



UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD

Faculty of Sociology



RTG 2225 World Politics
Research Training Group

Newsletter No. 16 October 2025



Research Training Group 2225

World politics: The emergence of political
arenas and modes of observation in world
society

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Preface

Dear friends and colleagues,

As we are entering the final year of the Research Training Group, attention gradually shifts towards the completion of doctoral theses. While other activities are continuing, this will be at the center of attention. After all, doctoral research projects are the core of a Research Training Group.

I wish our researchers all the best for this final stretch in this phase of their careers!

Best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert
Speaker of the RTG

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RTG Workshop "Limitations as Lenses: New Pathways for the Study of World Politics", Bielefeld University, Germany, 22-23 May 2025, taken by M. Orioli, Bielefeld University.



Third Cohort of Doctoral Researchers (2023-2026)



Iris Bartelt

Doctoral Project:

Moral authority and contestation in the International Labour Organization



Markus Buderath

Doctoral Project:

Making the Good Cop: Policing, Nation Branding and Human Rights in Scotland



Kenan Kadic

Doctoral Project:

The Emergence of World Politics in 20th Century Europe from the Perspective of International Organizations and Global Elites



Saba Mirhosseini

Doctoral Project:

Unveiling Transformation: Global Dynamics and the Status of Women in Iran (1979-2001)



Julia Pfau

Doctoral Project:

The Making of Personalized '-Isms' in World Politics



Basak N. Simsek

Doctoral Project:

Alongside or versus? An institutional analysis of the interplay between international and World Society



Nicole Sommer

Doctoral Project:

The Institutionalization of People of African Descent as a Global Social Category in International Politics



Natia Tsaritova

Doctoral Project:

The role of Inter-Organizational cooperation in the Arctic: Examining observers engagement in the Arctic Council



Adolfo A. Zambrano Vargas

Doctoral Project:

Rebalancing World Politics? China, the US and the Emergence of a Differentiated International Economic and Financial Regime in Latin- America



Christina Zschieschang

Doctoral Project:

The World Politics of Humans in Deep Space: Human Spaceflight beyond LEO and its Impact on World Order



Post-Doctoral Researcher



Dr. Disha K. Jani

Post-Doctoral Project:

(Un)free Labour and (Un)free Trade: Economic Sovereignty from the Haitian Revolution to the NIEO, 1791-1974

Scientific Coordinator



Dr. Mustafa Aksakal

Student Assistants



Milena Orioli



Aleksandra Shuvalova



CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SUMMER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

“Engendering International Criminal Justice: The Advocacy of Civil Society in Raising Awareness to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence”, presented by B. N. Simsek at the Pre-Conference Workshop of the Feminism and International Law Interest Group at the Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 10-13 September 2025.

“Police paradiplomacy as nation-branding: Police Scotland’s international activities in the context of Scotland’s foreign policy agenda”, presented by M. Buderath at the European Society of Criminology Conference, Athens, Greece, 5 September 2025.

18th Pan-European Conference on International Relations (EISA PEC2025), organized by the European International Studies Association, University of Bologna, Italy, 25–29 August 2025. Papers presented:

- “Global Population Control and the Rebirth of Womanhood”, paper presented by S. Mirhosseini;
- “Hybrid agency for global justice? An interpretation”, presented by B. N. Simsek, Session IST-International Society Tradition;
- “My Body, My Resistance: Feminist Resistance and the Reconfiguration of World Order”, presented by S. Mirhosseini;
- “Navigating Deadlock in Global Labour Governance: Examining Mechanisms and Responses to Crisis and Contestation in the ILO” and “The ILO’s Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group: A Model for the Future?”, presented by I. Bartelt;
- “The Observer category of the AC - Comparing Different Ways of Observing”, presented by N. Tsaritova;
- “World Politics Before Utopia: Developing an Analytical Framework for the Politics of Imagined Futures”, presented by C. Zschieschang.

“Challenging state centricism, measuring globalism: the case of international criminal justice as a hybrid institution”, presented by B. N. Simsek at the Annual Virtual Conference of the International Studies Association (ISA Virtual 2025)- Session RD04-International Justice Institutions and Changing Norms: Between Law and Contestation, Online, 29 July-1 August 2025.

