

Dr. Benjamin Schuetze

Senior Researcher & Head of DFG-funded Emmy-Noether Research Group
Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), Freiburg / Germany

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PROFILE

In my research, I am interested in the political economy of renewable energies, transregional authoritarian practices and the politics of intervention. I investigate these themes in solar energy and grid infrastructure projects in Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan, US and European attempts at 'democracy promotion' in Jordan, US-Jordanian military collaboration and efforts at Arab-Israeli normalisation. Exploring the often-contradictory effects of external interventions in the Middle East and North Africa, my work is situated at the intersections of international relations, Middle Eastern politics, critical security studies, energy research, and transregional studies. I have extensive experience teaching and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students in a range of IR-related topics and the politics of the Middle East and am leading a DFG-funded Emmy-Noether Junior Research Group on 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA'.

POSITIONS HELD

Jun 2022 – Present – **Head of DFG-funded Emmy Noether Junior Research Group 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA', Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), Freiburg**
Coordination of research group, supervision of three PhD students, student assistant and visiting researchers

Oct 2021 – May 2022 – **Anchor Fellow, Young Academy for Sustainability Research, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg**

Oct 2020 – Sep 2021 – **Senior Researcher, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), Freiburg**

Apr 2016 – Jan 2021 – **Postdoctoral research fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Freiburg**

From January to December 2017 and from May 2021 to April 2022, I was on a reduced contract (50%) due to parental leave.

ACADEMIC NETWORKS

I am a member in the [Research Network External Democracy Promotion](#), the interdisciplinary research and pedagogy initiative [Security in Context: Promoting Critical Research and Policy Analysis on Peace and Conflict](#) and the [Young Academy for Sustainability Research](#).

EDUCATION

2011-2016 PhD Politics and International Relations, passed with no corrections
SOAS University of London

US and European democracy promotion in Jordan: The reinforcement of authoritarianism
Supervisors: Prof. Charles Tripp, Prof. Laleh Khalili, Dr. Matthew Nelson
Examiners: Dr. Nicola Pratt and Dr. Jamie Allinson

2009-2010 MA Near and Middle Eastern Studies, with Distinction
SOAS University of London

2006-2009 BA Arabic Studies and Political Science, with Distinction
University of Leipzig

2008-2009 Semester abroad
American University of Beirut (AUB)

MONOGRAPHS

- 2019 *Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism: US and European Policy in Jordan* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Middle East Studies series), <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108623681>. Available as hardback, e-book and paperback (since 2021).
- Reviewed by Curtis R. Ryan in *The Middle East Journal*, 74(2), 2020, pp. 330-332, muse.jhu.edu/article/762993, and by Tuğçe Yıldız in *Democratization*, 28(5), 2021, pp. 1040-1041, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2020.1835862>.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2024 'Elsewheres of the Unbuilt: The Global Effects of Transnational Energy Infrastructure Projects' (co-authored with Maren Larsen, Alke Jenss & Kenny Cupers), *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR)*, 48(5), pp. 916-935, open access, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13265>.
- 2024 "Seizing the Moment": Arab-Israeli normalization, infrastructure as a means to bypass politics and the promotion of an Israeli-Jordanian transit trade route', *Geopolitics*, 29(5), pp. 1782-1806, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2023.2284769>.
- 2024 'Authoritarian Power and Contestation beyond the State', *Globalizations* (co-authored with Julia Gurol, Alke Jenss, Cita Wetterich and Fabricio Rodríguez); introduction to special issue, Vol. 21, No. 6, pp. 1009-1022, open access, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2022.2162290>.
- 2024 'Prefiguring politics: Transregional energy infrastructures as a lens for the study of authoritarian practices', *Globalizations* (co-authored with Alke Jenss), Vol. 21, No. 6, pp. 1076-1091, open access, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2023.2181545>.
- 2023 'Follow the grid, follow the violence: The project for a transregional Mediterranean electricity ring', *Middle East Critique*, open access, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19436149.2023.2242108>.
- 2023 'The geopolitical economy of an undermined energy transition: The case of Jordan', *Energy Policy*, 180C, 113655 (co-authored with Hussam Hussein), open access, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421523002409>.
- 2022 'Infrastructuring Authoritarian Power: Arab Gulf-Chinese transregional collaboration beyond the state', *International Quarterly for Asian Studies*, 53(2), pp. 231-249 (co-authored with Julia Gurol), open access, <https://doi.org/10.11588/iqas.2022.2.14220>.
- 2021 'Rethinking authoritarian power: The logistics space and authoritarian practices in and between secondary port cities of the Global South' *International Studies Quarterly*, 65(1), pp. 82-94 (co-authored with Alke Jenss), open access, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqaa083>.
- 2018 'Marketing parliament: The constitutive effects of external attempts at parliamentary strengthening in Jordan', *Cooperation and Conflict*, 53(2), pp. 237-258, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010836718768632>.
- 2017 'Simulating, marketing, and playing war: US-Jordanian military collaboration and the politics of commercial security', *Security Dialogue*, 48(5), pp. 431-450, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617717620>.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming	‘The international dimension of ‘Arab Authoritarianism’’ (co-authored with Elia El-Khazen, Charlotte Mueller & Philipp Wagner), in: <i>Handbook on Arab Authoritarianism</i> , edited by Dana El Kurd, Bloomsbury.
Forthcoming	‘Wie ‘Demokratieförderprogramme’ autoritäre Strukturen stärken: US Amerikanische und Europäische Politik in Jordanien’, in: <i>Jordan: Insights and Analyses about a Partner Country of German Refugee Politics and Development Aid</i> , edited by Albert Scherr, Beltz.
Forthcoming	‘Performing the Jordanian state: Intervention, aid dependence and eternal reform’, in: <i>Charles Tripp and the comparative politics of the Middle East</i> , edited by Ali Ansari, Toby Dodge and Daniel Neep, Gingko.
2022	‘«Marquez un but pour la démocratie!» La commercialisation et le contrôle de la ‘Société Civile’ en Jordanie’, in: <i>La société civile au travail: Le professionnalisme irrésolu de l’action transnationale</i> , edited by Philippe Aldrin and Nathalie Ferré, Presses Universitaires d’Aix-Marseille (co-authored with Delphine Weil-Accardo), pp. 75-102.

