

Craig Calhoun is University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. He has worked most of his life to advance interdisciplinary social science and shape social transformations for the better.

Prior to coming to ASU, Calhoun served as Director and President of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and President of the Berggruen Institute where he remains a Senior Advisor, overseeing the Berggruen Prize in Philosophy and Culture. He was previously President of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the University Center for International Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, and founder and Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at NYU. In addition to LSE, NYU, and UNC, he has been a professor at Columbia University and the University of Oslo and a visiting professor in Bristol, Paris, Berlin, Khartoum, Asmara, and Beijing.

Calhoun grew up mostly in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and California, the son of a somewhat itinerant Protestant minister. He thinks an early need to understand different social settings shaped his vocation for social science. So did the 1960s and 70s. See [\(link to "My Back Pages"\)](#). He left high school early for the Resident Honors Program at USC, then did degrees at Columbia, Manchester, and Oxford Universities, studying anthropology, sociology, political philosophy, and modern social and economic history. He made his career primarily in sociology, but always within an interdisciplinary context.

As a social theorist and historical and comparative sociologist, Calhoun has studied and written about democracy and social movements, the future of knowledge institutions, the shifting nature of capitalism and globalization, the future of place-based communities, the transformation of work and indeed of the human itself, and other social issues raised by new technologies, and the creativity, solidarity, and determination needed to achieve just and sustainable futures. He has done both historical and contemporary research in Britain, France, the US, China, and the Horn of Africa.

Calhoun's most recent book, *Degenerations of Democracy* (with Charles Taylor and Dilip Gaonkar), was published by Harvard University Press in 2022. He is the author or co-author of 9 books, editor/co-editor of another 23, and has published more than 70 refereed journal articles and 100 book chapters that address culture, social movements, education, communication, religion, nationalism, the impact of technology, capitalism and globalization, critical theory and philosophy, and contemporary and historical empirical research. His work has been widely reprinted in anthologies and translated into 21 languages. Calhoun has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the American Philosophical Society, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an Einstein Fellow by the City of Berlin and President of the International Institute of Sociology. He has received honorary doctorates from La Trobe University in Melbourne and the

Erasmus University in Rotterdam, and been awarded the Sigillum Magnum of the University of Bologna.

He served on the board of the Mastercard Foundation, one of the largest foundations in the world and dedicated to the future of Africa, from 2014-2024. He is currently serving as President of the Board of Reset Dialogues US, an organization dedicated to promoting cultural and religious pluralism, research and the advancement of human rights and democracy in different civilizational environments, and also sits on the boards of the Center for Transcultural Studies and the Pulaski Institution.

At ASU, Calhoun holds concurrent appointments in the School of Politics and Global Studies, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, the School of Public Affairs, the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, the School of Sustainability, and the School of Arts, Media and Engineering. He is a faculty affiliate of the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, and President of the Advisory Board of The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies.