Kaitlin Alper

CONTACT INFORMATION

Danish Centre for Welfare Studies
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Inequality, poverty and comparative social policy; Comparative welfare state politics; Comparative political economy and the political economy of gender; Political economy of multilevel governance and decentralization; Regional, national and transnational identity

EMPLOYMENT

Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Assistant Professor, Jun. 2024-present
Postdoctoral Researcher, Jun. 2022-May 2024

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Ph.D. Political Science, May 2022

Concentrations: Comparative Politics and Methodology
Committee: John D. Stephens (Chair), Evelyne Huber, Liesbet Hooghe, Gary Marks, Herbert Obinger
Dissertation Book Project: "Regional Governance, Authority and Redistribution"

Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

M.Sc. Politics and Public Policy, Upper Second Class Honours, August 2015

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA

B.A. Political Science, Honors, and English, May 2014

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Danish Institute for Advanced Studies, Odense, Denmark

Visiting Fellow, Sep. 2024-Jun. 2025

Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany

Visiting Research Fellow, Oct.-Dec. 2021

Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Visiting Research Fellow, Sep. 2021

Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po, Paris, France

Visiting Research Fellow, May-Jul. 2021

Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany

Visiting Research Fellow, May-Jul. 2019

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Alper, Kaitlin, David Attewell and Andreas Jozwiak. 2026. Conditional Gender Gaps in Welfare State Support: The Role of Labor Market and Household Inequality. *European Journal of Political Research*. 1-20.
https://doi.org/10.1017/S1475676526101765

Alper, Kaitlin and Peter Starke. 2026. Insecurity and Policy Preferences: How Economic and Physical Threats Shape Attitudes Toward Social Welfare and Criminal Justice. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. 1–29.
https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2026.2724988

Alper, Kaitlin, Peter Starke and Queralt Tornafoch Chirveches. 2026. Nothing to Fear? Insecurity, Inequality, and the Welfare State. *Politics & Society*. 0(0).
https://doi.org/10.1177/00323292261458000

Alper, Kaitlin and Eroll Kuhn. 2026. Transnational Political Participation Among Dual Citizens. *Electoral Studies*. 101.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2026.103075

Alper, Kaitlin and Caroline Marie Lancaster. 2023. The Strength of Attachment: Regionalism, Nationalism and Vote Choice. *West European Politics*. 48(1):138-64.
https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2023.2253514

Alper, Kaitlin, Evelyne Huber and John D. Stephens. 2021. Poverty and Social Rights Among the Working Age Population in Post-Industrial Democracies. *Social Forces*. 99(4):1710-44.
https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soaa073

Book Chapters

Alper, Kaitlin. 2025. Contesting Jurisdiction: Social Policy Attributes and the Territorial Distribution of Competences in Federations. In *Inequality, Redistribution, and Federalism: A Territorial Approach*, ed. Olivier Jacques and Alain Noël. Montréal, QC: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Alper, Kaitlin, Peter Starke and Queralt Tornefoch Chirveches. 2024. Mapping unequal security across rich OECD countries. In *Unequal Security: Welfare, Crime and Social Inequality*, ed. Peter Starke, Laust Lund Elbek, and Georg Wenzelburger. New York, NY: Routledge.

Huber, Evelyne, John D. Stephens and **Kaitlin Alper**. 2019. The Varied Sources of Increasing Wage Dispersion. In *The European Social Model under Pressure - Liber Amicorum in Honour of Klaus Armingeon*, ed. Patrick Emmenegger, Nathalie Giger, and Romana Careja. New York, NY: Springer Publishing.