“The Politics of Categorizing African Descent - Global Frameworks, Political Meanings, and Shifting Boundaries of Belonging”, paper presented by N. Sommer at the Special Issue Workshop Categorizing People on the Move in Africa, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, Freiburg, Germany, 29 July 2025.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SUMMER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

“Between Surrealism and Realism: The League Against Imperialism, 1927-1937”, presented by D. K. Jani at the Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Paris, France, 15-19 July 2025.

5th International Sociological Association (ISA), Forum of Sociology, Rabat, Morocco, 6-11 July 2025. Papers presented:

- “Between Organization and Environment: Conceptualizing the Observer Category of International Organizations”, presented by N. Tsaritova;
- “Expert Authority and Regional Governance –A Comparative Analysis of The Arctic Council and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea”, presented by N. Tsaritova, K. Rachlitz, and J. Bailey;
- “Unveiling Paradoxes: Global Population Control and the Rebirth of Women Under Authoritarianism”, paper presented by S. Mirhosseini.

“The ILO’s Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group: A Model for the Future?”, presented by I. Bartelt at the 9th Regulating for Decent Work Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 July 2025.

"How institutionalized? The case of international criminal justice from a hybrid institutions perspective", presented by B. N. Simsek at the 12th European Workshops in International Studies (EISA EWIS 2025) Session ‘WS I - International society in between order and justice’, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, 2-4 July 2025.

"The Emergence of Personalized '-Isms' in World Politics", presented by J. Pfau at 'Sociology of the Future/The Future of Sociology, ISA RC16 Midterm Conference', University of Innsbruck, Austria, 2-4 July 2025.

“The future legitimacy of the nuclear nonproliferation regime”, presented by K. Kadic at the BISA 2025 Conference, Belfast, UK, 17-20 June 2025.

AMC Annual Conference, attended by K. Kadic, Uppsala University, Sweden, 12-13 June 2025.

RECSM Summer Methods School 2025, courses “Designing Questionnaires in the Age of AI” and “Introduction to R”, attended by M. Buderath, organized by Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Barcelona, Spain, 2-3 June 2025.

“Conservative Media and the Making of Trump’s Charismatic Populism”, presented by J. Pfau at the Canadian Sociological Association “Annual Conference: Committing Sociology for Social Impact”, Toronto, Canada, 1-13 June 2025.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SUMMER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

“Global Media and the Rise of Far-Right Politics”, presented by J. Pfau at the Canadian Sociological Association “Annual Conference: Committing Sociology for Social Impact”, Toronto, Canada, 1-13 June 2025.

RTG Workshop “Limitations as Lenses: New Pathways for the Study of World Politics”, Bielefeld University, Germany, 22-23 May 2025. Papers presented:

- a) “A Hybrid Path to Justice: Non-State Influence in Restorative Mechanisms, presented by B.N. Şimşek;
- b) “Branding police training within an international politico-economic marketplace: Lessons from the UK”, presented by M. Buderath (in person) and S. Xenakis (remote);
- c) “From Hair to Uterus: Women’s Protests and the Global Fight for Bodily Emancipation”, presented by S. Mirhosseini (remote);
- d) “Liberal Order at stake: “Threat to democracy” as rhetorical device in US Politics”, presented by J. Pfau;
- e) “Organising World Politics: Introducing the concept of World Entities”, presented by I. Bartelt and N. Tsaritova;
- f) “Reframing Agency: African Agency and Space Technology in World Politics”, presented by C. Zschieschang;
- g) “The Body as a Blind Spot in Global NGO Discourse on Disability and African Descent”, presented by A. Fritz and N. Sommer;
- h) “The Limitations of International Criminal Law in Response to Genocide and its Aftermath: The Case of Srebrenica Genocide”, presented by K. Kadic;
- i) “Updated Modernity: An Analysis of the Specter of Rasse in the AfD’s Ethnonationalist Discourse from a Latin American Decolonial Perspective”, presented by A. Zambrano Vargas (remote).

“Inter-organizational Expertise in the Arctic Council”, presented by N. Tsaritova at Navigating Polar Expertise – Early Career Workshop, Bielefeld University, Germany, 8 – 9 May 2025.

