

GIGA ANNUAL REPORT

1964
1974
1984
1994
2004
2014

2024

GIGA
German Institute for Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien



GIGA ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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PREFACE



Dear Reader,

What a year 2024 was for us, coming with the promise of change! The GIGA is between presidencies and evaluations, allowing us to assess where we want to go from here, to modernise our institutional make-up.

In line with our collegial leadership model, we ran Task Forces on Institutional Culture, Research Strategy, Knowledge Exchange, and Governance to initiate comprehensive reform. We have revisited our mandate of excellent fundamental research and impactful multi-stakeholder outreach to policy circles, civil society, and the wider public, setting innovative targets for our work and building new pathways towards realising them.

The GIGA was created 18 years ago, and following on from its predecessor institute, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2024. Close scrutiny saw the redundant discarded and proven practices formalised. Our matrix structure of four Regional Institutes interlinked with four Research Programmes has served to fuse five formerly distinct institutions under one GIGA roof. Fortunately, we have become more than the sum of our parts.

As we step into this new chapter to our institutional trajectory, we aim to maintain collegial leadership, term limits for academic management positions, decision-making transparency, and employee participation at various levels. It has been a joy to see the team shaping a new future together, debating and developing relevant suggestions. Once we will clear all formal hurdles, we look forwards to a creative implementation phase and to reaping the rewards of an ambitious yet supportive environment that fosters good working conditions and cutting-edge research, needed more than ever with the world in upheaval.

Best Regards,
The GIGA Executive Board

RESEARCH AT THE GIGA AND HIGHLIGHTS 2024

1



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RESEARCH AT THE GIGA

Participants of the workshop “Exploring Avenues for (Enhanced) Collaborations in the Digital Sphere in Africa,” organised in partnership with the German Federal Foreign Office and IDOS

The German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) analyses political, economic, and social developments in and across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, as well as global issues and their local and regional repercussions. The Institute engages in regular knowledge-exchange activities with policy-makers, practitioners, and the wider public, committed to the Leibniz motto of “theoria cum praxi.” With its rigorous research and research-based knowledge exchange, the GIGA thus contributes to academic innovation and societal progress on core issues of our time.

One example is our work on how civil society can counter authoritarian governments’ digital repression (see Impact Story on page 41). We were pleased to read from the mid-term audit, conducted by the Institute’s Academic Advisory Board in 2024, that the “overall impression of the GIGA’s ongoing work and activities was very positive, building on the strong results of the last evaluation in 2021.” The successful audit positions the GIGA very well for the regular Leibniz evaluation, which will take place in 2028.

The Institute’s flagship approach is Comparative Area Studies, with which we conduct both intra- and cross-regional comparisons at

different levels of analysis – global, regional, national, local. Our scholarship combines context sensitivity with cutting-edge research methodologies. We develop and apply, as such, innovative analytical approaches engaging with diverse perspectives and experiences from different world regions.

In 2024, the GIGA’s scholars oversaw about 50 third-party-funded projects, supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), different federal ministries, the Leibniz Association, the European Union, and international funding agencies (see Annex). Successful projects such as “World Order Narratives of the Global South” (funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and conducted together with the University of Hamburg), the “Digital Transformation Lab” (funded by and conducted together with the Federal Foreign Office), and “Religion for Peace” (funded by the DFG and carried out jointly with local partners in Africa) started their second phases. The GIGA also managed to acquire new funding for research on important topics such as democratic backsliding, mass protests, and refugee politics.

The Institute’s scholars continued to publish their results as articles in high-ranking academic journals – many of them Open Access – and

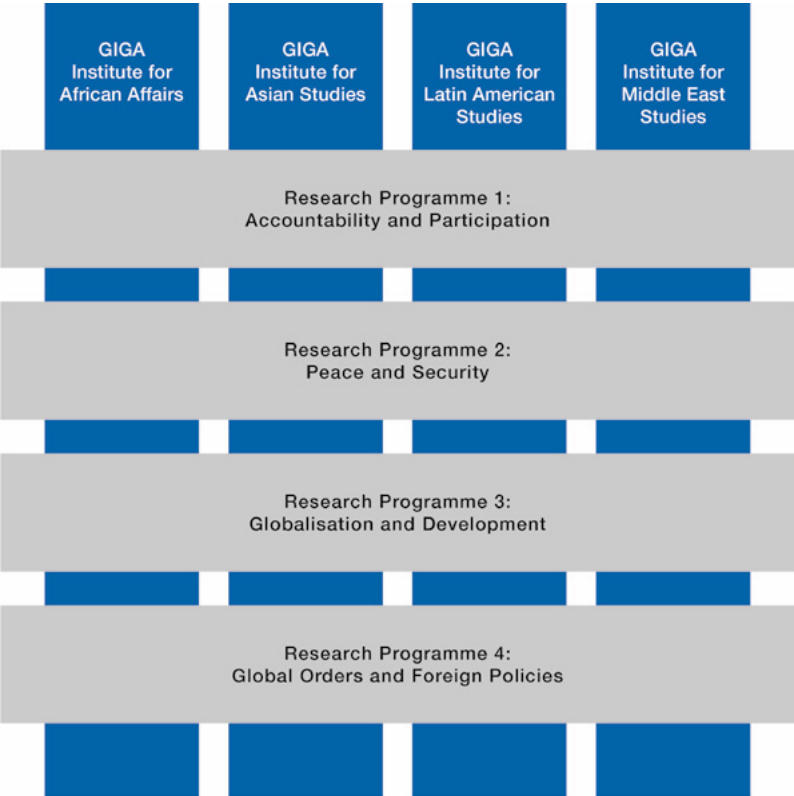
as books with international university presses (see Annex). We consciously seek to do so in a range of different languages so as to address audiences both in the Global North and the Global South, while also making increasing use of formats such as blogs, videos, info graphics, and data publications. The list of honours

on sustainable global supply chains, the role of sanctions, responsible economic statecraft, global health cooperation, peacebuilding in Africa, or outlooks in Syria after the end of the Assad regime. In 2024, GIGA researchers were again in high demand with the media, with nearly 300 contributions – a record – made to national and international outlets.

In the course of its scholarship and knowledge exchange, the GIGA collaborates with leading research institutions around the world. Doing so builds on a long-standing tradition of working with colleagues in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East via institutional partnerships, participation in major research initiatives, formal and informal networks, as well as individual research stays. Associates of and Visiting Fellows at the Institute work with GIGA colleagues on specific projects, events, and publications.

The GIGA is organised according to a matrix structure that combines four Regional Institutes and four cross-cutting thematic Research Programmes. Find out more about our work in these units on the following pages. ■

GIGA Research Matrix



awarded to the Institute’s researchers grew further in 2024, with three publication awards and three prizes for doctoral theses, among them the prestigious Leibniz Dissertation Award.

At the same time, the GIGA made sure to engage with policymakers and other stakeholders – in Germany, Europe, and globally. Our scholars contributed, inter alia, to debates

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

GIGA Celebrates 60th Anniversary



©photo: GIGA

Founded in 1964 as the Deutsches Übersee-Institut (German Overseas Institute), the GIGA celebrated [60 years of research](#) on the Global South and global developments. To mark the occasion, the Executive Board awarded several Anniversary Fellowships in the form of short-term contracts for researchers. At an

internal anniversary brunch, the team toasted the Institute's long and successful history. We thank our funders, partners, as well as former and current colleagues for having accompanied us on this journey, and look forward to the coming years. ■

Doctoral Researchers' Conference



©photo: GIGA

Also to mark the Institute's 60th anniversary, members of the GIGA Doctoral Programme organised a [conference](#) at which they critically examined ethical and practical aspects of research on the Global South together with

invited international experts. The focus was on the question of how fairness and equality can be guaranteed in South–North research collaboration. ■

Sabine Kurtenbach Becomes Interim President

Since 1 April 2024, [Sabine Kurtenbach](#) has been President (ad interim) of the GIGA. With extensive experience in peace and conflict research, particularly in Latin America, she aspires to the GIGA's continued excellence in Global Studies, Area Studies, and Comparative Area Studies and being somewhere everybody enjoys working. A long-time GIGA researcher and Honorary Professor at Philipps University Marburg, she emphasises interdisciplinary approaches and the importance of sharing research insights with both policymakers and the general public. ■



©photo: Claudia Höhne

Two New Honorary Professorships at Leuphana

Prof. Dr. Sarah Engler, Director of the Institute of Political Science at Leuphana University of Lüneburg (centre) presents Prof. Dr. Miriam Prys-Hansen (left) and Prof. Dr. Thomas Richter (right) with their certificates of appointment



©photo: Leuphana / Tabatadze

GIGA researchers [Miriam Prys-Hansen](#) and [Thomas Richter](#) were appointed Honorary Professors at Leuphana University Lüneburg. Both now contribute to its new master's programme "Public Affairs and Democracy," teach courses, and collaborate on research projects. Prys-Hansen, an expert in global climate policy and Indian foreign policy, leads the GIGA's Research Programme "Global Orders and Foreign Policies" while Richter focuses on political personalisation and radicalisation, heading the GIGA's Research Programme "Accountability and Participation." ■

Hana Attia Receives Leibniz Dissertation Prize



©photo: David Ausserhofer

GIGA researcher [Hana Attia](#) was awarded the 2024 Leibniz PhD Prize in the “Humanities and Social Sciences” category for her dissertation on international sanctions. Her research, “Biased Coercion: The Imposition, Management, and Termination of US Sanctions,” explores the conditions under which US presidents impose, manage, and lift sanctions. Attia’s interdisciplinary work was praised for its real-world

relevance. As of March 2025, she will hold a Junior Professorship jointly established by Leuphana University Lüneburg and the GIGA. ■

Viviana García Pinzón Wins ADLAF PHD Prize

[Viviana García Pinzón](#), GIGA Doctoral Programme alumna, won this prize for “Local Order, Violence, and Trajectories of Governance in Peripheral Cities in Colombia and El Salvador.” Her study of historical context and subnational difference was published as “Trajectories of Governance – Tracing the Entanglements of Order and Violence in Peripheral Cities of Latin America” (Bristol University Press). ■



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Positive Assessment in Mid-Term Audit

Prof. Dr. Louise Fawcett and Prof. Dr. Daniel Drezner, members of the AAB, at the roundtable “The US Presidential Election, Its International Perceptions and Repercussions” organised on the eve of the AAB’s mid-term audit meeting.

(From left to right: Dr. Maxine Rubin, Prof. Dr. Patrick Köllner, Prof. Dr. Louise Fawcett, Prof. Dr. Daniel Drezner, and Stefan Niemann)



©photo: GIGA

In November the GIGA’s [Academic Advisory Board](#) (AAB) conducted a mid-term audit, mandated by the Leibniz Association at the midpoint of the seven-year evaluation period. The GIGA’s strong research performance, its sizeable international collaboration, and using Comparative Area Studies as its core approach were praised. The AAB confirmed our status as a leading research institution in our field. ■

Julia Grauvogel Joins Senator on Trip to Ghana

GIGA Senior Research Fellow Julia Grauvogel was part of a [delegation to Ghana](#), organised by Hamburg’s Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts and led by Senator Katharina Fegebank. A visit occurred to the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) at the University of Ghana, a close GIGA partner. Sustainable democracy took centre stage in talks there. ■

Senator Fegebank (centre, blue dress) and her delegation in Ghana



©photo: Doro Wildenburg



RESEARCH

2



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GIGA INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS



©photo: Claudia Höhne

**Prof. Dr.
Matthias Basedau**

Democracy proved resilient in a number of African countries in 2024. In four of them – Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, and Senegal – governments were replaced via the ballot box while the continent's wave of military coups subsided. Despite solid growth rates, poverty, unemployment, and debt remain pressing challenges Africa-wide.

Electoral turnover and the prior coups were driven by dissatisfaction with incumbents, which also contributed to armed conflict. Anti-government protests, often led by youth and at times turning violent, gained momentum. Secessionist conflicts remained manifest in Cameroon and still have the potential to (re-)ignite in Ethiopia and Nigeria. Jihadism persisted in the wider Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and beyond. More West African countries are now at risk of contagion.

The external actors involved in the region continued to diversify. Alongside China and Russia, “unusual suspects” like Turkey and the United Arab Emirates are also active. At the same time, the decline of Western influence gathers pace. French troops are set to leave Senegal and have been ordered to do the same in Côte d'Ivoire, marking a historical decline of French

military presence in Africa. Regional integration stands at a crossroads, as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger announced their decision to leave ECOWAS. While “non-Western” external actors proliferating will increase African agency, this development also entails risk. Some governments with questionable credentials might receive greater support, while external rivalries could fuel further conflict.