MANUSCRIPTS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

- ‘Unlikely Companions of Energy Transitions? Opportunities and Challenges of Triangular Cooperation between the EU and the GCC in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)’, *Digest of Middle East Studies* (Revise & Resubmit) (co-authored with Eckart Woertz).
- ‘Risks of Morocco’s green hydrogen plans’, *SCIENCE* (forthcoming) (co-authored with Hussam Hussein).
- Special Issue on ‘The Politics of the Global Energy Transition in MENA: Renewables, Infrastructures, and Regional Dynamics’ (with Rafeef Ziadah and Sharri Plonski), under review with *Territory, Politics, Governance*.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER PREPARATION

- Special Issue on ‘Contested Spatialities of Energy Transition: Political Tensions, Territorial Asymmetries, and New Frontiers’ (with Felipe Fernández, Hussam Hussein, Alke Jenss, Rosa Lehmann & Thilo Wiertz), *EPC Politics & Space*, forthcoming.
- ‘Trajectories of coloniality in renewable energy projects in Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa’ (with Fabricio Rodriguez).

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2024	“The Uneven Politics of Decarbonization in the Middle East and North Africa”, <i>Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)</i> , Issue 311, Post-Fossil Politics, https://merip.org/2024/07/the-uneven-politics-of-decarbonization-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/ .
2024	“Supporting plausible acts of genocide: Red lines and the failure of German Middle Eastern Studies”, <i>Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS)</i> , Studies 51, The War on Gaza and Middle East Political Science, pp. 32-38, https://pomeps.org/supporting-plausible-acts-of-genocide-red-lines-and-the-failure-of-german-middle-eastern-studies .
2024	‘War as Development Opportunity: The Politics of Infrastructure and the Promotion of an Israeli-Jordanian Transit Trade Route’, <i>Security in Context</i> , March 5, https://www.securityincontext.org/posts/war-development-opportunity-politics-infrastructure-promotion-of-israeli-jordanian-transit-trade-route .
2024	‘Facilitating Energy Flows, Containing Humans: Authoritarian Energy Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region’ (co-authored with Elia El Khazen, Charlotte

