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KAROLINE KALKE, PhD

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Autonomy, Critical Theory, Digitalisation, Emancipation, Environmental and Political Sociology, (Green) Political Theory, Resilience, Societal Transformation, Subject Theory.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since March 2025: Assistant Professor; IGN, WU Vienna

February 2024 to February 2025: Visiting Scholar, Centre for European Studies (ICES), European-University Flensburg

August 2021 to November 2021: Maternal Leave

October 2020 to February 2025: PhD Fellowship at Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Research Cluster Socio-Ecological Transformation)

January 2020 to September 2020 Research and Teaching Associate Research Associate at the Institute for Social Change and Sustainability, WU Vienna

Research Project: "Urban Experiments in Socio-Ecological Transformation"

January 2019 to December 2019 Research and Teaching Associate at the Institute for Social Change and Sustainability, WU Vienna

May 2018 to December 2018 Research Associate at the Institute for Social Change and Sustainability, WU Vienna

Research Project: "Centre for Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity"

EDUCATION

September 2025: PhD in Economic and Social Sciences (with distinction), WU Vienna.

Topic of thesis: Autonomy in Transformation. Eco-Political Hopes, Authoritarian Outcomes and the Digital Sphere (Thesis committee: Ingolfur Blühdorn, Stefanie Graefe and Erik Swyngedouw).

August 2017: Master of Science in Social Ecology (with distinction), Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Alpen Adria-University.

Topic of thesis: Nutrition Transition in Mumbai. A Practice-Theoretical Investigation of Changing Food Consumption in India's Urban Middle Class.

September 2014: Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Sciences, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder).

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming:** Demokratiesterben? Die liberale Demokratie und sozial-ökologische Transformation unter Druck. In: Brand, K.W. (Hg.): Die sozial-ökologische Transformation der Welt. Ein Handbuch. Campus: Frankfurt. (together with Haderer, Margaret).
- Forthcoming:** Suffizienz – erlebte Zumutung und umweltpolitische Chance. Wege aus der sozial-ökologischen Sackgasse. In: Arbeiterkammer Wien: Sozialpolitik in Diskussion. (together with Haderer, Margaret).
- 2025:** Autonomy in Transformation. Eco-Political Hopes, Authoritarian Outcomes and the Digital Sphere. WU Dissertation. <https://doi.org/10.48671/HSS.2025.AC17646416>.
- 2025:** The Metamorphosis of Autonomy in the Digital Sphere: Implications for the Eco-Emancipatory Project. European Journal for Social Theory, 13684310251330598. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13684310251330598>.
- 2024:** Can liberal democracies thrive with consumption limits? Barriers to implementing consumption corridors (together with Deflorian, Michael; Haderer, Margaret; Hausknost, Daniel). GAIA – *Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society* 33 (2), S. 243–249. <https://doi.org/10.14512/gaia.33.2.19>.
- 2024:** Eine Frage der Autonomie. Zur Notwendigkeit und Illusion der Selbstbegrenzung. Makronom (Debattenreihe „Grenzen“). <https://makronom.de/eine-frage-der-autonomie-45593>.
- 2022:** Klimaethik an den Grenzen realpolitischer Machbarkeit. Rezension zu „From Big Oil to Big Green. Holding the Oil Industry to Account for the Climate Crisis“ von Marco Grasso. Soziopolis: Gesellschaft beobachten. https://www.wu.ac.at/fileadmin/wu/d/i/ign/IGN_Interventions_Feb_2020.pdf.
- 2020:** Entgrenzte Freiheit. Demokratisierung im ökologischen Notstand? IGN-Interventions Febr/2020, INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSWANDEL UND NACHHALTIGKEIT (IGN), Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Austria, (together with Ingolfur Blühdorn). https://www.wu.ac.at/fileadmin/wu/d/i/ign/IGN_Interventions_Feb_2020.pdf.
- 2020:** Entrenzte Freiheit. Über Mündigkeit und die Agenda der Selbstbegrenzung. Soziopolis: Gesellschaft beobachten, (together with Ingolfur Blühdorn). <https://www.sozio.polis.de/beobachten/gesellschaft/artikel/entgrenzte-freiheit/>.
- 2019:** Befreiung aus der Mü(n)digkeit: Demokratische Krise, flüchtiges Subjekt und digitale Revolution. In: Ursula Baatz (Hg.): DEMOKRATIE! Zumutung oder Zukunft. Die Alternative zu Demokratie ist Demokratie: Doch wie soll sie aussehen?, S. 33-48, (together with Ingolfur Blühdorn).