

Daniel Zimmer

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EDUCATION

Cornell University | Doctor of Philosophy | 2022

Department of Government

Dissertation: *The Immanent Apocalypse: Humanity and the Ends of the World*

Committee: Jason Frank (chair), Jill Frank, Alexander Livingston, Patchen Markell

The University of Chicago | Master of Arts | 2014

Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences

Eugene Lang College / The New School for Social Research | Bachelor of Arts | 2011

Degree in Historical Studies with Honors

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer | Civic, Liberal, and Global Education Program | Stanford University | Fall 2024 – Present

Postdoctoral Fellow | The Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) | Stanford

University | Advisor: Paul N. Edwards | Fall 2022 – Spring 2024

SCHOLARSHIP

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

Up/Down Politics: Contesting the Future of Life Itself [Under contract with Penguin Random House]

Loving the Vulnerable World: Politics in the Age of Planetary Precarity [Academic monograph]

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“[The Power to Kill Life Itself: Michel Foucault, Biopolitics, and the Political Challenge of Human Extinction](#)” in *Perspectives on Politics* (20 March 2025): 1-16

“[Kainos Anthropos: Existential Precarity and Human Universality in the Earth System Anthropocene](#)” in *New Formations*, No. 107 & 108 (2022): 171-190

[UNDER REVIEW] “From Left/Right to Up/Down: Technology, Ecology, and a New Polarity in Politics”

[UNDER REVIEW] “The Swords of Damocles: Nuclear Weapons, Climate Geoengineering, and the Psycho-Political Consequences of Placing Humanity in Jeopardy for Economic Expediency”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“[A New Political Compass](#)” in *Noëma Magazine* (June 10, 2025) [German trans. in *Merkur* forthcoming]

“[Today’s AI Threat: More Like Nuclear Winter than Nuclear War](#)” with Johanna Rodehau-Noack in *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (February 12, 2024)

Intersections, Reinforcements, Cascades: Proceedings of the 2023 Stanford Existential Risks Conference, with Trond Undheim, and Paul N. Edwards, Eds., The Stanford Existential Risks Initiative, Stanford University (2023); “[Introduction](#)” with Trond Undheim

FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS / HONORS

Nominated for the American Political Science Association's Leo Strauss Award for best dissertation in political theory by the Cornell Government Department | 2024

The Hohendahl Graduate Essay Prize in Critical Theory for "The Blindspot in Biopolitics" | 2021

Sage Fellowship | Cornell University | Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

Research Travel Grant | Cornell University | Fall 2019

Boren Fellowship for International Study | Istanbul, Turkey | 2014 – 2015

Scholarship of Full Tuition | University of Chicago | 2013 – 2014

Critical Language Scholarship | Ankara, Turkey | Summer 2011

Award for Most Outstanding Senior Work | Historical Studies Department, The New School | 2011

TEACHING

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

"Preventing Human Extinction," Stanford University | Spring 2025

"Citizenship in the 21st Century," Stanford University | Winter 2025

"Why College? Your Education and the Good Life," Stanford University | Fall 2024

"[Earth, Space, Bits: Contesting the Nature and Future of Humanity](#)," Stanford University | Winter 2024

"[The Science and Politics of the Apocalypse](#)," Stanford University | Spring 2023 & Winter 2024

"Discussions of Justice: Politics in the Trump Era," Cornell University | Fall 2017

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

"Modern and the Postmodern" with Michael Roth, Wesleyan University | Spring 2022

"Virtue and Vice in History" with Michael Roth, Wesleyan University | Spring 2021

"Philosophy Goes to the Movies" with Michael Roth, Wesleyan University | Fall 2020/1

"The Cold War" with Matt Evangelista, Cornell University | Spring 2018

"Civil Disobedience" with Alex Livingston, Cornell University | Fall 2017

"Prisons, Politics, Policy" with Jamila Michener, Cornell University | Spring 2017

"Introduction to American Politics" with Suzanne Mettler, Cornell University | Fall 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

[Ethics and Society Review Coordinating Panelist](#), Doerr School of Sustainability, Stanford | 2023 – 2024

Cornell International Relations Minor Coordinator | 2018 – 2019

Cornell Political Theory Workshop Coordinator | 2017 – 2018

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

ORGANIZER

[“The 2024 Stanford Existential Risks Initiative Symposium,”](#) Stanford University, Stanford, CA
April 2024

[“The 2023 Stanford Existential Risks Conference,”](#) Stanford University, Stanford, CA | April 2023

[The Cornell Political Theory Workshop,](#) Cornell University, Ithaca, NY | 2017 – 2018

INVITED SPEAKER

“From Left/Right to Up/Down: Technology, Ecology, and a New Polarity in Politics” at the Political Science Department of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD | February 2025

