Dear GIGA Doctoral Students,

Christmas is drawing near and the individual regional institutes’ Christmas Parties as well as the GIGA Christmas Party last week have proofed to be an excellent opportunity to get into the festive mood. Thanks to those of you who have helped organising for your efforts and dedication.

As the year comes to a close, we look back on a successful year. Many of you have been working hard to reach an important milestone, submit or defend before the end of the year. We are impressed by the large number of dissertations that were finished this year – congratulations again to all of you who have successfully completed their projects!

At the same time we also make plans for the near future. The new Call for Applications has been published and we look forward to selecting new doctoral students who will join the DP in October 2017.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and all the best for the new year!

Best wishes,
Maren

P.S. Are you going on a conference trip or research stay? Did you come across an interesting job announcement or summer school? This newsletter lives on your input – just send an email to maren.wagner@giga-hamburg.de.

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News

Maria Bondes has submitted her dissertation!

On 9 November, Maria Bondes has submitted her dissertation about “A Burning Issue: Waste Incineration and the Diffusion of Environmental Contention in China” to the University of Hamburg. Congratulations, Maria!

Georg Strüver has submitted his dissertation!

On 9 November, Georg Strüver has submitted his thesis on “Explaining Alignment in International Politics: The Case of Foreign Policy Convergence and Partnerships with China” to the University of Hamburg. Congratulations, Georg!

Janina Pawelz defended her dissertation!

On 28 November, Janina Pawelz has successfully defended her thesis on “The Transformation of Violence-Prone Groups: The Cases of Trinidad and Tobago and Timor-Leste” at the University of Hamburg. Congratulations, Janina!

Julia Strasheim has defended her dissertation!

On 30 November, Julia Strasheim has successfully defended her dissertation about “Interim Governments and the Stability of Peace” at the University of Heidelberg. Congratulations, Julia!

New Student Representatives

Lisa Hoffmann and Christian Ederer have been elected as new student representatives. Congratulations and all the best for your mandate! While Tom Konzack still remains in his position as student representative, Ana Karen Negrete García steps down in order to focus on the final phase of her dissertation. Many thanks, Ana Karen, for your commitment and efforts during the past term!

Who is where?

Ana Karen Negrete García attended the Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE 2016) in La Paz (8-9 December) and presented a paper with the title “Constrained potential: A characterization of Mexican microenterprises.”

Viviana García participated in the conference “Los municipios como espacios de paz y convivencia” organized by the Culture of Peace Foundation and the Institute for Democracy, Human Rights, Culture of Peace and Nonviolence (DEMOSPAZ) in Bilbao and Madrid (12-15 December).

Medha attended the conference “Bildkorrekturen” in Leipzig (17-19 November) organised by Engagement Global GGMBH with the aim of bringing together journalism students, journalists and area experts to discuss the reporting of development issues and to correct stereotypes. The conference themes were digitalisation and society, digitalisation and empowerment, and digitalisation and media. Medha participated in a panel on “Digitalisation in India – Chances and risks for the society” where she answered queries about the impact of digitalisation on minority and women’s rights in India.

Furthermore, Medha is currently in India for the second phase of her fieldwork for her doctoral research on the place of Islam in
India's identity and foreign policy discourses. Her primary aim is to fill the gaps from the first phase of fieldwork by collecting documents from various archive and libraries and conducting expert interviews.

I am currently working on … Siri Völker

Hi everyone,

I am currently in São Paulo continuing the fieldwork for my PhD project. As some of you may know, I am writing my doctoral thesis on the relations between social movements and political parties. Like many other social movements in Brazil, the Afro-Brazilian movement has already since the early 1980s maintained close relations with certain political parties. In my PhD project, I try to reveal how the Afro-Brazilian movement has achieved to maintain itself while interacting intensively with political parties from the Left to influence their legislative agendas. A range of strategies of self-preservation of the movement, in response to different attempts of cooptation by the parties under study, can be observed.

Interview with Deputada Estadual Leci Brandão do PCdoB

To analyze the case, I combine theory-building process tracing with qualitative interviews and ethnographic methods. It is the most exciting experience to finally be here at the scene, where the processes I try to uncover unfold.

I am very thankful for how generously activists of the Afro-Brazilian movement share their time, experiences and knowledge with me. So far, I have conducted interviews with politicians, who maintain relations with the Afro-Brazilian movement, from different Left-wing parties; with activists of the movement collaborating with and organizing within these parties; as well as with activists criticizing the movement's intense relations with parties.

In addition to conducting interviews with people, who are actors in the processes I try to unveil, I also participate myself within the processes of interest as an observer. While I, on the one hand, attend formal and informal meetings of activists organizing within different institutional spaces close to or within political parties, I also accompany less institutionalized activists, for instance, to demonstrations.

I have moreover attended seminars and workshops on topics concerning the Afro-Brazilian movement at different universities here in São Paulo and I have made some valuable contacts with researchers from the University of São Paulo, who also work on the Afro-Brazilian movement. We plan to start some projects together, beginning with a joint article.

