

DR. MAX LESCH

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen | Chair of International Relations
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Norms, Organisations and Practices | Contestation and Deviance in World Politics
Human Rights, Torture and Corruption | Global Lawmaking, International Fact-Finding

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 9/2019 – Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen
Research Fellow (Postdoc) | Chair of International Relations
- 11/2018 – 8/2019 Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
Research Fellow | Max Planck Research Group “Shades of Illegality in International Peace and Security Law”
- 7/2014 – 10/2018 Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
Research Associate | DFG Project “Norm Disputes: Contestation and Norm Robustness”
- 3/2014 – 6/2014 German Development Institute, Bonn
Scientific Assistant to the Directors
- 5/2012 – 5/2014 Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen
Research Assistant and Researcher

EDUCATION

- 2014 – 2020 Goethe-University Frankfurt
Ph.D. | Political Science
Dissertation: *Dynamics of Deviance. Torture and Its Prohibition in World Politics*
Supervisors: Nicole Deitelhoff and Lisbeth Zimmermann
- 2009 – 2011 Goethe-University Frankfurt
Master of Arts | International Studies / Peace and Conflict Studies
- 2010 Aberystwyth University
M.A. Programme International Politics (exchange term)
- 2006 – 2009 University of Bonn
Bachelor of Arts | Politics and Society
- 2005 Kardinal-Frings-Gymnasium Bonn-Beuel
Abitur (German university entrance qualification)

RESEARCH STAYS

- 2018 Copenhagen University
Visiting Researcher | International Relations Group at the Political Science Department
(two months)
- 2016 United Nations, Geneva
Field Research | UN Committee against Torture (one month)
- 2011 United Nations University – Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges
Research Intern | Peace and Security Programme (three months)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles with Double-blind Peer Review

2020. Multiplicity, hybridity and normativity. Disputes about the UN Convention against Corruption in Germany, in: *International Relations*: 1-21, DOI:10.1177/0047117820965662.
2017. Practice theories and norm research in International Relations. On the contribution of pragmatic sociology (German title: Praxistheorien und Normenforschung in den Internationalen Beziehungen – Zum Beitrag der pragmatischen Soziologie), in: *Zeitschrift diskurs* 2: 31-54.
2017. Unlocking the agency of the governed. Norm dynamics and contestation, in: *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal* 2(5): 691-708 (co-authored with Lisbeth Zimmermann and Nicole Deitelhoff).

Book Chapters

2019. Unlocking the agency of the governed. Contestation and norm dynamics, in: Draude, Anke (ed.): *The Agency of the Governed in the Global South: Normative and Institutional Change*, Routledge (co-authored with Lisbeth Zimmermann and Nicole Deitelhoff).

Other Publications

2014. Just a fig leaf? Germany's long way to ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption (German title: Nur ein Feigenblatt? Deutschlands langer Weg zur Ratifikation der UN-Konvention gegen Korruption), HSFK-Standpunkt 7/2014, Frankfurt (policy-paper).
2012. Regional security cultures in flux. The responsibility to protect in Southeast Asia and Africa (German title: Regionale Sicherheitskulturen im Wandel: Die Schutzverantwortung in Südostasien und Afrika), Sicherheitskultur im Wandel Working Paper 10/2012, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

INVITED TALKS

Struggles, disputes, and normativity. The norms-practices nexus and the case of China's Belt and Road Initiative

Workshop "Norms and other norms: Exploring norm relations and norm interactions in a complex global order", Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, 7 – 8 November 2019 (with Dylan Loh).

What are norms? An interdisciplinary perspective

Masterclass with Christoph Möllers: "On Norms, Law and Politics" (German title: Über Normen, Recht und Politik), Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, 13 – 16 May 2019 (with Silvia Steininger).

The robustness of the prohibition of torture

Workshop “Decline or Transformation? Norm Change and Values in International Law”, Free University Berlin, 24-25 November 2017 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann).

