

Theo Serlin

Contact Details

Bush House North East Wing, 30 Aldwych, London WC2B 4BG
theo-serlin.github.io | theo.serlin@kcl.ac.uk

Employment

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, London, UK
Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Department of Political Economy, 2025–
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, Princeton, NJ
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Niehaus Center, 2024–2025

Education

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Stanford, CA
Ph.D in Political Science, 2019–2024
MA in Economics, 2019–2022
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA
AB in History, *summa cum laude*, 2015–2018

Publications

"The Public Agglomeration Effect: Urban-Rural Divisions in Government Efficiency and Political Preferences," Forthcoming, *American Journal of Political Science*
"Trains, Trade, and Transformation: A Spatial Rogowski Theory of America's 19th Century Protectionism," with Kenneth Scheve, 2025, *American Journal of Political Science* 69 (3): 915–929
"The German Trade Shock and the Rise of the Neo-Welfare State in Early Twentieth-Century Britain," with Kenneth Scheve, 2023, *American Political Science Review* 117 (2): 557–574

Working Papers

"The Export Boom and the Backlash: Reactions to Positive Economic Change in First World War America," 2022
"Industry and Identity: The Migration Linkage Between Economic and Cultural Change," with Vasiliki Fouka, 2023
"Gravity's Politics," 2024
"How Polarization Ends," with Avidit Acharya and Alexander Lee, 2025
"Lobbying and Legislative Representation," with Hye Young You, 2025

In Progress

"Market Power and Distorted Democracy in the Progressive Era," with Kenneth Scheve and Sydney White, 2025
"Migration and the Making of the English Middle Class," with Vasiliki Fouka, 2025

Talks

King's College London, MIT, Princeton, Rochester, 2025
Peking University, King's College London, 2024

Emory, UC Berkeley, Princeton, NYU, Yale, Duke, Texas A&M, Notre Dame, Stanford, 2023

Conferences

- Copenhagen Business School Money in Politics, NBER Economics of Culture and Institutions, 2025
- Peking University Symposium on Institutions and Development, 2024 (discussant)
- APSA annual meetings, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- EPSA annual meeting, 2025
- IPES annual meetings, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Teaching

King's College London

- 6SSPP383 Advanced Economics of Politics (undergraduate), Fall 2025
- 5SSPP245 Statistics for History and Political Economy (undergraduate), Fall 2025

Stanford

- PS 356a Formal Theory I (Ph.D), TA for James Fearon, Winter 2021, TA for Avidit Acharya, Winter 2022
- PS 356b Formal Theory II (Ph.D), TA for Amanda Kennard, Spring 2021
- PS 450a Political Methodology I (Ph.D), TA for Jens Hainmueller, Fall 2022
- PS 150a Data Science for Politics (undergraduate), TA for Alain Schlaepfer, Fall 2021
- Political Science Ph.D Math Camp, TA for Alain Schlaepfer, Fall 2022

Awards and Grants

- Data Driven Social Science Initiative, Princeton University, 2025. Research grant, \$4,925, with Jeongmin Park
- David A. Lake Award, 2022. Best paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Political Economy Society, for “The Export Boom and the Backlash”
- George P. Shultz Graduate Fellowship, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, 2022. Research grant, \$7,500
- Sophia Freund Prize, Harvard College, 2018. Best academic record among graduating students
- Department of History Prize, 2018. Best academic record among graduating students in the Department of History
- Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, 2018. University wide senior thesis prize
- Phi Beta Kappa, 2017

Service Mentor, Stanford Political Science Pathways to Ph.D Program, 2021, 2022
Referee, *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, International Organization, Journal of Economic Inequality, Review of International Organizations, Social Choice and Welfare, World Politics*

Professional Experience SANFORD C. BERNSTEIN & Co., New York, NY
Research Associate, 2018–2019

References Kenneth Scheve, I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean, Professor of Political Science,
University of Notre Dame, kscheve@nd.edu

Audit Acharya, Professor of Political Science,
Stanford University, avidit@stanford.edu

Vasiliki Fouka, Associate Professor of Political Science,
Stanford University, vfouka@stanford.edu

Jonathan Rodden, Professor of Political Science,
Stanford University, jrodden@stanford.edu

Last updated December 7, 2025