

Stephen C. Nelson

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Academic Positions

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science (Sept. 2017 -)

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, (Sept. 2010- August 2017)

Education

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

M.A. (2007); Ph.D. (2009), Department of Government

Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota

B.A. (magna cum laude, 2002), Political Science and International Relations

Major Professional Interests

International political economy; international organizations and global economic governance; politics of international sovereign debt markets; the politics of capital controls; the role of ideas in economic life; how economic agents and policymakers deal with risk and uncertainty

Book

The Currency of Confidence: How Economic Beliefs Shape the IMF's Relationship with its Borrowers (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017). Reviewed in *Economic History Review* (May 2018), *International Studies Review* (March 2020), *Perspectives on Politics* (September 2018), *Review of International Organizations* (December 2017)

Articles and Book Chapters

“Studying Leaders and Elites: The Personal Biography Approach” (with Daniel Krmaric and Andrew Roberts). *Annual Review of Political Science* 23 (2020): 133-151.

“Constructivist IPE.” In Ernesto Vivares, ed., *The Routledge Handbook to Global Political Economy: Conversations and Inquiries*. New York: Routledge (2020): 211-228.

“Banks Beyond Borders: Internationalization, Financialization, and the Behavior of Foreign-Owned Banks during the Global Financial Crisis.” *Theory and Society* 49, 2 (in the “Law, governance, and finance” special issue, 2020): 307-333.

“Crisis, What Crisis? Uncertainty, Risk, and Financial Markets” (with Peter J. Katzenstein). In Andreas Wenger, Ursula Jaspers, and Myriam Dunn Cavelty, eds., *The Politics and Science of Prevision: Governing and Probing the Future*. New York: Routledge (2020): 141-157.

“The Mass Political Economy of Capital Controls” (with David A. Steinberg). *Comparative Political Studies* 52, 11 (2019): 1575-1609.

- “Does Democracy Promote Capital Account Liberalization?” (with David A. Steinberg and Christoph Nguyen). *Review of International Political Economy* 25, 6 (2018): 854-883.
- “Default Positions: What Shapes Public Attitudes about International Debt Disputes?” (with David A. Steinberg). *International Studies Quarterly* 62, 3 (2018): 520-533.
- “International Financial Institutions and Market Liberalization in the Developing World.” In Carol Lancaster and Nicolas van de Walle, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of the Politics of Development*. New York: Oxford University Press (2018): 385-408.
- “Slumdog versus Superman: Uncertainty, Innovation, and the Circulation of Power in the Global Film Industry” (with Lucia A. Seybert and Peter J. Katzenstein). In Katzenstein and Seybert, eds., *Protean Power: Exploring the Uncertain and Unexpected in World Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2018): 209-225.
- “Incomplete Control: The Circulation of Power in Finance” (with Erin Lockwood). In Peter J. Katzenstein and Lucia A. Seybert, eds., *Protean Power: Exploring the Uncertain and Unexpected in World Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2018): 166-187.
- “Are IMF Lending Programs Good or Bad for Democracy?” (with Geoffrey P.R. Wallace). *Review of International Organizations* 12, 4 (2017): 523-558.
- “Organizational Culture” (with Catherine Weaver). In Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of International Organizations*. New York: Oxford University Press (2016): 920-939.
- “Market Rules: Social Conventions, Legal Fictions, and the International Organization of Sovereign Debt Markets in the Long Twentieth Century.” In Grégoire Mallard and Jérôme Sgard, eds., *Contractual Knowledge: One Hundred Years of Legal Experimentation in Global Markets*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2016): 118-152.
- “Paper Entanglements: Why (and How) Keynes’s Ideas about Sovereign Debt Still Matter.” *Challenge* 58, 6 (2015): 492-508.
- “Playing Favorites: How Shared Beliefs Shape the IMF’s Lending Decisions.” *International Organization* 68, 2 (2014): 297-328.
- “Uncertainty, Risk, and the Financial Crisis of 2008” (with Peter J. Katzenstein). *International Organization* 68, 2 (2014): 361-392.
- “The International Monetary Fund’s Evolving Role in Global Economic Governance.” In Manuela Moschella and Catherine Weaver, eds. *Handbook of Global Economic Governance*. New York: Routledge (2014): 156-170.
- “Reading the Right Signals and Reading the Signals Right: IPE and the Financial Crisis of 2008” (with Peter J. Katzenstein). *Review of International Political Economy* 20, 5 (2013): 1101-1131.
- “Worlds in Collision: Risk and Uncertainty in Hard Times” (with Peter J. Katzenstein). In Miles Kahler and David Lake, eds. *Politics in the New Hard Times: The Great Recession in Comparative Perspective*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (2013): 233-252.
- “The International Monetary Fund and the Prospects for Democracy in the Developing World” (with

Geoffrey Wallace). In Dursun Peksen, ed. *Liberal Interventionism and Democracy Promotion*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (2012): 87-114.

