Institute for World Society Studies

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## Imprint

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Introduction

Founded in 2000, the Institute for World Society Studies at Bielefeld University’s Faculty of Sociology is an interdisciplinary research center seeking to contribute to the understanding of the formation and development of world society. The Institute encourages research on a wide range of topics in global and transnational studies.

The Institute has pursued research, research training, outreach and networking activities on a range of issues in the broad thematic fields of globalization, transnationalization and international relations, often from the perspective of sociological theories of world society. Research at the Institute is open to a broad range of theoretical and methodological approaches, ranging from discourse theories and analysis to quantitative approaches and including modern systems theory and sociological neo-institutionalism. The Institute’s emphasis on strong theoretical foundations serves as one of its hallmarks in an international research environment.

In the still developing field of globalization research, the distinctive feature of the work carried out at the Institute for World Society Studies lies in combining empirical investigation with theoretical analysis. To remain a source of theoretical innovation, the Institute encourages international and interdisciplinary orientation in a broad range of activities. Past and current interdisciplinary projects include, for example, cooperation between history, political science and sociology (‘Transnational political spaces’), between political science and geography (‘Geopolitical images of aid organizations’), between sociology, law and spatial planning (‘Human Rights'; 'FLOOR’), between sociology, law and political science (‘Understanding Southern Welfare. Ideational and historical foundations of social policies in Brazil, India, China and South Africa, ZiF Research Group) and between sociology, economy and history (‘In search of the global labour market. Actors, structures and policies’, ZiF Research Group).

The Institute’s activities have been oriented towards fostering intellectual exchange and excellent research output regarding publications and research training. This includes individual and collective research projects, with or without third party-funding, conferences and workshops, colloquia and seminars. In addition to its role as an active research institute, the Institute for World Society Studies also serves as a thematic focus point for a range of
doctoral dissertations and post-doc research projects. A major current result of these activities is the DFG funded Research Training Group “World Politics” (GK 2225), which, starting in 2017, has already established itself as an important new focal point of academic activities and intellectual exchange within the Institute.

In the future, the Institute will build on and extend the interdisciplinary character of its work by exploring possibilities for the development of larger collaborative projects. In the coming years, the executive board is planning to put a particular emphasis on collaboration between sociology of world society, international relations and global history studies. The collaboration has started with a series of workshops, titled “World society and its history”, which are organized by Mathias Albert and Tobias Werron between June 2018 and summer 2019. Simultaneously, we are preparing a proposal for a Research Group at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research to explore the potential of this topic for larger collaborative projects with a number of nationally and internationally renowned scholars from all three disciplines.
Directors

Mathias Albert
Mathias Albert is Professor of Political Science at the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University. He works on various aspects of international relations and world society theory. He is currently leading principle investigator for the Research Training Group (GK 2225) ‘World Politics’ and principle investigator on a project of the history of military force comparisons. A more recent research interest pertains to the politics of the polar regions. In addition, he is also active in research on youth (Shell youth studies). Recent books include A Theory of World Politics (Cambridge University Press 2016), Zur Politik der Weltgesellschaft (ed. with Nicole Deitelhoff and Gunther Hellmann, Springer 2018), and The Politics of International Political Theory (ed. with Ariella Lang, Palgrave, forthcoming 2018).

Ulrike Davy
Ulrike Davy is professor for constitutional and administrative law, German and international social law, and comparative law at the Faculty of Law of Bielefeld University. Additionally, she is member of the University Council of Bielefeld University, principle investigator in the Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 1288 Practices of Comparison, principle investigator in the Research Training Group (GK 2225) ‘World Politics’, and principle investigator in the NRW Forschungskolleg Herausforderungen und Chancen globaler Flüchtlingsmigration für die Gesundheitsversorgung in Deutschland. Ulrike’s research concentrates on migration and refugee law, history and theory of the welfare state, European social policy, and universal human rights law, in particular, social rights and the right to equality and non-discrimination. Recent publications: How Human Rights Shape Social Citizenship. Washington University Global Studies Law Review 2014, 201–263; Sozialpolitik der Union. In: Niedobitek, Matthias (Ed.): Die Politiken der Union, 2014, 775–916; Der „Universalismus“ der Allgemeinen Erklärung der Menschenrechte – die Arbeit am Konsens, 1945–1948. In: Heintz, Bettina, and Leisering, Britta (Eds.): Menschenrechte in der Weltgesellschaft, 2015, 198–235; Sicherung des Lebensunterhalts durch das AsylbLG – ein Verfassungsproblem! In: Beichel-Benedetti, Stephan, and Janda, Constanze (Eds.): Festschrift für Klaus Barwig, 2018, 133–152.
Alexandra Kaasch

Alexandra Kaasch is Junior Professor in Transnational Social Policy at the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University. Her research interests are in the fields of comparative and global social policy and governance. She is principle investigator in the Research Training Group (GK 2225) ‘World Politics’, co-editor of the journal ‘Global Social Policy’ and the book series ‘Research in Comparative and Global Social Policy’. Among her most important publications are Actors and Agency in Global Social Governance (2015, co-edited with Kerstin Martens, Oxford University Press), Shaping Global Health Policy (2015, Palgrave Macmillan), and Transformations in Global and Regional Social Policy (2014, co-edited with Paul Stubbs).

Ralf Rapior

Working as an instructor in political sociology and political science at Bielefeld University, Ralf Rapior is currently completing his dissertation project “Between Empires and World Society - Global Dynamics of Political Modernization”. The project seeks to understand the social requirements for and processes of the formation of a specialized and autonomous political sphere in modernity from the vantage point of a postcolonial and global historical sociology. Therefore, it rejects the predominant Eurocentric methodologies in the field of sociological modernization and globalization studies, focusing instead on global interrelations, entangled histories and imperial expansion as frames of reference and prime movers for the making of modern politics.

