

## 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

- Forthcoming. *The Dispersion of Power: A Critical Realist Theory of Democracy*  
Oxford University Press (in production, publication expected 12/2023)
- Under Contract. **Democracy and Competition** (co-editor, with Alfred Moore)  
Oxford University Press (chapters under review, publication expected late 2024-early 2025)

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2023. *Whose Coordination? Which Democracy? On Antitrust as a Democratic Demand*  
*Politics & Society* 53(1): 364-386
- 2022. *Sortition as Anti-Corruption: Popular Oversight against Elite Capture*  
*American Journal of Political Science* (published online 3/2022)
- 2022. *Realism Against Legitimacy: For a Radical, Action-Oriented Political Realism*  
*Social Theory and Practice* 48(1): 29-60
- 2021. *Preaching to the Choir? Rhetoric and Identity in a Polarized Age*, w/ Rob Goodman  
*Journal of Politics* (published online 11/2021)
- 2021. *Intra-Party Democracy: A Functionalist Account*, w/ Udit Bhatia  
*Journal of Political Philosophy* (published online 10/2021)
- 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

### Other Publications

- Forthcoming. [“What kind of popular participation does bioethics need?”](#) (peer commentary)  
*American Journal of Bioethics* (accepted and in production)
- 2021. [Reply to “The ‘Epistemic Critique’ of Epistocracy and Its Inadequacy”](#) (Hédoin)  
*Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 10(4): 31-36.
- 2021. [Do We Need an Anti-Oligarchic Constitution? Review of \*Systemic Corruption\*](#) (Vergara)  
*European Journal of Political Theory* (published online 3/2021)
- 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 [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

- 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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- [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 (→ under review)  
 2022 October, Association for Political Theory, Houston, TX  
 2022 May, Democracy and Competition Workshop, University of York, UK
  - **Mobilizing Political Identity**, w/ Maxime Lepoutre (→ preparing for review)  
 2022 September, American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC
  - **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)
  - **Acting Democratically under Clientelism**, w/ Udit Bhatia (→ preparing for review)  
 2021 September, American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA (online)  
 2021 September, MANCEPT Workshop: Rethinking Elections, Manchester, UK (online)
  - **Negative Egalitarianism** (→ preparing for review)  
 2021 February, The Politics of Egalitarianism, University of Oxford (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)
- Capitalism and Democracy (honors undergraduate, 2023)
- Contemporary Political Theory (undergraduate, 2022)

### 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, & Sociedade; 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  
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**2. Cécile Laborde**, Nuffield Professor of Political Theory, University of Oxford  
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