“Mondi in Collisione: Incertezza e Rischio in Tempi Difficili” (with Peter J. Katzenstein). *Stato e Mercato* 93, 3 (2011): 369-393.

“Does Compliance Matter? Assessing the Relationship between Sovereign Risk and Compliance with International Monetary Law.” *Review of International Organizations* 5, 2 (2010): 107-139.

Works in Progress

“Divergent Legalization in Global Economic Governance: Why Is Money So Different from Trade?” (with Karen J. Alter).

“Are IMF Lending Programs Harmful for Human Rights?” (with Christopher Dinkel).

Other Publications

“Argentina is on the verge of defaulting on its debt again – here’s what you need to know” (with David A. Steinberg). For the *Washington Post*’s “Monkey Cage” blog, May 29, 2020.

“Argentina just reinstated foreign currency restrictions – here’s what you need to know” (with David A. Steinberg). For the *Washington Post*’s “Monkey Cage” blog, September 6, 2019.

Review of Cornel Ban, *Ruling Ideas: How Global Neoliberalism Goes Local* (New York: Oxford University Press), book review appears as part of “critical dialogue” in *Perspectives on Politics* 16, 3 (September 2018): pp. 785-787.

“It Happened Again: Farrell and Quiggin on the Resurrection of Old Keynesian Ideas during the Global Financial Crisis,” contribution to January 2018 *International Studies Quarterly* online symposium <http://www.dhnexon.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ISQ-Keynesianism-and-Great-Recession-Symposium-1.pdf>

Review of Ayse Kaya, *Power and Global Economic Institutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press) in *Review of International Organizations* 11, 4 (December 2016): pp. 523-27.

“Here’s why Argentina’s new president Macri let the peso crash” (with David A. Steinberg). For the *Washington Post*’s “Monkey Cage” blog, January 4, 2016.

“Governing Risky and Uncertain Financial Markets.” *SWP Comments* 45 (December 2012): 1-8.

Reviews of Mark Copelovitch, *The International Monetary Fund in the Global Economy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010) and Antje Vetterlein and Susan Park, eds. *Owning Development: Creating Policy Norms in the IMF and the World Bank* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011) in *Perspectives on Politics* 10, 2 (June 2012): pp. 545-46.

Review of Ralph C. Bryant, *Turbulent Waters: Cross-Border Finance and International Government* (Washington, DC: Brookings University Press, 2004). In *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 33, 2 (2004): 470-72.

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Northwestern University, June 2019

Peter Katzenstein Prize for Outstanding First Book in International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Political Economy, Department of Government, Cornell University, August 2018

Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences Research Innovation (“W”) Grant (with Karen Alter), Northwestern University, April 2017

Visiting Scholar, the American Bar Foundation (ABF), Chicago (September 2016 – January 2017)

Publication subvention award, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, July 2016

Nominated by the Weinberg College Student Advisory Board (SAB) for the Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award, Northwestern University, April 2016

Center for Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) International Research Grant, March 2015

R. Barry Farrell Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, June 2014

Catalyst Grant award (for “A Half Decade of Crisis: Governing the Global Economy in the New Hard Times” conference), Northwestern University Graduate School, March 2013

Associated Student Government (ASG) 2011-12 Faculty Honor Roll, September 2012

Outstanding Faculty Member, Northwestern University Panhellenic Association, October 2011

The American Political Science Association’s Helen Dwight Reid Award (now the Merze Tate Award) for the best dissertation in the field of international relations, law, and politics, September 2010

College Fellow, Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences, Northwestern University (2009-10)

Research Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School, March 2008

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, Cornell University, 2007-08

The George McT Kahin Prize for the dissertation in the areas of international relations and foreign policy studies judged to hold the greatest promise as a contribution to the discipline, Department of Government, Cornell University, June 2007

Dean’s Prize for Distinguished Teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University, May 2007

James F. Slevin Assignment Sequence Prize, the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University, November 2006

John S. Knight Award for Best Writing Exercise, the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University, November 2006