The [GIGA Institute for African Affairs](#) (IAA) successfully addressed these developments. Swiftly reacting to the historic elections in South Africa in May, where the African National Congress lost its absolute majority, IAA researchers Maxine Rubin and Christian von Soest organised a panel discussion in the German Bundestag and published a related GIGA Focus Africa. In October, IAA Director Matthias Basedau highlighted the phenomenon of “Westernophobia” as a challenge for Germany's Africa Policy at the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Federal Foreign Office. An Africa Roundtable co-organised with the latter in November discussed the role of external actors in the region. A conference on sustainable peace within the framework of the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) was

co-organised by Julia Grauvogel in December. A delegation from the City of Hamburg, one of the GIGA's key funders, discussed questions of democracy at MIASA as part of its October visit to Ghana (see textbox).

The IAA had another very fruitful year in terms of its academic endeavours. IAA researchers published their work in renowned journals. Jann Lay and colleagues examined large-scale land acquisitions and social conflict (forthcoming in the *Journal of Politics*). Julia Köbrich and collaborators analysed what facilitates interreligious contact (published in *Political Psychology*), disseminating their findings via a research comic, too. Their work is connected to a new grant received. Building on a three-year DFG project, this follow-up one will investigate the effectiveness of religious messages and messengers in promoting peace.

Former IAA staff member Hana Attia won the prestigious Leibniz Dissertation Award for her thesis written at the GIGA in the context of two DFG projects on sanctions. *Africa Spectrum*, part of the GIGA journal family and co-edited by Rubin, further increased its impact factor. The journal, also present at the biennial VAD Conference, now shares top spot regarding SSCI-ranked African Studies journals. Reflection on cooperation with the continent and its researchers continued, inter alia in a GIGA Focus Africa on “Decolonising Research via Digital Networks” by Andrew Crawford and in a piece he co-authored in *Research Ethics*. ■

Hamburg Science Delegation Visit to Ghana



Ghana delegation visits MIASA.

GIGA Senior Research Fellow Julia Grauvogel was part of a delegation to Ghana led by Katharina Fegebank, Second Mayor of Hamburg and then Senator for Science. The travelling group included representatives of various research institutes and universities in Hamburg. They visited Accra-based institutions such as WASCAL (the West African Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) and [MIASA](#)⁷. The delegation also met with Ghanaian Minister of Health Bernard Okoe Boye and German Ambassador to Ghana Daniel Krull to discuss questions of climate change, democratisation, and One Health. Intense talks successfully consolidated and expanded existing science collaboration in Ghana.



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GIGA INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES



Prof. Dr. Patrick Köllner

©photo: Claudia Höhne

In 2024, the second part of a massive two-year election cycle took place in Asia. It started with Taiwan's presidential elections, which saw the governing DPP's Lai Ching-te prevail against the Kuomintang (KMT)'s own candidate. However, the KMT emerged with the largest number of seats out of the parliamentary elections simultaneously held. Grievances about the rising cost of living saw incumbent parties lose their absolute majorities in both India and Japan, where, respectively, Narendra Modi (BJP) and Shigeru Ishiba (LDP) became dependent on the support of parliamentary partners. Changes of government occurred elsewhere in South Asia. In Sri Lanka, leftist Anura Kumara Dissanayake was voted in as president in September; a few weeks earlier, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had been forced to step down and flee the country in the wake of her government's bloody clampdown on student protests. The election of Donald Trump as president in November was expected to have major implications for the United States' relations with Asia, too.

The [GIGA Institute for Asian Studies](#) (IAS) addressed these and other developments via research, policy advice, and knowledge-exchange

activities. Ariel Macaspac Hernandez joined the IAS's ranks, while Sinan Chu, Ishrat Hossain, and Nora Kürzdörfer were awarded GIGA Anniversary Fellowships. After Heike Holbig's return to Goethe University Frankfurt as full professor in late 2024, our China expertise was maintained with the hiring of Julia Gurol-Haller starting early 2025. A South Asia-focused policy roundtable took place in the opening months of 2024 at the Federal Foreign Office, after it set up a specialised India Desk within its Asia department. Five more webinars hosted by the Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific, including one featuring GIGA Visiting Scholar Manjeet Pardesi (Victoria University of Wellington), took place. A new digital format organised by IAS scholars and associates, the GIGA China Series, got off to a strong start in 2024, featuring no less than nine webinars and hybrid events with a heavy focus on emerging scholarship.

Against the backdrop of rising disinformation and digital authoritarianism in South and Southeast Asia, Sangeeta Mahapatra, Janjira Sombatpoonsiri, and Andreas Ufen's projects "Strengthening Civil Society Against the Weaponisation of Anti-Fake News Laws" and

“Mapping and Strengthening Civil Society Response to Disinformation” would be in full swing in 2024. Several workshops with civil society actors took place across Asia. Funders of IAS research included the FFO, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (with the second phase of “Performance Monitoring Asia-Pacific Research Area (APRA)” occurring, as culminating in two research reports on technology potentials and skilled labour migration, respectively), the German Research Foundation, the Luminate Foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Leibniz Association.

IAS scholars published 19 articles in peer-reviewed journals including *International Affairs*, *International Studies Review*, *Land Economics*,

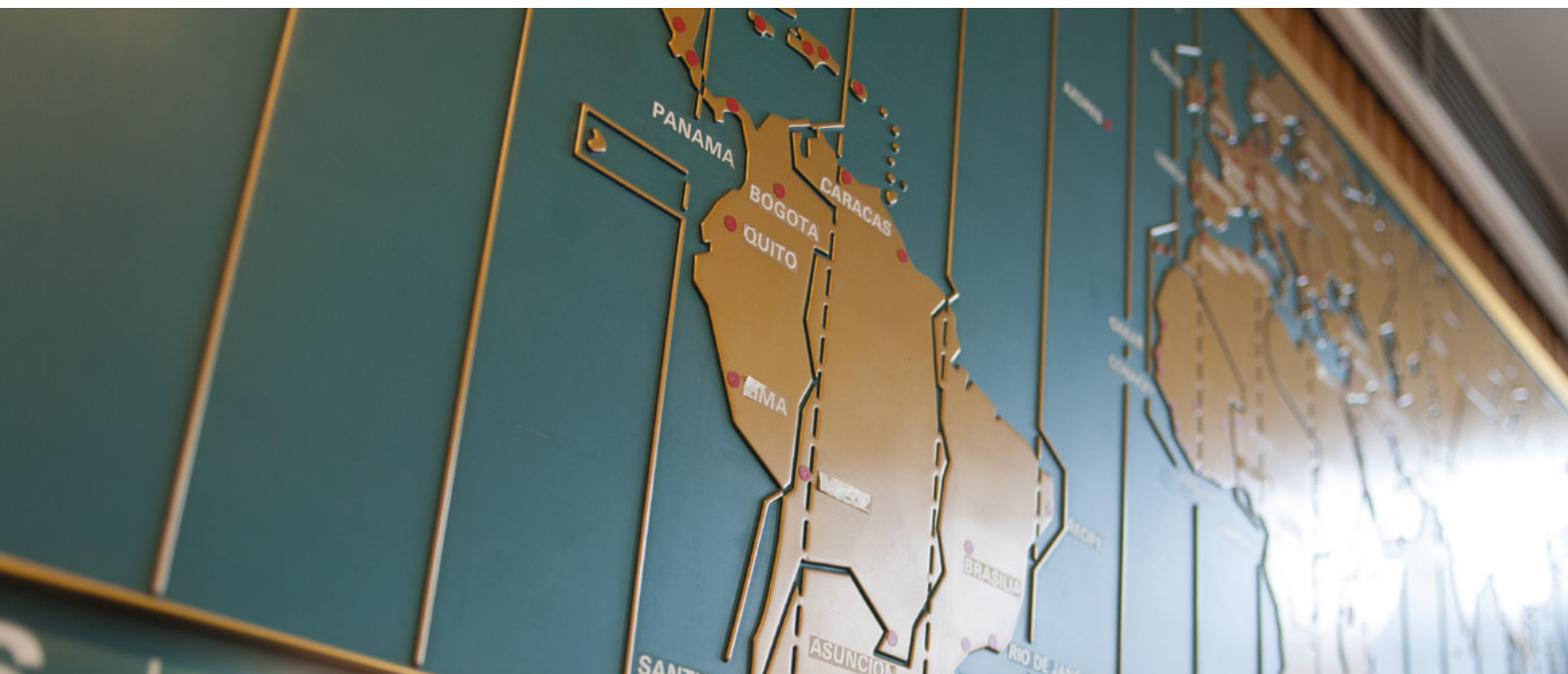
and *The Pacific Review*. Book highlights in 2024 included *Dictators’ Endgames* (Oxford University Press), co-authored by David Kuehn, and *Mass–Elite Representation Gap in Old and New Democracies: Critical Junctures and Elite Agency* (Michigan University Press), edited by Jaemin Shim. The IAS continued to offer research findings also via its two periodicals, the *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* and the *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*. The latter recorded an impact factor of 2.4 and improved its ranking in the “Area Studies” category to 7th place out of 176 journals. The IAS also hosted individual visiting scholars from Afghanistan, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as two from India. ■

Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue



©photo: GIGA

After going digital during the pandemic, the [Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue](#) – which, since its inauguration in 2019, has brought together researchers and officials from both countries – returned to physical format in November 2024. Following the Indo-German Governmental Consultations, the GIGA and its domestic partner, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, welcomed ambassadors and officials as well as delegates from the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries as part of a two-day meeting held in Berlin. On the agenda was cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, specifically in terms of trade, tech, and climate change mitigation.



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GIGA INSTITUTE FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES



Prof. Dr. Mariana Llanos

©photo: Claudia Höhne

With democracy in Latin America under multiple forms of pressure, the threats to its institutions constitute a key research cluster at the [GIGA's Institute for Latin American Studies](#) (ILAS). Within a DFG-funded project, Mariana Llanos and Cordula Tibi Weber analyse strategies by the region's constitutional and supreme courts to include civil society perspectives through public hearings and social media activity. A resulting policy brief was used as input to the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.



Prof. Dr. Bert Hoffmann

©photo: Claudia Höhne

Latin America's continuing problems of endemic violence and crime are addressed in Sabine Kurtenbach's collaborative project with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on peacebuilding and perceptions of peace. This groundbreaking study focuses on six countries across three continents (Cameroon, Colombia, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tunisia, and Venezuela). In October, members of the local project teams met in Berlin to discuss how to best use their developed comparative framework in future.

The DAAD-funded German–Latin American Centre of Infection and Epidemiology Research (GLACIER One Health) is pioneering a

truly interdisciplinary research agenda, one in which the GIGA – with Bert Hoffmann as lead researcher – cooperates with the Medical Sciences and Natural Sciences. Together with the EU-LAC Foundation and Charité Berlin, the project held a policy-outreach event in Berlin in 2024 with key stakeholders from both Latin America and Europe. The resulting policy brief summarises the lessons learned from COVID-19 for future pandemic preparedness.

With her research on order and violence in Latin America's peripheral cities, Viviana García Pinzón received the ADLAF Prize for best doctoral thesis. Alina Ripplinger, a doctoral researcher in the Leibniz Association-funded "Democratic Institutions in the Global South (DEMINGS)" project, received the award for best conference paper by an early-career researcher from the ECPR Standing Group on Law and Courts. Several ILAS scholars participated at the ALACIP Congress in Lisbon in July and the ECPR General Conference in Dublin in September, where Mariana Llanos co-organised the section on "Latin American Politics." As ILAS's doctoral students continued with their methods training, research, and writing

(Katharina Fietz, Cornelius Haritz, Indi-Carolina Kryg, Jayane Maia, Janaina Maldonado, Johanna Pieper, Désirée Reder, Alina Ripplinger, and Eduardo Tamaki), certain peers successfully defended their theses in 2024 (Rafael Castro, Anna Fünfgeld, Aline-Sophia Hirseland, Jorge Rincón, and Valeria Morales). Daniela Osorio Michel organised a Bolivian Studies workshop at the GIGA Office in Berlin, establishing dialogue between scholars and practitioners.

