

# Petr Špecián

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## Personal Profile

My current research focuses on epistemic democratization, and I am increasingly fascinated by the potential of large language models to revolutionize epistemic institutions. Additionally, I have a strong interest in political epistemology and democratic theory. My book *Behavioral Political Economy and Democratic Theory: Fortifying Democracy for the Digital Age* (Routledge, 2022) draws on my background in economics and philosophy. I teach courses in applied philosophy and economic theory.

## Research and Teaching Experience

- Feb.-July 2021 Department of Philosophy, *Central European University*, Austria. Visiting scholar.
- May 2019 Institute of Economics, Finance, and Management, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow*, Poland. Erasmus+ teaching mobility.
- April 2019 Faculty of Economics, *University of Porto*, Portugal. Erasmus+ teaching mobility.
- Aug.-Sept. 2014 Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences (TINT), *University of Helsinki*, Finland. Visiting scholar.
- Aug.-Sept. 2013 Department of Economics, *George Mason University*, USA. Visiting scholar.
- 2013- Assistant Professor, *Prague University of Economics and Business*; Faculty of Economics
- 2013- Assistant Professor, *Charles University*; Faculty of Humanities

## Recent Publications

- Špecián, P. (2022). The Myth of the Victim Public. Democracy contra Disinformation. *Filozofia*, 77(10), 791–803. <https://doi.org/10.31577/filozofia.2022.77.10.4>
- Špecián, P. (2022). Democracy and Anthropic Risk. In J. Mendes, I. Ponce de Leão, O. Bertolami, M. do C. Mendes, R. P. Mendes, & C. D. Gonçalves (Ed.), *Green Marbel 2022. Studies on the Anthropocene and Ecocriticism* (s. 215–226). INFASST. Institute for Anthropocene Studies. <https://doi.org/10.21814/1822.81362>
- Špecián, P. (2022) *Behavioral political economy and democratic theory: fortifying democracy for the digital age*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Špecián, P. (2022) ‘Epistemology and the Pandemic: Lessons from an Epistemic Crisis’, *Social Epistemology*, 36(2), pp. 167–179. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2021.2009931>
- Špecián, P. (2022) ‘Shall Justice Prevail? Reforming the Epistemic Basic Structure in a Non-Ideal World’, *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*, 11(8), pp. 75–83.
- Špecián, P. and Hudík, M. (2021) ‘O expertech a lidech: spásitelské lhaní v časech pandémie [Of Experts and Men: White Lies in the Times of a Pandemic]’, in *Dedičstvo koronakrízy: Ako lepšie zvládnuť ďalšiu pandémieu*. Bratislava: INESS, pp. 53-74.
- Špecián, P. (2019) ‘Phenomenological Perspectives on Economics: Schütz versus Düppe’, *Horizon: Studies in Phenomenology*, 8(2), pp. 613–631. <https://doi.org/10.21638/2226-5260-2019-8-2-613-631>
- Špecián, P. (2019) ‘The Precarious Case of the True Preferences’, *Society*, 56(3), pp. 267–272. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-019-00363-8>
- Špecián, P. (2017) ‘Ekonomická analýza referenda [Economic Analysis of a Referendum]’, *Politická ekonomie*, 65(4), pp. 460–475. <https://doi.org/10.18267/j.polek.1155>

## Research Projects

- 2020–22 Project *Perspectives of Paternalism in a Democratic Society: Lessons from Behavioral Sciences for Political Philosophy*. The Czech Science Foundation (GACR). Principal investigator.
- 2021–22 *Media and the Selection of Experts*. IREF – Institute for Research in Economic and Fiscal Issues.

## Recent Talks

- Talk "Science and Trust in the Digital Age" (October 22, 2022). *Scientific Knowledge and Its Public Understanding: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* conference, Sevilla.
- Guest lecture "Democracy in the Digital Age" (October 13, 2022). Center for Theoretical Study of the Czech Academy of Science, Prague.
- Talk "The Specter of Political Irrationality and the Anti-Psychological State" (August 19, 2022). *Truth and Politics: A Political Epistemology Conference*, Bamberg.
- Talk "Democracy and Anthropic Risk" (July 2, 2022). Panel "Risks in the Anthropocene" at the conference *Green Marble 2022*, Porto.
- Talk "Economists in the Democratic Discourse" (June 25, 2021). *5th International Economic Philosophy Conference*, online.
- Talk "Fake News and the Victim Narrative" (March 7, 2021). *ENPOSS/ANPOSS/POSS-RT 2021 Joint Conference*, online.
- Talk "Economists in the Democratic Discourse: Between Elitism and Egalitarianism" (June 20, 2021). *11th MetaLawEcon Workshop*, online.
- Talk "The Will to Believe: Demand for Bullshit in a Post-Truth World" (November 29, 2019). Conference *CaL2019: Cognition and Lying*, Brno.
- Talk "Thou Shalt Not Nudge: Towards an Anti-Psychological State" (August 21, 2019). *14th Conference of the International Network for Economic Method*, Helsinki.

## Membership in International Organizations and Research Groups

- 2019-2022 International Network for Economic Method (INEM)
- 2020-2022 European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences (ENPOSS)
- 2022 American Philosophical Association (APA)
- 2023- Head of the [\*AI Institutional Transformation Research Group\*](#)
- 2023- Member of [\*Technology and Sustainable Development Research Group\*](#)

## Teaching

- Charles University*: Applied Economic Reasoning; Behavioral Economics; Public Economics; Philosophical Problems of Economics
- Prague University of Economics and Business*: Introduction to Philosophy; Intermediate Microeconomics; Public Economics; Political Economy and Philosophy

## Education

- 2010–2013 Prague University of Economics and Business; Faculty of Economics  
Ph.D. in Economic Theory  
Thesis Title: *Phenomenology and Economics* (supervisor: Ján Pavlík)
- 2011–2011 Charles University; Faculty of Humanities  
BA in Liberal Arts and Humanities (with honors)
- 2007–2009 Prague University of Economics and Business; Faculty of International Relations  
MA in International Trade (with honors)
- 2004–2007 Prague University of Economics and Business; Faculty of International Relations  
BA in International Trade