Along this line of research, Ralf is also devoted to two subsequent projects: elaborating on a sociological or more precisely societal theory of empires, as well as the development of ways and means to meet actual postcolonial and global historical challenges of Eurocentric resp. “Western” sociological knowledge and methodologies in/with World Society Studies. His main research interests lie in the fields of World Society and Globalization Studies, (Global) Historical Sociology of (World) Societies, Empires and States, Sociological Theory and Postcolonial Sociology, (Global) Political Sociology.

Publications in the field of World Society Studies are “Globalisierung der Funktionssysteme” (Soziale Systeme 17, 2011), a review article which reflects on the cur-
rent state of understanding the globalization of world society, and “Expansion und Ausdifferenzierung der Weltgesellschaft. Neue Perspektiven aus der postkolonialen und globalhistorischen Forschung” (to be published in “Globale Beobachtungs- und Vergleichspraktiken” edited by H. Benanni, M. Bühler, S. Cramer, A. Glauser), a research article which combines contemporary postcolonial and global historical thought with World Society Studies.

Tobias Werron

Tobias Werron is Professor of Sociological Theory at the Faculty of Sociology of Bielefeld University. His main current areas of research are globalization and world society theory, sociology of competition, media sociology, and the sociology of sport. He is currently working on two books: one about the sociology of competition and another about the new “nationalism in a historical-sociological perspective. Recent publications in the area of world society studies include the article book From Globalization to World Society (2014, ed. together with Boris Holzer and Fatima Kastner) and the articles Violent Conflicts. Armed Conflicts and Global Competition for Attention and Legitimacy (International Journal for Politics, Culture and Society, Online First, 2017, together with Teresa Koloma Beck), Worum konkurrieren Nationalstaaten? Zu Begriff und Geschichte der Konkurrenz um ‘weiche’ globale Güter (Zeitschrift für Soziologie 41, 2012, 338–355; awarded with the 2nd price by the “Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für sozialwissenschaftliche Aufsätze”, 2012); Schlüsselprobleme der Globalisierungs- und Weltgesellschaftstheorie (Soziologische Revue 35, 2012, 99–218), and Wie ist Globalisierung möglich? Zur Entstehung globaler Vergleichshorizonte am Beispiel von Wissenschaft und Sport (Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie 41, 2011, 359–394, together with Bettina Heintz).
Research Projects

- Between Stability and Transformation: Regional and Transnational Cooperation in Central Asia and between Central Asia and Europe – A Research-Based Professionalization Project
- Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Germany. Strategies – Processes – Consequences
- Comparing Forces and the Forces of Comparison: Comparisons of military forces as comparisons of power in the international system from the eighteenth to twentieth century
- The discursive construction of conflict and international organizational decision-making processes between normative frameworks of peacebuilding and securitization – the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)
- Expatriate Managers: A New Cosmopolitan Elite? Habitus, Everyday Practices, and Networks
- Global Perceptions of Inequality in World Society
- „Going Global“ or „Short-Term Adventures“? The Conditions and Consequences of the Globalization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- How ‘social’ is Turkey?. Turkey’s social security system in a European context
- Opus Magnum, A Theory of World Politics
- Order in diversity: Practices of comparing in cross-cultural jurisprudence (17th–19th centuries)
- Outlawing racial discrimination – Making practices of comparison illegitimate
- Polar (Geo-)Politics: How does Global Environmental Change (GEC) cause a transformation of political relationships between and within the circumpolar Argentina, Canada, Chile and the U.S.?
- Social Security as a Human Right. The Global Construction and Diffusion of Civic Minima (FLOOR = Financial Assistance, Land Policy, and Global Social Rights)
- UNRISD New Directions in Social Policy: Transnational Social Policy Development: The Case of Indonesia
Between Stability and Transformation: Regional and Transnational Cooperation in Central Asia and between Central Asia and Europe – A Research-Based Professionalization Project

**Funded by:**
Volkswagen Foundation

**Project leaders:**
Prof. Dr. Andreas Vasilache  
Dr. Chiara Pierobon

**Project Duration:**
2017–2019

**Project Description:**
The project builds on the recently completed project “Exploring Patterns of Regional and Interregional Cooperation” and is directed by Andreas Vasilache and Chiara Pierobon, both Bielefeld University, in cooperation with TU Dortmund University, German-Kazakh University (DKU) in Almaty/Kazakhstan, OSCE Academy Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan, and University of Central Asia/Aga Khan Foundation, Dushanbe/Tajikistan. It addresses the academic successor generation of Central Asian scholars and aims at their further qualification through a specific “professionalization-through-research”-approach. More precisely, the project focuses on strengthening research capacities in Central Asia through research-oriented professionalization and training measures in the field of regional and inter-regional studies. The thematic emphasis lies on the simultaneity and tensions between transformation and stability patterns in the region and on the interrelation between institutional structures and societal initiatives and dynamics.

The following interrelated conference activities are planned during the project: 1.) an international summer school at OSCE Academy in Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan, 2.) a seminar-series of three succeeding training seminars/workshops at the German-Kazakh University (DKU) in Almaty/Kazakhstan, and 3.) an international conference at University of Central Asia in Dushanbe/Tajikistan.

The research activities conducted at Bielefeld University deal with the examination of the stability-transformation continuum looking at civil societal dynamics and the contribution of international actors to the empowerment of civil society in Central Asia. At the one hand, by employing an interregional perspective, the study analyzes the influence exercised by the European Union in strengthening the non-profit sector by evaluating the extent to
which its support fosters sustainable development in the target region. On the other hand, by employing a regional lens, the project analyzes state-civil society relations in a comparative way. In particular, it is concerned with similarities and divergences in the ways in which Central Asian regimes are engaged in preserving their stability through the establishment of more or less conducive environment for the development of the non-profit sector.

