

Doctoral Programme Newsletter



September 2019

Dear GIGA Doctoral Students,

Registration is now open for our Winter Term Programme (see a list of the courses below). We offer a mix of introductory and more advanced courses as well as two interesting soft skills seminars, one on teaching and the regular defense training, and hope that the courses meet your interest. Please register online until 24 September.

Next month we will welcome two new fellows to our programme – two others will, unfortunately, only be able to join us in about half a year. Nevertheless we look very much forward to getting to know everyone!

We hope that you have enjoyed the conference on career development earlier this

month. If you were not able to attend you can read a report on the event below. Thanks again to the orga-team for their efforts!

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 paula.denker@giga-hamburg.de.

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News

Summer is coming to its end – and everyone is slowly returning to the GIGA. Some of the Doctoral Students visited some late Summer Schools or participated at some interesting conferences.

[Rebecca Lohmann](#) was in Köln for the “[Cross Cultural Surveys](#)” Summer School which took place in August

[Clara Franco](#) was visiting the Conacyt Conference from the 1st – 4th of September.

[Tom Konzack](#) went to the [ECPR General Conference](#) held at the University of Wrocław, Poland. The Conference remains Europe’s largest annual gathering of political Scientists. The conference took place from the 4th – 7th of September.

[Leonardo Bandarra](#) will participate at a Seminar “Sicherheitspolitik & Innere Führung” in the Zentrum Innere Führung of the Bundeswehr Koblenz from the 16th – 20th of September.

On the 16th of September, [Svenja Schöneich](#) submitted her dissertation to the University of Hamburg. Congratulations, Svenja!

Last but not least – we are happy to announce that registration is now open for our [winter term programme](#). We offer again a variety of courses, for example on experimental methods or a workshop on how to teach. Please register online until the 24th of September. For any further questions please contact our student assistant [Paula Denker](#).

Spotlight on... DP Conference

Day 1: Monday, 2 September 2019

The conference started with two inspiring welcome speeches by Prof. Dr. Amrita Narlikar (President of the GIGA) and Dr. Maren Wagner (Head of the DP). “Do the work and the glory will follow” – Amrita named four building blocks of doing a PhD at the GIGA: (1) Doing outstanding research, (2) Theoria-cum-praxi, (3) Read, read and read! And develop your love for the blank page!, (4) Get feedback and make use of the unique framework GIGA provides, including the global approach to scholarship, and the expertise and experience of the researchers around. She concluded with the note that the PhD is a key which might open many doors for us – if we respect the process and do our work well. “You will find

your place in the jungle” – Maren focused her speech on the opportunity to kick-off a thought process about what comes after our PhD. She encouraged us to think about the PhD as a process rather than one product. A process which consists of ups and downs, which allows us to grow and is one chapter that will lead us to the next chapter of our life. Both stressed the point that they are happy to be approached by us, discuss our ideas and concerns and give us guidance and advice during the process.

Skill lab 1: Media communication and interview training (Katrin Prüfig)

In the first skill-lab, we had the opportunity to learn from the rich experience of Professor Katrin Prüfig. She taught us the challenges

and opportunities of being interviewed – and practiced with us our skills in front of the microphone and the camera. We take away that “any question is a good question,” the importance of also getting your own message across when answering the journalist’s questions and of giving added value (details, non-public knowledge information, historical background, etc.) as well as many other interesting insights to give an outstanding media interview.

Day 2: 3 September 2019

Skill lab 2: Creativity (Kathryn Redway)

To warm up, Kathryn first invited us to a journey to Florence on her magic carpet. After the thrilling flight, we explored the similarities and differences of creativity and innovation and explored which of the characteristics we carry within our-selves. After we discussed why we do not have more ideas, Kathryn showed us three tools to overcome the emotional, intellectual, environmental and perceptual barriers that hold our creative minds back.

Skill lab 3: Career planning (Siofra McSherry)

Professional football player, pilot or just a general superhero? In the third skill lab we went back to our childhood dreams and explored the values that still drive our professional and private lives. Dr. Siofra McSherry made clear that the key to success is to recognize what we value in life and become comfortable with the pursuit of these values. Later on we also took the time to have a realistic look at the career path in academia in Germany (some might call it a “slap of reality”).

Skill lab 4: Spontaneity (Luisa Perrone)

Luisa led us to a fourth skill lab full of golfing elephants, emotional cinemas and old couples on vacation. We also learned how to help our

bodies relax in intense situations and discussed our individual experiences with all kinds of trouble during lectures and presentations.