In 2024, the ILAS welcomed three new post-doctoral researchers: Tomás Marques works on foreign policy and Latin American regionalism with a special focus on Brazil; Samuel Siewers's

research tackles the implications of economic and social inequality in the region; and, Jonas von Hoffmann examines drug policies in Latin America and Mexico. They will strengthen the ILAS's contribution to RP1, RP3, and RP4, respectively. Lead Research Fellows Mariana Llanos and Bert Hoffmann continued as ILAS's interim collegial leadership team, while Sabine Kurtenbach assumed the interim presidency of the GIGA.

The ILAS publishes the Journal of Politics in Latin America (JPLA), with a current impact factor of 1.6 and ranked in the second quartile of the SSCI Political Science domain. ■



©photo: C. R. Taller

Violent Legacies – Insecure Futures

Central America remains shaped by the legacies of civil war, precarious democratisation, and high socio-economic inequality. Levels of violence remain high, organised crime continues to flourish, and migration continues apace. Repressive security policies see extensive human rights abuses and the erosion of civil liberties, undermining confidence in democratic institutions and the rule of law. To discuss current challenges, seek alternatives, and examine the prospects for change, the ILAS – together with the University of Costa Rica – organised a three-day [workshop](#) in February, bringing together researchers and policymakers from Central America and Europe.



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GIGA INSTITUTE FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES



Prof. Dr. Eckart Woertz

©photo: Claudia Höhne

The downfall of the Bashar Al-Assad regime and Israel's military decimation of Hezbollah dealt a severe blow to the Iranian-led "axis of resistance" that also comprises Iraqi militias and the Houthi rebels in Yemen. This strategic setback raised questions about whether Iran might be compelled to make a dash for the nuclear option to re-establish deterrence capability against Israel and the incoming Donald Trump administration, with the latter set to resume its "maximum pressure" campaign against the country.

Lebanon dangled between renewed ethnic strife and restored sovereignty after Hezbollah's significant weakening. The humanitarian crisis in Sudan was unprecedented yet struggled to attract international media attention. The risk of conflict in the Sahel spilling over into North Africa increased.

Meanwhile war left the Gaza Strip destitute. The humanitarian crisis and Israel's conduct of the war met with increased international opprobrium, seeing the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice become involved. The growing drug trade in the Middle East attracted international scrutiny,

especially the production of the amphetamine Captagon in Syria. There could be a new influx of migrants and refugees to Europe from Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, but also from secular Israelis disenchanted with their government's illiberal turn. The UNSC remained paralysed, pointing to the pivotal role the Trump administration will likely play in reshaping the regional order as well as the Israel–Iran conflict. On the economic front, OPEC+ maintained its organisational cohesion and Gulf sovereign wealth funds showed their financial mettle with a number of high-profile deals. State-owned oil company ADNOC took over German chemical company Corvesto at the end of the year.

The [GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies](#) (IMES) covered these events within the scope of a number of third-party-funded initiatives, such as the BMBF's Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) based in Tunis as well as the Monitoring System und Transfer Platform Radicalization (MOTRA) and the "World Order Narratives of the Global South (WONAGO)" project, which entered its second phase. Several other projects, funded by the DFG and foundations, also continued.

IMES researchers published in major peer-reviewed journals and with leading presses, such as *International Relations*, *British Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle East Journal*, *Contemporary Politics*, *Middle East Policy*, *Global Policy*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Democratization*, or *Syracuse University Press*. Our scholars also contributed to the GIGA Focus Series on topics such as the safety risks for Syrian refugees amid calls for their possible return, culture wars between Morocco and Algeria at UNESCO, Russo–Iranian relations, the war in Sudan, and the role of non-state actors in public-diplomacy initiatives between Middle East states and Africa.

IMES researchers organised GIGA Forum and GIGA Talk events on Syria after Assad,

the reporting on authoritarian regimes in democratic media, the crisis in the Red Sea after Houthi attacks on shipping vessels, and the Gaza War and its regional impact. Our doctoral students and their colleagues from other regional institutes jointly organised a conference on research collaboration with the Global South (see Highlights section). As always, IMES researchers also provided policy advice, among others to the German Federal Foreign Office, the European Commission, and the Federal Criminal Police Office. They also reached out to the wider public via their contributions to German and international media. ■

MECAM Publication Workshop in Tunis



©photo: MECAM

In its main phase (2024–2029), the BMBF-funded [Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb](#) (MECAM) is holding a series of publication workshops aimed at training the next generation of authors, editors, and reviewers. Held in Tunis from 27–29 February 2024 and mainly organised by the GIGA, especially acting publication manager Steffen Wippel, the first workshop brought together over 30 MECAM fellows, team members, and international cooperation partners. Practical, hands-on knowledge on formats such as Arabic-, English-, and French-language journal articles, book proposals, and blog pieces was provided. The next MECAM publication workshop is planned to be held at GIGA Hamburg in 2026.



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RESEARCH PROGRAMME 1

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION



Prof. Dr. Thomas Richter

©photo: Claudia Höhne

With the continued trend towards autocratisation globally, the GIGA Research Programme “[Accountability and Participation](#)” (RP1) explores how different political regimes adapt and respond. Our work spans all four GIGA world regions and engages with contemporary political developments through multiple projects and international collaboration formats.

A major focus in 2024 was the increasing concentration of power in the hands of chief executives – a key factor in democratic backsliding. The DFG-funded project “COVID-19 and Executive Personalization,” led by David Kuehn, Mariana Llanos, and Thomas Richter, investigated how leaders in both democratic and authoritarian contexts used the pandemic to expand their authority. Findings were presented at APSA and ECPR as well as published in a GIGA Working Paper.

In the “Democratic Institutions in the Global South” (DEMINGS) project, funded by the Leibniz Competition and led by Mariana Llanos, RP1 scholars studied institutional dynamics in democracies. Alina Ripplinger was honoured with the ECPR’s Best Conference Paper Award for Early Career Researchers for her analysis of legal resistance strategies.

Sangeeta Mahapatra, Janjira Sambotpoonsiri, and Andreas Ufen continued their project on “Mapping and Strengthening Civil Society Response to Disinformation,” funded by the Luminate Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Their work examined how governments in South and Southeast Asia use anti-fake news laws to suppress critical voices. Two capacity-building workshops were held in Bangladesh and Malaysia, while two GIGA Focus Series publications highlighted the project’s findings.

Maria Josua concluded her DFG-funded project on “Justifying Repression in Authoritarian Regimes of the Arab World” with an international workshop in Tunis exploring how such polities communicate and exercise control. She also organised and moderated a GIGA Forum on the risk of authoritarian narratives spreading within democratic media environments.

Under the guiding theme “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity,” the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) – led by André Bank, based in Tunis, and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) – undertook several public-engagement activities. These included the

MECAM Policy Talk in Berlin and the Rencontres Ibn Khaldun series in Tunis. The project also published several MECAM Papers, featuring the research of MECAM Fellows in Arabic, English, and French.

Bert Hoffmann contributed to the “German-Latin American Centre of Infection & Epidemiology Research and Training (GLACIER),” funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). In partnership with Charité Berlin and the EU-LAC Foundation, he co-organised a high-profile policy-outreach event in the German capital with key stakeholders from Europe and Latin America.

RP1 also played a key role in the “Monitoring System and Transfer Platform Radicalisation (MOTRA),” led by Richter and funded by the BMBF and the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI). The GIGA team conducted regular surveys to monitor how global

events influence anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and attitudes towards autocracy in Germany.

Mariana Llanos was awarded the ERA Chair on behalf of the Faculty of Arts at Charles University, Prague, under the ERA–AREAS project grant from the Horizon Europe programme.

RP1 scholars shared their research widely in 2024, publishing in leading outlets such as International Political Science Review, Middle East Policy, Revista de Ciencia Política, and Studies in Comparative International Development, as well as with Edward Elgar and the University of Michigan Press.

RP1’s “Democratic Erosion Series” was successfully continued with renowned national and international guests, among them Jaemin Shim (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Saipira Furstenberg (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice). ■

Fake News Lawfare and Resistance Tracker



GIGA researchers Mahapatra, Sombatpoonsiri, and Ufen, funded by the Luminate Foundation and NED, studied how anti-fake news laws are weaponised in South and Southeast Asia and how civil society resists. Their research led to the first tracker on [anti-fake news lawfare](#) across six countries, highlighting comparative insights, data speaking to key trends and patterns, and the strategies widely used to good effect by activists, journalists, and legal aid groups to fight digital repression as well as support local knowledge transfer and capacity-building.



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RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2

PEACE AND SECURITY



Prof. Dr. Christian
von Soest

©photo: Claudia Höhne

The year 2024 witnessed significant geopolitical upheaval and armed conflict. Among the most dramatic events happening was the collapse of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria on 8 December 2024, a moment that brought both relief and uncertainty. Questions about the new dispensation led by the Islamist HTS group and its implications for both Syria and the wider region dominated international discourse. Discussions on how the West might re-engage with this transformed landscape began almost immediately.

Against this backdrop, members of the Research Programme “Peace and Security”[➔] (RP2) shared their insights on the year’s most pressing conflicts. In addition to developments in Syria, they analysed the devastating latest Gaza War that unfolded in the aftermath of the Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel occurring on 7 October 2023. RP2 experts also examined the third year of Russia’s full-scale war on Ukraine, focusing on perspectives from the Global South and the design and impact of Western sanctions on Russia. The group addressed lesser-covered crises too, such as the humanitarian catastrophe in Sudan. Their interviews, quotes, and op-eds featured in

leading media outlets, including ZDFheute, ARD, 3Sat, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Tagesspiegel, and the F.A.Z. newsletter PRO Weltwirtschaft.

RP2 scholars published their innovative research in prestigious academic journals and with leading university presses. Julia Köbrich and colleagues analysed the factors facilitating interreligious contact (published in *Political Psychology*). Together with Matthias Basedau and other co-authors, she introduced a conceptual framework for “interreligious peace,” distinguishing between its positive and negative elements as well as attitudinal and behavioural aspects, in the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*. These publications stem from the DFG renewal project “Religion for Peace: Investigating Messengers and Messages for Interreligious Peace,” which commenced in August 2024. Köbrich and former GIGA colleague Lisa Hoffmann also communicated their findings in highly innovative formats, including a photo project and the research comic “The Making of Interreligious Peace.”

In another contribution to the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, Sabine Kurtenbach analysed varieties of peace in Colombia.

She proposed conceptualising “peace” as a process grounded in three core societal functions, therewith enabling the identification of diverse peacebuilding needs and perceptions. David Kuehn authored and co-edited two books examining the political role of the military. The monograph entitled “Dictators’ Endgames” (co-written with Aurel Croissant and Tanja Eschenauer-Engler, and published by Oxford University Press) investigates the pivotal role of the military in “dictators’ endgames,” meaning large-scale non-violent protests in autocracies seeking regime change. Additionally, Kuehn co-edited a research handbook on civil–military relations with Croissant and David Pion-Berlin.

Fostering international collaboration and exchange remained a key RP2 objective. A notable highlight was the joint “IBEI-GIGA Workshop on Security, Conflict, and Peace,” held at the Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) in February 2024. Fifteen GIGA researchers presented and discussed their work in Barcelona alongside IBEI colleagues. In November, an international workshop titled “The Use and Effects of (Individual) Sanctions” took place at the GIGA Berlin Office, featuring participants from the United States, Sweden, Australia, and Germany. Organised by Christian von Soest, the event included a GIGA Talk on the future of sanctions following the recent US elections. ■

Leibniz Dissertation Award 2024



©photo: David Ausserhofer

Hana Attia, RP2 member and former doctoral student at the University of Konstanz, was awarded the prestigious [Leibniz Association Doctoral Prize 2024](#). In her dissertation “Biased Coercion: The Imposition, Management, and Termination of US Sanctions,” she demonstrated that sanctions are often politically motivated and that their credibility is undermined by a lack of exit strategies. Attia now holds the Junior Professorship “Security Policy and Peace,” jointly established by the Leuphana University Lüneburg and the GIGA.