Under Review

"Decentralizing States, Decentralizing Protests: State Structure and the Spatial Organization of Contention"
(with Sean T. Norton)

Under review

"Consistent or Compartmentalized? The Political Belief Systems of Dual Citizens Across National Contexts
(with Eroll Kuhn)

Under review

"Language, Voting and Secession: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Catalonia
(with Queralt Tornafoch Chirveches)

Under review

"Linguistic Diversity, Political Trust and Preferences for (De)centralization: Experimental Evidence from Catalonia
(with Queralt Tornafoch Chirveches)

Under review

In Preparation

"Income Inequality and Redistribution in Multilevel Perspective"

"Cleavage Salience and the Territorial Distribution of Social Policy Competences"

"The Economic Impact of Public Transit Privatization"
(with Itay Machtei)

"Distributing Mobility: Partisanship and the Politics of Public Transit"

Awards and Scholarships

2026 Inge Lehmann Programme Grant, DFF (kr.3,599,567)

2023 RSA Early Career Research Grant, Regional Studies Association (£10,000)
Travel Grant, Université du Québec à Montréal

2021 Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship, UNC Graduate School ($10,000)
DaWS Early Career Grant, DaWS University of Southern Denmark (kr.20,000)
Lewin Fund Summer Fellowship, UNC Political Science ($4,300)

2020 DAAD Short-Term Research Grant, DAAD (€5,000, *cancelled due to COVID-19*)
Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Fellowship, UNC Political Science ($3,250)

2019 DAAD Travel Grant, Hertie School of Governance Berlin
JMCE EU Summer Research Award, Center for European Studies ($3,000)
BIGSSS-Departs Inbound Program Grant, BIGSSS Universität Bremen (€1,300)
Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Fellowship, UNC Political Science ($2,000)

2018 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for European Studies ($7,500)

2017 Thomas M. Ulhman Summer Fellowship, UNC Political Science ($2,000)
Whit Ayres Fund Travel Grant, UNC Political Science

2016 Summer Funding Award, UNC Political Science ($3,000, *recurring yearly*)

Original Data

Regional Political Economy and Social Policy Dataset
Socioeconomic variables, social expenditure and policy competences at the regional (subnational) level; 19 advanced industrial democracies, 1980-2020.
In preparation

Teaching Experience

University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Instructor, Sep. 2022-present
Globalization, Organization and the State (Fall 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026)
Denmark, Europe, and the World (Fall 2025 & 2026)
Methods III (Fall 2025 & 2026)
Research & Analysis for Journalists 2 (Spring 2025 & 2026)

Methods II (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025 & 2026)
The Politics of Multilevel Governance MA Course (Spring 2025)
Methods I (Fall 2022, 2023 & 2024)

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Instructor, Jan. 2022-May 2022
Introduction to European Government (Spring 2022)

University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Guest Lecturer
Political Economy of Gender, political science course (Dec. 2021)
Political Economy of Inequality and Redistribution, political science course (Nov. 2021)
Measurement Reliability and Validity, MA-level quantitative methods course (Sep. 2021)

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Instructor, Aug. 2019-Dec. 2020
Introduction to European Government (Fall 2019, Spring 2020 & Fall 2020)

Teaching Assistant, Aug. 2017-May 2019
Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2019)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2017 & Fall 2018)
American State and Local Government (Spring 2018)

Guest Lecturer
Gender and the Welfare State, upper-level sociology course (Spring 2018)

SUPERVISION

University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

1 MA thesis (Spring 2026)
2 MA theses (Spring 2023)

PRESENTATIONS

International Conference of Europeanists
University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland (Jun. 2026)

Workshop on Power, Politics and Welfare in the 21st Century
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Apr. 2026)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Philadelphia, PA, USA (Jul. 2025)

Regional Studies Association Annual Conference
University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (May 2025)

Linguatrust Workshop on Language, Democracy and Political Trust
Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain (Nov. 2024)

Danish Political Science Association Conference
Danish Policial Science Association, Nyborg, Denmark (Oct. 2024)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Lyon, France (Jul. 2024)

ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops: Cleavage Politics in Western Democracies
European Consortium for Political Research, Lüneburg, Germany (Mar. 2024)

Workshop on The Politics of Insecurity: Criminal Justice and Social Welfare in Insecure Times
NICC and DaWS, Brussels, Belgium (Mar. 2024)

