JAN-PAUL SANDMANN

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EDUCATION

2027 *expected* — Ph.D. **Harvard University**, Government, Political Theory

Dissertation: "Between Art and Politics: Thomas Mann and the Search for a Humane Society"

Committee: Eric Nelson (Chair), Peter Gordon, Samantha Matherne, Michael Rosen

Visiting Fellowships: Potsdam (2025, 2026-2027), Heidelberg (2024), Weimar (2024), FU Berlin (2024), LMU (2022)

2020 — M.Sc. **London School of Economics**, Philosophy of the Social Sciences (with *Distinction* and Andrea Mannu Prize)
Thesis: "Is Close Enough Precise Enough?" Supervisor: Alex Voorhoeve

2019 — B.Sc. **London School of Economics**, Government and Economics (*First*)
Thesis: "Populism and the Will of the People" Supervisor: Christian List

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS — Political Philosophy, especially "Liberalism and Its Critics"
AOC — German Social Thought, Aesthetic Theory, Philosophy of Social Science

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Publications

"Liberalismus romantisch und unromantisch: Thomas Mann und Richard Rorty zur Rolle der Kunst in der Gesellschaft." Forthcoming in *Nomos Staatsverständnisse*, *Thomas Manns moralisch-politischer Republikanismus*, ed. Jens Hacke and Reinhard Mehring.

"Caught Between Morality and Art: Susan Sontag on Metaphors of Illness." *Philosophy & Social Criticism* 52(8) (2026): 1202-1223.

"On Art and Liberalism: Thomas Mann and the Appeal of Ambiguity." *Politics & Poetics* 6 (2025): 119-149.

"The Promise of Art: Mann and Adorno on Wagner." *Almanach 2025*, Gesellschaft der Freunde von Bayreuth.

"Irrationality and Indecision." *Synthese* 201, no. 137 (2023): 1-20.
Featured on *Imperfect Cognitions*, July 2023.

Working Papers

The Art That Forges the Plural Self (under review)
Thomas Mann's Another Liberalism (under review)
Crisis of Culture: A Trilemma

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025–2026	Graduate Fellowship in Ethics, E&L Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
2020–2025	Theodore H. Ashford Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Harvard University
2024–2025	Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University
2024	Ethics Pedagogy Fellow, E&L Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
2023	George and Patricia White Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University
2022–2026	Graduate Affiliate, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University
2022	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education
2020	Andrea Mannu Prize for best performance on the M.Sc. in Philosophy of the Social Sciences, LSE
2018	LSE100 Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement
2016–2020	Scholarship of the German National Merit Foundation (*Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*)

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Teaching

2024, Summer	Meisterkurs on Michael Rosen's *The Shadow of God*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2023, Fall	Head Teaching Fellow for Peter Gordon, German Social Thought from Nietzsche to Habermas
2023, Spring	Teaching Fellow for Michael Rosen, Political Theory Field Seminar (taught to Ph.D. students in the Department of Government)
2022, 2023 Fall	Teaching Fellow for Eric Beerbohm, E&L Safra Center for Ethics Undergraduate Fellowship in Ethics Workshop
2022 Spring	Teaching Fellow for Arthur Applbaum, E&L Safra Center for Ethics Undergraduate Fellowship in Ethics Seminar (5.0/5.0 on all categories of the teaching evaluation)

Advising

AY 23/24	Advisor for a senior thesis (joint with Eric Beerbohm and Ned Hall) on free speech and intellectual vitality on campus, winner of a Hoopes Prize
	Advisor for a senior thesis comparing the political functions of popular music in South Korea and the United States

PRESENTATIONS

Comment on Elaine Chen's "Thomas Mann on Patriotism as the Love and Critique of Country"
Questions of Fascism and Democracy Lecture Series, Harvard CES, April 2026, recording available

Two Liberalisms
* American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2026
Harvard Political Theory Workshop, March 2026

Art as Polyphony
Harvard Political Theory Workshop, October 2025
Colloquium on the History of Philosophy, FU Berlin, June 2026

Caught Between Morality and Art: Susan Sontag on Metaphors of Illness
Colloquium on the History of Philosophy, FU Berlin, June 2025

Political Apolitics
* *Politics & Poetics* Conference, Oxford University, August 2024

Crisis of Culture: A Trilemma
* New England Political Science Association Meeting, April 2024

Irrationality and Indecision
* Formal Models of Democracy, Erasmus University Rotterdam, April 2022
Research Seminar in Decision and Action Theory, LMU, June 2022

On Democratic Legitimacy: Collective Representation
Harvard Political Theory Workshop, November 2021
* PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 2022

Populism and the Will of the People
* 12th Annual York University Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2021
* Political Studies Association Undergraduate Conference, April 2019

Incompletely Theorized Voting
* 13th Annual Princeton Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 2021
Harvard Political Theory Workshop, March 2021

* refereed

REFERENCES

Eric Nelson
Beren Professor of Government
Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows
Harvard University
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Peter Gordon
James Professor of History
Resident Faculty, CES
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Michael Rosen
Clark Professor of Ethics and Politics in Government
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Samantha Matherne
Professor of Philosophy
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LANGUAGES

Native/near-native	German, English
Proficient	French