Dr Detlef von Daniels

Political Philosopher · Berlin, Germany

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Areas of Specialization: History of Political Thought (Plato, Kant, Heidegger), Political Philosophy (Cosmopolitanism, Liberalism), Philosophy of Law (Hart, Kelsen, Schmitt), Genealogy of Political and Legal Concepts

Areas of Competence: German Idealism, Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century European Philosophy, Legal Pluralism, History of Early Analytic Philosophy

Academic Positions

Lecturer (part-time) 2017-present
FU-BEST, Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program

Lecturer Oct 2021 – Aug 2025
Institute for the Foundations of Law
Georg-August-University of Göttingen

Visiting Fellow Sept 2019 – Aug 2020
Centre for International Studies at LSE

Research Fellow and Academic Coordinator Jan 2015 – Aug 2019
International Justice and Institutional Responsibility
Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Research Fellow and Academic Coordinator Dec 2012 – Sep 2015
Research Group Multilevel Constitutionalism
Humboldt University of Berlin

Lecturer Sept 2010 – Nov 2012
Department of Philosophy
University of Witten/Herdecke

Postdoctoral Fellow
Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard Sep 2009 – Aug 2010
Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow Apr 2007 – Aug 2009
Max-Weber-Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies
University of Erfurt

Education

Dr. phil. Georg-August-University of Göttingen (magna cum laude) Jun 2006
Title: The Concept of Law from a Transnational Perspective.
Advisors: Prof. Dr. Dietmar von der Pfordten, Prof. Leslie Green (Oxford)

M.A. in Philosophy, with Jurisprudence and History of Arts as minors, Dec 1996
Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, Germany
M.A. thesis title: Sense and Reference in Gottlob Frege's Notion of Logic
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Gerold Prauss

First State Examination in Medicine (Physikum) Aug 1992
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Books

- *Towards a Genealogy of Cosmopolitan Thought: Before and Beyond Liberalism*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2026.
- *The Concept of Law from a Transnational Perspective*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2010.

Edited Books

- *Internationale Gerechtigkeit und demokratische Legitimation* (International justice and democratic legitimation). Edited by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Christine Bratu, and Detlef von Daniels. Hamburg: Meiner, 2019.
- *Internationale Gerechtigkeit und institutionelle Verantwortung* (International justice and institutional responsibility). Edited by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Detlef von Daniels, and Nicole Wloka. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019.

Articles

- "A Youthful Tone in Philosophy? On Schlosser's Critique of Kant." In *The Court of Reason. Proceedings of the 13th International Kant Congress*, edited by Camilla Serck-Hanssen and Beatrix Himmelmann. Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2021, 1727–1736.
- "Legal Pluralism and the Problem of Evil." In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Legal Pluralism*, edited by Paul Schiff Berman. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, 383–403.
- "Mit Leibniz zum Kosmopolitismus und wieder zurück" (With Leibniz to cosmopolitanism and back again). In *Rechts- und Staatsphilosophie bei G.W. Leibniz*, edited by Tilmann Altwicker, Francis Cheneval, and Matthias Mahlmann. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020, 215–233.
- "Realism, Power-Loops, and Re-Entry. An imaginary conversation with Glen Newey over the gaps of time and traditions." *Biblioteca della libertà*, nos. 225–226 (2019): 177–192.
- (with Nicole Wloka) "Zwischen internationaler Gerechtigkeit und institutioneller Verantwortung" (Between international justice and institutional responsibility). In *Internationale Gerechtigkeit und institutionelle Verantwortung*, edited by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Detlef von Daniels, and Nicole Wloka. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019, 7–18.

- (with Christine Bratu) “Trügerische Sicherheiten” (Deceptive certainties). In *Internationale Gerechtigkeit und demokratische Legitimation*, edited by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Christine Bratu, and Detlef von Daniels. Hamburg: Meiner, 2019, 11–18.
- “Vorüberlegungen zu einer Genealogie kosmopolitischen Denkens” (Preliminary considerations to a genealogy of cosmopolitan thought). In *Internationale Gerechtigkeit und institutionelle Verantwortung*, edited by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Detlef von Daniels, and Nicole Wloka. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019, 153–175.
- “Zur Kritik des Populismus mit ständiger Rücksicht auf Platon” (A critique of populism with continual reference to Plato). *Jahrbuch Politisches Denken* 29 (2019): 11–34. Abridged version: “Die zarten Seelen freier Bürger.” *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 5, 2019, p. 8.
- “Kant and Kelsen on International Law.” In *Nature and Freedom. Proceedings of the 12th International Kant Congress*, edited by Violetta L. Waibel, Margit Ruffing, and David Wagner. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2018, 2669–2677.
- “On Monarchy.” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 21, no. 4 (2018): 456–477.
- “Schwerpunkt: Ethik der Migration” (Special topic: ethics of migration). *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 65 (2017): 689–691.
- “A Genealogical Perspective on Pluralist Jurisprudence.” In *In Pursuit of Pluralistic Jurisprudence*, edited by Nicole Roughan and Andrew Halpin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017, 163–191.
- “Normativity and the Sources of International Law.” In *The Oxford Handbook on the Sources of International Law*, edited by Samantha Besson and Jean d’Aspremont. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, 661–679.
- “Über die Grenzen des Rechts auf Privatheit und die Rolle der Literatur” (On the limits of the right to privacy and the role of literature). In *Das Recht auf Privatheit im digitalen Zeitalter*, edited by Logi Gunnarsson. Berlin: Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag, 2017, 57–71.
- “Zur Verfassung Europas” (On Europe’s constitution). *Jahrbuch Politisches Denken* 25 (2015): 101–122.
- “How Plato overcame the Cosmopolitans.” *History of Political Thought* 35 (2014): 595–631.
- “Ist Kants Rechtsphilosophie etatistisch?” (Is Kant’s legal philosophy state-centered?) XXII. Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie, 2011.
- “Zwischen sozialdemokratischer Praxis und neomarxistischer Theorie” (Between social-democratic practice and neo-marxian theory). In *Zeitgenössische Demokratietheorie*, edited by Oliver W. Lembcke et al. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 2011, 285–316.
- “Eine unbezweifelbare philosophische Idee? Zu Menke/Pollmanns Philosophie der Menschenrechte” (An undeniable philosophical idea? On Menke/Pollmann’s philosophy of human rights). *Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Philosophie* 35 (2010): 183–202.
- “Theoretische Perspektiven auf die Verrechtlichung politischer Konflikte” (Theoretical perspectives on the juridification of political conflicts). In *Recht der Konflikte – Konflikte im Recht*, edited by Lorenz Kähler et al. Stuttgart: Steiner, 2010, 13–28.
- Entries on “John Finnis” and “Otto von Gierke.” In *Handbuch der Politischen Philosophie und Sozialphilosophie*, edited by Stephan Gosepath et al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2008.
- “Construction of social institutions/reality through language.” In *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, edited by Keith Brown. Oxford: Elsevier, 2005, 447–449.