- Mueller & Philipp Wagner), State of Power, *Transnational Institute (TNI)*, February 8, <https://www.tni.org/en/article/facilitating-energy-flows-containing-humans>
- 2023 'Transregional Energy Infrastructures and Authoritarian Power Beyond the State' (co-authored with Alke Jenss), *Security in Context*, April 12, <https://www.securityincontext.org/posts/transregional-energy-infrastructures-and-authoritarian-power-beyond-the-state>.
- 2022 'Why "democracy promotion" should play no role in a values-based German foreign policy in the MENA region', *ORIENT (German Journal for Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East)*, April 2022, 63(2), pp. 28-34, <https://orient-online.com/shop/articles/why-democracy-promotion-should-play-no-role-in-a-values-based-german-foreign-policy-in-the-mena-region/>.
- 2021 Author exchange with Dana El Kurd in 'Democracy and Autocracy: The International Aftermath of the Arab Spring', *American Political Science Association (APSA)*, 19(2), September 2021, pp. 26-31, <https://t.co/m0id9mx9BT?amp=1>.
- 2021 'The Socio-Economic Effects of Solar Energy in the Middle East and North Africa', Amman: *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*, Climate and Energy Project. Eng & Ara. <https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/amman/17730-20210805.pdf>.
- 2021 'Authoritarianism in Jordan, a transnational production', Interview with author on *NORIA Research* (June 2021), <https://noria-research.com/authoritarianism-in-jordan/>.
- 2020 Interview with author in *Jadaliyya's New Texts Out Now (NEWTON)* section (April 10, 2020), <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/40955>.
- 2020 'Review: Egyptian Environmentalism and Urban Grassroots Mobilization by Noura Wahby', *ALMA Reviews Blog*, October 29, <https://www.arnold-bergstraesser.de/news/alma-reviews-blog-egyptian-environmentalism-and-urban-grassroots-mobilization>.
- 2020 'Essential Readings on "Democracy Promotion"', *Jadaliyya, Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative (MESPI)*, July 21, <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/41428>.
- 2019 'Militärisches Disneyland: In Jordanien sind Kriegsvorbereitungen ein lukratives Geschäft', *l3w*, Januar/Februar, No. 370, pp. 14-15.
- 2016 'Misrepresenting the Contextual and Idealising the Universal: How US Efforts at Democracy Promotion Bolster Authoritarianism in Jordan', *ABI Working Paper*, No. 3, <https://www.arnold-bergstraesser.de/misrepresenting-the-contextual-and-idealising-the-universal>.
- 2013 'Book review: Democracy's Arsenal – Creating a twenty-first century defense industry', *Media, War & Conflict*, August 6, pp. 184-185, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750635213477572>.
- 2010 'Haret Hreik – Hisbollah-organisierter Wiederaufbau und die Notwendigkeit von Alternativen', *Mediterranes*, Nr. 2, pp. 13-15.

MEDIA AND COMMENTARY

- 2022 'Es sind verschiedene Energiewenden möglich:' Dezentrale Versorgungsstrukturen und geringere Machtgefälle derzeit nur Theorie. Interview mit Radio Dreyeckland. <https://rdl.de/beitrag/dezentrale-versorgungsstrukturen-und-geringere-machtgef-alle-derzeit-nur-theorie>.
- 2021 "Debatte in Gang setzen:" Die Universität Freiburg hat im Oktober die Junge Akademie für Nachhaltigkeit aus der Taufe gehoben', *DUZ*, Interview mit Benjamin Schütze.
- 2020 'How US and European 'democracy promotion' in Jordan ends up reinforcing authoritarianism', *fifteeneightyfour*, the blog of Cambridge University Press. Available at: <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/02/how-us-and-european-democracy-promotion-in-jordan-ends-up-reinforcing-authoritarianism/>.

- 2018 'Confronting Authoritarianism vs. Disciplining Democracy: The Recent Protests in Jordan and US Attempts at Democracy Promotion', *Jadaliyya*. Available at: <http://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/37806/Confronting-Authoritarianism-vs-Disciplining-Democracy-The-Recent-Protests-in-Jordan-and-US-Attempts-at-Democracy-Promotion>.
- 2017 'Jordan's KASOTC: Privatising anti-terror training', *Al-Jazeera Online*. Available at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/07/jordan-kasotc-privatising-anti-terror-training-170717074832979.html>.
- 2017 'US-Jordanian military collaboration and the politics of commercial security', *Security Dialogue blog*. Available at: <https://blogs.prio.org/SecurityDialogue/author/benjamin-schuetze/>.
- 2016 'Stabilität nützt nicht unbedingt der Demokratie', *Badische Zeitung*. Available at: <http://www.badische-zeitung.de/kommentare-1/stabilitaet-nuetzt-nicht-unbedingt-der-demokratie-125781611.html>.