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RESEARCH PROGRAMME 3

GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Prof. Dr. Jann Lay

©photo: Claudia Höhne

The 2024 research and knowledge-exchange activities of Research Programme 3 “[Globalisation and Development](#)” (RP3) have, inter alia, contributed to ongoing debates around sustainability regulations for global supply chains. It is not only in this policy sphere that RP3’s work highlights the intricate trade-offs between different policy objectives, including between climate protection and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations. With our efforts to bridge theory and practice, we want to highlight the results obtained from a project that provides scientific support to the GIZ’s continued work on the creation of decent jobs in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the framework of the Research Network on Sustainable Supply Chains, Jann Lay and Tevin Tafese were responsible for editing the Sustainable Supply Chain Report 2024. This year’s edition, compiled under the GIGA’s lead and seeing the participation of numerous scholars from the Research Network, explores the impact of global value chains (GVCs) on labour markets, highlighting both opportunities and challenges regarding decent work. While GVCs can drive industrialisation and job creation, particularly in Asia, they often leave workers

in the Global South exposed to precarious conditions, low wages, and labour-rights violations. The report examines regional disparities, the role of digitalisation, worker agency, and the effectiveness of regulations. The publication includes comparative case studies and experiences from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Vietnam. It concludes that achieving decent work in supply chains requires careful regulatory design to balance economic development and employment creation with decent working conditions. The report’s key findings were presented by the editors as part of the interministerial committee “Economy and Human Rights” convened by the German government.

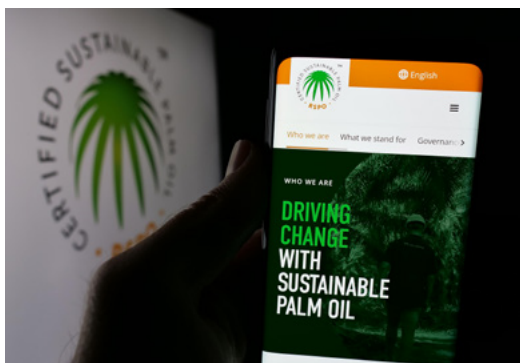
Balancing climate protection and indigenous populations’ human rights is a core theme of the Land Matrix Initiative’s research. In a so-called Deal Narrative, Christoph Kubitz and his co-authors, for example, examine two carbon-offset projects in Laos. These endeavours aim to generate carbon credits, but at the same time raise concerns about land rights, local conflicts, and the actual benefits hereof for affected communities. The case study questions whether such initiatives truly promote sustainability,

given the governance challenges and community tensions they give rise to. It speaks to the broader debate on “land grabs” at the expense of indigenous populations’ well-being. In a study published in *Land Use Change*, Jorge Rincón Barajas and his co-authors analyse such risks in a comparative case study on Cambodia, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These research results have fed into two well-attended sessions co-organised with various international partners at the World Bank Conference on Land in Washington, D.C.

RP3 scholars, working together with local research partners, have in recent years dedicated significant energy to a series of impact evaluations on skills-training programmes supported

by the GIZ in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, where young people often face inadequate training, underemployment, and low-paid jobs with poor working conditions. In consequence, data are now available addressing the lack of research on education and training programmes in sub-Saharan Africa to date. The results, summarised in a GIGA Focus by Tabea Lakemann and co-authors, show the investigated programmes to yield moderate benefits, with significant variations between them depending on location, programme type, and provider. Despite this limited effectiveness thus far, these programmes can still play a role in fostering better employment opportunities and working conditions. ■

The Limited Effects of Certification



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In a study published in *Environmental Research Letters*⁷, Anette Ruml and her co-authors examine the effects of Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification on participating smallholders in Indonesia. The results are suggestive of positive but very modest effects of RSPO certification on land productivity, profits, and fertiliser use. Farmers also use less toxic herbicides but there are no price premiums. These findings shed some doubt on the extensive sustainability claims made in RSPO marketing.



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RESEARCH PROGRAMME 4

GLOBAL ORDERS AND FOREIGN POLICIES



©photo: Claudia Höhne

Prof. Dr. Miriam
Prys-Hansen

The Research Programme “[Global Orders and Foreign Policies](#)”⁷ (RP4) continued its work on regional and global cooperation and conflict, multilateralism, order, and how diverse actors engage beyond their own borders. Our empirically and theoretically inclusive approach serves to further Comparative Area Studies and Global International Relations. A key focus is the narratives, ideas, and interests of the Global South and their influence on foreign policy and global orders. The BMBF-funded project “World Order Narratives in the Global South” was renewed for another three years. RP4 members co-edited influential publications, including “Foreign Policy Signalling” (see text-box) as well as “Novel Perspectives on Status in Global Politics” and “The Rise and Fall of Regional Powers” (both Miriam Prys-Hansen). A new DFG project led by Sinan Chu examines the intellectual contestation of China’s multi-ethnic regime.

Foreign policy analysis remains a core RP4 strength, with the DFG project “Explaining Middle-Power Engagements in External Regions” extended. Key publications include Jens Heibach and Hakkı Taş’s work on Turkey’s resource control (Journal of Balkan and Near

Eastern Studies) and Heibach’s article on Saudi foreign policy in the context of Russia’s full-scale war on Ukraine (Global Policy). Research publications on populism and foreign policy continue, such as Johannes Plagemann’s “Do Populists Escalate International Disputes?” (International Affairs) and Taş’s “Populism and Civil-Military Relations” (Democratization).

RP4 also examines regional orders, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, as well as current questions around international institutions. Notable publications include Chu et al.’s “The Legitimacy of Global Governance Institutions under Multipolarity” (International Studies Quarterly) and Detlef Nolte’s “Resilience of Latin American Regionalism” (Politische Vierteljahresschrift). A dataset-related article by Henning Schmidtke et al. on the legitimization of international organisations (International Studies Perspectives) was also published.

Sustainability and climate research are taking on increasing significance. RP4 plays a key role in the Leibniz Lab on Systemic Sustainability, exploring dialogue between science, policy, and society on matters of climate, biodiversity, and agriculture. A collaboration with the State University of Rio de Janeiro examines climate

obstruction in the Global South. Other research outputs include Ariel Hernandez's article on voluntary sustainability standards (Global Policy).

RP4 researchers contributed to the development of the practices of Global IR, emphasising inclusivity and non-Western perspectives. Members of the team organised a roundtable on "Global IR: How should I do it?" at the EISA Pan-European Conference and participated in key discussions at other major conferences. Beyond academia, our scholars also engaged in public outreach, providing expert commentary on BRICS, Indian elections, and Iran's foreign policy via Deutsche Welle, Le Monde Africa, and Handelsblatt. They authored several GIGA Focus Series contributions, too; other policy pieces for a wider audience included an article on the military's role in populist governance

by Taş (The Loop) and a guest commentary by Patrick Köllner on Germany's role in the Indo-Pacific (Handelsblatt).

RP4 was present at leading conferences (EISA, EWIS, ISA, PEC) and organised events such as a GIGA Berlin Talk on BRICS+ and a GIGA Forum on the G20. In November, Nora Kürzdörfer and Hernandez launched a report with 30 global experts on "Responsible Economic Statecraft." Forms of recognition included Prys-Hansen's Honorary Professorship at Leuphana University (see Highlights section of this report), Kürzdörfer's Sylke Tempel Essay Prize, Mahima Duggal's participation in the Asia-Pacific Leadership Programme, and Ardahan Gedliki's Fellowship at the Democratic Resilience Center, Helmut Schmidt University. ■

Foreign Policy Signalling in the Indo-Pacific

GIGA researchers and network partners contributed to this [special issue](#) co-edited by Plagemann, in which foreign policy signals in the geopolitically contested world region of the Indo-Pacific are explored. The publication showcases the strengths of the GIGA's approach by combining in-depth area expertise with strong methodological and theoretical underpinnings. In so doing, addressed are some of the key determinants of twenty-first century world politics. Studied here specifically is growing US–China rivalry and the responses to it of other major Asian and external powers within the Indo-Pacific region.



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DOCTORAL PROGRAMME



Dr. Maren Wagner

©photo: Claudia Höhne

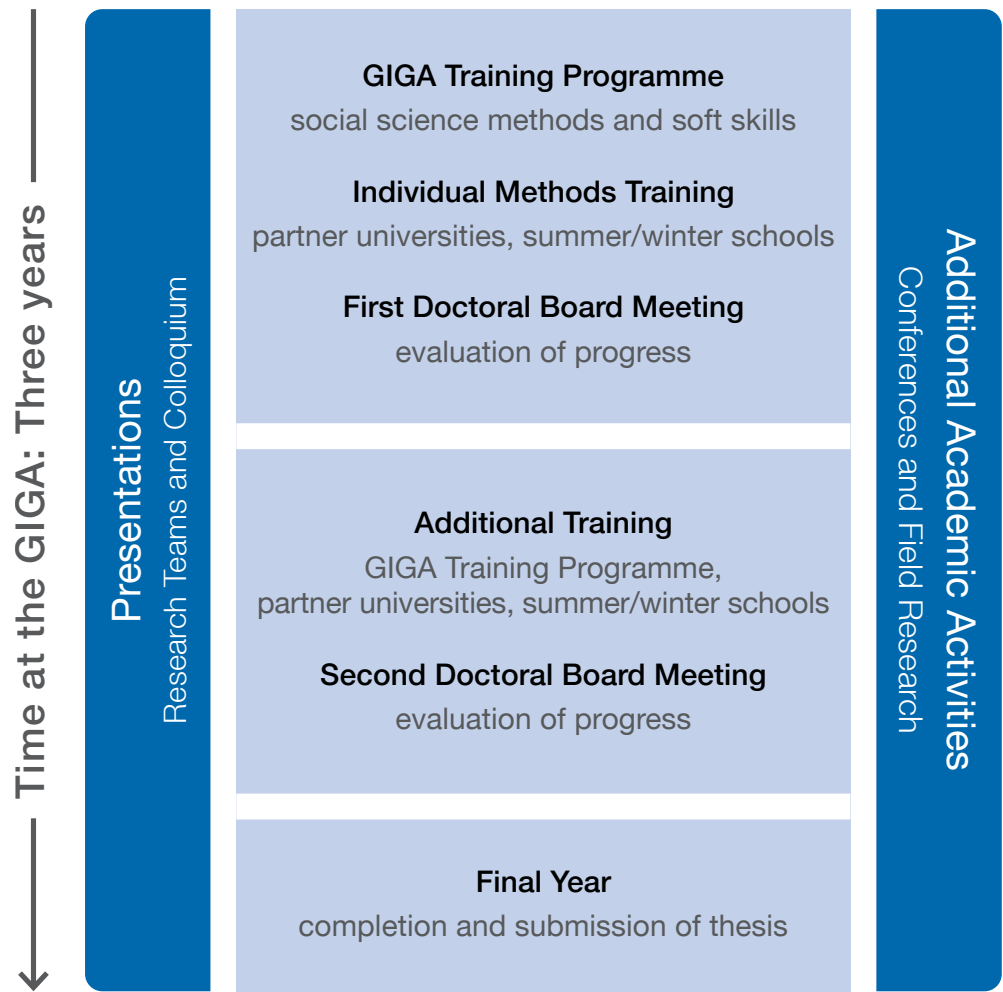
The year 2024 was an outstanding one for the [GIGA Doctoral Programme](#) in terms of dissertation awards won by its alumni. Hana Attia received this year's Leibniz "Humanities and Social Sciences" PhD prize for her research on international sanctions. Viviana García Pinzón won the ADLAF Prize, awarded by the German Latin American Studies Association, for her analysis of the multiscale processes that shape local order in four peripheral cities in Colombia and El Salvador. Anna Fünfgeld received the Arnold Bergstraesser Prize for her study on the energy transition in Indonesia. These great achievements show the quality of the training doctoral researchers at the GIGA receive.

Another highlight was the "Doctoral Researchers' Conference: Researching with the Global South?" initiated and organised to mark the Institute's 60th anniversary, being coordinated by an organising team consisting of Mira Demirdirek, Indi Kryg, and Alina Ripplinger. The conference brought together GIGA doctoral researchers and invited experts to critically explore and reflect on the ethical and practical dimensions of conducting research with the "Global South." Over the course of three days, they discussed questions related to research collaboration and integrity, responsible

practices, as well as prevailing power dynamics within academia.

As fully integrated members of the Institute, our doctoral researchers greatly contribute to the GIGA's respective publications and events. Diba Mirzaei, for example, moderated two events for the GIGA Forum Series, one on the Gaza War and its impact on the Middle East and the other on Syria after Assad; she was also one of the panelists for a GIGA Talk on global perspectives regarding BRICS+. Désirée Reder also moderated a GIGA Forum, namely on violence against women. Olena Osypenkova co-authored three GIGA Focus issues: one on the expansion of the Russo-Iranian nexus, one on the BRICS+ Summit in Russia, and one presenting ten things to watch in the Middle East in 2025. Doctoral Programme members Hager Ali, Adhiraaj Anand, Mira Demirdirek, Mahima Dugal, Indi Kryg, Tabea Lakemann, Désirée Reder, Alina Ripplinger, and Hamid Talebian also contributed to the GIGA Focus Series in 2024.

