

Notes on Contributors

Lisa H. Anders is DAAD-Fachlektorin/Lecturer in German and European Politics at King's College London. Previously, she was a researcher in the project 'Rule of Law in East Central Europe' and a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence member at Leipzig University. She has published in various journals and co-edited several books, including *EU Citizenship Beyond Urban Centres*, exploring young people's citizenship perceptions and practices in peripheries.

Bojan Baća is a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Montenegro, and an International Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, University Alliance Ruhr. His research on post-socialist civil society and social movements has been published in *Sociology*, *International Political Sociology*, and *Political Geography*, among other journals, for which he was awarded the 2022 Routledge Area Studies Interdisciplinarity Award.

Lea Fobel, MSc, studied sociology and demography in Bielefeld, Cologne, and Groningen before working at the Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development and Leipzig University. Her research focuses on regional disparities in social as well as civic participation and the respective infrastructure in Germany.

Janusz Grygieńć is Professor of Political Philosophy at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland) and was a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellow for the year 2016. His current research focuses on studies of expertise and experience and their implications for participatory and deliberative theories of democracy. He is author of *General Will in Political Philosophy* and *Democracy in the Post-Truth Era: Restoring Faith in Expertise*.

Mariana Gustafsson holds a PhD in Political Science and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management and Engineering, Linköping University, Sweden. Her research field is governance and decision-making in advanced digital society, with a specific focus on digitalization of public

services, automation processes in public administration, digital citizenship, citizen agency in digital democracy, and local governance.

Lasse Hansen is a PhD student at the University of Potsdam. His work is centred around the comparative research project titled ‘The “Start of a Beautiful Friendship?” A Comparative Study of German and Israeli School–NGO Interactions Across Different Socio–Economic Strata’. His academic interests encompass global citizenship education, transnational perspectives on educational policy, the collaborative interplay between schools and NGOs, and educational networks.

Ireneusz Pawel Karolewski, Professor at Leipzig University, specializes in political theory and democracy research. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Potsdam. He was Professor and Guest Professor in Wrocław, Jerusalem, Montreal and Harvard. His research focuses on citizenship, collective identity and democratic regression.

Nina Kolleck is Professor of Education and Socialization Theory at the University of Potsdam. Previously, she held professorships in Leipzig, Berlin, Aachen, Berkeley, Vancouver, and Jerusalem. Nina’s research focuses on citizenship education, youth, social movements, and social networks. She has received various grants and awards for her research and teaching, such as the ARCHES award by the Max Planck Foundation and an ERC Grant.

Astrid Lorenz is Professor of German and European Politics at Leipzig University. From 2000 to 2024, she coordinated the Leipzig Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on ‘The European Union and Its Rural Periphery in East Central Europe’. Her research interests include processes of democratization and de-democratization, the political systems of the EU member states, political participation, perceptions of the EU, the rule of law, spatial inequalities, and political institutions.

Olga Matveieva is Associate Professor at the Institute of Public Administration, Dnipro University of Technology in Ukraine, and a research fellow at Marie Jahoda Center for International Gender Studies, Ruhr–University Bochum in Germany. Her research interests cover the sociopolitical implications of democratization and digitalization reforms in Eastern Europe, focusing on cooperation between local government and civil society organizations.

Claire Maxwell is Professor of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen. She has extensively researched the internationalization of education, including

the interpretation and implementation of global citizenship education. Her work explores how processes of internationalization reproduce or disrupt inequalities within education.

Claire Moulin-Doos is a French scholar who teaches and researches at German universities in the field of *politische Bildung*/citizenship education. She is currently Visiting Professor at Leuphana University in Lüneburg. She holds a Master's degree in European Law (University of Nancy, France) and a PhD in Political Theory (University of Bremen, Germany). Her research focuses among others on human rights, education for sustainability, and European integration.

Dietmar Müller, a senior researcher at Leipzig University, specializes in the history of international organizations and law, citizenship and property, the rule of law, and agricultural history in Europe. He is a prolific author, particularly known for his comparative studies on East Central and South Eastern European history.

Vasil Navumau is a research fellow at both the University of Siegen and the Center for Advanced Internet Studies. His research focuses on social activism in Eastern European countries (Ukraine and Belarus, in particular). He examines how modern information and communication technologies and emerging trends in transnational activism influence the transformation of regional collective actions.

Milica Nikolić holds a Master's degree from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad and a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš. During her academic activities, she worked on research projects dealing with the role of culture, religion, and education in shaping individuals and communities. She currently works at the National Employment Service of Serbia, where she helps young people in their transition to the labour market.

Christian Pentzold is Chair of Media and Communication at the Department for Communication and Media Studies at Leipzig University. His work in communication research and media analysis links to insights coming from cultural sociology, linguistics, and science and technology studies. In a current project, he looks at mediated participation in rural regions.

Joanna Podgórska-Rykała is a graduate of Law, Political Science, and Administration; Doctor of Social Sciences (2016), habilitated in Political Science and Administration (2024). She is interested in deliberative democracy and its possible applications in local government. She is the author

of over 130 publications, including *Deliberative Democracy, Public Policy, and Local Government* (2024) and *Deliberative Innovation According to the Decision-Makers: A Clash between Perceptions and Reality* (2025).

Johannes Schuster is a research associate at the Chair of Citizenship Education and Education Policy at Leipzig University. He holds a doctorate in Educational Science from Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on political socialization, civic education, education policy, social network analysis, and social media. The results of his research have been published in numerous journals, including *Journal of Education Policy* and *Political Psychology*.

Noah W. Sobe is an accomplished scholar with a strong expertise in citizenship education. As a faculty member in the Department of History at Loyola University Chicago, he has made significant contributions to the field. With a focus on the intersection of education and citizenship, Noah's research and teaching highlight the importance of civic engagement and the development of responsible and informed citizens.

Veronika Stein is a research associate at the Karlsruhe University of Technology. She previously worked at the Chair of Media and Communication at Leipzig University on a funded project exploring digital citizen participation in rural areas. The main focus of her sociological and empirical research is debates on digitalization and social phenomena in the fields of communication, technology, and social inequality.

Andrea Szukala is Chair of Civic Education at the University of Augsburg. She has held professorships at the universities Duisburg-Essen, Bielefeld, Siegen, and Münster and was guest fellow at EHESS/GSRL, Paris. She has led multiple European, federally, and state-funded projects and assumed various leadership roles in the field. Her current research focuses on the epistemic challenges in social studies education and the governance of civic education in contexts of democratic regression.

Hendrik Träger is a political scientist at Leipzig University. He completed his studies and obtained his doctoral degree at the University of Jena, where his research primarily focused on political parties in eastern Germany since 1990. His areas of expertise include the study of parties and elections across various political levels, for example, analysing voting behaviour in the European elections across all member states of the European Union.

Tamara Trošt is Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She received her PhD in Sociology from Harvard University, and was previously a visiting researcher at Princeton University and the

University of Graz. Her work focuses on the effect of schools on the national and ethnic identity and values of youth, as well as nationalism and identity broadly. Her work has been published in journals, including *Nations and Nationalism*, *Memory Studies*, and *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, and she has edited two volumes on issues of youth and memory in Central and South-East Europe.

Jelena Vasiljević is Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. She has held research fellowships at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Graz, working on citizenship transformations and civic engagement in South-East Europe. Her articles have appeared in *Nations and Nationalism*, *Citizenship Studies*, *East European Politics and Societies*, and many other peer-reviewed journals.