

Doctoral Programme Newsletter



February 2020

Dear GIGA Doctoral Students,

The submission deadline for applications for the DP has recently expired. We have again received interesting applications and are currently busy with reviewing them.

In the meantime, we are in the process of finalizing the summer term course programme. We will have courses on, for example, regression analysis or survey designs, as well as soft skills workshops, namely one on project management and one on advanced academic writing. We will publish the programme and start the registration period around mid March.

In this newsletter, Rafael is reporting from his fieldwork and Mona is introducing herself as a new fellow of the programme.

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 Seija.Schneider@giga-hamburg.de.

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News

The new month has started with phenomenal news from [Carolina Guerrero](#). She successfully defended her dissertation titled "First Ladies in Politics: Lessons from Latin America, 1990-2016" at the University of Hamburg on 16th of January. Congratulations!

[Jan Klenke](#) held a talk on the results of COP 25 at the Juso Hochschulgruppe at University of Hamburg on 16th of January and a joint presentation at the Social Science Climate Research Colloquium on their findings on COP 25 on 23rd of January.

[Swantje Schirmer](#) participated in a Virtual Conference of an Early Career Working Group on the policy-oriented research project "A Westphalia for the Middle East" organised by Cambridge University on 22th of January.

[Hager Ali](#) published a commentary about the war between Iran and the US in the Brazilian Newspaper [O Globo](#) on 26th of January.

[Eduardo Velosa](#) successfully defended his dissertation titled "Formalizing Roles to Assess Extra Regional Powers' Influence on Foreign Policy. South America, China, and the

United States, 1990-2015" at the University of Hamburg on 5th of February. Congrats!

[Svenja Schöneich](#) successfully defended her dissertation with the title "Living on a Time Bomb - Local perspectives and responses on fracking, oil and gas projects in a rural community in Veracruz, Mexico" at the University of Hamburg on 6th of February. Congratulations!

[Lisa Hoffmann](#) will be co-convenor at the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), organizing an Interdisciplinary Fellow Group on „Sustainable Rural Transformation“ from February to May.

[Jayane Maia](#) will attend a winter school on digital tools for social science research at the Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Lisbon from 10th to 14th of February.

[Pedro Costa](#) will participate the ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques organized by the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, attending a course on "Introduction to Bayesian Inference" from 17th-21st of February.

Spotlight on ... Rafael Castro on fieldwork in Colombia

Hey there!

My fieldwork in Colombia started at a time of considerable social unrest for Latin America in general. Although with different specific national triggers, social protests have extended across the region. Among this

diversity, there are some common traits in this socio-political outburst, such as the staggering inequality, the rising costs of living, and a disenchantment with the political institutions –worrisome due to the region's recent dictatorial past. The political and economic elites are deemed responsible

as they have come up short or utterly reluctant to fulfill their promises of fighting corruption and bridging the rich-poor gap (as you can imagine, the movies *Parasite* and *Joker* got quite popular in this setting).

In the case of Colombia, although with less intensity in the demonstrations than the Chilean process, the protests have been massive and have combined a decisive demand for equality, basic public goods such as affordable healthcare and education, with a strong claim for the implementation of the peace accords signed in 2016 by former president Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The latter has become critical as demobilized FARC combatants, and social and environmental leaders are systematically being assassinated, presumably by paramilitary forces, while the current Colombian president, Ivan Duque, has tried to deflect his responsibility and boycott and undermine the peace agreement. As in other Latin American countries, the protests have been significantly repressed, and several people have been slain, while many others have been injured. President Duque, like other right-wing presidents in the region, sought to delegitimize the demonstrations by unfoundedly pointing out that the protests are infiltrated and financed by the Venezuelan government and the São Paulo Forum –a conference for leftist political parties and organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Why is all of this relevant for my fieldwork and what I want to say about Colombian foreign policy and its current participation in the institutions of regional (dis)integration in Latin America? First of all, the

poststructuralist approach that I am taking demands me to think beyond classic IR domestic/international binary constructions, and to inquire in more depth, for instance, about the articulation of the political identities of the elites to understand how hegemonic discourses on foreign policy and regional integration are built. Part of this implies looking for the historical practices of these groups, hence, my visit to the Colombian National Archive in search of critical historical points that have marked the country's elites' external identity and its impact on the relations with the region and with the US. Another piece of this has been to interview members of the congress and the Ministry of Foreign Relations to look for the contemporary continuities and discontinuities of these discourses and practices. Here it also proves critical to search for possible counter-hegemonic discourses not only among the political parties but also within the social movements, as they challenge and might bring about change in the established political practices.

What can I spoil you from my findings so far? Since the XIX century and even more after the loss of Panama, the Colombian elites decided to 'cut their losses' to the US and construct an international identity mirroring in many issues that of the North American country. This also implied a very radical, McCarthyist anti-communist stand during the Cold War that persists in an important part of the Colombian economic and political elites, which associates any perceived 'leftist' agenda/group as an existential threat to democracy, free market, and so on. Under this umbrella fall public education, health, pensions, environmental demands, etc. In several historical points, like the current

presidency, this antagonistic logic has been taken to the international arena and is, therefore, connected to the participation of the country in the processes of regional (dis)integration. However, such an antagonistic stance to other ideologies makes regional cooperation particularly complicated in a region constantly moving along the ideological spectrum. It is also a dangerous take internally to deal with

legitimate social claims. Will this trend persist in Colombia and other Latin American countries turning regional integration ultimately impossible? Are there hopes for a less antagonistic construction of Colombian and Latin American politics? I hope we can discuss about this a bit more. See you all very soon. Un abrazo desde Bogotá.

Rafael.

Spotlight on ... Mona Saleh

Hello Everyone,

My name is Mona; I joined the doctoral program at the GIGA last month. I started my Doctoral degree in 2019 at the Political Science Institute, Göttingen University, where I am also a Research Fellow in the research project "The Authority of International Organizations and Institutional Overlap" under the supervision of Prof. Tobias Lenz.



I hold a master degree in International Relations/Political Science from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and a Master of Global Affairs from the School of Public

Policy and Global Affairs at the American University in Cairo.

In fall 2019, I did a four-month research fellowship, Mediterranean Dialogue Fellowship, at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. I also worked as a research fellow and research assistant at various institutions such as the Global Affairs Program at the American University in Cairo and the Peacemaking Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington DC in addition to occupying different positions at the Library of Alexandria, Egypt.

My research interests include governance, international/regional organizations, legitimacy, political discourse analysis, critical studies, security studies, and disarmament and nonproliferation.

Looking forward to meeting you in person.

Jobs and Career Opportunities

[Lecturer in Politics](#)

University of York

Deadline: 23 February 2020

[Assistant Professor in Political Theory](#)

Department of Political Science Central

European University Vienna

Deadline: 16 March 2020

[Lecturer in Politics & International Relations](#)

Canterbury Christ Church University

Deadline: 3 February 2020

[Lecturer in British and European Politics and Public Policy](#)

The University of Manchester

Deadline: 2 March 2020

[Postdoctoral researcher in Smart Mobility](#)

Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations

Coventry University

Deadline: 15 March 2020

[Assistant Professor in the area of History of Political Institutions](#)

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Deadline: 02 March 2020

[Lecturer / Associate Professor in Digital Humanities](#)

UCL London

Deadline: 08 March 2020

Save the date

26 February 2020	Colloquium: Sabine Mokry and Hana Attia
25 March 2020	Colloquium: Asma Khalifa, Juliana Tappe Ortiz
8 April 2020	DP Jour Fixe