



**UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD**



Faculty of Sociology



**RTG 2225 World Politics**  
Research Training Group

# Newsletter No. 15 April 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 world politics continues to evolve into seemingly ever more complex (and worrying) configurations, our Research Training Group continues analyzing it with its well-established analytical foci on modes of observation and modes of organization.

Half-way through our third cohort of doctoral researchers, the individual dissertations of course are at center stage of our activities. However, many activities beyond that continue being pursued, most notably the collaborative workshop on 'Limitations as Lenses: Identifying Blind Spots in World Politics Studies', scheduled to take place in May.

I wish you all the best, may Spring at least shine a light in these often not too gloomy times.

Best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert  
Speaker of the RTG



*RTG Workshop "Reflecting World Politics - Taking stock, looking back and to the future", Bielefeld University, Germany, 28-29 November 2024, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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**

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

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Tsaritova, N. (2024): 'Non-state observers in the Arctic Council – Exploring participation patterns in the PAME Working Group', in Lassi Heininen, Justin Barnes, Heather Exner-Pirot (Eds.), Arctic Yearbook 2024 - Arctic Relations: Transformations, Legacies and Futures. Akureyri, Iceland: Arctic Portal, pp. 166–184.

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WINTER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

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"Navigating Deadlock in Global Labour Governance: Examining Mechanisms and Responses to Crisis and Contestation in the International Labour Organization", presented by I. Bartelt at the International Conference on Organizational Sociology (ICOS), Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, Germany, 27-28 March 2025.

"Linking the Past and Present: People of African descent - From Pan-Africanism to a Global Human Rights Framework, presented by N. Sommer at the workshop 'Pan-Africanism in the Contemporary World, Policy, Politics and Practice, SOAS Centre for Pan-African Studies (London), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 January 2025.

"On the Aggregate in European Intellectual History", presented by D. K. Jani at Roundtable: The Return of Political Economy in Modern European Intellectual History at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, USA, 5 January 2025.

The Annual Retreat of the Institute for World Society Studies (Bielefeld University). Panel 1: 'RTG World Politics'. Organised by: D. Jani, S. Mirhosseini, J. Pfau, B. N. Simsek & N. Sommer Horn-Bad Meinberg, Germany, 5-6 December 2024.

RTG Workshop "Reflecting World Politics - Taking stock, looking back and to the future", Bielefeld University, Germany, 28-29 November 2024. Papers presented:

- a) "A Critical Examination of Continuity and Transformative Shifts in Global Justice", presented by B.N. Simsek.
- b) "World Entities and Their Roles in World Politics", presented by I. Bartelt, N. Tsaritova together with M. Koch.
- c) "Liberal Order at stake: 'Threat to democracy' as Rhetorical Device in World Politics", presented by J. Pfau.
- d) "From Hair to Uterus: Women's Protests and the Evolution of Feminist Thought", presented by S. Mirhosseini.
- e) "From Consensus to Divergence in International Police Cooperation: the Role of Police 'Brand'", presented by M. Buderath together with S. Xenakis.
- f) "Outer Space is only for the Powerful Few? Doing Space Politics in Africa and Latin America", presented by C. Zschieschang.
- g) "NGOs as Potential Reinforcement or Challenge to Existing Power Dynamics in World Politics", presented by N. Sommer together with A. Fritz.
- h) "One Step too Far from World Society? A Critique of International Society Through the Case of Srebrenica Genocide", presented by K. Kadic.
- i) "The Limits of Modernity in the Global North: Deconstructing AFD's Ethno-Nationalist Discourse from a Post-Colonial Perspective", presented by A. Zambrano Vargas.



## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WINTER SCHOOLS AND LECTURES

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“The World Politics of Outer Spaces. The Political Potential of Imaginations for Deep Space Exploration”, presented by C. Zschieschang at the Annual Meeting of the DVPW Arbeitskreis Politik, Wissenschaft, Technik, Bielefeld University, Germany, 22 November 2024.

"The Great War and Anti-Colonial Internationalism", undergraduate seminar: Africa, Decolonization, and Internationalism (taught by Dr. Fabian Krautwald) attended by D. K. Jani, University College London, UK, 21 November 2024.

"The League Against Imperialism, National Liberation, and the World Economy", presented by D. K. Jani at Panel 57: Race, Decolonization, and Capitalism at the North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS), Denver, USA, 16 November 2024.

Virtual Workshop “Pedagogical approaches to nuclear politics”, attended by K. Kadic, organized by the BISA Global Nuclear Order Working Group, 15 November 2024.

GEF Workshop "Navigating Barriers and Leaky Pipelines: Perspectives for Women in Academia", organized by S. Mirhosseini & B. N. Simsek. Attended by I. Bartelt, D. Jani, S. Mirhosseini, J. Pfau, B.N. Simsek, N. Sommer, N. Tsaritova & C. Zschieschang, Bielefeld University, Germany, 6 November 2024.





## RESEARCH STAYS

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Jani, D. K. Archival visit at the Archives nationales de France; La contemporaine, Université de Nanterre; Archives diplomatiques, Courneuve, Paris, France, 21-26 March 2025.

Jani, D. K. Archival visit at the British Library, British National Archives at Kew, London School of Economics (London); People's Museum, Working Class Movement Library (Manchester); Modern Records Centre (Coventry); Hull History Centre (Hull) U.K, 9-20 March 2025.

Jani, D. K. Archival visit at the International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 5-7 March 2025.

Buderath M. Participant Observation at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, Scotland, 23 February - 1 March 2025.

Zschieschang, C. Participant Observation at the World Space Forum 2024, Bonn, Germany, 3-5 December 2024.

Buderath M. Participant Observation at the Police Scotland International Academy, Tulliallan, Scotland, 2-5 December 2024.

Zambrano Vargas A. Research stay at China-Mexico Studies Center (CECHIMEX) at UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), Mexico City, Mexico, 1 August - 31 October 2024.

Zschieschang, C. Participant Observation at the International Astronautical Congress, Milan, Italy, 14-18 October 2024.

## GUEST LECTURERS AND EVENTS IN THE WINTER TERM 24/25

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**15 October 2024, 18.00h c.t.**, Catherine Wihtol de Wenden (Paris): Migrations in the World: Between Realities and Politics (IW Lectures).

**29 October 2024, 18.00 c.t.**, Ronaldo Munck (Dublin): Migration and Social Transformation (IW Lectures).

**06 November 2024, 09.30**, RTG-Gender Equality Workshop: Navigating Barriers and Leaky Pipelines: Perspectives for Women in Academia.

**27-28 November 2024**, RTG Workshop: Reflecting World Politics - Taking Stock, Looking Back and to the Future.

**02-05 December 2024**, Carlos Ballesteros Pérez (Mexico City): visiting the RTG.

**05-06 December 2024**, The Annual Retreat of the Institute for World Society Studies (Bielefeld University), Horn-Bad Meinberg, Germany.

**14 January 2025, 18.00 c.t.**, Stefan Rother (Freiburg): Global Migration and Refugee Governance from Below: a Comparative Perspective (IW Lectures).

**21 January 2025, 18.00 c.t.**, Mirca Madianou (London): Technocolonialism: When Technology for Good is Harmful (IW Lectures).

**22-24 January 2025**, Barry Buzan (London): visiting the RTG.

**28 January 2025, 18.00 c.t.**, Thomas Faist (Bielefeld): The Socio-ecological Question: Climate-related Mobility as a Wicked Issue (IW Lectures).

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE SUMMER TERM 2025

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**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.

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