Publications:


9 — Research Projects


Research Projects — 10

Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Germany. Strategies – Processes – Consequences

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Project Coordinator:
Prof. Dr. Ursula Mense-Petermann

Members of the Project Team:
Christoph Seidel
Junchen Yan

Project Duration:
2016–2018

Project Description:
Beginning with the opening up of the Chinese economy in the 1970s, Chinese foreign direct investments (FDI) have steadily been rising. During the past decade, however, China’s FDI have developed extraordinary dynamically and Chinese investments have become one of the largest sources of FDI in emerging economies. Nowadays, the advanced industrialized economies of the West increasingly become targets of Chinese FDI, too. Chinese firms do not see themselves as extended workbenches for MNCs from the USA, Western Europe and Japan anymore. Many of them – state-owned enterprises as well as private-owned enterprises – have become ‘global players’ themselves and their globalization strategies drive Chinese FDI to ever higher levels.

The largest proportion of Chinese FDI in Europe goes to Germany. In Germany, Chinese FDI mostly targets the mechanical engineering and automotive supply industry. Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) are regarded as the most suitable means to acquire production technologies, management knowhow and access to European markets and global brands.

International business and management literature has labeled Chinese FDI “emerging market firms’ globalization”, pointing to the fact that acquisition of firms in advanced industrialized home countries by firms from emerging economies is quite a new phenomenon and cannot be analyzed with the theoretical frameworks developed from Western MNCs’ globalization. Scholars have pointed to the specific challenges for Chinese firms acquiring Western firms, namely their lack of international experience and management knowhow as well as cultural differences and imag-
ined hierarchies (post-colonialism) that may lead to conflict. Post-merger “task integration” and “human integration”, hence, were expected to cause substantial conflicts and were deemed prone to failure.

While the Chinese M&A activities in Germany were first considered very skeptical, press articles and research on Chinese acquisitions in Germany surprisingly reported smooth negotiations, well-functioning collaboration and a high degree of mutual respect and recognition between the two parties in most of the cases. However, existing research mainly relies on survey data or on single interviews with top managers. There is no in-depth investigation into the day-to-day operations and collaboration and into the post-merger processes of “task integration” and “human integration” at the shop-floor and office level. Our research project aims to filling this gap. Adopting a case study approach targeting M&As in mechanical engineering, automotive supply and the photovoltaics industry we aim to delivering “thick descriptions” of the post-merger processes and thereby also intend to contribute to theory building on “emerging market firms globalization”.

11 — Research Projects
Comparing Forces and the Forces of Comparison: Comparisons of military forces as comparisons of power in the international system from the eighteenth to twentieth century

Project A01 of the Collaborative Research Center 1288 Practices of Comparing, Ordering and changing the world

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Principal Investigator:
Mathias Albert

Post-Doctoral Researcher:
Thomas Müller

Doctoral Researcher:
Kerrin Langer

Project Duration:
2017–2020

Project Description:
The project studies two interrelated questions: firstly how and through which practices did states compare themselves and others regarding their military capabilities and power, and secondly: how did these practices of force comparisons interact with the evolution and globalization of the international system? Combining approaches from History and International Relations the project conceptualizes force comparisons as part of broader practices of power comparisons through which the international system and its evolution was structured, assessed and interpreted in terms of comparative orders such as the balance of power.

Empirically, the project seeks to reconstruct the co-evolution of force comparisons and the international system from the middle of the 18th century to the end of the Cold War. During this period, the co-evolution was in particular characterized by three transformative phases: the emergence of the modern European system of great powers since the middle of the 18th century, its gradual development into a global system of powers in the late 19th and early 20th century, and the trends towards more sophisticated and institutionalized practices of force comparisons in the context of the superpower competition in the Cold War. Additionally, the project highlights the new and growing role of think thanks – notably the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) – as influential producers of force comparisons in the Cold War.
The discursive construction of conflict and international organizational decision-making processes between normative frameworks of peacebuilding and securitization – the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)

Funded by:
German Foundation for Peace Research

Principal Investigator:
Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert

Project Team:
Dipl. Soz. Kerstin Eppert, Bielefeld University
Mitja Sienknecht, M.A., Bielefeld University/Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder

Project Duration:
2012–2014

Project Description:
The current project focuses on the impact which a ‘security overlay’ may have on the implementation of an international intervention. Using the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), the project comprises two main areas of research. Connecting organizational and sociocultural dimensions of international interventions, the project asks, firstly, how contextual frameworks of securitization and peacebuilding shape and guide decision-making processes of international interventions in (post-) conflict environments. It analyzes decision-making strategies that are used in order to manage contextual uncertainty that emerges from the conflictive logics of securitization and peacebuilding. Secondly, the findings will be contextualized in view of the interrelation between world society (theory) and the construction of the ‘Other’.

The primary aim of the project is to contribute to a better understanding of the interdependence between the international political context, the parameters and operations of international assistance missions and the relevance of the normative frameworks of securitization and peacebuilding for the implementation of the missions. The secondary aim is to provide concrete input to the improvement of oversight mechanisms of international organizations involved in the missions by explaining the interdependence of the ‘re’- or ‘deconstruction’ of conflict and organizational decision making.
Publications:

Albert, Mathias, Eppert, Kerstin, and Sienknecht, Mitja (2017): The discursive construction of conflict and international organizational decision-making processes between normative frameworks of peacebuilding and securitization – the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), (in German). DSF Forschungsberichte no. 41.


