

# DR. MAX LESCH

Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen | Chair of International Relations  
Am Seemooser Horn 20 | 88045 Friedrichshafen  
Email: max.lesch@zu.de | Twitter: @maxlesch

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Norms, Organisations and Practices | Contestation and Deviance in World Politics  
Human Rights, Torture and Corruption | Global Lawmaking, International Fact-Finding

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 9/2019 – Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen  
**Research Fellow** (Postdoc) | Chair of International Relations
- 11/2018 – 8/2019 Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law  
**Research Fellow** | Max Planck Research Group “Shades of Illegality in International Peace and Security Law”
- 7/2014 – 10/2018 Peace Research Institute Frankfurt  
**Research Associate** | DFG Project “Norm Disputes: Contestation and Norm Robustness”
- 3/2014 – 6/2014 German Development Institute, Bonn  
**Scientific Assistant** to the Directors
- 5/2012 – 5/2014 Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen  
**Research Assistant and Researcher**

## EDUCATION

- 2014 – 2020 Goethe-University Frankfurt  
**Ph.D.** | Political Science  
Dissertation: *Dynamics of Deviance. Torture and Its Prohibition in World Politics*  
Supervisors: Nicole Deitelhoff and Lisbeth Zimmermann
- 2009 – 2011 Goethe-University Frankfurt  
**Master of Arts** | International Studies / Peace and Conflict Studies
- 2010 Aberystwyth University  
**M.A. Programme International Politics** (exchange term)
- 2006 – 2009 University of Bonn  
**Bachelor of Arts** | Politics and Society
- 2005 Kardinal-Frings-Gymnasium Bonn-Beuel  
**Abitur** (German university entrance qualification)

## RESEARCH STAYS

- 2018      Copenhagen University  
**Visiting Researcher** | International Relations Group at the Political Science Department  
(two months)
- 2016      United Nations, Geneva  
**Field Research** | UN Committee against Torture (one month)
- 2011      United Nations University – Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges  
**Research Intern** | Peace and Security Programme (three months)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles with Double-blind Peer Review

2020. Multiplicity, hybridity and normativity. Disputes about the UN Convention against Corruption in Germany, in: *International Relations*: 1-21, DOI:10.1177/0047117820965662.
2017. Practice theories and norm research in International Relations. On the contribution of pragmatic sociology (German title: Praxistheorien und Normenforschung in den Internationalen Beziehungen – Zum Beitrag der pragmatischen Soziologie), in: *Zeitschrift diskurs* 2: 31-54.
2017. Unlocking the agency of the governed. Norm dynamics and contestation, in: *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal* 2(5): 691-708 (co-authored with Lisbeth Zimmermann and Nicole Deitelhoff).

### Book Chapters

2019. Unlocking the agency of the governed. Contestation and norm dynamics, in: Draude, Anke (ed.): *The Agency of the Governed in the Global South: Normative and Institutional Change*, Routledge (co-authored with Lisbeth Zimmermann and Nicole Deitelhoff).

### Other Publications

2014. Just a fig leaf? Germany's long way to ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption (German title: Nur ein Feigenblatt? Deutschlands langer Weg zur Ratifikation der UN-Konvention gegen Korruption), HSK-Standpunkt 7/2014, Frankfurt (policy-paper).
2012. Regional security cultures in flux. The responsibility to protect in Southeast Asia and Africa (German title: Regionale Sicherheitskulturen im Wandel: Die Schutzverantwortung in Südostasien und Afrika), Sicherheitskultur im Wandel Working Paper 10/2012, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

## INVITED TALKS

*Struggles, disputes, and normativity. The norms-practices nexus and the case of China's Belt and Road Initiative*

Workshop "Norms and other norms: Exploring norm relations and norm interactions in a complex global order", Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, 7 – 8 November 2019 (with Dylan Loh).

*What are norms? An interdisciplinary perspective*

Masterclass with Christoph Möllers: "On Norms, Law and Politics" (German title: Über Normen, Recht und Politik), Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, 13 – 16 May 2019 (with Silvia Steininger).

*The robustness of the prohibition of torture*

Workshop “Decline or Transformation? Norm Change and Values in International Law”, Free University Berlin, 24-25 November 2017 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann).

