

Stephen C. Nelson

September 2017

Department of Political Science
Northwestern University
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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).

Articles and Book Chapters

“Default Positions: What Shapes Public Attitudes about International Debt Disputes?” (with David A. Steinberg). *International Studies Quarterly* (forthcoming)

“Are IMF Lending Programs Good or Bad for Democracy?” (with Geoffrey Wallace). *Review of International Organizations* (forthcoming). OnlineFirst version here:
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11558-016-9250-3>

“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 (forthcoming in February 2018).

“Slumdog versus Superman: Uncertainty, Innovation, and Circulatory 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 (forthcoming in February 2018).

“International Financial Institutions and Market Liberalization in the Developing World.” In

Carol Lancaster and Nicolas van de Walle, eds., *Oxford Handbook of the Politics of Development*. New York: Oxford University Press (2016). Online version (published July 2016): <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199845156.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199845156-e-20>

- “Organizational Culture” (with Catherine Weaver). In Jacob Katz Cogan, Ian Hurd, and Ian Johnstone, eds., *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**
- “Does Democracy Promote Capital Account Liberalization?” (with David A. Steinberg and Christoph Nguyen). Revise and resubmit
- “The Mass Political Economy of Capital Controls” (with David A. Steinberg).
- “Divergent Legalization in Global Economic Governance: Why Is Money So Different from Trade?” (with Karen J. Alter)

Other Publications

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, 2015.

“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 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, each year 2014-2016), the International Studies Association Annual Meeting (each year, 2011-2017), the International Political Economy Society (2010, 2011, 2016), the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (2007, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017), Annual Conference on the Political Economy of International Organizations (2012), Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2014, 2016), 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), 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, 2009-2017), 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)

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*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, *Journal of Politics*, *New Political Economy*, *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, National Science Foundation

Professional Affiliations and Service

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, spring 2015)

Political Science 101-6: Politics of Debt (seminar for first-year students, winter 2017)

Political Science 341: International Political Economy (undergraduate lecture, 2011-2013, 2015-2017).

Political Science 348: Globalization (undergraduate lecture, each year 2011-2015, 2017).

Political Science 375: Comparative Politics of Business-Government Relations (undergraduate seminar, winter 2012, winter 2013).

Political Science 390: Globalization in the Crosshairs (undergraduate seminar, fall 2009).

Political Science 441: International Political Economy (graduate seminar, 2010-2012, 2014-2015, 2017).

Political Science 442: International Organization (graduate seminar, 2013, 2016).

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: Brian Dempsey (in progress); Mauro Gilli (completed PhD in July 2015; post-doctoral fellow in 2015-16 at the Dickey Center, Dartmouth College, currently senior researcher at the Center for Security Studies, ETH-Zurich); 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; currently post-doctoral fellow at the Watson Institute, Brown University)

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

Arryman Fellows Faculty Mentor, 2017-18

Department, College, and University Service

Member of the Steering Committee for the Global Capitalism and Law Research Group, Buffett Institute at Northwestern University (2015 -)

Graduate Program Placement Director, Northwestern University Political Science Department (2017-18)

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 (2011-14)

International Studies Program Advisory Committee (2011-14)

Undergraduate Advisor for the Political Science Department (2011-13, 2016-17)

International Relations PhD Preliminary Exam reader (each year, 2011-2014)

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

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

Media Appearances

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
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