Day 3: 4 September 2019

Skill lab 5: Publishing peer reviewed articles (Julia Grauvogel)

Dr. Julia Grauvogel, who is also a researcher at GIGA, shared with us her rich knowledge of all the Do’s and Don’ts of publishing peer reviewed articles. As an editor herself (Africa Spectrum) she has reviewed, accepted and rejected numerous articles and given all kinds of feedback. With her we explored how to find the best target journal (hint: check the journals you cited the most in your own piece) and discussed some strategies to get in. Four major take-aways: (1) Come up with a catchy AND informative title, (2) spend some serious time on the abstract, (3) pay attention to the journal’s formalities, and 4) a good letter to the editor can give you some good initial points if you shortly and nicely describe how your article fits into the journal’s publishing line ;) -e.g. you continue a debate that took place in a special issue, were inspired by a particular piece in it, quote and address several of the published articles, and so on.

Alumni: Dr. Johannes Plagemann and Dr. Lena Giesbert

Johannes Plagemann told us the story of his PhD at GIGA roughly ten years ago and how he eventually found his way back to the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies. Get the dissertation done in time! Was one important life lesson he shared with us (especially if you are not sure about pursuing a career in academia). Another recommendation was to be honest with ourselves about an academic career, whether we meet “the threshold” and whether

we are up for a competitive and mostly unstable path for more than a decade after the Ph.D., jumping from one proposal to the next. Lena Giesbert has left academia to become a consultant at GFA consulting in Hamburg. She pointed out that such a change in career might mean that the accomplishments that are valued during our PhD (e.g. published papers) will not be as important out there, while other are valued even more (e.g. experience in the field, with donors and

project management skills). She pointed out how she used the time during her post-doc to evaluate her options outside of academia and found it a very useful transition towards her next steps.

We hope that you had an informative and thought-provoking couple of days that contributed to your own reflections on your career path!

Your orga-team

Spotlight on ... Niklas Krösche

Hey guys,

I came to the GIGA almost one year ago after graduating from the Georg-August-University in Göttingen. Here in Hamburg, I not only work on my PhD but also as a research fellow in a project on the legitimation strategies of regional organizations, headed by Tobias Lenz.

For quite some time now, I have been fascinated by international politics. International and regional organizations in particular have piqued my interest. I am drawn to the ambivalences that can be observed, such as power and impotence, cooperation and contestation, transformation and preservation. For years, my focus has not only been on international organizations but likewise on Africa, a continent with great potential and considerable challenges.

These two areas have followed me throughout my studies, from my Bachelor's thesis on the impact of World Bank and IMF policies on extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa to my Master's thesis on the African Union and its guiding norms and principles. This road, with



some twists and turns, has led me to my PhD research project. In brief, it is about the politics of the Security Councils of the African Union and the United Nations,

and the factors that determine as well as shape action and inaction. A core impetus for choosing to deal with this topic stemmed from my interest in finding out to which extent these powerful bodies take their various commitments to human security, human rights and democratic principles seriously; or, to take it one step further, to which extent they come through for the ordinary people of Africa. Considering that these organizations consist in no small part of member states with dubious national and international track records on these fronts, a healthy dose of skepticism appears to be warranted and more scrutiny is necessary.

Also, I wish to use this opportunity to point to an extracurricular project a number of friends

and myself seek to kick-start. This project is meant to give forcibly displaced people a voice as well as more generally educate on their situations – at home and abroad – to combat ignorance in host societies. If anyone of you happens to be interested in the topic or project, I would be excited to exchange views with you.

Lastly, as some of you might have noticed, I am not around as much as I would like to be – especially when it comes to activities outside of work. This is due to the fact that I still live in

Göttingen and merely commute to Hamburg multiple times per week via train, at the cost of some flexibility. Yet I would be more than happy to do something with each and every one of you, so please keep that in mind and contact me whenever you feel like it. And remember: we are *més que un programa* and have strength in numbers (the sports nerds among you may have spotted this admittedly lazy attempt to rep my teams :-))!

Best, Niklas

Spotlight on ... New Visiting Doctoral Researcher

Sabine Mokry

Dear all,

My name is Sabine Mokry. I am a visiting doctoral researcher based at IAS and will be here until next summer. I am doing my PhD in Political Science at Leiden University in the Netherlands. In my dissertation I want to find out under what conditions Chinese societal actors influence China's foreign policy priorities. Societal actors I am looking at are think tankers, scholars, and lobbyists. I understand foreign policy priorities as foreign policy frames in official documents and speeches.