TEACHING

- 2023 **Lecturer, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)**
I taught a reading course on 'Energy Politics and Authoritarian Power' and coordinated a 'Research design and methodology course' for the PhD students in my research group
- 2016 – **Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Freiburg**
2021 I have taught in the fields of international relations and comparative politics and was responsible for designing the courses, methods of assessment, syllabi, delivering seminars, and marking assignments. I (co-)supervised approximately 40 BA and MA theses on a variety of topics related to International Relations, African and Middle Eastern politics, the politics of intervention, and postcolonial perspectives in international relations. I taught the following BA and MA courses:
- *Introduction to political science* (German; fall terms 16-17, 17-18, 18-19, 19-20, 20-21)
 - *Introduction to Middle Eastern politics* (German; spring terms 16 & 17, fall term 16-17)
 - *Politics of the Middle East* (English; spring terms 19 & 20)
 - *Militarism and (In-)Security in the Middle East* (English; spring term 18)
 - *US & European interventions in the name of democracy* (English; spring term 18, fall terms 18-19, 19-20)
 - *Introduction to International Relations* (German; spring terms 19 & 20)
- Oct – Nov **Erasmus+ Teaching Fellow, SciencesPo Aix-en-Provence**
2018 I taught block seminars in the MA-programs *Euro-Méditerranannée* and *Géostratégie, Défense et Sécurité Internationale*, including modules on 'democracy promotion' interventions, as well as militarism and contemporary war-making in the Middle East.
- 2013-2014 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, SOAS University of London**
I delivered tutorials for second- and third-year undergraduates in the course *Government and Politics of the Middle East*.
- 2008 **Student Assistant, Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Leipzig**
I designed and taught tutorials on *developmental problems & potentials in the MENA*.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 2022-2028 | German Research Foundation (DFG), Emmy Noether Research Group | 1.6 Mio. € |
| | 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the Middle East and North Africa' (PI) | |
| 2022-2025 | Thyssen Foundation | 275,000 € |
| | 'Promises of Democratic Connection? The Politics of Transregional Energy Infrastructure Expansion' (with Alke Jenss) | |
| 2020-22 | EUCOR – The European Campus | 35,000 € |

	‘Making Infrastructure Global? Design and Governance of Infrastructural Expansion in the Global South’ (with Alke Jenss and Kenny Cupers)	
2020-21	FRIAS (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies) , collaborative grant	10,000 €
2020	University of Freiburg , research field ‘CAS & Transregional Studies’	4,600 €
2018-19	Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Freiburg , travel grants	1,600 €
2018	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) , travel grant	2,042 €
2017	American Political Science Association (APSA) , collaborative grant	6,500 \$
2016	APSA , MENA workshop fellow	N/A
2016	International Studies Association (ISA) , travel grant	N/A
2014-15	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) , doctoral scholarship	tuition & stipend
2014	Middle East Studies Association (MESA) , travel grant	N/A
2011-14	Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) , doctoral scholarship	tuition & stipend
2013	Santander Mobility Award , travel grant	1,000 £
2010-11	DAAD & German Academic Scholarship Foundation , Carlo Schmid fellowship	stipend
	Internship with the Beirut office of the UNDP	
2009	Mideastwire , participation scholarship, Beirut Exchange	N/A
2007-10	FES , scholarship	tuition & stipend

FIELDWORK

May 2024	Morocco: Conducted interviews with activists, businessmen and state officials active in the field of energy politics, and attended a conference on e-fuels.
Dec 2023	UAE: Attended COP28 in Dubai.
Aug 2022	Morocco: Conducted interviews with journalists, businessmen and state officials active in the field of energy politics in Casablanca and Rabat.
Sep 2012- Apr 2013 + Jan 2015	Jordan: Doctoral fieldwork, including about 120 qualitative interviews with foreign diplomats, individuals involved in security collaboration and NGO employees, as well as Jordanian activists, politicians and officials. Interviews were conducted in English, Arabic and German.
May – Jun 2013	USA: Doctoral fieldwork, including archival research in the Library of Congress and about 25 qualitative interviews with US government employees, diplomats, aid workers, consultants and scholars in Washington DC.
Mar 2015	Belgium: Doctoral fieldwork, including about 15 qualitative interviews with EU diplomats and NGO employees in Brussels.
Feb – Apr 2009	Lebanon: Conducted interviews with activists, government employees and local politicians for undergraduate thesis (with distinction) on urban governance and reconstruction in Beirut’s Southern Suburb <i>Haret Hreik</i> .