Expatriate Managers: A New Cosmopolitan Elite? Habitus, Everyday Practices, and Networks

**Funded by:**
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

**Central Project Coordination (Bielefeld University):**
Prof. Dr. Ursula Mense-Petermann (Project Leader)

**Principal Investigators:**
Dr. Anna Spiegel, Bielefeld University
Dipl.-Soz. Yan Junchen, Bielefeld University
Kathleen M. Park, PhD, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Members of the Project Team:**
Franziska Richter (Research Assistant)

**Project Duration:**
2011–2015

**Project Description:**
The project considers a social figure that has increasingly become an object of attention in recent times, whenever questions of economic globalization, the development of transnational social spaces and questions of social inequalities on a global scale are discussed: the expatriate manager. Notwithstanding the growing interest in global assignments and the figure of the global manager in the International Business and Management Literature, little is known to date of how expatriates deal with the exacting demands in their everyday work and life at their places of assignment. Under which circumstances do globally mobile managers develop a cosmopolitan habitus – if at all? How do they arrange their everyday life? What kind of networks do they establish in order to cope with the professional and private challenges connected with a global assignment? And last but not least: Are there differences in the ways in which expatriates deal with the challenges of a global assignment connected with their national origin or with their place of assignment (home country and host country effects)? These questions are addressed by a systematic comparison of two different groups of expatriate managers from different national business cultures – German managers and US American managers – at three different locations of assignment (Germany, USA and China), which are differently positioned in global constructions of cultural difference. This
project – taking a critical look at the ‘strong’ theses concerning the ‘global manager’ as protagonist of a new global elite (Sklair, Kanter) – aims at an in-depth study into the processes of structuration of the life worlds and of (re-)shaping of the habitus of expatriate managers abroad.

**Publications:**


Global Perceptions of Inequality in World Society

Funded by:
Project Segment of SFB 882 (Collaborative Research Centre) “From Heterogenities to Inequalities”

Principal investigators:
Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert (Bielefeld University)
Dr. Martin Koch (Bielefeld University)

Project member:
Dr. Katja Freistein

Project Duration:
2011–2015

Project Description:
The project traces the emergence of the semantics of global inequality in world society. It empirically reconstructs the ways and means in which, in the context of the discourse on development, ideas of global inequality were formed within international organizations, understood as the entrepreneurs of global semantics. Within this framework, the project is particularly interested in the question of whether semantics of global inequality were primarily formed through discourses on, for example, global justice, climate change, environment, or security.

Publications:


„Going Global“ or „Short-Term Adventures“? The Conditions and Consequences of the Globalization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

**Funded by:**
Hans Böckler Foundation (Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (HBS))

**Central Project Coordination (Bielefeld University):**
Prof. Dr. Ursula Mense-Petermann (Principal Investigator)

**Project Team:**
Dipl.-Soz. Christoph Seidel, Bielefeld University
Dipl.-Soz. Andre Meyer, Bielefeld University

**Project Duration:**
2012–2015

**Project Description:**
This project considers the long-term impact of globalization on the organizational structure, human resource management and employees’ interest representation of small and mediumsized enterprises (SME). Although SMEs do have a high relevance for the German economy, so far the consequences of their globalization for the whole SME and their employees have been understudied. In particular, this project explores how SMEs cope with the challenges of long-term globalization processes despite their limitations in organizational knowledge and capital. Various studies, however, have already shown that SMEs choose unique paths of entering into foreign markets. This and the observable high degree of informal reconciliation of interests between employers and employees within SME structures, points to peculiarities of the globalization practices of SMEs as compared to “global players”.

This research project aims to reconstruct the special logics and typical paths of SME globalization in its own complexity and in its implications for the employees and their representation of interests. The three questions that guide this project are:

1. What are the specific risks and chances of the globalization of SMEs? Can we understand SME globalization as an “ongoing Globalization” (i.e. as an extension of the economic processes of globalization by the involvement of more and more SMEs), or is SME globalization only a “short-term adventure” which eventually leads to a re-location of foreign direct investment back home? 
2. What are the typical resources that SMEs use for this process of globalization? 
3. What are the consequences of this unique globalization path for the employees and their representa-
tion of interest within SMEs? How do these process of globalization transform the typical “social world” (Kotthoff/Reindl 1990) of SMEs? To answer these questions, we compare SMEs from machine builder and automobile supplier industries within the framework of a qualitative case study approach. As an exemplary field for our research, we choose to analyze the establishment of subsidiaries in China.

Publications:


How ‘social’ is Turkey?. Turkey’s social security system in a European context

Funded by:
Stiftung Mercator

Principal Investigator:
Prof. Lutz Leisering PhD

Project Partner:
Asst. Prof. Dr. H. Tolga Bölükbasi (Bilkent University, Ankara)

Postdoctoral Researcher:
Kerem Gabriel Öktem

Research Assistant:
Cansu Erdogan

Project Duration:
2017–2019

Project Description:
Social security and welfare state are key institutions of Western post-war societies, absorbing 20–30% of GDP and shaping basic social structures like labor markets, socio-economic inequality, gender, and the relationship between state, markets and civil society (Castles et al. 2010; Leibfried/Mau 2008; Esping-Andersen 1990; T.H. Marshall 1950). Social policy is about fundamental normative understandings of society, constituting a social contract and underpinning social cohesion. Moreover, social policy may impact on a country’s international economic competitiveness. At the level of the European Union, the notion of a ‘social Europe’ is seen by some as an essential element of Europeanization and the ‘European model’ (Kaelble/Schmid 2004). As a pre-accession country that has graduated to the ranks of upper middle-income countries, Turkey is increasingly exposed to Europeanization pressures. Standing between Europe and Asia, Turkey remains at the intersection of the developing world and advanced industrialized countries, and has not conventionally figured in comparative welfare state research which centers on either advanced or developing countries.