“Wettlauf zurück zum Mond? Der Mond als Bühne gegenwärtiger Weltpolitik”, presented by C. Zschieschang, Linie 4 Lecture Series by the BGHS, VHS Bielefeld, Germany, 7 May 2025.

Public lecture on the Argentine port legal system by Dr. Santiago Juan Manuel Herrera, attended by A. Zambrano Vargas, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 2025.



CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SUMMER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

Internal research meetings at the Transport Institute of the Bar Association of the Federal Capital attended by A. Zambrano Vargas, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 2025.

“Navigating Deadlock in Global Labour Governance: Examining Mechanisms and Responses to Crisis and Contestation in the International Labour Organization”, presented online by I. Bartelt at the 43rd International Labour Process Conference, Santiago, Chile, 23 April 2025.

“Global Europe”, MA Seminar, co-instructor by D. K. Jani with Dr. Sarah Bellows-Blakely, at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, April-July 2025.

“Eight-hour Workday in the Belgian Congo: The ILO’s 1930 Forced Labour Convention and the Problem of Economic Governance”, presented by D.K. Jani at the Governing the Global Economy Conference, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 7-8 April 2025.

"Who is Black, White, or Mixed Race? On the Significance of Racial Narratives for the Global Category African Descent at the UN. A Focus on the Americas", paper presented by N. Sommer at the workshop “Locating People: Categories of Difference from an Interdisciplinary Perspective” at the Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 1288: Practices of Comparison, University of Bielefeld, Germany 21 March 2025.

“‘The other day I met a young historian...’: The League Against Imperialism tells fascism’s origin stories, 1932-1936”, written by D. K. Jani, in Discourse on Anti-colonialism, Substack (2025). <https://discourseonanticolonialism.substack.com/p/the-other-day-i-met-a-young-historian>



RESEARCH STAYS

Zambrano Vargas, A. Visiting researcher at the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies, Universidad del Pacífico, Lima, Peru, 1-21 April 2025.

Zambrano Vargas, A. Research stay at the Millennium Nucleus on the Impacts of China in Latin America and the Caribbean (ICLAC), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile, 21 April-11 May 2025.

Zambrano Vargas, A. Follow-up research stay in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 11-31 May 2025.

Jani, D.K. Visiting Scholar at the Margherita von Bretano Center for Gender Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, April 2025-December 2025.

Mirhosseini, Saba. Academic visitor at The Fertility and Reproduction Studies Group, the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University, Oxford, UK. 13 April – 30 June 2025.



GUEST LECTURERS AND EVENTS IN THE SUMMER TERM 2025

29 April 2025, 18:00, c.t., Fabian Klose (Cologne): Enforcing Abolition and the Emergence of Humanitarian Intervention in the 19th Century (IW Lectures), venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

21 May 2025, 10.00, RTG Guest: Stephan Curtis, venue: X-B2-103.

22-23 May Limitations as Lenses: New Pathways for the Study of World Politics, RTG Workshop,), venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

17 June 2025, 18:00 c.t., Steven Jensen (Copenhagen): Decolonization, the Global South and the Making of International Human Rights after 1945 (IW Lectures), venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

1 July 2025, 18:00 c.t., Victoria Collis-Buthelezi (Johannesburg): Race and Equality: Haiti and South Africa (IW Lectures), only via Zoom.

15 July 2025, 18:00 c.t., Sigrid Boysen (Hamburg): The Political Economy of Sovereignty - Natural Resources in Postcolonial International Law, TBD, venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WINTER TERM 25/26

21 October 2025, 18:00, c.t., Matthew Specter (IW Lectures), “*Realism between Comparison and Exception: Alfred T. Mahan and the Dynamics of Universalization of the Monroe Doctrine, 1890-1914*”, venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

25 November 2025, 18:00, c.t., Sebastian Schwecke (IW Lectures), title tbd, venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

02 December 2025, 18:00, c.t., Chris Brown (IW Lectures), “‘*The Day after Tomorrow*’: *International Relations after the End of the Rules-Based International Order*”, venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

25 November 2025, 18:00, c.t., Patricia Ward (IW Lectures), “*Humanitarianism on Demand: Labour, Platforms, and the Politics of Value*”, venue: X-C3-107 / Zoom option available.

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