

Dr. Gaard Kets

Assistant Professor of Political Theory

Radboud University Nijmegen

(October 2026)

EMPLOYMENT

Radboud University Nijmegen	Nijmegen
Assistant Professor of Political Theory	2021 - present
Member of Examination Board Political Science	2020 - present
Member of the Faculty co-determination board	2021 - present
Postdoctoral Researcher, Vive la Commune-project	2021 - 2024
Member of Junior Faculty Consortium, IMR	2017 - 2020
Member of Programme Committee Political Science	2018 - 2020
Programme Director, Master Programme, Radboud Honours Academy	2018 – 2019
Think Tank Supervisor, Master Programme, Radboud Honours Academy	2013 - 2021
 University Jaume I	 Castellón (ES)
Visiting Scholar	July 2023
 Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS)	 The Hague
Trainee, Strategic Consultancy, Department of Organisation, Personnel and Operational Management (OBP)	2014 - 2015
 Socialist Party	 Arnhem
Research Assistant to the States-Provincial Fraction	2013
 Radboud University Nijmegen	 Nijmegen
Student-assistant, Centre for Parliamentary History (CPG)	2009 - 2012
 Volonté Générale (journal)	 Nijmegen
Editor in Chief, co-founder	2011 - 2016

EDUCATION

Radboud University Nijmegen	Nijmegen
Master Political Science, Political Theory (cum laude)	2011 - 2012
Radboud Honours Academy, Master's Programme	2011 – 2012
Pre-master Political Science	2010 – 2011
Master History, Politics and Parliament	2009 - 2011

Bachelor History 2006 - 2009

Kommission für Geschichte des Parlamentarismus und der politischen Parteien, e.V. (KGParl) **Berlin**
Research Internship 2010

QUALIFICATIONS

Radboud University Nijmegen **Nijmegen**
UTQ (BKO) University Teaching Qualification 2023

TRAINING

Radboud University Nijmegen **Nijmegen**
UTQ (BKO) Courses: Education in a Nutshell, Individual Supervision 2016 - 2017

Concepta **Copenhagen**
Ph.D. Summer School, Introduction to Conceptual History 2015

TEACHING

COURSES

Radboud University Nijmegen **Nijmegen**
The Politics of Violence (M) 2026 - present
1 Lecture, 12 Seminars, co-taught with dr. Saskia Ruth-Lovell, 60 students
Just War Theory (M) 2024-2025
2 Lectures, 12 Seminars, co-taught with dr. Saskia Ruth-Lovell, 35 students
Urban Political Theory (M) 2024-2025
14 Seminars, co-taught with dr. Sixtine van Outrype, 17 students
Inleiding Politicologie 2023
Guest Lecture on Radical Democracy, 100+ students-
Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics of Research (M) 2021 – present
Seven lectures, seminars, and course coordination, 55-100+ students
Honours Lab: Towards a New Democracy, Radboud Honours Academy (M) 2021 – 2022
Supervision, together with prof. dr. Evert van der Zwerde, 20 students
Academische Vaardigheden (B1) 2019 – 2021
20 Seminars and mentorship (see individual supervision, below), 16 students
Contemporary Debates in Political Theory (M) 2020 – 2021
Ten seminars and course coordination, 12 students
History of Political Thought (International Pre-M Political Science) 2015 – 2021
Seven lectures and course coordination, 2-20 students

Power in Political Theory (M)	2019 – 2020
<i>One seminar (incidental stand in for prof. dr. Marcel Wissenburg), 20 students</i>	
Nederlandse Politiek in Vergelijkend Perspectief (B1)	2019 – 2020
<i>Lecture on Parliaments, 100+ students</i>	
Think Tank, Radboud Honours Academy (M)	2013 – 2019
<i>Supervision, seminars, lectures, 10 students. Mostly together with prof. dr. Evert van der Zweerde.</i>	
Geschiedenis van het Politieke Denken (B2 + Pre-M)	2015 – 2018
<i>Lecture on Fascism and Corporatism and response lectures, 100 students</i>	
Duitsland en Nederland in Historisch Perspectief (B elective)	2015 – 2016
<i>Lecture on 'Revolution and Reconstruction in Germany and the Netherlands', 35 students</i>	

INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION

Ph.D. Candidate Hadrian Widiyanto (with Dr. Angela Wigger, RU)	2025 – present
Ph.D. Candidate Luigia Tricase (with Dr. Alice Mattoni, UniBo Italy)	2023 – present
21 BA-Theses, first and second readership	2015 – present
12 MA-Theses, first and second readership	2020 – present
5 MA Internships	2021 – present
3 BA Internships	2023 – present
Mentorship of B1 students	2019 – 2021