It is just too bad that I will miss the GIGA Christmas parties! I wish you all a wonderful Christmas time! See you next year,

Siri
I am currently working on … Clara Franco

Hello!

My name is Clara Franco, I am a new doctoral fellow at GIGA. Originally from Mexico, I have begun my doctoral programme here this past October, joining the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) as well as RP4 (RT2); under the supervision of Dr. Antje Wiener from Uni Hamburg and Dr. Detlef Nolte, currently the director of ILAS.

My academic and professional path has been quite diverse. I hold a Master in International Affairs by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, where I focused my research on global health and education, both through a perspective of development and human rights. During my time in Geneva – as one invariably does when studying in Geneva! –, I did internships in various international organizations and NGO’s, among them the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the local Human Rights Watch office, and the Mission of Mexico to the World Trade Organization.

My previous studies are in International Business, and I have had some work experience in the private sector as well as politics (Mexican Congress).

As for my current research, I’m following my strong interest in advocacy for social causes, as well as gender-related issues, to study the recent advocacy for and against the legalization of abortion in Mexico and in Chile. Presently diving into the literature, refining my methodology... and happy to be part of GI-GA!

Best wishes and happy holidays,

Clara Franco

I am currently working on … Viviana García Pinzón

Hello everybody!

I’m Viviana and started this October as one of the new fellows in the GIGA doctoral programme. I have enjoyed my first month here at GIGA, and I’m happy to be part of the programme. I moved from Bogotá to Germany in June. Thanks to a DAAD scholarship, I spent four months learning German in the beautiful and fairy-tale city of Marburg.

My background is in Political Science. I did my Bachelor at the National University of Colombia (UNAL) and my Master at the University of Chile. After finishing my studies in Chile I came back to Colombia. At that time the Peace Process between the Colombian Government and the FARC had started and the UNAL created a Center to follow the progress of the negotiation. The Peace Talk Table assigned to this Center, along with the United Nations delegation, the task of implementing the component of citizen participation in the process. As part of the team, I spend the last three years
organizing Fora for the Colombian civil society, collecting their proposals regarding the topics of the Peace Dialogue’s agenda and traveling all over the country. It was a meaningful experience, which enabled me to know in a deeper way the Colombian society.

Regarding my current research, I am especially interested in the study of the violence and criminality in Latin America. The objective of my project is to characterize and analyze the dynamics of urban governance, violence and security, based on the relation between state and non-state armed actors. Provisionally, I intend to compare the cities of Medellin and San Salvador. However, since I am currently working on my research design, the cases may change.

I wish to all of you happy holidays and the best for the 2017!

Viviana

We are currently working on … your Student Representatives

Dear colleagues,

in this last edition of the DP Newsletter this year we cut it short: First of all we would like to thank all of you who attended our General Assembly. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and learned something at the event.

For all who were not around, let us introduce to you our new doctoral student representatives: Lisa Hoffmann and Christian Ederer now fortify our team. Both Lisa and Christian started at the GIGA in October. Lisa focuses on the field of experimental economics; Christian’s main interest centres around political violence, in particular terrorism and intrastate war. While Ana Karen steps down due to the final phase of her dissertation approaching, Tom remains in his position.

We would like to thank Ana Karen for her team-spirit, tenacity and devotion to the doctoral programme and wish her all the best for her project.

Please keep in mind that you can always approach us if you have any concerns or ideas regarding your time here at the GIGA. We are happy to assist whenever possible. Just drop us a line or pass by at the doctoral room on the ground floor.

We wish you a merry and relaxed Christmas time with your beloved ones and a “good slide” into the new year with lots of health, happiness and success. We are in particular looking forward to our retreat with you next spring.

Best,
Lisa, Christian and Tom

Jobs and Career Opportunities

Lecturer in Comparative Politics
Newcastle University
Deadline: 19 December 2016

2 Joint Postdoctoral Fellowships
FU Berlin and Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Open to all disciplines, thematic or subject areas that exist at both universities
Deadline: 31 January 2017

2 Postdoc positions (GOVERNECT project)
Leuphana University Lüneburg
Deadline: 2 January 2017
Postdoctoral Fellowships in Global, Comparative, or International Affairs
Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston
Deadline: 3 January 2017

Researcher position, Global Health
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin
Deadline: 31 December 2016

Assistant Professor (International Relations)
Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionales (IBEI)
Deadline: 20 December 2017

Research Associate (Global Poverty and Inequality Dynamics)
University of Manchester
Deadline: 3 January 2017

Research Fellow
University of Birmingham, International Development Department
Deadline: 10 January 2017

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Political Science
PluriCourts, University of Oslo
Deadline: 25 January 2017

Lecturer in Comparative Politics
University of Reading
Deadline: 12 January 2017

Postdoctoral and Research Fellowship Openings (Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences)
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Deadline: 18 January

Up to 3 Postdoctoral Positions
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)
Deadline: 31 January 2017

Rokos Junior Research Fellowship in Development Economics
University of Oxford, Pembroke College
Deadline: 13 February

Upcoming Events

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<td>22 February 2017</td>
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<td>29 March 2017</td>
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<td>26 April 2017</td>
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