Walter LaFeber Grant (with Christopher Way)

Summer Travel Grant, Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University, July 2006

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 2003-2004

Distinction in Major and Thesis Project, Department of Political Science, Carleton College, 2002

Conference, Workshop, and Seminar Presentations

Presented research at venues including the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014-2016, 2018, 2019), the International Studies Association Annual Meeting (each year, 2011-2017, scheduled 2020), the International Political Economy Society (2010, 2011, 2016), the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (2007, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, scheduled 2020), Annual Conference on the Political Economy of International Organizations (2012, 2020), Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2014, 2016, 2019), the Mid-Year Research Meeting of the American Society for International Law (2018), DebtCon3 conference at Georgetown University Law School (2019), Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies/German Historical Institute conference at Villa Vigoni, Lago di Como, Italy (2011), Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin (2012), Law and Globalization in a Comparative Perspective conference at Sciences-Po, Paris (2013), Keynes for Today conference at Cornell University (2015), Syracuse University (2007), Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University (2009), Political Economy Group at Georgetown University (2009), PSAC seminar at Cornell University (2009, 2019), Institute for Social Sciences at Cornell University (2009), Alliance on Governance Research & Analysis (AGORA) workshop at Brown University (2010), PIPES workshop at the University of Chicago (2011), AGORA workshop at the University of Warwick (2014), the University of California, San Diego (2010, 2013), Northwestern University (each year, 2009-2020), Chicago-Kent Law School (2013), Princeton University (2013), Columbia University (2013), Georgetown University (2013), George Washington University

(2013), Johns Hopkins University (2013), University of Southern California (2013), University of California, Los Angeles (2013), University of Wisconsin-Madison (2014), Harvard University (2014), Carleton College (2015), Duke University Law School (2016), University of Pennsylvania (2018), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva (2018), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2018), Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) (2019), Princeton University (2020)

Referee Activities

Manuscript reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Business and Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Economy and Society*, *Economics & Politics*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Interactions*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *New Political Economy*, *Party Politics*, *PLOS ONE*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Studies*, *Public Administration*, *Review of International Organizations*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Studies in Economics and Finance*, *World Development*, *World Politics*, Oxford University Press, Lynne Rienner Press, Routledge Press, Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation (U.S.), Swiss National Science Foundation

Professional Affiliations and Service

International Political Economy section chair for the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (2019-2020, meeting canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
Program Chair for the International History and Politics Division of the American Political Science Association (2018-2019)
Term member, Council on Foreign Relations (2017-2020)
Member, American Political Science Association, the International Studies Association, the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
Member of the selection committee for the IO Distinguished Senior Scholar Award, International Studies Association (2015)

Teaching and Advising

Courses taught at Northwestern University

Political Science 101-6: Governing Global Finance (seminar for first-year students)

Political Science 101-6: Politics of Debt (seminar for first-year students)

Political Science 341: International Political Economy (undergraduate lecture)

Political Science 348: Globalization (undergraduate lecture)

Political Science 375: Comparative Politics of Business-Government Relations (upper-level undergraduate seminar)

Political Science 390: Globalization in the Crosshairs (undergraduate seminar)

Political Science 398: Honors Thesis Research Seminar (undergraduate seminar)

Political Science 441: International Political Economy (graduate seminar)

Political Science 442: International Organization (graduate seminar)

Political Science 490/Sociology 476: Global Capitalism & Law (co-taught graduate seminar)

Honors thesis advisor: Lauren Gramza (2011), Alex Grubman (2012, co-winner of the Janda Prize for Best Honors Thesis in the Political Science Department), Calvin Ketchum (2012), Elena Barham (2016, co-winner of the Janda Prize for Best Honors Thesis in the Political Science Department)

Dissertation committee member: Melike Arslan (sociology, current), Christopher Dinkel (co-chair, current), Mauro Gilli (completed PhD in July 2015, currently senior researcher at the Center for Security Studies, ETH-Zurich); Irene Kwon (chair, current), Erin Lockwood (co-chair, completed)

PhD in August 2017, currently assistant professor of political science at the University of California, Irvine); Rahul Mediratta (co-chair, completed PhD in June 2016, post-doctoral fellow at the Watson Institute, Brown University, 2016-2018)

Posner Fellow Faculty Member, underrepresented minority research training program, summer 2013

Arryman Fellows Faculty Mentor, 2017-18

Department, College, and University Service

Faculty Senate representative for the Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (2019-20)
International Relations speaker series coordinator, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (2019-20)