WORKSHOPS, PANELS AND LECTURES ORGANISED

Sep 2024	‘Continuities of exploitation? Power, dependencies, and questions of “just transitions”’ (with Dr. Mariam Salehi), Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft, Göttingen.
Sep 2024	‘Whose (poly)crisis? Climate change, environmental degradation, and ecological crisis’ (with Dr. Jan Wilkens), Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO), Göttingen.
Jan 2024	,Tracing (Counter)Revolutions in Energy Politics, Logistics Infrastructures and Environmental Landscapes: Race, Finance and Green Tech in the Middle East, North Africa and beyond’, Arnold Bergstraesser Institut (ABI), Freiburg.
Sep 2023	‘Towards a DAVO Committee on Academic Freedom’, Roundtable, Annual Conference of the German Middle Eastern Studies Association (DAVO), Vienna.
Sep 2023	‘Den Schmerz der Anderen Begreifen: Lesung und Diskussion mit Charlotte Wiedemann’, Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg, Moderation.

- Jun 2023* 'Special Issue Launch: Authoritarian Power and Contestation beyond the State', SI online discussion launch with Prof. Natalie Koch, Dr. Rafeef Ziadah and Prof. Marlies Glasius.
- Sep 2022* 'Authoritarian Power: Energy systems and scales of authoritarianism in the MENA' (panel). DOT 2022, Berlin (co-organized with Natalie Koch).
- Jun 2022* 'Transnational dimensions of energy transitions: Politics and Inequalities in and beyond Latin America and West Asia-North Africa', Hybrid workshop at FRIAS, Freiburg, funded by the Young Academy for Sustainability Research.
- Apr 2021* 'Liberal Interventions in the Middle East and North Africa: Social Control and Structural Violence'. International Studies Association (ISA) conference (online panel).
- Mar 2021* 'Authoritarianism and Democracy: Transnational and Multiscalar Perspectives on Power and Spaces of Contestation'. FRIAS Early Career Researcher Conference. Freiburg (online).
- Oct 2020* 'Liberal interventions: Transformation, reproduction or gradual decline?', Annual Conference of the International Relations subsection of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), Freiburg (online panel).
- Jun 2020* 'Liberal interventions in the Middle East and North Africa: Social control and structural violence.' International Studies Association (ISA) conference, Ifrane. (cancelled)
- Oct 2018 – Apr 2019* 'Transregional Studies Lecture Series: Emerging Regional Powers and South-South Interventions', Colloquium Politicum (University of Freiburg) and Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), Freiburg.
- Jul 2018* 'US foreign policy and public diplomacy in the Middle East', World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Sevilla.
- Mar 2018* 'Faire de la politique (extérieure) sans en avoir l'aire : Les dispositifs à destination des « sociétés civiles » étrangères', international colloquium organised by CHERPA, SciencesPo Aix-en-Provence and the University of Freiburg with support of the German-French University and the Centre d'Excellence Jean Monnet 'L'europe au sud', Aix-en-Provence.
- Dec 2017* 'Structure and agency revisited: new modes of political mobilisation in the changing Middle East', American University of Cairo (AUC), Cairo.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Sep 2024* 'Continuing and newly emerging forms of coloniality in renewable energy projects in the MENA', Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO), Göttingen.
- Sep 2023* 'Follow the grid, follow the violence: The coloniality of electricity grid interconnection projects in and across the Southern Mediterranean', DAVO annual conference 2023, Vienna.
- Jul 2023* 'Follow the grid, follow the violence: The coloniality of electricity grid interconnection projects in and across the Southern Mediterranean', BRISMES annual conference 2023, Exeter.
- Sep 2022* 'Follow the grid, follow the violence: The project for a transregional Mediterranean electricity ring', DOT 2022, Berlin.
- Apr 2021* 'The Political Economy of Solar Energy Projects in Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco'. International Studies Association (ISA) conference, online.
- Oct 2020* 'Entangling power grids, producing new outsides: Transregional energy infrastructures as a lens for the study of authoritarian practices'. Millennium Conference on 'Entanglements and Detachments in Global Politics' (with Ake Jenss), London (online).
- Oct 2020* 'Democracy promotion', authoritarian reinforcement and the normalization of intervention'. Annual Conference of the International Relations subsection of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), Freiburg (online).
- Jun 2020* 'Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism: Youth participation programs as a means of external social control.' Accepted for presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) conference, Ifrane (cancelled).