We celebrated three Doctoral Programme members completing their work this year, saying farewell to Dastan Jasim, Valeria Morales, and Mona Saleh who successfully defended their dissertations looking at some fascinating research topics. Namely, Kurdish political



culture in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey; international organisations’ legitimacy under conditions of institutional overlap (with the case of the African Union); and, political and institutional determinants of COVID-19 vaccination in Central America. Elianne Shewring, who analyses

the mechanisms of digital control employed by China, Iran, and Israel, joined us as a new doctoral researcher in 2024, while we also welcomed three visiting doctoral researchers from Brazil and Mexico for a few months to work on their respective projects. ■

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3



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SUSTAINABILITY AT THE GIGA

While sustainability in organisational development, research processes, and personnel management is overseen by other GIGA bodies and units (such as the Research Council, the HR team, the Works Council, the Ethics Committee, the Ombudspersons for Good Research Practice, the Equal Opportunity Commissioners, and similar), our Task Force [Sustainability Management](#) focuses on related matters in the operation of premises and infrastructure as well as in procurement and mobility. A number of concrete measures have been initiated in this regard, for example:

- According to the GIGA's greenhouse gas accounting, undertaken in 2024, the amount of CO₂ we generated was reduced from 530.94 tonnes equivalent in 2019 to 410.16 tonnes equivalent in 2023.
- Electricity from renewable sources on all GIGA premises
- District heating on both Hamburg premises
- Only vegetarian catering at GIGA events and meetings
- Binding guidelines for the investment of the GIGA Foundation's capital assets, including according to social, ecological, and ethical standards
- Only recycled paper with Blue Angel certification used in printers and photocopiers
- Starting with the 2023 edition, the GIGA Annual Report is only published digitally.
- Participation as a team in the "city cycling" initiative ("Stadtradeln")
- Subsidising public-transport use for our employees (Deutschlandticket)
- Provision of suitable facilities for bicycle storage
- Mainly cloud-based IT infrastructure (substantial reduction in energy consumption compared to on-site solutions)
- Use of online and hybrid meeting formats, where feasible and suitable, to reduce the need to take flights
- Enabling mobile work ■



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY

By recognising and promoting the diverse potential of our employees and aiming to create a working environment that is both appreciative of staff and free of prejudice, we continued over the year just gone with our efforts to make the Institute's structures and processes more inclusive. As an initiative taking place on the occasion of German Diversity Day, held on 28 May, several colleagues participated in "Dialogue in the Dark," being guided by a blind host through a lightless exhibition trail. Equipped with a long cane, they rediscovered a seemingly familiar world, illustrating the obstacles visually impaired people face in their daily lives. In addition, we conducted a survey among employees on the possible introduction of a Diversity Officer. Throughout the year, our buddy programme offered new colleagues assistance in getting started at the GIGA and coming to terms with everyday life in Germany by matching them up with volunteers from among our colleagues. Additionally, we continued to place the Institute's job advertisements on portals specifically aimed at people with disabilities seeking employment (MyAbility).

We also made further inroads on offering our colleagues diversity-related training sessions and workshops. "Giving and Receiving

Feedback in Academia – Across Cultures, Hierarchies, and Departments" saw participants receive new perspectives, tools, and practices to make both the giving and receiving of feedback more effective and enjoyable as part of a dynamic work culture. Based on an initiative by the Works Council, members thereof, the Equal Opportunity Commissioners, the Inclusion Officer, and the Ombudspersons for Good Research Practice joined an in-house seminar on Germany's General Equal Treatment Act to learn more about claims and legal consequences in cases of discrimination.

We also continued to promote individual training sessions and mentoring as regards [equal opportunity](#)⁷. With support from the Institute's Equal Opportunity Fund, female colleagues benefitted from, for example, individual coaching or participating in leadership training, such as the Leibniz Academy's, as a way to hone their professional profiles. Four female colleagues began participation in the Mentoring Programme this year, helping them better define individual career goals and the pathways to achieving them. Regarding our steadfast goal of reconciling work and family life, our related offerings to GIGA employees continued through a professional family

service, including the option of using emergency childcare or making use of vacation programmes, as well as events on various issues around the reconciliation of work and care obligations as well as on mental health.

The GIGA's Equal Opportunity Commissioners Maren Wagner and Lisa Sängler and Inclusion Officer Nadine Wiegmann were active in various networking meetings, such as the 24th Equal Opportunities Conference of the Leibniz Association, the 6th Network Meeting of Dual Career + der Norden, and the Leibniz Association's Inclusion and Participation of People with Disabilities Network.

The Leibniz Association conducted its survey on the Leibniz equality standards once again in 2024. The GIGA received generally positive results. The proportion of women at the first management level (scientific positions) is 100 per cent, and therefore above the median proportion of women across all Leibniz institutions. At the second level it is 25 per cent, which is below the average figure for women across all Leibniz institutions (32 per cent). On "Equality as a Guiding Principle" and "The Equal Opportunities Commissioner," the GIGA is above the median of all Leibniz institutions; on "Reconciling Work and Family Life," slightly below. ■

GIGA Mentoring Programme: A Mentee's View



©photo: Claudia Höhne

Désirée Reder

"While working on a PhD, it can be difficult to see the end and what might come after. Especially as a young female researcher, the prospect of entering the precarious academic job market can be daunting. But even looking beyond academia, one might doubt whether one has the necessary skills for the world outside academia. The GIGA's Mentoring Programme brings together young women scientists with experienced women from different sectors. In a valuable exchange, these women not only present their own paths, but also help to explore their own potential paths, transferable skills, and what would be needed to progress." (Désirée Reder, mentee 2023–2024).

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND IMPACT STORIES

4



©photo: GIGA

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Participants of the GIGA Talk "Report Launch: Global Perspectives on Responsible Economic Statecraft"

With excellent research comes the responsibility to share findings, namely with a view to increasing understanding of the world around us and creating policy-relevant recommendations. In 2024, the GIGA started to reassess its outreach activities. A Task Force on Knowledge Exchange led by Eckart Woertz refined our target-group orientation, an important step we are now building on. Additionally, we are expanding our ability to showcase GIGA-generated and context-relevant data via interactive graphs and visualisations. This allows for the representation of complex issues in an accessible way, and therewith their communication to diverse audiences.

One of the drivers of our scholarship is close collaboration with the regions we study. We aim, accordingly, to work together with the countries of the "Global South." A defining characteristic of our research is that it includes diverse perspectives and offers a plurality of approaches – especially ones often overlooked yet necessary to consider when addressing our intertwined global realities. Our doctoral researchers dedicated a conference last year to exploring terminology used and reflecting on ethical and practical aspects, with the premise of conducting better research in and with the regions.

In May 2024, we convened within our Leibniz funded transfer project the first instalment of our Co-LABorate series. A dynamic platform for experts from different sectors to exchange ideas, over 30 specialists from around the world discussed global perspectives on Responsible Economic Statecraft. We later launched a report supported by the Dutch Foreign Ministry drawing on findings from this knowledge-exchange lab, as offering a framework for the responsible use of tools at the intersection of economic, foreign, and security policy. The key questions we debated with these leading experts in the field were: How can we maintain the benefits of interdependence while safeguarding against its risks? What does a proactive and collaborative approach to statecraft involve?

The fourth Indo-German 1.5 Track Strategic Dialogue took place in November 2024. Resulting from the Indo-German Governmental Consultations, the GIGA and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) welcomed delegations from India representing the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The occasion brought together academics, practitioners, and diplomats seeking to analyse the Indo-Pacific and to

tackle questions of global cooperation, also as regards trade, tech, and climate-change mitigation. Ambassador Ajit Gupte (Ambassador of India to Germany) and Ambassador Erik Kurzweil (Director for Indo-Pacific Policy and South Asia, Federal Foreign Office) set the scene regarding the state of contemporary Indo-German relations.

The global order is in flux, becoming increasingly multipolar. In analysing the implications hereof and offering related policy recommendations, the GIGA carries out cutting-edge studies in four distinct Research Programmes, connects them with its long-standing regional

context-sensitivity, and disseminates pertinent insights. Two good examples here: On the occasion of the annual visit of our Academic Advisory Board, GIGA experts debated with them the US presidential elections and their international perception and repercussions. Being open to the general public, these proceedings saw internationally renowned scholars contribute their unique takes from a regional perspective. We also provided an on-the-spot analysis of the sudden downfall of the Bashar Al-Assad regime in December 2024, the regional implications, and the impact on Syrian diasporas in Europe. ■

GIGA in the Media



©photo: Tagesschau24 / 8.12.2024

The impact of the BRICS summit, the upheaval in Syria, and the ongoing war in Ukraine are just three of the topics that GIGA researchers provided key insights and background information on

in various [media formats](#) in 2024 – newspaper articles, radio interviews, podcasts, and television programmes. Diverse research results and analyses were provided to both national and international outlets, including Die ZEIT, NDR, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Tagesthemen, Wirtschaftswoche as well as CNN, BBC Türkçe, Le Monde, the New York Times, and more. Notably, GIGA researchers contributed to the FAZ newsletter “PRO Weltwirtschaft,” launched in 2024, with Christian von Soest’s column “Weltblick” regularly highlighting such hot topics as sanctions, global supply chains, and authoritarianism. ■

GIGA Berlin Office



©photo: GIGA



Prof. Dr. Bert Homann

©photo: Claudia Höhne

To cope with increasing uncertainty in global affairs and accompanying challenges, the GIGA's mission to bring its research findings into systematic dialogue with policymakers in the German capital is becoming ever more relevant. The GIGA's [Berlin Office](#), located in walking distance of the Federal Foreign Office and the Bundestag, is the prime venue for this exchange between GIGA scholars and policy practitioners. The GIGA Berlin Talks (see below) combine on-site events, enabling always important face-to-face interaction, with online participation, allowing us to reach audiences in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The GIGA Berlin Office also serves as the venue for high-level workshops bringing together international experts and the Berlin-based foreign policy community, as in the two-day event "Targeting: How the USA and EU use individual sanctions" held on 21–22 November 2024. ■

GIGA Talks in 2024

- Report Launch: Global Perspectives on Responsible Economic Statecraft
- The Future of Sanctions after the US Elections
- Global Perspectives on BRICS+: Implications for Foreign Policy
- Five More Years for Prime Minister Narendra Modi? What to Expect from the Parliamentary Elections in India
- Crisis in the Red Sea: What Comes Next?

Impact Story: Perceptions of Peace



“What is peace?” – this question is at the heart of heated debates surrounding the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. While minimalist approaches equate peace with the absence of war, others add attributes such as just, lasting, and liberal peace. The GIGA contributes to these discussions, inter alia, with its work on perceptions of peace.

Together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Berlin and colleagues from Cameroon, Colombia, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tunisia, and Venezuela, GIGA scholar Sabine Kurtenbach is currently conducting the research project “[PEACEptions](#).” It views peace as a process rather than a state of being, stressing the importance of peacebuilding beyond war or armed conflict. This is especially true in authoritarian settings seeing high levels of repression and in countries where violent conflict rages in certain subregions.

The project shows various possibilities for civilian actors to express agency, aiming at reducing different forms of violence from a peacebuilding perspective. A good example of this is

a group of mothers in Caracas, Venezuela, who succeeded in brokering what was essentially a ceasefire between different gangs. Other civil society organisations such as religious communities, which enjoy a comparatively high level of trust among the local population, can also make a particularly important contribution here.

Results and practical implications were discussed at a three-day conference co-funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research in October 2024. There, further GIGA scholars provided valuable input, for example on the ambivalence of religion (Julia Köbrich) or the role of justice and victim rights (Maxine Rubin). Participants exchanged ideas with representatives from the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. A public panel discussion served to open up the debate to a wider audience. ■

Impact Story: Weaponisation of Anti-Fake News Laws



©photo: Penang Institute

The use of anti-fake news laws by governments to censor and criminalise opponents is on the rise globally. It is part of a larger trend where in illiberal and/or autocratic governments rely on technological and digital means to suppress civil society's rights and endeavours. With their scholarship and outreach activities, GIGA researchers Sangeeta Mahapatra, Janjira Sombatpoonsiri, and Andreas Ufen are helping counter this weaponisation of [anti-fake news laws](#).