The project brings together leading social policy researchers from Germany and Turkey in order to put Turkey on the map of comparative welfare state research, and to broaden the scope of Turkish studies in Germany. The project uses state-of-the-art theories and quantitative as well as qualitative research methods to pursue three
main research goals: 1) It uses descriptive statistics and cluster analysis to locate Turkey’s experience in the field of social security in the broader world of welfare states. 2) It employs qualitative content analysis and semi-structured (topic-guide led) expert interviews to trace specific social policies and their political and ideational backgrounds in four key areas of social security (social assistance, health, pensions and unemployment). 3) Finally, insights gained from this research will be used to depict the overall shape of the Turkish welfare state and explain its rise. Academically, the case of Turkey will also enrich existing data and refine conceptual tools of comparative welfare state analysis, and add to the more recent global research on middle income countries (for welfare statism beyond its European origins see Gough/Therborn 2010; Gough 2008). In particular, the project inquires whether Turkey is a welfare state in a strict sense.

Outside academia, the project aims to contribute to a better understanding of Turkey’s society, economy and politics in Germany. There is a dearth of knowledge on Turkey’s social policy in German academia and public. Although the country declared itself a welfare state in the 1961 Constitution, and more than a third of all government expenditure is spent on social provisions, such as healthcare and pensions, popular imagination in Germany would not normally associate Turkey with welfare statism. But besides political and civil rights, the state of social rights in Turkey, too, is a crucial factor for the accession process of Turkey to the EU and for German-Turkish relationships. Can Turkey relate to the European family of welfare states and to ‘social Europe’?

The project is part of the programme ‘Contemporary Turkey Studies. Strengthening research on Turkey in Germany’ (‘Blickwechsel. Studien zur zeitgenössischen Türkei’), launched and funded by Stiftung Mercator.

www.blickwechsel-tuerkei.de

Publication:

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Central Project Coordination:
Bielefeld University, Faculty of Sociology, Transnationalisation and Development Research Centre, Research Group Social Anthropology

German Partner:
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Principal Investigators:
Prof. Dr. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka (Bielefeld)
Prof. Dr. Eva Gerharz (Bochum)
PD Dr. Christian Meyer (Siegen)

Members of the Project Team, Bielefeld, Germany:
Dr. Sandrine Gukelberger (researcher & project coordinator), Bielefeld University
Sambalaye Diop (PhD student), project: “The participating audience: the notion of democracy in the appropriation of media in Senegal”, Bielefeld University
Éva Rozália Hölzle (PhD student), project: “Dynamics of land politics and the hermeneutics of democracy in Bangladesh”, Bielefeld University
Katrin Renschler (research assistant), project: “Challenges of Diversity – Practices of Conviviality in Northeast India”, Ruhr-University Bochum

Project Duration:
2011–2015

Project Description:
The project “Microdynamics of Political Communication in World Society. The Social Life of the Democracy Concept in Bangladesh and Senegal” examines the global spread of the terms democracy/democratization on the basis of their local appropriation. It is assumed that the concept of democracy has penetrated remote regions of the world, where it experiences unexpected enrichment due to specific connotations. Such reinterpretations are negotiated in interactions, characterized by different positioning acts, and in constellations of actors, shaped by asymmetries of power. The main interest of the project is to explore how the global norm of democracy generates local realities through social practices: To what ex-
tent and in which ways are the globally circulating notions of democracy and democratization – for example through development channels – re-interpreted in local contexts, debated, modified, used strategically, appropriated or rejected? To answer these questions, the project focuses on culturally embedded notions of the “good life”, that is happiness, law and handling violence. The comparative analysis investigates the negotiation processes of the local understanding of democracy and in particular their relevant current domains in both research regions.

Publications:


Opus Magnum, A Theory of World Politics

Funded by:
Volkswagen Foundation and Fritz-Thyssen Foundation

Principal Investigator:
Mathias Albert

Project Duration:
2013–15

Project Description:
The aim of the project was to support the production of an ambitious theoretical framework that describes world politics as a specific social system set within the wider political system of world society. Albert’s analysis of the historical evolution and contemporary form of world politics takes the theory of social differentiation as its starting point. World politics is a specific, relatively recent form of politics and Albert shows how the development of a distinct system of world politics first began during the long nineteenth century. The book goes on to identify the different forms of social differentiation that underlie the variety of contemporary forms of organizing political authority in world politics. Employing sociological and historical perspectives, A Theory of World Politics also reflects critically on its relation to accounts of world politics in the field of international relations and will appeal to a wide readership in a range of fields.

https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/a-theory-of-world-politics/05DD4685E1C85FEE57D6214E320862C8

Publication:
Order in diversity: Practices of comparing in cross-cultural jurisprudence (17th–19th centuries)

Project B01 of the Collaborative Research Center 1288 Practices of Comparing. Ordering and changing the world

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Principal Investigators:
Prof. Dr. Antje Flüchter
Dr. Christina Brauner

Doctoral Researchers:
Andreas Becker
Anna Dönecke

Project Duration:
2017–2020

Project Description:
This project, headed by Antje Flüchter and Christina Brauner, is part of Bielefeld University’s Collaborative Research Centre on Practices of Comparison (SFB 1288 “Praktiken des Vergleichens”). It takes up two case studies pursued by two PhD candidates, Anna Dönecke and Andreas Becker. Focusing on jurisprudence in early modern contact zones, we explore the role practices of comparing played in cultural encounters, how such practices were transformed, and how they were appropriated by different actors. When temporary cultural encounters evolve into more permanent contact zones, rules must be established to handle conflicts and enable a working social order of everyday life. In such contexts, the act of comparing plays a central role – to make the unfamiliar familiar, to create categories in diversity, to draw boundaries but also to question these boundaries and earlier established perceptions. The field of jurisprudence provides illuminating insights into the complex interdependencies between practices of comparing and social dynamics: For instance, it allows to probe into the formation of new groups as they are typical of early modern contact zones, such as religious conversion and mixed marriages. Two PhD-candidates pursue this general set of questions in two in-depth case studies which focus on two different contact zones: Anna Dönecke explores institutions and practices of jurisprudence evolving in the French settlement of Pondichéry in
India. Andreas Becker studies the role of jurisprudence and processes of group formation in the Swedish expansion to Lapland and in the Atlantic World.