Danish Political Science Association Conference
Danish Political Science Association, Nyborg, Denmark (Nov. 2023)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA, USA (Sep. 2023)

European Political Science Association Conference
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom (Jun. 2023)

Workshop on Federalism, Inequality and Redistribution
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, Canada (Apr. 2023)

DaWS Research Seminar
Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, Odense, Denmark (Mar. 2023)

Workshop on Researching Social Insecurity in Europe
Polytechnic University of Milan, Milan, Italy (Jan. 2023)

Danish Political Science Association Conference
Danish Political Science Association, Nyborg, Denmark (Oct. 2022)

Income Inequality in Post-Industrial Societies Workshop
Center for European Studies, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Oct. 2022)

Politics of Insecurity Project Workshop
Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, Odense, Denmark (Sep. 2022)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Lisbon, Portugal (Jun. 2022)

ECPR Joint Session on Territorial Inequalities
European Consortium for Political Research, Edinburgh, United Kingdom (Apr. 2022)

DaWS Research Seminar
Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, Odense, Denmark (Sep. 2021)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Virtual (Jun. 2021)

Methods and Design Workshop
UNC Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Feb. 2021)

UNC Comparative Politics Working Group
UNC Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Feb. 2021)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Reykjavik, Iceland (*accepted, cancelled due to COVID-19*)

Thomas M. Uhlman Seminar
UNC Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Feb. 2020)

BIGSSS Doctoral Colloquium Series
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany (Jul. 2019)

International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies, Madrid, Spain (Jun. 2019)

Varieties of Welfare Capitalism in Times of Socio-Economic Insecurity Workshop
Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany (May 2019)

Thomas M. Uhlman Seminar
UNC Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Feb. 2019)

EU COFUND BIGSSS Departs Poster Session
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany (Feb. 2018)

Thomas M. Uhlman Seminar
UNC Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (Feb. 2018)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teacher Training Program
University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark (Aug. 2025-present)

Workshop on Supervision: Roles and Relations
University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark (Mar. 2023)

Winter School on Researching Social Insecurity in Europe: Measures, Drivers, Policies
Polytechnic University of Milan, Milan, Italy (Jan. 2023)

Workshop on Automated Web Data Collection
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (Jan. 2020)

Writing and Development Workshop
Joint with BIGSSS and the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom (May 2019)

Democracy Under Pressure: Cleavages and Contestations Workshop
German Academy New York, New York, NY (Dec. 2018)

French Language Summer Course
Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier, Montpellier, France (Jun.-Jul. 2018)

LIS Cross-National Data Center Workshop
Université du Luxembourg, Belval, Luxembourg (Jun. 2017)

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Dr. John D. Stephens and Dr. Evelyne Huber, Aug. 2016-May 2022
Providing support for research on inequality, political economy and the welfare state
Leading a team of RA's in updating the Comparative Welfare States data set

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming:
R
Stata
LaTeX
Java
JavaScript
HTML

Languages:
English (native)
French (advanced)
Danish (intermediate)

METHODS TRAINING

Classical Regression Models; Generalized Linear Models; Panel Data Analysis; Comparative Historical Analysis; Multilevel Models; Structural Equation Models; Causal Mediation Analysis; Game Theory I & II; Factor Analysis; Web Scraping; Elite Interviews; Mixed Methods; Survey Experiments; Social Media Sampling Methods; Behavioral Economics Experiments

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Artificial Intelligence Task Force (Sep. 2024-present)
Methods Task Force (Jan. 2025-May 2026)
High School Outreach Workshop Leader: Parties and Parliaments (Ongoing)

Reviewer

West European Politics
Socio-Economic Review
Social Currents
Electoral Studies
European Journal of Political Research

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Comparative Subfield Representative, Department of Political Science (Aug. 2019-May 2020)
Graduate Social Chair, Department of Political Science (Aug. 2017-May 2019)

REFERENCES

Available upon request