Co-Director of the Global Capitalism & Law Research Group, Northwestern University (2017-20)
Tenure and promotions *ad hoc* committee member for the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences at Northwestern University (2018-19)

Curricular Review Committee for the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences at Northwestern University (2017-20)

Honors Program Director, Northwestern University Political Science Department (2018-20)
Graduate Program Placement Director, Northwestern University Political Science Department (2017-20)
Faculty Advisory Committee of the Political Science Department (2011-13, 2015-16)
Northwestern University Political Science Department graduate program admission committee member (2015-17)

Kapnick Business Institutions Program Faculty Committee, Northwestern University (2011-14)
International Studies Program Advisory Committee, Northwestern University (2011-14, 2019-20)
Undergraduate Advisor for the Northwestern University Political Science Department (2011-13, 2016-17)
International Relations PhD Preliminary Examination reader, Northwestern University Political Science Department (each year, 2011-2019)

Guetzkow Prize Committee for Best Paper in International Studies (2012)

Selection Committee for Lee F. Anderson Global Education and Engagement Grant (2010)

Media Appearances

Quoted in “With a Track Record of Disasters, Argentina and IMF Think Small,” *Buenos Aires Times*, September 9, 2020. <https://batimes.com.ar/news/economy/with-a-track-record-of-disasters-argentina-and-imf-think-small.phtml>

Quoted in “How the power of the dollar helps your vacation budget,” *Policygenius*, January 30, 2020. <https://www.policygenius.com/blog/how-the-power-of-the-dollar-helps-your-vacation-budget/>

Discussions of *The Currency of Confidence* appear in several Argentine media outlets, including *El Diplo* (“De Cumbres y abismos,” por José Natanson, edición Junio 2018) and *infobae.com* (“Dos a quererse: Macri y el FMI,” por Marcelo Zlotogwiazda, 18 de Mayo 2018)

Quoted in “Short Selling is Now Allowed in Argentine Capital Markets,” *The Bubble* (Argentina), January 16, 2018. <https://www.thebubble.com/explained-short-selling>

Research on public attitudes toward capital controls discussed in “Washington Post explica por qué Macri levantó el cepo,” *Tiempo de San Juan* (Argentina), 6 de Enero 2016 and *El Hemisferio*, Sept. 8, 2019. <https://elhem.co/2019/09/08/currency-report-september-6-2019/>

Worldview (WBEZ Chicago Public Radio)

- June 22, 2015 (“Greek debt deadline approaches”) <https://soundcloud.com/wbez-worldview/greek-debt-deadline-approaches>
- June 4, 2015 (“Greek debt crisis”) <http://www.wbez.org/programs/worldview/2015-06-04/greek-debt-crisis-112142>
- June 24, 2014 (“Argentina’s debt crisis”) <http://www.wbez.org/programs/worldview/2014-06-24/argentinas-debt-crisis-110398>
- March 17, 2014 (“The politics behind aid to Ukraine and IMF reform”) <https://soundcloud.com/wbez-worldview/the-politics-behind-aid-to>

- April 4, 2013 (“The politics of debt and the Eurozone crisis”)

<https://soundcloud.com/wbez-worldview/the-politics-of-debt-and-the>
- September 10, 2012 (“The future of the Euro”)

<http://storify.com/WBEZ/worldview-9-10-12>
- June 15, 2012 (“Long-term solutions to European debt crisis at political impasse”)

<http://www.wbez.org/blogs/bez/2012-06/long-term-solutions-european-debt-crisis-political-impasse-100099>
- February 20, 2012 (“What will a second bailout mean for Greece and the global economy?”)

<http://www.wbez.org/episode-segments/2012-02-20/what-will-second-bailout-mean-greece-and-global-economy-96549>
- November 2, 2011 (“Greek economic instability resembles Argentina default”)

<http://www.wbez.org/episode-segments/2011-11-02/greek-economic-instability-resembles-argentina-default-93693>

KCBS News (Radio 740 AM, San Francisco, CA), February 21, 2012, May 28, 2012, June 26, 2012, May 30, 2018

Morning Edition (National Public Radio), January 20, 2011

Northwestern Media Audio Commentary, May 19, 2010 (“Doubts remain about EU/IMF bailout of Greece”) <http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2010/05/euro.html>

Panelist on *Chicago Tonight* (WTTW Public Television), May 7, 2010