- "Is Positivism a state-centered theory?" In *Law, Morality, and Legal Positivism*, edited by Kenneth E. Himma. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2004, 19–27.
- "Vier Asse und ein Revolver. Otfried Höffes Weltstaat als Garant des ewigen Friedens?" (Four aces and a revolver. Does Otfried Höffe's world state guarantee perpetual peace?). In *Der Staat der Zukunft*, edited by Gralf-Peter Calliess and Matthias Mahlmann. Stuttgart: Steiner, 2002, 1–15.

Courses Taught (Selected)

- The End of the Liberal World Order? Cosmopolitanism between Nationalism, Postliberalism and Marxist Critique (University of Göttingen)
- Empirical Theories of Morality: Kant's Anthropology, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche (University of Göttingen)
- Artificial Intelligence in Law and Philosophy: Foundations and Applications (University of Göttingen)
- Hegel's Philosophy of Right (University of Göttingen)
- Plato's Republic (University of Göttingen)
- The Promise of German Philosophy: From Kant to Hegel (Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program)
- Tragedy and New Beginnings in German Philosophy: From Marx and Nietzsche to Habermas and Ratzinger (Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program)
- European Legal Traditions (Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program)
- Political Theory (NYU Berlin)
- Philosophy and Religion (Witten/Herdecke University)
- Normative Ethics (Witten/Herdecke University)
- Business Ethics: Power, Debt, and Obligation (Witten/Herdecke University)
- Karl Marx: Capital in Context (Witten/Herdecke University)
- On Death (Witten/Herdecke University)
- Politics and Opera (Witten/Herdecke University)
- Law and Society: Classical Debates (Harvard University)
- From the Presumed Beginning of Human History to the End of All Things: Kant's Philosophy of History (Leipzig University)

Recent Academic Presentations (Selected)

- "Nomos basileus: The Poetic Existence of Law after Hölderlin." Workshop "How Does Law Exist and Have Validity?", Villa Vigoni, July 2026.
- "Why Geopolitics cannot escape Philosophy of History." XXVI German Congress of Philosophy, University of Münster, September 2024.
- "Heidegger's Challenge to Liberalism, or How to reimagine Political Philosophy." Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, East European University, Georgia (virtual), October 2021.
- "Legal Aspects of another Genealogy of Cosmopolitan Thought." Colloquium of the Center for Global Constitutionalism (virtual), July 2021.

- "Legal Pluralism and the Problem of Evil." Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (virtual), May 2021.
- "Heideggers Kritik an Kant in kosmopolitischer Hinsicht." Conference of the Martin-Heidegger-Gesellschaft, "Möglichkeit und Wirklichkeit der Freiheit" (virtual), February 2021.
- "How can we Live Together? German Philosophy's Answers Since Kant." FU-BEST Digital Lecture Series, December 2020.
- "Tone and Youth in Kant's Political Philosophy." 13th International Kant Congress, "The Court of Reason", Oslo, August 2019.
- "What is the Question Plato is Answering in the *Politeia*?" 26th International Plato Conference, St Petersburg, August 2018.
- "Towards a Critique of Populism with Continual Reference to Plato." New Georgian University, Georgia, October 2017.

Academic Activities

Organizer of Conferences and Workshops, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2016–2019

- Symposium "Two Dialogues on Justice: Between Religious Life and Political Practice"
- Conference "Internationale Gerechtigkeit und demokratische Legitimation"
- Workshop "Justice, State, Migration"

Organizer of the Lecture Series "Multilevel Constitutionalism", Humboldt University of Berlin, 2012–2015
Organizer of the Symposium "Theorizing the Commonwealth", Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, June 2011
Organizer of the Symposium "Ideas and Practices of Commonwealths", Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, February 2010

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University — 2009–2010
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Max Weber Centre, University of Erfurt — 2007–2009
Merit Scholarship, Friedrich Naumann Foundation — 1998–2001
Merit Scholarship, German National Academic Foundation — 1992–1996

Languages

German	Native
English	Fluent
French, Italian	Conversational
Latin, Ancient Greek	Reading knowledge