

Durham Global Security Institute

Conflict Lecture Series

- Title:** *In the Neighbourhood of War: Transformations in the Syrian-Jordanian Borderland*
- Speaker:** Dr André Bank
- Date:** Tuesday 30th October 2018
- Time:** 17.00 – 18.30
- Venue:** Room MHL452, Durham University Business School



Wars tend to transform not only the spaces in which the violent fighting takes place, but also the spaces close by, including the border regions in neighbouring states. The Syrian war is no exception to this, quite the contrary: From the very beginning of the war in 2011, prominent politicians, opinion-makers and conflict diffusion scholars voiced strong calls that warned of a 'regional wildfire,' of the Syrian conflict quasi-naturally spreading to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. While not denying the massive neighbourhood effects of the war over the last seven years, the presentation still calls for a more nuanced understanding of the transformations of the borderlands of the Syrian conflict. Based on qualitative field research in the Northern Jordan (Irbid, Mafraq, Ramtha), it is argued that the local logics of (in)security need to be disaggregated both temporally and spatially.

Such a bottom-up perspective that takes up the perceptions of (in)security of the people living in the borderland of war cautions against overly simplistic models of violent conflict diffusion and spread.

Biography

Dr André Bank is the interim director of the GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies in Hamburg, Germany. He is the speaker of the Leibniz foundation-funded research cluster on "International Diffusion and Cooperation of Authoritarian Regimes" (IDCAR). Recently, he concluded a research project on the "Syrian War in Jordan," funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research.

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