

---

---

# Doctoral Programme Newsletter



## August 2020

Dear all,

Most of us have returned from the summer break and are back to work. I hope you had a great summer so far, enjoyed some free time and regained fresh energy.

We are currently busy with starting to implement the individual elements of the DP reform (see spotlight on the reform below), planning the course programme accordingly, and organizing the start of the new doctoral student who will join us in October.

In the past months, I have also reached out again to DP members who are not based at

the GIGA in Hamburg to see how they are doing under the corona conditions. Max Montgomery was so kind to write a short report (see spotlight below).

Take care and best wishes,

Maren



## Index

August 2020.....	1
Index.....	1
News.....	2
Spotlight on ... Max Montgomery .....	2
Spotlight on ... DP Reform .....	3
Jobs and Career Opportunities.....	4
Save the date.....	4

## News

[Martin Ostermeier](#) has successfully defended his dissertation on “Key labour market issues and decent work in developing and emerging countries” at the University of Göttingen. Congratulations!

Our alumna [Nicola Nymalm](#) published her dissertation “[From 'Japan Problem' to 'China Threat'? Rising Powers in US Economic Discourse](#)” as a book with Palgrave Macmillan. Congratulations!

[Juliana Tappe Ortiz](#) presented a paper at the International Conference for Political Psychology.

[Jan Klenke](#) took two courses at the ECPR summer school.

[Rafael Castro](#) was taking part as a speaker in a webinar which was organized by the

Department of International Relations of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá.

[Swantje Schirmer](#) and [Michael Kirchschrager](#) got interviewed by the Leibniz-Magazin about their experiences using the project management method “Scrum” to organize their life during the doctorate. The article will be published in August.

[Lisa Hoffmann](#) is invited to held a presentation at the conference “[Advances with Field Experiments](#)” which is organized by the University of Chicago in September.

The [Student Representatives](#) are currently working on an addendum for the DP statute, which specifies the working relations of the doctoral students with other GIGA bodies.

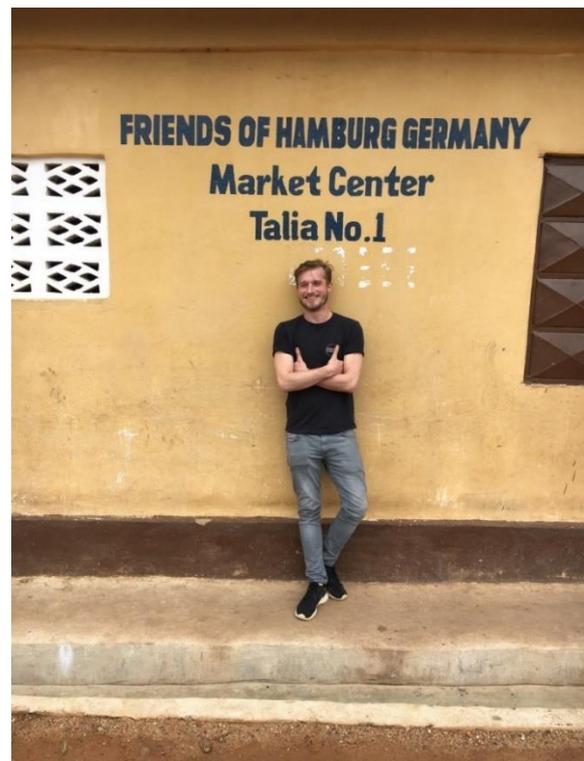
## Spotlight on ... Max Montgomery

Dear all,

I hope everyone is dealing well with the challenges presented by this strange period in all our lives. My coping strategy has involved extensive fermentation-based experimentation and I hope that all of you have found something that gets you through the days.

While I have been with the GIGA for a while now, I am based in Berlin and we probably have not met so far. Hence, I am thankful for the opportunity to introduce myself briefly through this medium.