- Jun 2020* 'L'économie politique des projets d'énergie solaire en Jordanie et au Maroc.' Accepted for presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) conference, Ifrane (cancelled).
- Nov 2019* 'US and European 'Democracy Promotion' Interventions in Jordan: the Reinforcement of Authoritarian Rule and Acts of Resistance.' Presented at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference, New Orleans.
- Oct 2019* 'US and European Interventions in the Name of Democracy: the Reinforcement of Authoritarianism.' Presented at the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO) conference, Hamburg.
- Jun 2019* 'Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism: US & European Policy in Jordan.' Presented at the British International Studies Association (BISA) conference, London.
- Nov 2018* 'US and European Democracy Promotion in Jordan and the Reinforcement of Assumptions of Difference.' Presented at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio.
- Oct 2018* 'Promoting an Israeli-Jordanian Transit Trade Route: Violence, Trade, and Opposing Visions of Arab-Israeli Normalization.' Presented at the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO) conference, Frankfurt.
- Jul 2018* 'Promoting democracy, reinforcing authoritarianism: Jordan and the unintended consequences of US and European democracy assistance.' Presented at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Sevilla.
- Oct 2017* "Break on through to the other side': Neoliberal democracy promotion in Jordan.' ALMA Research Series, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) and University of Freiburg, Freiburg.
- Mar 2016* 'Are you afraid of politics? US democracy promotion in Jordan.' Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) annual convention, Atlanta.
- Mar 2016* 'Promoting an Israeli-Jordanian transit-trade route: geopolitics and attempts at de-politicisation and technocratisation.' Presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) annual convention, Atlanta.
- Sep 2015* 'The Eastern European origins of US democracy promotion in Jordan: Liberal democratic identity formation and the reinforcement of authoritarian stability.' Presented at an international conference organized by Sorbonne-Paris-Cité University, SciencesPo and INALCO, Paris.
- Nov 2014* "The special forces experience' – an analysis of US security assistance to Jordan at the example of the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre.' Presented at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference, Washington DC.
- Aug 2014* 'Are you afraid of politics? US democracy promotion in Jordan.' Presented at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Ankara.
- Jun 2014* 'The effects of growing Israeli-Jordanian economic cooperation: the promotion of an Israeli-Jordanian transit trade route.' Presented at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) annual conference, Brighton.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- Jul 2024* 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA', ABI colloquium, Freiburg.
- Jul 2024* 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA', seminar series of European Universities on Sustainability, TUM-IAS, online.
- Jun 2024* 'Israel-Palästina: Siedlerkolonialismus, Widerstand und Antisemitismus', Ringvorlesung SoSe 2024, Hilft Bildung gegen Antisemitismus?', Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg.
- Apr 2024* 'The coloniality of energy infrastructure projects in and across the southern Mediterranean', University of Wisconsin – Madison: Annual Conference: Environment and Climate Change in the Middle East, Madison / USA.