The GIGA team organised a series of cross-learning and capacity-building workshops in South and Southeast Asia – a region where over one-quarter of the world's active social media users are located. The workshops were co-created with local partners and benefitted over 100 participants from journalistic, academic, legal aid, and digital rights organisations. One major result is the published “Handbook of Pushback Strategies,” which provides actors with different strategies to counter digital repression.

To enable information-sharing on trends and patterns of anti-fake news lawfare in the region, the team further created an online tracker as an Open Access knowledge resource for researchers, journalists, and policymakers alike. Visualisations allow for easy and customisable access to data in real time. Additionally, both the codebook and the raw data are available via the tracker's website. The tracker and Handbook help strategically counter digital-related judicial harassment and safeguard civic rights.

The GIGA researchers also support civic and state interventions through policy papers, media work, blogs, articles, talks, and podcasts. Contributions include Mahapatra's radio broadcast on BBC World Service, Sombatpoonsiri's talk at the APAC Trusted Media Summit, and the team's GIGA Focus and GIGA Talk, the latter with discussants from the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Bertelsmann Foundation. ■

GIGA LIBRARY

A collection of approximately 20 squares of various sizes in different shades of blue, scattered across the background.

5



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GIGA LIBRARY



Jan Lüth

©photo: Claudia Höhne

The [GIGA Library](#) specialises in Area Studies and Comparative Area Studies, providing access to literature on and from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East concerning international politics, the Social Sciences, and research methodologies.

In previous years, the Library team developed a concept for the future acquisition and indexing of literature. Books that can be procured at short notice are no longer acquired in advance but rather “just in time” – that is, on demand. These books are obtained as e-books whenever price and terms of use allow. In 2024, the Library took in 158 books through “just in time” acquisition and 97 books per the “just in case” policy. Additionally, 487 were obtained through gifts, employee publications, and the annual selection for perpetual ownership as part of the Evidence-Based Acquisition model. In total, 900 new titles were added to the collection, bringing the Library’s holdings to 199,379 items. We also provide access to more than 12,800 e-books and 126,260 Open Access documents.

The Library contributes to the German Information Network (FIV) and added 2,803 new records to the World Affairs Online (WAO) bibliographic database. WAO is searchable in

union catalogues, virtual subject libraries, subject portals, and resource-discovery systems worldwide, as shared under an Open Data licence. Our holdings also appear in “KatalogHamburg,” a search engine operated by the State and University Library of Hamburg. This contributes to the increased visibility and dissemination of the GIGA’s research findings. Since 2024, our indexing activities have focused on literature from the Global South. The indexing of the GIGA’s publication series and its researchers’ work appearing in print was continued in 2024.

The Library team supports GIGA scholars throughout the research process, including on metadata curation in the Institute’s research information system. We help register ISSNs and ISBNs, assist with Open Researcher and Contributor Identifiers (ORCID) registration, and manage existing ORCID accounts. Since 2022, the Library has consistently registered “Digital Object Identifiers” for the GIGA Focus Series texts and publications forming part of third party-funded projects. Our literature-search service has been revised. In addition to the WAO, “The Lens” is now used. Literature-search assignments are carried out in close cooperation with GIGA scholars. The results are provided

in RIS format or directly delivered into the literature-management software Zotero. The feedback from the Institute's researchers has been very positive: "very helpful" and a "great support" (quotes from an internal anonymous survey).

Scientific publishing is shifting to Open Access as standard, under the lead of the German Council of Science and Humanities and the German Research Foundation (DFG). The Library has continued its participation in transformative licence agreements, ensuring that our researchers have reading access to major journals from Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley (DEAL agreements), as well as collections from Cambridge University Press, SAGE, and Taylor & Francis. Articles submitted by GIGA authors will be directly published in Open

Access format. Securing publication funding is a strategic priority; the Library's successful DFG grant application for the years 2023–2025 supports this. The management of publication fees is overseen by the Library.


Our team indexed and deposited 29 GIGA Focus Series issues and 49 peer-reviewed journal articles by the Institute's scholars in the Social Science Open Access Repository (SSOAR). Focus texts were downloaded more than 88,000 times from SSOAR; deposited articles more than 59,000 times. Other publications that have been in part digitised in cooperation with external partners, such as the India and Korea Yearbooks or "China Aktuell," were also extensively downloaded – more than 52,000 times in the year just gone. ■

Reform and Progress at the GIGA Library

Welcome to our library catalogue!

Here you will find scientific literature recorded by the [GIGA Library](#).

The default setting is a search in the "World Affairs Online" database of the [German Information Network International Relations and Area Studies \(FIV\)](#). It covers the holdings of several research institutes on international relations. "World Affairs Online" is one of the largest bibliographic social science databases in Europe. The main subject areas covered are global and regional developments, foreign and security policy and social trends. In addition to books, the database records journal articles, grey literature and links to electronic documents.

 Start search

The reform process initiated in 2022 was carried forward in 2024. The Library team compiled a selection of institutions from the Global South whose publications (grey literature) are to be catalogued and indexed in future. The list of journals indexed by the Library team

was also revised according to the new criteria. A fresh cooperation agreement was entered into with the FIV, governing the collaboration between the latter's institutes through 2028. The Library's internal information pages were completely revised and replaced with a new SharePoint intranet website. It includes direct contact options with librarians via MS Teams and feedback forms to enhance user interaction and support.

ANNEX

6

THIRD PARTY-FUNDED PROJECTS

RESEARCH PROGRAMME 1: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

COVID-19 and Executive Personalization in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the MENA Region (David Kuehn, Mariana Llanos, Thomas Richter, Martin Acheampong, Esther Song)
DFG, 2022–2025

Democratic Institutions in the Global South (DEMINGS) (Mariana Llanos, Daniela Osorio Michel, Alina Ripplinger, Eduardo Tamaki)
Leibniz Competition, Leibniz Programme for Women Professors, 2021–2026

Digital Transformation Lab / Phase II (Jann Lay, Miriam Prys-Hansen, Thomas Richter, Christian von Soest, Iris Wieczorek) (coordination, as of March 2024)
FFO unilateral funding, 2024–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

German-Latin American Centre of Infection & Epidemiology Research and Training (GLACIER) (Bert Hoffmann, Valeria Morales)
DAAD, lead: Univ. of Halle-Wittenberg, Charité Berlin, 2021–2025

Justifying Repression in Authoritarian Regimes of the Arab World: Official Framing and Target Audiences (Maria Josua)
DFG, 2019–2024

Kinship and the Affective Politics of Citizenship in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia (Alyssa Miller)
AvH Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2022–2025

Mapping and Strengthening Civil Society Response to Disinformation (Andreas Ufen, Sangeeta Mahapatra, Janjira Sombatpoonsiri)
National Endowment for Democracy, 2023–2025

Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) / Phase II (André Bank, Thomas Richter)
BMBF, lead: University Marburg, 2023–2029

Monitoring System und Transfer Platform Radicalisation (MOTRA) / Phase I (Thomas Richter, Selman Almohamad, Mirna El Masri, Janosch Kleinschnittger)
BMBF, lead: BKA, 2019–2024

Sanctions Termination in Times of Crises: Unpacking the Role of External Shocks (Julia Grauvogel, Hana Attia)
DFG (prolongation), 2022–2024 (in collaboration with Research Programme 2)

Strengthening Civil Society Against the Weaponization of Anti-Fake News Laws: A Comparison of India, Indonesia, and Thailand (Andreas Ufen, Sangeeta Mahapatra, Janjira Sombatpoonsiri)
Luminate, 2023–2024

The Political Risks of Subsidy Reform in the MENA region (Thomas Richter, Moritz Schmoll, Amir Abdul Reda)
Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, lead: Bath University, 2022–2024

The State of Disorder: Non-State Violence in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia (Abdil Mughis Mudhoffir, host: Patrick Köllner)
AvH Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2024–2026

Transfer for Transformation – Knowledge Exchange with Global Reach (T4T) (Prof. Dr. Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Prof. Dr. Eckart Woertz (as of May 2024), Julia Kramer, Tillmann Josua, Nora Kurzdörfer, Eduardo Valencia)
Leibniz Competition, Transfer funding line, 2022–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2: PEACE AND SECURITY

Afghan Perspectives on Aid Coordination in Relation to German Development Assistance in Afghanistan: A Thematic Analysis (Nazir Ahmad Yosufi)

Gerda Henkel Foundation, 2024–2025

Afghan Perspectives on European Development Assistance: A Thematic Analysis (Nazir Ahmad Yosufi)

Gerda Henkel Foundation, 2023–2024

Climate, Climatic Change, and Society / Phase I (Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Miriam Prys-Hansen, Christian von Soest)

Cluster of Excellence participation, lead: UHH, DFG, 2019–2025 (in collaboration with Research Programme 4)

Context Matters – Country-Specific Politico-Economic Analyses, Conflict and Crises Potentials, as well as Global and Regional Trends / Phase III (Sabine Kurtenbach, Daniel Dückers, Sebastian Huhn, Desirée Reder, Monika Onken)

BMZ, 2023–2027 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Democratising Security in Turbulent Time (Sabine Kurtenbach)

IFSH, HSU and UHH, Landesforschungsförderung Hamburg, 2021–2024

Digital Transformation Lab / Phase II (Jann Lay, Miriam Prys-Hansen, Thomas Richter, Christian von Soest, Iris Wieczorek (coordination, as of March 2024))

FEO unilateral funding, 2024–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Diversification and Economic Resilience of Iran (Sara Bazoobandi)

EC Marie Curie IF, 2021–2024

Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) / Phase II (Julia Grauvogel)

BMBF, 2020–2026

Migration and Im/Mobility in the Global South in Pandemic Times (Christiane Fröhlich, lead: Antje Missbach, Heike Drotbohm)

DFG Scientific Network, 2021–2024

PEACEptions (Sabine Kurtenbach)

FES, 2021–2024

Religion for Peace. Identifying Conditions and Mechanisms of Interfaith Peace (Matthias Basedau, Lisa Hoffmann, Julia Köbrich)

DFG, 2020–2024

Religion for Peace: Investigating Messengers and Messages for Interreligious Peace (Matthias Basedau, Julia Köbrich)

DFG (prolongation), 2024–2025

SAGE-Centre (Sustainable Adaptation to Global Change in the Middle East) (Christiane Fröhlich, Eckart Woertz, lead: Katja Tielbörger)

DAAD, 2021–2025

Sanctions Termination in Times of Crises: Unpacking the Role of External Shocks (Julia Grauvogel, Hana Attia)

DFG (prolongation), 2022–2024 (in collaboration with Research Programme 1)

Targeting: How the USA and EU Use Individual Sanctions (INSA) (Christian von Soest)

DSF, 2023–2026

The Dynamics of Mass Protests (DMP): The Influence of Composition, Demands, and Tactics on Violent Outcomes (Christian von Soest, lead: Belén González, Nils Weidmann)

DFG, 2024–2026

Transfer for Transformation – Knowledge Exchange with Global Reach (T4T) (Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Eckart Woertz (as of May 2024), Julia Kramer, Tillmann Josua, Nora Kurzdörfer, Eduardo Valencia)

Leibniz Competition, Transfer funding line, 2022–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Women and Peace Negotiations: A Comparative Study of the Naga and Bodo Conflicts in Northeast India (Amrita Saikia)

Thyssen fellowship, 2023–2024

World Order Narratives of the Global South / Phase I (Eckart Woertz, Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024))

BMBF Area Studies Call, lead: UHH, 2021–2024 (in collaboration with Research Programme 4)

World Order Narratives of the Global South / Phase II (Eckart Woertz)

BMBF Area Studies Call, lead: UHH, 2024–2027 (in collaboration with Research Programme 4)

RESEARCH PROGRAMME 3: GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Digital Transformation Lab / Phase II (Jann Lay, Miriam Prys-Hansen, Thomas Richter, Christian von Soest, Iris Wieczorek (coordination, as of March 2024))

FFO unilateral funding, 2024–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Land Matrix / Phase IV (Jann Lay, Christof Althoff, Christoph Kubitz)

BMZ, EU, SDC, 2024–2027

Leibniz Research Alliance “INFECTIONS in an Urbanizing World – Humans, Animals, Environments (InfUrb)” (Renate Hartwig, Lena Merkel)

