

# Kaitlin Alper

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Danish Centre for Welfare Studies Department of Political Science and Public Management Syddansk Universitet Campusvej 55 DK-5230 Odense M	Email: <a href="mailto:kalp@sam.sdu.dk">kalp@sam.sdu.dk</a> Website: <a href="http://kaitlinalper.com">kaitlinalper.com</a> Updated: May 27, 2026
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	<i>Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark</i> Assistant Professor, Jun. 2024-present Postdoctoral Researcher, Jun. 2022-May 2024	
EDUCATION	<i>University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA</i> 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” <i>Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin, Dublin, Ireland</i> M.Sc. Politics and Public Policy, Upper Second Class Honours, August 2015 <i>University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA</i> B.A. Political Science, Honors, and English, May 2014	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<i>Danish Institute for Advanced Studies, Odense, Denmark</i> Visiting Fellow, Sep. 2024-Jun. 2025 <i>Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany</i> Visiting Research Fellow, Oct.-Dec. 2021 <i>Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark</i> Visiting Research Fellow, Sep. 2021 <i>Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po, Paris, France</i> Visiting Research Fellow, May-Jul. 2021 <i>Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany</i> Visiting Research Fellow, May-Jul. 2019	

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES **Alper, Kaitlin**, Peter Starke and Queralt Tornafoch Chirveches. *Forthcoming*. Nothing to Fear? Insecurity, Inequality, and the Welfare State. *Politics & Society*.

**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 “Conditional Gender Gaps in Welfare State Support: The Role of Labor Market and Household Inequality”  
(with David Attewell and Andreas Jozwiak)

*Revise & resubmit*

“Insecurity and Policy Preferences: How Economic and Physical Threats Shape Attitudes Toward Social Welfare and Criminal Justice”  
(with Peter Starke)

*Revise & resubmit*

“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. Uhlman 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  
Research & Analysis for Journalists 2 (Spring 2025, & Spring 2026)  
Methods II (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, & Spring 2026)  
Globalization, Organization and the State (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024 & Fall 2025)  
Denmark, Europe, and the World (Fall 2025)  
Methods III (Fall 2025)

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

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 Political 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

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

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  
                                         Methods Task Force (Jan. 2025-present)  
                                         Artificial Intelligence Task Force (Sep. 2024-present)  
                                         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