- Feb 2024 'Energy transitions in the MENA: the political economy of renewables', RIFS workshop on green hydrogen, online.
- Dec 2023 'Transregional electricity interconnectors and the need for collaborative, interdisciplinary and transregional research approaches', panel organized by RSS, YAS and RCREEE, Young Scientists for interdisciplinary research and climate innovation, COP28, Dubai.
- Oct 2023 'The authoritarian nature of the technopolitics of energy transition in the MENA', State of Power 2024 authors meeting, Transnational Institute (TNI), online workshop.
- Oct 2023 'The Coloniality of Electricity Interconnection Projects in and across the Southern Mediterranean', Dealing with Autocracies in a Fragmented World, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Frankfurt.
- May 2023 'Book presentation and discussion: 'Hostile Homelands'', discussant at book presentation event by Azad Essa, online.
- Mar 2023 'The United States and Europe in Jordan: supporters or preventers of democratic development?', *Jordan: an anchor of stability and a partner to shape the new Middle East?* Workshop organized by GIGA and KAS, Berlin.
- Dec 2022 'The European energy transition and its geopolitical consequences: A MENA perspective', *19 Minuten bei 19 Grad*, University of Freiburg.
- Dec 2022 'Gulf hydrogen horizons: Why are Gulf oil and gas producers so keen on hydrogen?', Prof. Dr. Natalie Koch, GIGA-IASS Joint Webinar, discussant.
- Nov 2022 'Follow the grid, follow the violence: The project for a transregional Mediterranean electricity ring', *Infrastructural power at global frontiers: prospects for conflict and peace*, international conference, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) (online).
- Oct 2022 'Energiewende, Energiegovernance, Energieökonomie in Afrika', Vernetzungstreffen organisiert von Prof. Dr. Franziska Müller (Universität Hamburg) und Dr. Rainer Quitzow (IASS Potsdam / TU Berlin).
- Jun 2022 'Arab perspectives on the war in Ukraine', Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS).
- Jun 2022 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA', online seminar, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKdHJwEOq7g>.
- Apr 2022 'Seizing the Moment': Arab-Israeli normalization, infrastructure as a means to bypass politics and the promotion of an Israeli-Jordanian transit trade route', *War Economies Workshop, Security in Context Initiative*, Sciences Po Paris.
- Feb 2022 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the Middle East and North Africa', Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) colloquium, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS).
- Feb 2022 'The political economy of an undermined energy transition: The case of Jordan', *Wertschöpfungsketten und Sicherheitsapparate: Zum Verhältnis von Sicherheits- und Wirtschaftspolitik in der internationalen Ordnung*, Workshop der Sektion für Internationale Beziehungen der DVPW (German Political Science Association), University of Bayreuth.
- Oct 2021 Opening event and first meeting of the Young Academy for Sustainability Research (YAS), Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS).
- Oct 2021 Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) annual retreat.
- Sep 2021 'Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism: US and European Policy in Jordan', seminar series of the Centre for European Research at the University of Gothenburg. (online)
- Jun 2021 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? Solar Energy and Transregional Authoritarian Entanglements in and beyond the MENA', *Nature and Political Order(s): Exploring Environmental Politics, Climate Futures and Decarbonization*, 8th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS). (online)

- Jun 2021 'Transregional Authoritarian Practices in Jordan and beyond', Collaborative Research Centre 1199: Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition, University of Leipzig. (online)
- May 2021 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy in the MENA', Graduiertenkreis der Freiburger Islamwissenschaft, Freiburg. (online)
- Feb 2021 'Managing and controlling popular discontent: External 'democracy promotion' interventions in Jordan', *Western Intervention in the Wake of the Arab Uprisings: Political Containment, Neoliberalism, and Imperial Legacies*, hosted by the University of Oxford. (online)
- Jul 2020 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms? The Political Economy of Solar Energy Projects in the Middle East and North Africa.' Presented at an online workshop on 'Circuits of Production, Crisis and Revolt: The Environment and Capital in the Middle East and North Africa'
- Nov 2019 'Performing the Jordanian state: Intervention, aid dependence and eternal reform', *Festschrift for Charles Tripp*, hosted by the LSE Middle East Centre.
- Mar 2019 *Infrastructure and Territory*, hosted by the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI).
- Dec 2018 *Studying Infrastructure across Disciplines*, hosted by the University of Basel.
- Jun 2018 'Militarizing the Middle East: The Simulation, Marketization and Realization of Insecurity.' Presented to lecture series on 'Security in the Global Order', University College Freiburg.
- Nov 2016 'The creation of financial value and 'people' issues: the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ).' Presented at an international conference on 'Mutants of Development? Special economic zones, economic corridors, and the changing geographies of capitalism', University of Amsterdam and Universiteit Utrecht, Amsterdam.
- Jul 2016 'Liberal democratic processes of identity formation and depoliticizing 'the local': US and European efforts at parliamentary strengthening in Jordan.' Presented to an international workshop on 'Decentering International Interventions: Alternative Perspectives on Statehood and (In)Security in the Global South', SFB700/Free University Berlin, Berlin.
- Jul 2016 '5 Jahre Krieg in Syrien: Innere und regionale Dynamiken.' Hochschulgruppe Außen- & Sicherheitspolitik in cooperation with Adopt a Revolution, Freiburg.

