

Doctoral Programme Newsletter

December 2018

Dear GIGA Doctoral Students,

Another year is coming to a close and Christmas is just around the corner. While attending many Christmas-related get togethers – many thanks to the new doctoral students for organising a great Christmas Party last week – all of us are also busy with finishing the last work duties for the year.

In this newsletter, two more of our new fellows, Hager Ali and Asma Khalifa, are introducing themselves and Clara Franco is reporting from her field research in the last months.

We hope that you can look back on a successful year, with just having started your dissertation, completing field research or reaching another important milestone of

your thesis. We wish you a happy holiday and look forward to another exciting year with all of you!

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 madina.bizhanova@giga-hamburg.de.



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News

Call for Applications

The GIGA Doctoral Programme invites applications from prospective doctoral students to join the programme on 1 October 2019. Please see our current [call for applications](#). The application deadline is 1 February 2019. Please help us spread the word and feel free to circulate the call among your networks or forward it to potential candidates.

Travel budget

Thank you all for sending your travel planning for the next year. As the concrete

budget allocation has not been confirmed yet, it might take a little longer to inform you about the grants that you will receive from the DP budget. We hope to inform you early next year and also send around the new budget rules then.

Jour Fixe

As determined during the last Jour Fixe, we will change to a bimonthly meeting for the Jour Fixe in the next year. We will start in February, which means you can already save the dates for the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Who is where?

Tharcisio Leone presented his research paper "The geography of mobility: Evidence of intergenerational educational persistence and the Great Gatsby Curve in Brazil" at the conference ["Equal Chances: Equality of Opportunity and Social Mobility Around the World"](#) in Bari, Italy (14-15 December).

Asma Khalifa attended the Georg Arnholt Symposium (6-8 December) organized by the Swiss Peace and Basel University in Basel, Switzerland on [\(Re\)thinking, \(Re\)inventing Sustainable Peace and](#)

[Human Rights Educational Practices](#). She presented a paper "Learning from Teaching: How participation of students contributes to a pedagogy of peace" that was inspired by her work training women in Libya.

Viviana García Pinzón participated in the conference titled ["Histories and Rhythms of Urban Violence. Global-local Encounters in the Nexus of Space and Time"](#). It took place at Erfurt University on 5-7th December. She participated as a discussant for the panel "Mobility, Security, and Disruption."

I am currently working on ... Hager Ali

Hey everyone,

I am Hager Ali, I am from Germany, and one of the new PhD-Students in the Ground Floor Office. I am affiliated with the IMES and part of RP1. Before I came to the GIGA, I



completed my Masters in Political Science at the Central European University in Budapest, and my Bachelor in Poli-Sci and Sociology at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Alongside my studies I have also been working on and off as freelance journalist and illustrator for about 10 years.

My interest in armed forces, regime breakdown and authoritarianism specifically began with the Arab Spring 2011 in Libya when I interviewed a young militant for an

article. Since then I have been researching different areas of armed forces' involvement in domestic politics, and specifically their role in democratization. In my dissertation, however, I take a step back and look at societal, economic and political conditions that enabled armed forces in the Middle East to enter the political arena in the first place. The objective is to investigate the conjunctural causation of authoritarian

persistence in the MENA-Region using fsQCA.

Other than my keen interest in authoritarian politics and militaries, I have a strong affiliation to research methodology. That said, if you are at any time wondering where the majority of methodology-books went – they are most likely at my desk. Where we can absolutely meet for coffee!

I am currently working on ... Asma Khalifa

Hello,

My name is Asma Khalifa, I am one of the new doctoral students who started in October this year. I have studied law and peace & conflict studies in Libya and Turkey. In the past six years, I have worked extensively on the Libyan conflict in capacity building and have researched topics such as gender, civil society and participation. From there I have worked on Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

My PhD project aims to look into the impact of war on agency and inter gender relations, exploring closely how social groups and different genders develop their power and agency in a destructive setting. An example of that is that despite the setbacks and severe consequences for individuals and groups to be involved on certain issues, civil society is able to create change and exert a different kind of power in the reconstruction process.

Libya will be the main case study that is both due to my close understanding of the war and



gender structures there. But also for the diversity of conflicts within the same country that I think it would provide an interesting case study in the field of gender and conflict.

I am still in the phase of working on my methodology and narrowing down my research question. I will be happy to meet and get to know you over coffee or tea if you are interested to know more about the topic.

I am currently working on ... Clara Franco

As part of my doctoral studies, I just spent three months in Mexico – from early September until the end of November – carrying out a first phase of fieldwork for my doctoral project titled “International Dimensions of Norm Contestation in the Debate about Legal Abortion in Mexico”. The main goal was to carry out expert interviews with very specific kinds of actors; such as very prominent activists from specific organizations and NGO's, past and current legislators, policymakers, as well as people who have sent

communications to UN institutions on specific documents, or been part of a Mexican delegation in international conferences, for example the follow-up conferences after ICPD Cairo took place in 1994.

I carried out eighteen such interviews, with people on both sides of the legal abortion debate. All of them, except for one, I met in Mexico City; while only one interview took place in Aguascalientes, the capital city of the central state with the same name. These interviews

provided very interesting insights on this debate where the viewpoints are often so incompatible, as well as pointed to crucial pieces of information which would have been difficult to find otherwise.

While in my home country, I had the opportunity of being hosted as a visiting researcher at El Colegio de México (COLMEX), under the temporal supervision of Prof. Cristina Herrera. This was very helpful, as thanks to people from COLMEX I gained access to some very important contacts for interviews, as well as relevant bibliographical resources. I presented my work to the academic community of COLMEX, as part of their Permanent Seminar on Research 2018 (Seminario Permanente de Investigación 2018).



The timing of my fieldwork also gave me the chance to attend an anti-legal-abortion demonstration on October 20, where I could gather not only very interesting photographic evidence but also get in touch with organizers of the protest, for later interviews.

Jobs and Career Opportunities

[Mercator Kolleg für internationale Aufgaben Scholarship](#)

The German Academic Scholarship Foundation and the Mercator Foundation
Deadline: 20 December 2018

[Research Associate](#)

Department of Business, Economics, Social Sciences, University of Hamburg,
Deadline: 21 December 2018

[Professor of International Relations](#)

European Professional School for Public Policy, Hertie School of Governance
Deadline: 15 January 2019

[Research Associate Positions](#)

Institute for Latin American Studies, Free University Berlin
Deadline: 31 December 2018

[Professorship in Women, Society and Development](#)

College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hamad bin Khalifa University
Deadline: 31 December 2018

[Postdoctoral Research Associate](#)

Durham University
Deadline: 14 January 2019

[WiSe Research Fellowship, Economics](#)

Glasgow Caledonian University
Deadline: 11 January 2018

[CESS/FLAME Postdoctoral Research Officer](#)

Nuffield College, Oxford
Deadline: 14 January 2019

[Associate Professor \(tenure track\), International Development Studies](#)

University of Jyväskylä
Deadline: 15 January 2019

Merry Christmas! We wish you a happy holiday with family and friends.