My academic work (and PhD) explores the long-term effects of colonial institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. In practice, this entailed the collection and digitization of available statistical data from German colonial records



for German East- and South West Africa. On the basis of this dataset, two papers have been published thus far. The first paper, co-authored with Alexander De Juan and Jan Pierskalla, explores the spatio-temporal dynamics of German colonial state-building in German East Africa. The second paper delineates the long-term effects of German colonial missionaries on the gender gap in education in current Tanzania. It demonstrates that regions subjected to colonial missionaries, in particular catholic colonial missionaries, exhibit larger gender gaps in educational outcomes than regions without exposure to missionaries during the colonial period. Building on this finding, I am currently preparing a third submission, which corroborates the gendered long-term effects of colonial institutions by extending the analysis to women's economic opportunities and empowerment. This work is in its final stages and I hope to complete it (and my PhD) in the near future.

My academic progress has suffered some delays, however, as I started to work as a freelance consultant over the past few years. Next to engagements at German development cooperation agencies in projects dealing with, among others, local infrastructure

development in Sierra Leone and anti-corruption frameworks in six African countries, I also got the opportunity to work with the United Nations on establishing the Green Climate Fund in Syria. These experiences provided valuable insights on how development work is carried out in practice and how to engage with a wide range of international and local actors, yet they also demanded considerable time and effort. While most projects seemed manageable at the outset, the sheer multitude of activities, both expected and unexpected, almost always forced me to abandon my academic research activities for some time. Hence, although I did enjoy the change of pace and gathered a lot of inspiration, I have recommitted myself to working full-time on completing my PhD.

I would be delighted to get in touch with you, so feel free to contact me if you have any questions or just want to chat.

I hope you and our loved ones stay safe and sane during these times.

Best wishes from Berlin,

Max

## Spotlight on ... DP Reform

Doctoral students at the GIGA represent a diverse group with different disciplinary and methodological foci and thus varying demands. Our course programme has not fully reflect this breadth so far. This was one of the main points of departure for a discussion of the DP and how it can be further improved.

In individual talks with our president Amrita Narlikar, the regional institute directors, the heads of the research programmes as well as the student representatives, key elements of the DP were discussed, evaluated, and re-

considered. Based on these talks, a reform of the DP has been developed, presented and discussed within the Research Council, and approved by the Executive Board.



The measures that the reform entails should be implemented by October this year. Some of the key elements are:

- The distinction between fellows (self-funded) and associates (projects) will be dissolved – all doctoral students will be fellows.
- The doctoral colloquium will be changed into a research colloquium with a shorter format, consisting of concise presentations that appeal to a broad audience, that is also open to postdocs and senior researchers.
- More detailed presentations of doctoral projects will take place in the research teams with the respective expert audience.
- The course programme will change from specific methods seminars (that are not equally relevant to all sub-disciplines) to core

social science modules that are relevant for all students' research.

- Students take methods courses at their universities according to their individual profiles and specialisations. An individual methods check-up will be integrated into the doctoral board meetings.

Further points of the reform address the application process, external funding possibilities, and administrative issues. I would like to thank everyone who engaged in this debate and contributed to its outcome. I look very much forward to the implementation of the measures and am excited to see how they will further enhance doctoral studies at the GIGA. Let us continue to work on this together and always keep an eye on further improvements.

Maren

## Jobs and Career Opportunities

### [Postdoctoral Research Fellow Position](#)

University of Bergen - Departement of Comparatative Politics  
 Deadline: 17 August 2020

### [Postdoctoral Research Fellow](#)

University of Exeter - College of Social Sciences and International Studies  
 Deadline: 20 August 2020

### [Academic Staff Member](#)

University of Potsdam, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences  
 Deadline: 31 August 2020

### [Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology](#)

University of Oslo - Department of Sociology and Human Geography  
 Deadline: 1 September 2020

### [Assistant Professor in International Human Rights Law](#)

Central European University – Departement of Legal Studies  
 Deadline: 30 September 2020

### [Postdoctoral Researcher - Educational Governance](#)

The Hertie School  
 Deadline: 30 September 2020

## Save the date

26 August 2020

**Colloquium: So Young Chang**