The project sets out to tackle the following questions: How did different actors establish a basic comparability of differing norms, institutions and conceptions of justice? Which laws applied to new groups like converts and descendants of mixed marriages? Did the simultaneous existence of multiple systems of law provide leeway for strategic action such as “forum shopping”? Practices of comparison in these contexts contribute to stabilize an existing order of things but also can help to question established boundaries and foster change.

The project pursues a long-term perspective and also bridges the traditional caesura between the early modern and modern period. This allows us, or so we hope, to reconstruct practices of comparing and notions of (in)comparability and the transformations they underwent in a long-term perspective. Not least, we set out to critically discuss if there is such a thing as a ‘modern’ mode of comparing.

A workshop in September 2017 set out to discuss relevant concepts and “best practice” examples. It brought together scholars both from legal studies and history and from across the periods, also providing a forum for the PhD researchers to discuss first case studies and the general outline of their projects:

https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-7552

There was also a first joint presentation of the project at the 5th workshop on crime and criminal justice in modern history (5. Kolloquium für Kriminalität und Strafjustiz in der Neuzeit), held in Gauting in September 2017, by Antje Flüchter and Andreas Becker:

https://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termin-e-32723.
**Publications:**


Outlawing racial discrimination – Making practices of comparison illegitimate

Project B06 of the Collaborative Research Center 1288 Practices of Comparing. Ordering and changing the world

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Principal Investigator:
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Davy;

Doctoral Researcher:
RA’in Malika Mansouri

Project Duration:
2017–2020

Project Description:
In December 1965, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. When the process of decolonization was at its height, human rights law moved to delegitimize practices of comparison that were deeply rooted in what is called European modernity or the European expansion. We assume that racial discrimination – outlawed by the convention – is intrinsically linked to practices of comparing, in particular comparisons that mark a difference implying less worth and backwardness. Therefore, we investigate: Was there, in the run-up to the convention, a phase where certain practices of comparing came under critique and became unacceptable? We also assume that the convention, by prohibiting racial discrimination, indeed aims to undercut certain practices of comparing for the time to come. If so, what are the practices of comparing that are meant to be eliminated, because they constitute racial discrimination? Finally, we investigate the methods the committee (established under the convention) takes resort to when it seeks to identify whether or not an act of racial discrimination has occurred in the particular setting of a case. We assume that the committee, when assessing the facts of a case, needs to rely on comparisons and that, when doing so, the committee creates practices of comparing of its own kind. Hence, we shall face two different sets of practices of comparing. For one, practices that ought not be. For another, practices that are necessary to identify the practices that ought not be. The former will help us clarify and structure the notion of racial discrimination, the latter will
contribute to theorizing judicial review in discrimination cases. In a historical perspective, we will give an account on the rise of a global standard that links post-colonial thinking with the human rights discourse.

Publications:

Polar (Geo-)Politics: How does Global Environmental Change (GEC) cause a transformation of political relationships between and within the circumpolar Argentina, Canada, Chile and the U.S.?

**Funded by:**
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

**Project Coordinator:**
Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert

**Doctoral Researcher:**
Dorothea Wehrmann

**Project Description:**
Environmental change caused by continuing global warming and the melting of sea ice has precipitated growing political interest on the part of various state and non-state stakeholders in the polar regions. With new access to formerly ice-covered areas, economic opportunities (particularly the prospect of resource extraction and the use of new seaways) have arisen. This has put policy makers in a double bind: While, on the one hand, collective measures are needed to protect the environment; on the other hand, the exploitation of valuable and limited resources serves national economic interests.

Against this background the research project deals with the question of whether this political challenge is leading to more cooperation between pivotal political actors in the Arctic and in the Antarctic region or supports the return to and/or development of stronger national “Polar identities” in four selected countries.

In a first step, the main political actors involved in polar politics will be identified. Due to their geographic proximity to both regions, the project focuses on actors from Argentina, Chile, Canada, and the USA that are particularly affected by the impact of global warming and on developments in the Arctic and the Antarctic. In a next step follows the examination of their positions as explicated in official documents (laws, strategy and policy papers, campaigns). The comparison of their diverse national interests (also considering assumed legitimations) will reveal if political actors are envisaging cooperation in the polar regions or not. Moreover, comments on far-reaching governmental decisions by important national print media will be examined in order to, first, clarify the perception of polar politics in the media and, second, to compare how specific mental images are used by political actors and the media with regard to polar politics.
Publications:


Social Security as a Human Right. The Global Construction and Diffusion of Civic Minima (FLOOR = Financial Assistance, Land Policy, and Global Social Rights)

**Funded by:**
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

**Principal Investigators:**
Prof. Lutz Leisering PhD (Bielefeld University)
Prof. Dr. Benjamin Davy (Dortmund University of Technology)
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Davy (Bielefeld University)

**Project Team:**
- Moritz von Gliszczynski
- Michael Leutelt
- Katrin Weible
- John Berten
- Tobias Böger
- Anne Casprig
- Michael Kolocek
- Luise Buschmann
- Nina-Claire Himpe
- Aylin Alexandra von Radzwieski
- Jens Hanschmidt
- Tao Liu
- Tim Vitic

**Project Duration:**
2010–2015

**Project Description:**
Towards global social citizenship? The research group FLOOR aims to advance the new field of research ‘Global Social Policy’ in theoretical, empirical and methodological terms from an interdisciplinary perspective, encompassing sociology, land policy studies, and law. The group comprises three research projects:

- a project on social cash transfers, directed by Prof. Lutz Leisering PhD, Institute for World Society Studies and Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University;
- a project on socio-ecological land policy, directed by Prof. Dr. Benjamin Davy, School of Spatial Planning, Dortmund University of Technology; and
- a project on global social (human) rights, directed by Prof. Dr. Ulrike Davy, Institute for World Society Studies and Faculty of Law, Bielefeld University.