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

Member of the Examination Board of Political Science	2019 – present
Programme Director of the Radboud Honours Academy MA Programme	2019 – 2020
Member of the Programme Committee of Political Science	2017 – 2019
Chair of the JOOP (Annual meeting to discuss Political Science programme with students and staff)	2019

ORGANISATION OF EDUCATION

Student Blog Page coordinator	2020 – 2025
Bachelor thesis coordinator	2020 – 2021
Internship coordinator	2018 – 2020
Labour Market and Alumni Coordinator	2018 – 2020

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP

Radboud University Nijmegen	Nijmegen
Member of the FOC, faculty co-determination board	2021 – present
Vice-chair of the FOC	2023 – present
Political Science Lunch Sessions, organizer	2018 – present

RESEARCH
ARTICLES

- Kets, G., Outryve, S. van, Sande, J.J.M. van de & Mérida, J. (2026). [Participación comunalista](#). In L. Del Prado & N. Castelnuovo Biraben (Eds.), *Glosario de Participación* (pp. 125-128). Buenos Aires: CLACSO.
- Kets, G., Van de Sande, M and Roth, L (2025), Le Communalisme comme répertoire démocratique, *Participations* 42 (2), 33-60. doi: [10.3917/parti.042.0033](#).
- van de Sande, M., & Kets, G. (2025). Towards an ecological understanding of revolution: The Paris Commune of 1871 and contemporary social movements. *Thesis Eleven*, 187(1), 186-203. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07255136241308891>
- Kets, G. & Mérida, J. (2025). Challenging the Threats of Democracy: Prefigurative Repertoires at the Local Level. *Recerca. Revista de Pensament i Anàlisi*, 30 (1), 1-16. doi: [10.6035/recerca.8583](#)
- Kets, G. & Ask Popp-Madsen, B. (2021). Three Conceptions of Council Democracy: Revolutionary Organs, Economic Institutions and Radical Democracy. *Polity*, 53(1), doi: [10.1086/711750](#).

SPECIAL ISSUE

- Kets, G. & Mérida, J. (eds.) (2025). *Recerca. Revista de Pensament i Anàlisi*, Democratic Repertoires of Prefigurative Politics at the Local Level, 30 (1)

BOOKS

- Kets, G. (2026). *Living Democracy. Workers' and Soldiers' Councils in the German Revolution of 1918-1919*. (Historical Materialism, 384). Leiden: Brill doi: [10.1163/9789004761872](#)
- Kets, G. and Van de Sande, M. (Eds.) (2025). *Communalism as a Democratic Repertoire. From the Paris Commune to the Present* (Advances in Democratic Theory) Routledge.
- Kets, G. (2021) *Follow the leader? Ideas and agents in the German Revolution of 1918–1919* (Dissertation, Radboud University Nijmegen).
- Kets, G. & Muldoon, J. (Eds.). (2019). *The German Revolution and Political Theory* (Marx, Engels, and Marxisms). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Van der Zweerde, E., G. Kets and M. van de Sande (2025), Introduction: Communalism as a Democratic Repertoire, in: G. Kets and M. van de Sande (Eds.), *Communalism as a Democratic Repertoire. From the Paris Commune to the Present* (Advances in Democratic Theory), Routledge.
- Kets, G. & Muldoon, J. (2019). The “Forgotten” German Revolution: A Conceptual Map. In G. Kets & J. Muldoon (Eds.), *The German Revolution and Political Theory* (Marx, Engels, and Marxisms) (pp. 1-22). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Kets, G. (2019). Working-Class Politics in the Bremen Council Republic. In G. Kets & J. Muldoon (Eds.), *The German Revolution and Political Theory* (Marx, Engels, and Marxisms) (pp. 91-111). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kets, G. (2019). Radikale Theorie und politische Praxis in der Bremer Räterepublik. In *Novemberrevolution und Räterepublik 1918/19: Bremen und Nordwestdeutschland zwischen Kriegsende und Neuanfang* (pp. 116-125). Bremen: Bremische Bürgerschaft, Staatsarchiv Bremen.
- Kets, G. & Muldoon, J. (2018). Rediscovering the Hamburg Workers' and Soldiers' Councils. In J. Muldoon (Ed.), *Council Democracy: Towards a Democratic Socialist Politics* (Routledge Advances in Democratic Theory) (pp. 51-70). London: Routledge.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Kets, G. (2025). Recensie: Wouter Linmans, *Revolutiekoores. Onrust en oproer in November 1918*. Amsterdam (Athenaeum-Polak & Van Genne, 2024). *TSEG - The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History Vol. 23*, No.3.
- Kets, G. (2023). Recensie: Bram Mellink and Merijn Oudenampsen, *Neoliberalisme. Een Nederlandse Geschiedenis* (Amsterdam: Boom, 2022). *BMGN*.
- Kets, G. (2019). Recensie: Rob Hartmans, *De revolutie die niet doorging. De tragedie van Troelstra, november 1918* [Book review Rob Hartmans, *De revolutie die niet doorging. De tragedie van Troelstra, november 1918*]. *De Moderne Tijd*, 3(2), 180-181.
- Kets, G. (2016). Recensie: Bas Leijssenaar, Judith Martens, Evert van der Zweerde, *Futures of Democracy* (Nijmegen & Eindhoven: Wilde Raven, 2014) [Book review *Futures of Democracy*]. *Critical Studies*, 2, 122-125.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- M. van de Sande & G. Kets (2026), 'The many meanings of the Commune', *Democratic Modernity* (2), pp.
- Kets, G. & Mathijs van de Sande (2026) (guest editors in chief), *Jacobin Nederland – Vive la Commune* (Vol. 4).
- Kets, G. (2025), Hoop voor het Hoger Onderwijs, in: Ewout van den Berg, Lisa Berntsen en Saskia Boumans (eds.), *Hoger Onderwijs in Verzet. Documentatie van de actiebeweging tegen de bezuinigingen 2024-2025*, pp. 55-59.
- Kets, G. and Mathijs van de Sande (2021), [From the Commune to Communalism](#), *Red Pepper*.
- Kets, G., (2017) 'Blijvend in de schaduw van Rusland? Hoe de 'Grootste Revolutie' in Duitsland verdrongen raakte in de geschiedschrijving en herinneringscultuur', *Liberale Reflecties*, 58 (2), 31-43.
- Kets, G., 'Communist of ambtenaar? Johan Wilman (1921-2009)', in: Jeroen Pepers en Davied van Berlo (ed.) *Ambtenaren! 200 jaar werken aan Nederland in 100 portretten* (Den Haag 2015), pp. 146-147.
- Kets, G., 'Infiltreren bij de Maagdenhuisbezetting. Peter IJzerman (1944)', in: Jeroen Pepers en Davied van Berlo (ed.) *Ambtenaren! 200 jaar werken aan Nederland in 100 portretten* (Den Haag 2015), pp. 170-171.

- Kets, G., ‘Slachtoffer van terrorisme. Arie Kranenburg (1931-1977)’, in: Jeroen Pepers en Davied van Berlo (ed.) *Ambtenaren! 200 jaar werken aan Nederland in 100 portretten* (Den Haag 2015), pp. 186-187.
- ‘On the way to a new dialogue. A policy advice on the European Commission’s dialogue with religious, philosophical and non-confessional organisations’, in: Radboud Honours Academy (ed.), *One European political identity? Reflections on science 2011-2012* (Nijmegen 2012) 13-33.
- Kets, G., *Parlement: Ideaal en Werkelijkheid. Parlements hervorming in Nederland en Duitsland in de jaren zestig* (Jonge historici schrijven geschiedenis 56; Amsterdam 2012).

GRANTS & PRIZES

- Microgrant Hotspot Sustainable Democracy, 2025
- AHRC Research Grant - The Climate Crisis and Democratic Reform - AH/Y00132X/1, with Dr. James Muldoon (Uni Essex) and Dr. Mathijs van de Sande (RU), 2024-2026.
- Postdoctoral Research Grant, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, project *Vive la Commune!*, 2021-2024.
- Nominated for the Radboud Young Academy Recognition and Rewards Prize, 2023.
- Nominated for the ECPR Jean Blondel Best Thesis Prize, 2022.

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Conferences and Talks

- 6 October 2025: Discussion with Lisa Herzog about ‘Democracy in Politics, Hierarchy at Work?’, with Radboud Reflects and Hotspot Sustainable Democracy at LUX, Nijmegen.
- 24-25 September 2025: Paper presentation ‘Council Democracy and Radical Municipalism: Bringing Class Politics back into Contemporary Communalism’ at the workshop *The Politics of Radical Municipalism* (online).
- 3-6 September 2025: Paper presentation with Tjebbe Tempels on Workplace Democracy and Climate Change, at MANCEPT, Manchester, UK.
- 26 June 2025: Presentation of Communalist Democracy at Socialist Party Nijmegen.
- 25 March 2025: Panel Discussion on Resistance against the Budget Cuts on higher Education at De Burcht, Wetenschappelijk Bureau van de Vakbeweging, Amsterdam.
- 28 February 2025: Invited talk *Solidarity in Communalist Politics* at ‘Solidarity in Action’ symposium, Radboud University Nijmegen.
- 28 February 2025: Panel discussion about *Solidarity in Academic Practices* at ‘Solidarity in Action’ symposium, Radboud University.
- 20 January 2025: Invited talk at a panel on worker cooperations at Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam.

