
- 2013 Co-organiser, *The Politics of Agonism*, workshop at the MANCEPT Conference in Political Theory. Manchester. 4–6 September. 15 speakers/attendees.
- 2013 Co-organiser and publications officer, *The Politics of Equality*, 2nd Oxford Political Theory Graduate Conference.

Oxford. 25–26 April. 18 speakers, 40 attendees. Funding sources of up to £2,000: Oxford Centre for the Study of Social Justice.

2012 Founding co-organiser, publications officer, and respondent, *Political Theory and the Liberal Tradition*, 1st Oxford Political Theory Graduate Conference. Oxford. 19–20 April. 24 speakers, 50 attendees. Funding sources of up to £2,000: Oxford Centre for the Study of Social Justice.

PRESENTATIONS

Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (2024), Uppsala Universitet (2024), Stiftung Genshagen (2023), Université de Lorraine – Nancy (2023), University of Nottingham (2023, 2022), European University Institute (2022*2, 2021*3, 2020*2, 2019*2), Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (2022), University College London (2020), Aarhus Universitet (2019*2), Danish School of Education, Copenhagen (2019), King's College London (2019), University of Manchester (2019, 2014, 2013), University of Oxford (2019*2, 2018*2, 2013), University of Cambridge (2018), New College of the Humanities (2018), Institute for Historical Research (2015, 2014, 2013), University of South Wales (2013, 2012), University of Warwick (2013, 2012, 2011*2), University of York (2011).

TEACHING

2018–20 Tutor and thesis examiner: MPhil in European Politics and Society; MSc in Political Theory. **Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford.**

Courses: European Governance; Methods and Approaches (both team-taught).

2013–20 Lecturer, tutor, supervisor, examiner, interviewer: BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; History and Politics. **DPIR, University of Oxford.**

Courses: The Theory and Practice of Democracy; Theory of Politics; Political Thought: Plato to Rousseau; Political Thought: Bentham to Weber; Marx and Marxism.

2015–18 Lecturer, tutor, supervisor, examiner, interviewer: BSc in Politics and International Relations; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; BA in Philosophy, Politics, and History. **New College of the Humanities.**

Courses: Democracy and Democratisation; Nationalism and International Relations; Political Ideologies; Societies in Transition.

REVIEWING

2015– Reviewer for: *Polity*; *Constellations*; *European Journal of Political Theory*; *Journal of Common Market Studies*; *Journal of Political Ideologies*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Political Studies*; *Review of Politics*; *Social Philosophy and Policy*; *The European Legacy*; *Theoria*.

2013– Graduate and undergraduate reference letters for 20 applicants to courses at 11 universities.

SKILLS

- Project management: responsibility for fundraising, pricing strategy, proposal development, budgeting, output delivery, and client engagement for 16 Lifelong Education Institute report projects. Total value: £713,000.
- Supervision of graduate and junior researchers/assistants: University of Oxford; ResPublica; UK Parliament.
- Research dissemination in public-facing contexts: submission of evidence to parliamentary committees and private-sector stakeholders; participation in policy workshops and collaborations with think-tanks and MPs.
- Language skills: native fluency (CEFR C2 level) in English, German; advanced knowledge (CEFR B2/C1 level) of French, Latin; working knowledge (CEFR A2 level) of Classical Greek, Italian, Russian.

REFERENCES

Professor Cécile Fabre Senior Research Fellow in Politics All Souls College High Street Oxford OX1 4AL cecile.fabre@all-souls.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 279 379	Lucy Smith Heywood Fellow Blavatnik School of Government 120 Walton Street Oxford OX2 6GG lucy.smith@bsg.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 614343	Professor Michael Freeden Emeritus Professorial Fellow Mansfield College Mansfield Road Oxford OX1 3TF michael.freeden@mansfield.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 270 999
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