Additionally, FLOOR is associated with a cooperation group funded by the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZfF) in Bielefeld (April through June 2011).
The FLOOR group starts from the assumption that social policy and, even more, ‘welfare state’ are concepts which originated in European nation states, expressing a formal responsibility of governments for individual welfare. Can we expect that social policy in this sense will also emerge in the global arena, even in the face of cultural diversity, economic globalization and the absence of a world state? We enquire into the rise of global social policy: What does ‘global social policy’ mean? What is ‘global’ and what is ‘social’ in global social policy? For our study we choose social security as a key field of social policy, especially basic social security which is a test case because it represents the moral minimum in social welfare (‘social floor’): Is there a global social minimum? We assume that three forms of basic social security have gained importance in world politics in recent years but are under researched and normally not analyzed together: social rights in a human rights context; social cash transfers; and socio-ecological land policy which aims to secure access to vital land use by individuals.

The overarching question is whether the move towards a global social floor in these three dimensions can be seen as a step towards global social citizenship. Regarding the more modest goal of fighting poverty, social cash transfers are often associated with the hope to reduce poverty in the short term, thus contributing to the Millennium Development Goal of halving global poverty till 2015. Land rights are a sensitive issue in global discourses because they involve territorial sovereignty and the distribution of wealth. Still, the Millennium Development Goal 7.11 aims at tenure security when it demands that, by 2020, a ‘significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, as proposed in the “Cities without slums” initiative’ be achieved. Social (human) rights are perceived as conceptual framework for combating global poverty.

Publications:


UNRISD New Directions in Social Policy: Transnational Social Policy Development: The Case of Indonesia

Principal Investigators:
Alexandra Kaasch
Mulyadi Sumarto
Brooke Wilmsen

Project Duration:
2013–2016

Project Description:
The scope, depth, intensity, and impact of globalization is able to shape domestic social policy, with global social policy discourses becoming increasingly influential at the national level. Indonesia’s recent social policy developments exhibit such transnational dimensions in their formulation. The country case study will ask: which global and local social policy actors, institutions and processes significantly impact on Indonesia’s emerging social policy making? What is the interplay between them? How do domestic institutions and actors mediate global factors in the process of social policy development?

The Indonesia case study for the UNRISD project “New Directions in Social Policy: Alternatives from and for the Global South” investigates the political economy and policy dynamics at three levels: national, international and the international-national nexus.


Publication:

http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=0DD036BC1CA5281AC12580F1004DFADB&parentdoctype=paper&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpAuxPages%29/0DD036BC1CA5281AC12580F1004DFADB/$file/Wilmsen.pdf
“World politics: The emergence of political arenas and modes of observation in world society”

Funded by:
German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG))

Funding period:
01 October 2017–31 March 2022

Principal investigators:

- Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert (Speaker)
- Prof. Dr. Ulrike Davy
- Prof. Dr. Angelika Epple
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Faist
- Prof. Dr. Boris Holzer
  (Associated PI)
- Prof. Dr. Alexandra Kaasch
  (Deputy Speaker)
- PD Dr. Martin Koch
- Dr. George Lawson (Associated PI)
- Prof. Dr. Franz Mayer
- Prof. Dr. Detlef Sack
- Prof. Dr. Willibald Steinmetz
- Prof. Dr. Andreas Vasilache
- Prof. Dr. Tobias Werron
  (Deputy Speaker)

Project Description:

The Research Training Group (RTG) deals with the emergence of world politics as a specific type of politics. With a pronouncedly research-oriented, interdisciplinary, and international profile, it investigates the pathways that have led to the establishment of world politics as a specific form of politics not somehow resulting from the modern form of the (nation) state, but concurrent with it as well as with the principle of sovereign equality. Using a world society perspective, the RTG inquires how the emergence of world politics has been (and still is) both a corollary of and a precondition for the constitution of modern states. In two main lines of research – ‘modes of organization’ and ‘modes of observation’ – it will seek to provide high-quality research output not only within the main participating disciplines (IR/political science, sociology, history, law), but particularly also at the interstices of these disciplines. Through its research program and its institutional affiliations, the RTG seeks to promote a dialogue between the fields and approaches of International Relations, international political sociology, global history, and legal
studies in relation to world society approaches. The main goal of the qualification program is to introduce doctoral researchers as quickly and intensively as possible to the working practices of academic research. The idea is that the best research training for doctoral researchers is to pursue their project in a dense research environment with structured support and feedback from both peers and more senior scholars. In addition to a specific study program, the RTG devises a range of instruments that ensure not only optimal feedback, but also stimulate the development of profiles and visibility that enhance future career prospects. English is the working language, as one additional main goal of the RTG is to increase the international orientation particularly of doctoral researchers. Thus, the proposed RTG fits into the overall goal of broad internationalization adopted by Bielefeld University. In terms of research, it builds on, and seeks to strengthen, the tradition of world society research in Bielefeld.
Post-doctoral researcher

Dr. James Stafford

**Post-doctoral project:** Commercial Treaties Between “Political Economy” and “International Law”, 1750–1950

Doctoral researchers

Anatoly Boyashov

**Doctoral project:** Actors in Establishment of Global Human Rights Networks Within International Organisations: Case Study of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Aziz Elmuradov