- 9 January 2025: Presentation of paper: *Communalist Politics in Revolutionary Germany, 1918-1919* at “The Pasts, Presents and Futures of Communalism”.
- November Malieveld
- 16 March 2024: Talk at InScience Film Festival about limitarianism, based on the film ‘A guide to love and fighting capitalism’.
- 3 November 2023: Interview with professor Lea Ypi (LSE) on Freedom and Democracy, organized by the Radboud University Hotspot for Sustainable Democracy.
- 20 July 2023: Presentation of paper ‘From the Commune to the Councils. Reconstructing the Communalist Repertoire in the German Revolution of 1918.’ At UJI, Castellón.
- 9 June 2023: Invited talk at conference *Power and Counterpower in Democracy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* in The Hague (Leiden University), on ‘Institutionalizing Revolution or Revolutionizing Institutions? Councils and Parliaments in the German Revolution of 1918-1919.’
- 26 – 27 May 2023: Expert Meeting: *The Paris Commune and the Council Movement*. Organisation and Presentation.
- 11 May 2023: Workshop *Communalism and Democratic Innovations*, for citizens of Nijmegen, at the Council Hall of Municipality Nijmegen. The workshop was part of the celebrations of 100 year Radboud University Nijmegen.
- 18 April 2023: Invited talk at workshop “Expanding the Canon: Political ideas from Non-professional Thinkers” at Sciences Po (CEVIPOF) in Paris.
- 2-4 February: Panel on ‘Democratic repertoires of prefigurative politics at a local level’ at the *XXI Semana de Ética y Filosofía Política* that took place at University Jaume I. Organisation and presentation.
- 25 January 2023: Presentation on *Communalism, Distributed Leadership and Messy institutions*, with dr. Mathijs van de Sande at the Radboud University Hotspot for Sustainable Democracy.
- 19-20 December 2022: Presentation of ‘Working on Change: Workplace Democracy and Corporate Social Responsibility in Times of Climate Catastrophe’ with dr. Tjebbe Tempels at the *Changing Businesses for Good* Conference in Amsterdam (UvA).
- 18 November 2022: Presentation on *Pariser Kommune, Deutsche Revolution und Rätedemokratie*, in Münster. Public talk for the Münsterliste. Report here.
- 15 November 2022: Presentation at Workshop “Räte und Räterepubliken in der Demokratiegeschichte”, [Gesellschaft zur Erforschung der Demokratie-Geschichte](#) and the project *Orte der Demokratiegeschichte* (Places of the History of Democracy).
- 22 September 2022: Lecture and workshop on communalism at Grondfest Festival, Nijmegen.
- 7 - 9 April 2022: Presented “The Commune and the councils: the communalist repertoire in the German Revolution of 1918-1919” at the International Conference on the History of Concepts, Berlin.

- 8 March 2022: Presentation at the Nijmegen Political Philosophy Workshop
- 19 January 2019: Moderator at the [Radboud Reflects](#) night about Black '47. ([podcast](#))
- 1 November 2018: Conference in Bremen: [Novemberrevolution und Räterepublik 1918/19](#).
 - Presented my paper on *Radikale Theorie und politische Praxis in der Bremer Räterepublik*.
- 23 August 2018: [ECPR General Conference in Hamburg](#), panel on History and Theory of Council Democracy.
 - Presented paper on Council communism and the Bremen Council Republic.
- 24 May 2018: Conference in Exeter on [The German Revolution and the Radical Democratic Imaginary](#).
 - Presented my research on the Bremen Council Republic.
- 14 May 2018: 2nd Annual Radboud-Leibniz Political Science PhD-Workshop in Hannover.
- 9 and 11 November 2017: Moderator at InScience Film Festival.
 - Interview with Evert van der Zweerde on [Le Jeune Karl Marx](#).
 - Moderator for [The Testament](#).
- 15 September 2017: [DIA Graduiertenkolleg – Kommunismus als Weltgeschichte](#)
 - Presented a paper on the Workers' and Soldiers' Council in Hamburg
- 20-21 June 2017: 1st Annual Radboud-Leibniz Political Science PhD-Workshop in Nijmegen.
 - Presented my research.
- 1-2 June 2017: Politicologenetmaal in Leiden
 - Presented a paper on council communism in a panel on Economic Democracy.
- 27-28 October 2016: Research Seminar RSPH in Münster on German-Dutch relations
 - Presented a paper on the history of the concept 'council' in council communism.
- 25-26 August 2016: [OZSW Summer Seminar 'Coming to Terms With Power'](#)
- 10-13 July 2016: [Graduate Conference ECPR in Tartu](#)
 - Presented a draft paper on the history of the concept 'council' in council communism.
 - Chaired a panel in the Political Theory section on Conceptual Changes.
- 2 June 2016: [Alternatives to parliamentary democracy in Europe](#)
 - Presented a draft paper on the history of the council concept.

- 9-21 June 2015: [Summer School CONCEPTA](#)