My PhD project seeks to enhance our understanding of how China's foreign policy comes into being. First, I will contribute a systematic mapping of the evolution of China's foreign policy priorities as expressed through frames in official documents. Then, my study will offer insight into when societal actors influence China's foreign policy and theorize possible conditions under which societal actors influence foreign policy. At the moment, I am deep

into the at times painful process of inductively developing a coding system for the empirical mapping of foreign policy frames in almost 100 selected documents and speeches. As my dissertation topics suggests, I am mainly interested in China's foreign policy and policy making in the PRC, but I also want to start thinking about how the case of China compares to other cases.

Before pursuing my PhD full-time I worked at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), Europe's largest think tank focusing on contemporary China based in Berlin. During my almost four years there I learned a lot about policy-oriented research and policy debates on China across Europe. If you would like to learn more about working in a (foreign policy) think tank, feel free to get in touch. I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you, learning about your research and exchanging views around IR, foreign policy or the practicalities of doing fieldwork. You reach me best via email (sabine.mokry@giga-hamburg.de).

Jobs and Career Opportunities

[Assistant Professor of the Politics of the Arab World](#)

Georgetown University – Edmund A. Walsh
School of Foreign Services
Deadline: 2 November 2019

[Full/ Associate/ Assistant Professor of Politics & History of Southeast Asia](#)

Singapore Management University – School of
Social Sciences
Deadline: 30 September 2019

[Lecturer or Senior Lecturer, Peace and Conflict Studies](#)

University of St Andrews – School of interna-
tional Relations
Deadline: 30 September 2019

[Tyndall Centre Lecturer in Climate Change and International Development](#)

University of East Anglia – Tyndall Centre for
Climate Change Research School of Interna-
tional Development
Deadline: 30 September 2019

[Assistant Professor in Development Studies](#)

Erasmus University Rotterdam – International
Institute of Social Studies
Deadline: 7 October 2019

[Open Rank in Comparative Politics and/or International Relations](#)

University of Essex – Department of Govern-
ment
Deadline: 11 October 2019

[Research Associate](#)

King's College London- Policy Institute at
King's
Deadline: 29 September 2019

[Postdoctoral Research Fellow](#)

University of Bergen – Department of Com-
parative Politics
Deadline: 1 October 2019

[Fung Global Fellows Program – Postdoctoral Research Associate](#)

Princeton University
Deadline: 15 November 2019

GIGA DP Winter Term Programme

Registration is now open for the DP Winter Term Programme.

The courses are open to doctoral students and postdocs. Seniors are also welcome. Please register [online](#) by filling in the registration form that is available on the website of the respective event. Questions can be addressed to [Paula Denker](#).

Registration deadline: Tuesday, 24 September 2019

[Research Design and Strategy](#)

10 - 11 October 2019
Edalina Rodrigues Sanches, Universidade de Lisboa

[Qualitative approaches to data collection and analysis](#)

14 - 15 October 2019
Alexandra Hartmann, UCL

[Experimental Methods in the Social Sciences](#)

21 – 22 October 2019
Joanna Gereke, MZES and Nan Zhang, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods

[Data Analysis with R](#)

5 – 6 November 2019
Rodrigo Rodrigues-Silveira, Salamanca University

[Concept formation and measurement](#)

12 November 2019

Saskia Ruth-Lovell, GIGA

[Global approach to CAS Series I](#)

25 November 2019

Patrick Köllner, GIGA

[Global approach to CAS Series II](#)

2 December 2019

André Bank, GIGA

The following Soft Skills seminars are GIGA-internal only:

[How to teach](#)

28 - 29 October 2019

Gunda Mohr, Universität Hamburg

[Doctoral Defense Training](#)

11 October 2019

Dunja Mohr, Go Academic!

Save the date

25 September 2019	Colloquium: Jayana Maia: "Subnational party systems and electoral volatility: the case of Brazil".
1 October 2019	Welcome Day
9 October 2019	DP Joure Fixe
10 – 11 October 2019	Winter Term Seminar: Research Design and Strategy
11 October 2019	Soft Skills Seminar: Doctoral Defense Training
14 – 15 October 2019	Winter Term Seminar: Qualitative approaches to data collection and analysis
30 October 2019	Colloquium: Tevin Tafese