*The negotiation of corruption in the German parliament*

(German title: Die Verhandlung von Korruption im Deutschen Bundestag)

Annual Conference of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, 22 – 23 June 2016.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

*The normativity of international practices and China’s Belt and Road Initiative* (with Dylan Loh)

Workshop: New Voices in International Practice Research, Copenhagen University and Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Duisburg, 18 – 19 February 2021.

*Global lawmakers in human rights. How human rights treaty bodies draft general comments* (with Nina Reiners)

Conference: Governance Networks: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict. Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, 1 – 2 October 2020.

*Emerging United Nations practices in human rights fact-finding. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Human Rights Situation in Chile*

*Struggles, disputes, and normativity. The norms-practices nexus and the case of China’s Belt and Road Initiative* (with Dylan Loh)

Pan-European Conference, European International Studies Association, University of Sofia, 11 – 14 September 2019

*Dynamics of deviance. The international prohibition of torture*

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Toronto, 27 – 30 March 2019

*The Liberal Script and the construction of deviance. The prohibition of torture in the 1970s and early 2000s*

Joint Ph.D. Workshop of the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: On contestations of the Liberal Script, Free Universität Berlin, 16 – 18 May 2018

*International norm disputes: Comparing the effects of contestation on norm robustness*

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, 4 – 7 April 2018 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann, Nicole Deitelhoff and Antonio Arcudi)

*Norms, law, and deviance. Doubts about doubts about the prohibition of torture*

*International norm disputes. Contestation and robustness in the cases of the criminal accountability norm, the ban on torture and the whaling moratorium* (with Lisbeth Zimmermann, Nicole Deitelhoff and Antonio Arcudi)

Biennial Conference of the International Relations Sections of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), University Bremen, 4 – 6 October 2017

*Negotiating ambiguity. The global norm against corruption and parliamentary bribery laws in Germany*

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Political Science Association (PSA) Specialist Group on Corruption and Political Misconduct, University of Sussex, 27 – 28 August 2015

*A Climate of Trust? Trust Research and the Climate Regime*

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, 18 – 21 February 2015 (with Silke Weinlich)

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2019 Travel Grant to attend ISA Annual Convention by German Academic Exchange Service
- 2015 Travel Grant to attend ISA Annual Convention by German Academic Exchange Service
- 2014 – 2017 Ph.D. Scholarship by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the Cluster of Excellence: “Formation of Normative Orders”, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- 2012 Winner of the Josef Esser Award for the best thesis in Political Science in the second half of 2011, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- 2011 Scholarship for internships in international organisations (three months) by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2021 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen  
**Human Rights in International Politics** (B.A. level)
- Fall 2020 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen  
**International Relations: Key Concepts** (M.A. level)
- Spring 2020 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen  
**International Relations & European Integration** (M.A. level)
- Fall 2019 Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen  
**International Organisations & Institutions** (B.A. level, in German)
- Fall 2018 Goethe-University Frankfurt (with Felix Anderl)  
**International Norms: Emergence, Diffusion, Conflict** (M.A. level, in German)

## SERVICE

- 2017 Editor-in-chief of PRIF Blog at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
- 2015 – 2017 Speaker of the Ph.D. Programme at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
- Reviewing Cooperation and Conflict, European Journal of International Security, International Relations, International Theory, Journal of International Relations and Development, Millennium, Swiss Political Science Review, Third World Quarterly

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

- 2021 Panel “Autocratisation and Politicisation as Challenge for International Organisations”, DVPW Congress 2021 (German Political Science Association, DVPW), 14 – 16 September 2021 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)
- Workshop “Contested Norms of International Peace and Security Law”, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg 23 – 24 September 2021 (with Christian Marxsen)

- 2020 Conference “Governance Networks: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict”, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, 1 – 2 October 2020 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)
- 2017 Panel “Warum es sich zu streiten lohnt”, Biannual Conference of the International Relations Sections of the German Political Science Association DVPW), University Bremen, 4 – 6 October 2017 (with Lisbeth Zimmermann)

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW)

*Working Group “Norm research in International Relations” at DVPW*

International Studies Association (ISA)

European International Studies Association (EISA)