CONSULTANCIES AND IMPACT

- 2022 **EUROMESCO/IEMED**
I co-authored together with Eckart Woertz a non-public policy brief entitled 'Unlikely Companions of Energy Transitions? Opportunities and Challenges of Triangular Cooperation between the EU and the GCC in the Middle East and North Africa', which we were also invited to present to DG NEAR.
- 2022 **German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AA)**
I was invited to give a presentation on 'Energy policy related challenges for collaboration with African states' at the 37th Africa discussion group (Afrikagesprächskreis).
- 2020 **Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) Climate and Energy Project MENA**
I prepared an analysis of the socio-economic consequences of solar energy projects in the MENA region.
- 2018-2019 **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**
I wrote a new version of the political economy analysis (PÖK) Jordan, participated in a workshop in preparation of the German-Jordanian governmental negotiations 2019, and updated the report in late 2019.

I am regularly invited to give educational lectures on contemporary Middle Eastern politics for pupils in local schools and for teachers participating in professional development courses.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION AND COMMITTEE WORK

I have acted as a peer reviewer for *Stanford University Press*, *Pluto Press*, the *German Research Foundation (DFG)*, the *Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland*, the *World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)*, the *British-Kuwait Friendship Society's Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies*, and for the academic journals *Politics*, *Intervention and Statebuilding*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Middle East Critique*, *Globalizations*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Security*, *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Energy Research & Social Sciences*, *Global Studies Quarterly*, *Peripherie* and *Antipode*.

Jun 2025 - Member of the BRISMES Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF)
May 2028

Jan 2023 - *Middle East Critique*, Member of the International Editorial Advisory Board
Jan 2025

Sep 2022 – Co-speaker of the German Oriental Studies Association's working group 'postcolonial Present perspectives'

2022-2024 Member of the Steering Committee of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)
2019 Mentor for a Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) scholarship holder

Aug 2018 Examiner in *Grand Oral* examinations for the binational French-German MA program Applied Political Sciences, Sciences-Po Aix-en-Provence.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

May 2020 Successful Leadership and Supervision, FRS Online Coaching, Freiburg

Sep 2013 Professional Development in Higher Education Programme (PDHEP), SOAS, London

Jan – Mar 2012 Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Research, Dept. of Politics & International Studies, SOAS, London

Jan – Mar 2012 Ethics of Social Science, Dept. of Politics & International Studies, SOAS, London

Oct 2011 – Introduction to Research Methods, Dept. of Politics & International Studies, SOAS, London
Feb 2012

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Mar 2016 **Speaker on flight and migration, German Embassy in Beirut, German Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Auswärtiges Amt)** (declined)

Jun – Jul 2011 **Intern, Alkarama for Human Rights, Geneva**
I finalised a submission to the UN fact-finding Mission on Syria about crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian regime and translated testimonies of Syrian refugees and communiqués about cases of torture, extra-judicial killings & illegal detention (Ara-Eng).

Oct 2010 – **Carlo Schmid Fellow, Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Beirut**

Apr 2011 I planned & prepared two Advance Missions to Lebanon in preparation of the 2nd Meeting of State Parties on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Also, I drafted & finalised a lessons learned report assessing UNDP interventions surrounding *Nahr El-Bared* refugee camp.

Feb – Apr 2009 **Intern, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Beirut**
I carried out interviews and field research on Hizbullah-organised reconstruction after the July War 2006 and drafted background reports on Lebanese politics.

VOLUNTARY WORK

Nov 2008 – **Volunteer, Children & Youth Centre (CYC) Shatila, Beirut, Lebanon**

Apr 2009 I conducted English lessons for Palestinian refugees in the refugee camp Shatila.

Sep 2005 – **Volunteer, Simon Community – living and working with London’s street homeless, London**

Aug 2006 I lived & worked as a full-time volunteer in a North London project house, coordinated a 24h shift system, conducted regular street-work and participated in regular outreach activities.

LANGUAGES

German (native)

English (fluent)

French (working proficiency – written and spoken)

Modern Standard Arabic and **Levantine Arabic** (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

I am a member of the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), International Studies Association (ISA), American Political Science Association (APSA), European International Studies Association (EISA) and British International Studies Association (BISA).

REFEREES

Prof. Charles Tripp, Professor Emeritus, Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS
University of London, ct2@soas.ac.uk.

Prof. Laleh Khalili, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, l.khalili@exeter.ac.uk.

Prof. Nicola Pratt, Reader in International Politics of the Middle East, University of Warwick,
n.c.pratt@warwick.ac.uk.

Dr. Rafeef Ziadah, Senior Lecturer in Politics and Public Policy, King’s College London,
rafeef.ziadah@kcl.ac.uk.



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