Leibniz Competition, lead: Forschungszentrum Borstel, 2021–2025

Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in Resource-Rich Communities: Comparative Cases from the Global South and High North (Nathan Andrews, host: Eckart Woertz)

AvH Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, 2024–2025

Research Network “Sustainable Global Supply Chains” / Phase II (Jann Lay, Tevin Tafese)

BMZ, lead: IDOS, 2022–2025

Scientific Support to and Research on the Impacts of the Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” (RéUsSITE) / Phase II (Jann Lay, Tabea Lakemann, Jan Priebe)

BMZ Sonderinitiative „Gute Beschäftigung für sozial gerechten Wandel“, 2023–2025

The Modernisation of Agriculture and Occupational Change: Labor Market Impacts of Large-scale Land Acquisitions in Senegal (Christoph Kubitz, Regina Schnars)

STEG small grant proposal with RWI and Stockholm School of Economics, 2024–2025

Transfer for Transformation – Knowledge Exchange with Global Reach (T4T) (Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Eckart Woertz (as of May 2024), Julia Kramer, Tillmann Josua, Nora Kurzdörfer, Eduardo Valencia)
Leibniz Competition, Transfer funding line, 2022–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Wissenschaftsraum Nachhaltigkeitsgovernance globaler Wertschöpfungsketten (Jann Lay, Frauke Steglich)
Volkswagen Foundation, lead: Leuphana University, 2024–2028

RESEARCH PROGRAMME 4: GLOBAL ORDERS AND FOREIGN POLICIES

Climate Obstruction and Foreign Policy in Comparative Perspective (Miriam Prys-Hansen)
DAAD-CAPES, 2024–2025

Climate, Climatic Change, and Society / Phase I (Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Miriam Prys-Hansen, Christian von Soest)
Excellence Strategy participation, lead: UHH, 2019–2025 (in collaboration with Research Programme 2)

Digital Transformation Lab / Phase II (Jann Lay, Miriam Prys-Hansen, Thomas Richter, Christian von Soest, Iris Wieczorek (coordination, as of March 2024))
FFO unilateral funding, 2024–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

Ensuring Safe, Transparent and Mutually Beneficial Collaboration with China at Analytical Research Infrastructures (WIKOOP-INFRA) (Margot Schüller, Marcus Conlé)
BMBF, lead: DESY, 2021–2024

Environmental Crisis – Crisis Environments: The Contestation and Governance of Environmental Changes as Crisis (CrisEn) (Miriam Prys-Hansen)
Participation in Leibniz Research Network, lead: PRIF, 2021–2026

Explaining Middle-Power Engagement in External Regions: A Comparison of Iranian, Saudi, and Turkish Sub-Saharan Africa Policies (Jens Heibach, Mira Demidirek, Hamid Talebian)
DFG, 2022–2025

HNC³ – Hamburg Network on Compliance in Cooperation with China (Patrick Köllner, Margot Schüller)
BMBF “Regio-China“-Call, lead: UHH, 2023–2026

Integrated Earth System Research (IESF) (Miriam Prys-Hansen)
Participation in Leibniz Research Network, lead: IOER, 2022–2026

Leibniz Lab “Systemic Sustainability” (Miriam Prys-Hansen, Anette Ruml)
Leibniz Association, lead: IOER, 2024–2026

Performance Monitoring Asia Pacific Research Area (APRA) / Phase II (Margot Schüller, Iris Wieczorek, Marcus Conlé, Yun Schüler-Zhou)
BMBF, lead: Fraunhofer ISI, 2022–2024

Populism and Foreign Policy (Johannes Plagemann, Sandra Destradi)
DFG, 2021–2025

Transfer for Transformation – Knowledge Exchange with Global Reach (T4T) (Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024), Eckart Woertz (as of May 2024), Julia Kramer, Tillmann Josua, Nora Kurzdörfer, Eduardo Valencia)

Leibniz Competition, Transfer funding line, 2022–2025 (in collaboration with all Research Programmes)

World Order Narratives of the Global South / Phase I (Eckart Woertz, Amrita Narlikar (until April 2024))

BMBF Area Studies Call, lead: UHH, 2021–2024 (in collaboration with Research Programme 2)

World Order Narratives of the Global South / Phase II (Eckart Woertz)

BMBF Area Studies Call, lead: UHH, 2024–2027 (in collaboration with Research Programme 2)

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The Logic of Cooperation in Autocracies: Political Opposition in the Third Yemeni Republic, Syracuse/New York: Syracuse University Press, 2024

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Dictators' Endgames, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024

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Mass–Elite Representation Gap in Old and New Democracies: Critical Junctures and Elite Agency, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2024

Wieczorek, Iris et al.

Monitoring des Asiatisch-Pazifischen Forschungsraums (APRA): Demographische Herausforderungen, Fachkräftebedarf und -migration im Asiatisch-Pazifischen Raum, Bonn: Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., 2024

Woertz, Eckart, and Achim Rohde (eds.)

Iraq since the US Invasion; Special Issue of Middle East Journal, 2024

Woertz, Eckart, and Achim Rohde (eds.)

Iraq Twenty Years after the US Invasion: Memory Politics, Governance, and Protests; Special Issue of International Journal of Middle East Studies, 2024

GIGA WORKING PAPERS

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- 342 //** **Tabea Lakemann / Bernd Beber / Jann Lay / Jan Priebe**
Light Touch, Lean Tally: Impacts of an MSME Support Program in Côte d'Ivoire
 - 341 //** **Aline-Sophia Hirseland**
Much Ado about Islam: The Political Integration of Muslim Minorities in Guyana and Suriname
 - 340 //** **Aline-Sophia Hirseland**
Why Do Community Members Support Clientelistic Deals? How Collective Voting Decisions are Taken in Uru Indigenous Communities, Bolivia
 - 339 //** **Mariana Llanos / David Kuehn / Thomas Richter / Martin Acheampong / Esther Song / Emilia Arellano**
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- 2 //** **Anna Fünfgeld / Jörg Wischermann**
Why Just Energy Transition Partnerships Are Not Enough
- 1 //** **Sangeeta Mahapatra / Janjira Sombatpoonsiri / Andreas Ufen**
Repression by Legal Means: Governments' Anti-Fake News Lawfare

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Decolonising Research via Digital Networks? Exploring Big-Team Science
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Peaceful or Contentious? How to Promote Interreligious Peace in Africa
- 1 //** **Martin Acheampong / Matthias Basedau / Julia Grauvogel**
Ten Things to Watch in Africa in 2024

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Philippine President Embraces Global Alliances to Push Digitalisation
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- 5 //** **Amrita Saikia**
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- 4 //** **Adhiraaj Anand / Mahima Duggal / David Kuehn**
Taiwan's New President: Priorities and Challenges
- 3 //** **Mahima Duggal / Sangeeta Mahapatra / Johannes Plagemann / Adhiraaj Anand / Joachim Betz / Miriam Prys-Hansen**
India after the 2024 Elections: Trends and Implications
- 2 //** **Aurel Croissant / David Kuehn / Markus Bayer / Nikitas Scheeder**
Remilitarisation in Asia: Trends and Implications
- 1 //** **Andreas Ufen**
The Rise of Digital Repression in Indonesia under Joko Widodo

GIGA FOCUS LATIN AMERICA

- 6 //** **Tomas Costa de Azevedo Marques / Nátaly Guilmo**
Brazil G20 Summit 2024: The Global South Takes Centre Stage
- 5 //** **Janaina Maldonado Guerrada Cunha**
Mid-Term Elections: Brazil's Far Right Battles for Bolsonaro's Legacy
- 4 //** **Victor Mijares**
Legitimacy Crisis and Venezuela's Long Road to Democratic Transition
- 3 //** **Indi-Carolina Kryg / Luz Marcela Villalobos Andrade**
Mexico: Sheinbaum to Face Militarisation and Human Rights Concerns
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Conditions for Democratic Transitions: Venezuela's 2024 Elections
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Guatemala: A Vote for Turning the Tide

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- 8 //** **Nils Lukacs / Corina Lozovan**
America's 2024 Election and Europe's Middle East Dilemma
- 7 //** **Sara Bazoobandi / Olena Osypenkova**
Expansion of the Russo–Iranian Nexus
- 6 //** **Jens Heibach / Mira Demirdirek / Hamid Talebian**
Non-State Actors and Autocratic Public Diplomacy: A Transregional View
- 5 //** **André Bank / Ronja Herrschner**
Syria Is Not Safe: A Look to Its Regions
- 4 //** **Idriss Jebari**
Couscous, Kaftans, and Culture Wars: Algeria and Morocco at UNESCO
- 3 //** **Sara Bazoobandi**
Purification of the Higher Education System and Jihad of Knowledge in Iran
- 2 //** **Hager Ali**
The War in Sudan: How Weapons and Networks Shattered a Power Struggle
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Ten Things to Watch in the Middle East and North Africa in 2024

EVENTS

GIGA FORUM

www.giga-hamburg.de/en/events/giga-forum/

Syrien nach Assad – Szenarien zwischen Hoffnung und Angst

Speakers: Dr. André Bank (GIGA), Dr. Christiane Fröhlich (GIGA), Prof. Dr. Eckart Woertz (GIGA)

From Hamburg to Brazil: New Pathways for Global Cooperation at the G20

Speakers: Dr. Tomás Costa de Azevedo Marques (GIGA), PD Dr. Dr. Ariel Macaspac Hernandez (GIGA), Prof. Dr. Tatiana Berringer (Finance Track of G20 Social within Brazil's Ministry of Finance), Dr. Axel Berger (IDOS)

Letting Both Sides Speak? Reporting on Authoritarian Regimes in Democratic Media

Speakers: Dr. Alexander Dukalskis (University College Dublin), Jennifer Holleis (Deutsche Welle), Gilda Sahebi, Dr. Janjira Sombatpoonsiri (GIGA)

Scientific Cooperation with China and India: Opportunities and Challenges for German Research Institutions

Speakers: Dr. Fabian Falter (RWTH Aachen University), Dr. Katja Lasch (DAAD India), Yannick Ringot (Universität Hamburg), Hans Westphal (IGSTC)

The Gaza War and Its Impact on the Middle East

Speakers: Alena Jabarine, Prof. Dr. Nathan J. Brown (George Washington University), Dr. André Bank (GIGA)

Violence against Women – A Global Crisis

Speakers: Dr. Carlo Koos (University of Bergen), Marcela Villalobos (University of México and GIGA), Elizabeth Ngari (Women in Exile, Germany), Dr. Julia Zulver (UNAM, Mexico, and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies)

GIGA TALKS

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Report Launch: Global Perspectives on Responsible Economic Statecraft

Speakers: Nora Kürzdörfer (GIGA), Eduardo Valencia (GIGA)

The Future of Sanctions after the US Elections

Speakers: Adrian Seufert (German Federal Foreign Office), Dr. Maria Shagina (International Institute for Strategic Studies), Prof. Dr. Christian von Soest (GIGA), Prof. Dr. Jordan Tama (American University's School of International Service, Washington, DC)

Global Perspectives on BRICS+: Implications for Foreign Policy

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Miriam Prys-Hansen (GIGA), Dr. Johannes Petry (Goethe University Frankfurt), Mona Saleh (GIGA), Diba Mirzaei (GIGA), Richard Cuntz (German Federal Foreign Office)

Five More Years for Prime Minister Narendra Modi? What to Expect from the Parliamentary Elections in India

Speakers: Ralph Brinkhaus (German Bundestag [CDU] and German-Indian parliamentary friendship group), Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra (GIGA), Dr. Johannes Plagemann (GIGA)

Crisis in the Red Sea: What Comes Next?

Speakers: Dr. Jens Heibach (GIGA), Mareike Transfeld (Yemen Polling Center Germany e.V., Berlin)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

<https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/events/conferences-and-workshops>

Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific

Ending UK Sovereignty Over the Chagos Islands: Legal, Political and Strategic Implications

Lecture by Dr. Kate O'Shaughnessy

Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific

Regional Orders and Great Power Rivalry in a Multiplex World

Lecture by Associate Professor Manjeet Pardesi

Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific

How China's Presence in South Asia Shapes India's Indo-Pacific Policy

Lecture by Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific

Formula X: the Electric Vehicle Race in the Indo-Pacific

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Yves Tiberghien

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Thailand's Autocracy Complex and Its Indo-Pacific Consequences

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak

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China's Foreign Ministry and Assertive Diplomacy

Lecture by Dr. Dylan M.H Loh

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China Watchers

Lecture by Dr. Franziska Barbara Keller

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Meanings of Zero: China's Zero-COVID Policy

Lecture by Dr. Bin Xu

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External Support, Internal Strength, and the Strategy of Minority Repression in Mao's China

Lecture by Dr. Chuyu Liu

GIGA China Series

Xinjiang in Central Asia: Trade, Refugees, Loans, and Propaganda Across the Former Sino-Soviet Border

Lecture by Dr. Rune Steenberg

Climate Obstruction in Brazil after Bolsonaro: Opponents to Climate Protection and how to deal with them

Panel discussion in cooperation with Universität Hamburg, and State University of Rio de Janeiro

Collaborating for Global Health: Shared Challenges and Responsibilities: A Transatlantic Policy Dialogue between Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean

International symposium in cooperation with European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation, German-Latin American Centre of Infection & Epidemiology Research and Training, and Barcelona Institute for Global Health

Digital Development Dialogue (3D)

Lecture Series

Doctoral Researchers' Conference: Researching with the Global South?

Conference

India in the Middle East: Looking Westward: Rome MED Dialogues

Panel discussion in cooperation with Institute for International Political Studies

Indo-German 1.5 Track Strategic Dialogue

GIGA Event

MIASA Policy Conference "Dealing with Conflict, Preparing for Sustainable Peace"

Conference in cooperation with Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana, and University of Ghana

Narratives of Power, Memory and Place in Post 2003 Iraq

Seminar in cooperation with Universität Hamburg, and Iraqi Women Academics Network

Sanktionen: Mächtige Waffe oder hilfloses Manöver?

Book presentation by Prof. Dr. Christian von Soest (GIGA) and discussion with Dr. Jana Puglierin (European Council of Foreign Relations), and Dr. Norbert Röttgen (member of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and the Foreign Affairs Committee in the German Bundestag)

South African Perspectives: The Domestic and International Implications of South Africa's 2024 Elections

Panel discussion in cooperation with German Africa Foundation

The Future of Democracy, Fake News, and Radicalisation

Berlin Science Week

The US Presidential Election, Its International Perceptions and Repercussions

Roundtable

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

VISITING FELLOWS

Aliu, Armando	Jagiellonian University	NAWA (Polish National Science Council)
Amer, Mohammedwesam	Gaza University	DAAD
Andrews, Nathan	McMaster University	Humboldt Fellowship
Bayar, Murat	The Social Sciences University of Ankara	University of Ankara
de Araujo Castro, Mariana	Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Políticos	PROBRAL/CAPES (DAAD)
Jebari, Idriss	University of Dublin	BMBF (WONAGO project)
Jimenez Morales, Maryhen	University of Oxford	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship H2020.
Mahapatra, Sangeeta	n.a.	Luminate Foundation
Matin, Kamran	Sussex University	DAAD
Ozsullu, Kerem	Selcuk University	Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Programme
Pagano Landucci, Leonardo	São Paulo State University	Brazilian government
Pardesi, Manjeet	Victoria University of Wellington	GIGA
Pizarro Zúñiga, Pablo	Universitat de Barcelona	ANID (Chile)
Queiroz Guimaraes, Alexandre	Fundação João Pinheiro and Pontifícia Universidade Católica – Belo Horizonte	FAPEMIG
Rice, Dana	Australian National University	DAAD
Saikia, Amrita	Fritz Thyssen Foundation	Thyssen Fellowship
Sharma, Chanchal Kumar	Central University of Haryana	GIGA
Souiadi, Nadjib	Mohammed Cherif Messadia University	Mohammed Cherif Messadia University
Yosufi, Nazir	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Gerda Henkel Foundation
Zuntz, Ann-Christin	University of Edinburgh	BMBF (WONAGO project)

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Peetz, Peter, Dr.	Managing Director

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(as of 31 December 2024)

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Althoff, Christof	Hoffmann von, Jonas, Dr.	Renzullo, Jesus
Arellano Castillo, Andrea Emilia	Josua, Maria, Dr.	Richter, Thomas, Prof. Dr.
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Chu, Sinan, Dr.	Kuehn, David, Dr.	Siewers, Samuel
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Crawford, Andrew	Lakemann, Tabea	Söyler, Mehtap, Prof. Dr.
Dahbi, Khalil, Dr.	Lay, Jann, Prof. Dr.	Steglich, Frauke
Demirdirek, Mira	Llanos, Mariana, Prof. Dr.	Strom, Cecilia Natalie, Dr.
Fröhlich, Christiane, Dr.	Lukacs, Nils Elias	Süß, Clara-Auguste
Geissel, Daniel	Lüssenheide, Fredric	Tafese, Tevin
Giese, Karsten, Dr.	Maldonado, Janaina	Taleblian, Hamid
Grauvogel, Julia, Dr.	Merkel, Lena	Tamaki, Eduardo Ryo
Heibach, Jens, Dr.	Onken, Monika	Tappe Ortiz, Juliana, Dr.
Hernandez, Ariel	Osorio Michel, Daniela	Tas, Hakki, Dr.
Macaspac, PD Dr. Dr.	Plagemann, Johannes, Dr.	Ufen, Andreas, Dr.
	Prys-Hansen, Miriam, Prof. Dr.	Wieczorek, Iris, Dr.

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(as of 31 December 2024)

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Barth, Sabine	Kleis, Pia	Schneider, Urte
Bartsch, Sonja	Kotzel, Uwe	Schweiger, Verena
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Drews, Ulrike	Nerreter, Nils	Wald, Daniela
Geiger, Nora	Ohlsen, Frank	Wald, Daniela
Hibler, Catharina	Peetz, Peter, Dr.	Watermülder, Heike
Hoffendahl, Christine	Powell, James, Dr.	Westphal, Susann
Javanshir, Nadia	Preisser, Meenakshi	Wiegmann, Nadine
Josua, Tillmann	Röske, Claudia	Woike, Lisa
Kasiske, Marein	Röhl, Nikolai	Woldt, Vera
Kazakova, Elena	Rörden, Jan	

DOCTORAL TRAINING

DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

(as of 31 December 2024)

Al Malla, Houssein	Kirchschlager, Markus	Ripplinger, Alina
Anand, Adhiraaj	Klenke, Jan	Schnars, Regina
Ali, Hager	Köbrich, Julia	Shewring, Elianne
Demirdirek, Mira	Kryg, Indi-Carolina	Strom, Cecilia Natalie
Duggal, Mahima	Lakemann, Tabea	Tafese, Tevin
Fietz, Katharina	Maia, Jayane	Talebian, Hamid
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Gedikli, Ardahan Özkan	Mirzaei, Diba	Völker, Siri Kristina
Haritz, Cornelius	Osypenkova, Olena	Weidemann, Askan
Haasnoot, Cornelis	Pieper, Johanna	Zapata Mafla, Ximena
Khalifa, Asma	Reder, Désirée	

DOCTORATES EARNED IN 2024

Name	Doctoral Thesis	Supervisors
Jasim, Dastan	Civic Culture Without A State: Kurdish Civic Culture in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria between State-Control and Resistance	Eckart Woertz, Thomas Demmelhuber
Kürzdörfer, Nora	The End of the Golden Weather? Addressing the Geoeconomic Shift in Global Trade Governance	Amrita Narlikar, Mark Hallerberg
Morales Rivera, Valeria	Shock y política pública: determinantes político-institucionales de la vacunación contra COVID-19 en Centroamérica (Shock and Public Policy: Political and Institutional Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccination in Central America)	Bert Hoffmann, Juliana Martínez Franzoni
Saleh, Mona	Surviving Complexity: How International Organizations Claim Legitimacy Under Conditions of Institutional Overlap. The Case of the African Union (AU)	Tobias Lenz, Stephanie Hofmann

MEMBERSHIPS

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS (SELECTION)

(as of 31 December 2024)

Bank, André	Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS); member of the Steering Committee
Basedau, Matthias	Centro de Estudos Internacionais do Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (CEI-ISCTE), Lisbon; member of the External Advisory Committee
Basedau, Matthias	Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); member of the National Task Force on “Religion and Development”
Basedau, Matthias	Bertha-von-Suttner-Studienwerk; member of the the Academic Advisory Board
Basedau, Matthias	Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF); member of the Scientific Advisory Board
Fröhlich, Christiane	German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK) speaker of the Working Group Science and Practice
Fröhlich, Christiane	German Network of Forced Migration Researchers; member of the Executive Board
Giese, Karsten	Specialised Information Service Asia (FID Asia, CrossAsia); member of the Scientific Advisory Board
Grauvogel, Julia	Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA), member of the Executive Council
Hoffmann, Bert	European Council for Social Research on Latin America (CEISAL), President
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Köllner, Patrick	Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV); member of the Advisory Board
Köllner, Patrick	Association for Transregional Studies, Comparative Area Studies, and Global Studies (CrossArea); member of the Executive Board
Köllner, Patrick	East Asia Institute, University Duisburg-Essen; member of the Board of Trustees
Köllner, Patrick	Hamburg Foundation Asia Bridge; chairperson of the Executive Board
Kurtenbach, Sabine	German Association of Latin American Studies (ADLAF); Vice-President
Kurtenbach, Sabine	German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF); chairperson of the Academic Advisory Board
Kurtenbach, Sabine	Security Sector Reform Advisory Network to the United Nations; member
Lay, Jann	Land Matrix, Member of the Steering Committee
Lay, Jann	German Economic Association, Member of the Standing Field Committee of Development Economics
Lay, Jann	Council for Sustainable Development Policy of the City of Hamburg, Member
Llanos, Mariana	Latin American Association of Political Science (ALACIP); lifelong member
Prys-Hansen, Miriam	Hamburg Foundation Asia Bridge; member of the Board of Trustees
Prys-Hansen, Miriam	International Studies Association; member of the Environmental Studies Section’s Sprout Prize Committee
Rubin, Maxine	Association for African Studies in Germany (VAD); member of the Board (Hauptausschuss)
Eckart Woertz	Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Non-Resident Senior Research Associate
Eckart Woertz	European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES); member of the Council
Eckart Woertz	World Congress of Middle East Studies (WOCMES), member of the Advisory Board

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European–Latin American Network on Governance for Development (RedGob); hosting of secretariat

German Association for Asian Studies (DGA); hosting of secretariat

German Association of Latin American Studies (ADLAF)

German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 January – 31 December 2024



Dr. Peter Peetz

©photo: Claudia Höhne

The GIGA is thankful for the institutional support provided by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts), the other federal states (Länder), and the Federal Republic of Germany (Federal Foreign Office). The GIGA would also like to express its gratitude to all those institutions that have enhanced the GIGA’s research activities by granting project funding. The GIGA strives to maintain a high level of third party-funded project grants. In 2024 these funds totalled EUR 3,571,074 and accounted for 23 per cent of total revenues.

The investment of the GIGA’s capital assets is guided by a long-term strategy that aims for stability and security, genuine preservation, ethical responsibility, and a return on assets. The Institute’s binding “[Investment Guidelines for the Endowment Assets of the GIGA](#)” incorporate social, environmental, and other ethical criteria.

Revenues (in EUR)

1. Institutional support (federal and Länder)	9,043,295
2. Third-party funding for projects	3,571,074
3. Investment income from capital assets	30,363
4. Amortisation of special items (reversal of accruals, etc.)	2,903,028
5. Other operating income	67,219

Total revenues	15,614,979
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Expenses (in EUR)

1. Staff expenditures	8,674,430
2. Service expenses; material and operating expenses	3,956,341
3. Allocation to special items (accruals, etc.)	2,984,208

Total expenses	15,614,979
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The GIGA mourns Jürgen Bethke, who served our financial council for many years.

IMPRINT



German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

The German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) is an independent social-science research institute based in Hamburg. It analyses political, social, and economic developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and compares issues of accountability and participation, peace and security, globalisation and development, and global orders and foreign policies across world regions. The GIGA is committed to scholarship that is global in content, structure, and reach. It combines in-depth area expertise and interdisciplinary comparison. Its unique approach provides for impactful new insights and allows the institute to bring original value-added to the field. Research-based policy advice and knowledge transfer to the wider public are essential elements of its mandate. The GIGA operates the largest non-university information centre for area and comparative area studies in Germany and maintains a liaison office in Berlin. The institute has 150 staff members and belongs to the Leibniz Association. It is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Hamburg Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts and the other federal states. It also acquires a substantial amount of competitive third-party funding.

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German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)
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