The negotiation of corruption in the German parliament

(German title: Die Verhandlung von Korruption im Deutschen Bundestag)

Annual Conference of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, 22 – 23 June 2016.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

The normativity of international practices and China’s Belt and Road Initiative (with Dylan Loh)

Workshop: New Voices in International Practice Research, Copenhagen University and Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Duisburg, 18 – 19 February 2021.

Global lawmakers in human rights. How human rights treaty bodies draft general comments (with Nina Reiners)

Conference: Governance Networks: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict. Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, 1 – 2 October 2020.

Emerging United Nations practices in human rights fact-finding. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Human Rights Situation in Chile

Struggles, disputes, and normativity. The norms-practices nexus and the case of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (with Dylan Loh)

Pan-European Conference, European International Studies Association, University of Sofia, 11 – 14 September 2019

Dynamics of deviance. The international prohibition of torture

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Toronto, 27 – 30 March 2019

The Liberal Script and the construction of deviance. The prohibition of torture in the 1970s and early 2000s

Joint Ph.D. Workshop of the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: On contestations of the Liberal Script, Free Universität Berlin, 16 – 18 May 2018

International norm disputes: Comparing the effects of contestation on norm robustness

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, 4 – 7 April 2018 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann, Nicole Deitelhoff and Antonio Arcudi)

Norms, law, and deviance. Doubts about doubts about the prohibition of torture

International norm disputes. Contestation and robustness in the cases of the criminal accountability norm, the ban on torture and the whaling moratorium (with Lisbeth Zimmermann, Nicole Deitelhoff and Antonio Arcudi)

Biennial Conference of the International Relations Sections of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), University Bremen, 4 – 6 October 2017

Negotiating ambiguity. The global norm against corruption and parliamentary bribery laws in Germany

1st Annual Conference of the Political Science Association (PSA) Specialist Group on Corruption and Political Misconduct, University of Sussex, 27 – 28 August 2015

A Climate of Trust? Trust Research and the Climate Regime

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, 18 – 21 February 2015 (with Silke Weinlich)

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2019 Travel Grant to attend ISA Annual Convention by German Academic Exchange Service
- 2015 Travel Grant to attend ISA Annual Convention by German Academic Exchange Service
- 2014 – 2017 Ph.D. Scholarship by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the Cluster of Excellence: “Formation of Normative Orders”, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- 2012 Winner of the Josef Esser Award for the best thesis in Political Science in the second half of 2011, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- 2011 Scholarship for internships in international organisations (three months) by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2021 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen
Human Rights in International Politics (B.A. level)
- Fall 2020 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen
International Relations: Key Concepts (M.A. level)
- Spring 2020 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen
International Relations & European Integration (M.A. level)
- Fall 2019 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen
International Organisations & Institutions (B.A. level, in German)
- Fall 2018 Goethe-University Frankfurt (with Felix Anderl)
International Norms: Emergence, Diffusion, Conflict (M.A. level, in German)

SERVICE

- 2017 Editor-in-chief of PRIF Blog at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
- 2015 – 2017 Speaker of the Ph.D. Programme at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
- Reviewing Cooperation and Conflict, European Journal of International Security, International Relations, International Theory, Journal of International Relations and Development, Millennium, Swiss Political Science Review, Third World Quarterly

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

- 2021 Panel “Autocratisation and Politicisation as Challenge for International Organisations”, DVPW Congress 2021 (German Political Science Association, DVPW), 14 – 16 September 2021 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)
- Workshop “Contested Norms of International Peace and Security Law”, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg 23 – 24 September 2021 (with Christian Marxsen)

- 2020 Conference “Governance Networks: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict”, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, 1 – 2 October 2020 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)
- 2017 Panel “Warum es sich zu streiten lohnt”, Biannual Conference of the International Relations Sections of the German Political Science Association DVPW), University Bremen, 4 – 6 October 2017 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)

MEMBERSHIPS

Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW)

Working Group “Norm research in International Relations” at DVPW

International Studies Association (ISA)

European International Studies Association (EISA)