**Doctoral project:** Competing Narratives of Europe in Russian Foreign Policy: In Search of Identity or Policy?

Sandra Holtgreve

**Doctoral project:** Coloniality in the Global South and North. An Analysis of Social Work Education in Germany, Mexico and Ecuador

Marc Jacobsen

**Doctoral project:** Antisemitism in the World Society: Globalization and the Transformation of Jew Hatred

Madeleine Myatt

**Doctoral project:** Cybersecurity a Shared Responsibility? The Role, Implementation and Strategic Promotion of Cooperative Partnerships with the Cybersecurity Industry
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Events

2017

Boundary Processes in World Society
Workshop
20.-21.04.2017, Bielefeld
Organisation: Kirsten Kramer/Oliver Flügel-Martinsen/Andreas Vasilache

Regulierung in der Weltgesellschaft
Workshop
5.5.2017, Bielefeld
Organisation: Alexandra Kaasch/Detlef Sack

Interaktion, Organisation und (Welt-)Gesellschaft - Soziologische und literarische Beobachtungen.
Tagung
11.-13.05.2017, Luzern
Organisation: Hannah Bennani/Martin Bühler/Sophia Cramer/Andrea Glauser

Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory
Autorenworkshop mit Julian Go (Boston University)
19.07.2017, Bielefeld
Organisation: Simon Hecke/Sebastian Lemme

Klausurtagung des IW
14./15.12.2017, Bad Salzuflen

2016

Migrationen und Grenzprozesse
Workshop
29.01.2016, Bielefeld
Organisation: Margit Fauser/Anne Friedrichs/Levke Harders
43 — Events

Managing Migration Workshop
10./11.03.2016, Ottawa
Organisation: Martin Koch/Martin Geiger

Student Mobilities and Mobilizations in South Asia: Global Challenges — Local Action Workshop
16.-18.06.2016, Bielefeld
Organisation: Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Ordnen und Regieren in der Weltgesellschaft Workshop
06./07.07.2016, Frankfurt a.M.
Organisation: Mathias Albert

Global Social Policy: Theory meets Practice Workshop
18.-20.07.2016, Bielefeld
Organisation: Alexandra Kaasch

Klausurtagung des IW
15./16.12.2016, Bad Salzuflen

2015

Zur Kommunikation durch Zahlen. Vergleichsdynamiken der modernen Gesellschaft Workshop
23./24.01.2015, Bielefeld, BGHS
Organisation: Vera Linke/Paul Buckermann

Social policies in Brazil, India, China and South Africa Tagung
23.-25.11.2015, Bielefeld
Organisation: Ulrike Davy/ Lutz Leisering/ Benjamin Davy (gemeinsam mit dem ZiF)

Klausurtagung des IW
03./04.12.2015, Bad Salzuflen
Lecture Series

Winter term 2017/2018
Heidi Tworek (Vancouver)
“Lies are the Law of the World!” News and Global Media Networks in the Twentieth Century
George Lawson (London)
“Global Historical Sociology”

Summer term 2017
Paul Stubbs (Zagreb)
Post- or Neo-Colonialism? Socialist Yugoslavia, The Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations
Martin Geiger (Ottawa)
Weltorganisationen in der Migrationspolitik
Julian Go (Boston)
Postcolonial Thought, Field Theory, and Global Transformation: the End of Empires in the 20th Century

Winter term 2016/2017
Antje Flüchter (Bielefeld)
Indien im ‘Warteraum der Geschichte’? Wie der Westen zur Zukunft der Welt wurde
Jens Bartelson (Lund)
From the International to the Global?
Peter Haldén (Stockholm)
New polities in the shadow of the World Society: No longer state-formation

Summer term 2016
Siri Hettige (Colombo)
Structural Impediments for Decent Work and Social Mobility in a Global Context: the case of Sri Lanka
Gabriele Köhler (München)
70 Jahre Entwicklungspolitik und die ‘drei Uns’
Edward Keene (Oxford)
Stratificatory differentiation and the historical origins of modern world society
Eckart Conze (Marburg)
Jenseits von Präsentismus und Globalismus. Überlegungen zu einer Zeitgeschichte internationaler Beziehungen

Winter term 2015/2016
Stephan Stetter (München)
Spectre Ante Portas: Stand und Perspektiven der sozialwissenschaftlichen Bondforschung
Ellen Ehmke (Kassel)
Welfare and social policy in the global south – Insights from India
Hauke Brunkhorst (Flensburg)
Rechtsrevolutionen – Der Anteil von Recht und Revolution an der Evolution der Weltgesellschaft
Andrea Liese (Potsdam)
Wer hat das Sagen? Zur Expertenautorität internationaler Organisationen

Summer term 2015
Paul Stubbs (Zagreb)
Thinking ‘social policy otherwise’: translation, assemblage and variegation
Ellen Ehmke (Kassel)
Welfare and social policy in the global south – Insights from India
Andrea Liese (Potsdam)
Wer hat das Sagen? Zur Expertenautorität internationaler Organisationen

Winter term 2014/2015
Thorsten Bonacker (Marburg)
Reproduktive Gesundheit als umkämpftes institutionelles Feld der Weltgesellschaft
Eveline Dürr (München)
Globalisierte Dimensionen von Abfall in Umwelt und Gesellschaft
Rudolf Stichweh (Bonn)
Demokratie und Autoritarismus als globale politische Modelle. Zu einer soziologischen Theorie politischer Regimes
Alexandra Kaasch (Bielefeld)
Protecting Domestic Workers: Emergence and Implementation of Global Social Policy
Publications


Albert, Mathias, Eppert, Kerstin, and Sienknecht, Mitja (2017): The discursive construction of conflict and international organizational decision-making processes between normative frameworks of peacebuilding and securitization – the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), (in German). DSF Forschungsberichte no. 41.