“From Left/Right to Up/Down: Technology, Ecology, and a New Polarity in Politics” at the UC Santa Cruz History of Consciousness Speaker Series, Santa Cruz, CA | January 2025

“The Swords of Damocles: Nuclear Weapons, Geoengineering, and the Psychological Legacy of Jeopardizing Humanity for Economic Expediency” at the Nuclear Knowledges Seminar, Sciences Po, Paris, France (remote) | December 2024

“For the Love of the Earth: Arendt, Schell, and a Politics of Omnicide” at the Sciences Po Political Philosophy Workshop, Paris, France | May 2024

“The Swords of Damocles: A Short History of Placing Humanity in Jeopardy for Economic Expediency,” Closing Keynote at the Effective Altruism Global (Bay Area): Global Catastrophic Risks Conference, Oakland, CA | February 2024

“Beyond Biopolitics: The Politics of the Power to Kill Life Itself” at the Stanford Political Theory Workshop, Stanford, CA | January 2024

“The Nomos of the Eearth [sic]: Schmitt, Latour, and the Politics of Planetary Habitability” at the Cornell Political Theory Workshop, Ithaca, NY | December 2020

PRESENTATIONS

“Nuclear Numbing, Climate Anxiety, and the Psycho-Political Consequences of Learning to Live with Existential Precarity” at the Western Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA | April 2025

“Reflections on the Political Consequences of Learning to Live Like There’s No Tomorrow” at the International Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL | March 2025

“From Left/Right to Up/Down: Entanglement or Escape?” at the International Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA | April 2024

[“The Swords of Damocles: Nuclear Weapons, Geoengineering, and the Politics of Placing Human Survival in Jeopardy for Economic Expediency”](#) at the Can Technology Save the Planet? Conference of The Center for Environmental and Technology Ethics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic | September 2023

“Nuclear Numbing, Climate Anxiety, and the Psycho-Political Consequences of Living Beneath the Sword of Damocles” at the Conference on Environmental Hope, Grief and Beyond, The Center for Ethics at the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic | August 2023

“From Left/Right to Up/Down: A New Polarity in Contemporary Politics” at the American Political Science Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA (remote) | August 2023

- “The Politics of Universality in the Earth System Anthropocene” at the CISAC Seminar, Stanford University, Stanford, CA | May 2023
- “Johnathan Schell and the Fate of the Earth System” at the Western Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA | April 2023
- “The Ethics of Existential Risk in the Earth System Anthropocene” at Engaging the Contemporary 2022: Confronting Ethics, University of Malta, Valetta, Malta | November 2022
- “Kainos Anthropos” at the International Society for Environmental Ethics Conference, Turku, Finland June 2022
- “The Blind Spot in Biopolitics: Michel Foucault and the Power to Kill Life Itself” at the Association for Global Political Thought Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | April 2022
- “The Family of Man’s Peril” at The Association for Political Thought Annual Conference, Amherst, MA November 2021
- “The Existential Anthropocene: Taking Total Risk as a Chronic Condition” at the Harvard Climate Pipeline Project Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (remote) | October 2021
- “The Blind Spot in Biopolitics: Michel Foucault and the Power to Kill Life Itself” at the American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA | September 2021
- “The Family of Man’s Peril: Existential Risk and the Limits of Species Unity” at the Harvard Graduate Students in Science and Technology Studies Conference (remote) | September 2020
- “The Nomos of the Eearth [sic]: Latour, Schmitt, Climate Change” at the Western Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA | April 2018
- “Humanity Is Not Yet: The Temporality of Existential Threat” at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Political Science Conference, Philadelphia, PA | March 2018
- “Gandhi, Goldman, and the Subject of Sacrifice” at the Western Political Science Association Conference, Vancouver, BC | April 2017
- “The Unhappy Historicism of Carl Schmitt” at The London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought, University College London | June 2016

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Association for Political Theory
History of Science Society

REFEREE SERVICE

American Political Science Review | Contemporary Political Theory | European Journal of International Security | Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy | American Medical Association Journal of Ethics

LANGUAGES

Advanced French, Advanced Intermediate Turkish, Research German

REFERENCES (A-Z)

Paul Edwards

Director of the Program on Science, Technology & Society (STS) and Senior Research Scholar at the Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University; Professor of Information and History (Emeritus), University of Michigan: pedwards@stanford.edu

Jason Frank

John L. Senior Professor of Government, Cornell University: jf273@cornell.edu

Alexander Livingston

Associate Professor of Government, Cornell University: alexander.livingston@cornell.edu

Alison McQueen

Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University: amcqueen@stanford.edu

Benoît Pelopidas

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