

# Daniel Zimmer

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[danpaulzimmer.com](http://danpaulzimmer.com)

## EDUCATION

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**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

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**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

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### BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

*Loving the Vulnerable World: Politics in the Age of Planetary Precarity* (Academic)

*Up/Down Politics: Contesting the Future of Life Itself* (Trade)

### 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)

“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**

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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**

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### **INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD**

"Preventing Human Extinction," Stanford University | Spring 2025

"Citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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[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

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### 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 Eaarth \[sic\]: 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 Eaarth [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**

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American Political Science Association

Western Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Association for Political Theory

History of Science Society

## **REFEREE SERVICE**

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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

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Advanced French, Advanced Intermediate Turkish, Research German

## REFERENCES (A-Z)

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### **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](mailto:pedwards@stanford.edu)

### **Jason Frank**

John L. Senior Professor of Government, Cornell University: [jf273@cornell.edu](mailto:jf273@cornell.edu)

### **Alexander Livingston**

Associate Professor of Government, Cornell University: [alexander.livingston@cornell.edu](mailto:alexander.livingston@cornell.edu)

### **Alison McQueen**

Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University: [amcqueen@stanford.edu](mailto:amcqueen@stanford.edu)

### **Benoît Pelopidas**

Professor, Chair of Excellence in Security Studies, Sciences Po: [benoit.pelopidas@sciencespo.fr](mailto:benoit.pelopidas@sciencespo.fr)