

Ilyas Saliba

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Work Experience

WZB – Berlin Social Science Center – current position, since Jan 2013

Research Fellow at the research unit: Democracy and Democratization

Presenting research results at international conferences in English, German and French

Commenting on current political developments in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Syria in policy briefs, TV and radio interviews, blogs and newspapers in German and English.

Organized workshops on alternative Foreign Policy approaches towards the Arab World in Berlin

Communications officer at the research unit: Democracy and Democratization

Managing and editing the WZB Democracy Blog Hosting and producing the WZB Democracy Podcast Creating and managing social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook.

Amnesty International Germany – maternity replacement Jan 2018 – Apr 2019

Middle East and North Africa Advocacy Coordinator

Monitoring and analyzing the Human Rights situation and political developments in the Middle East and North Africa. Strategic planning of advocacy and campaigning measures in Europe.

Advocating for Human Rights driven foreign and security policy towards decision-makers and presenting Amnesty's research to the broader public.

Humboldt University, Berlin, Mar–Aug 2014

Lecturer at Institute for Social Sciences

Teaching undergraduate seminar on: Introduction to political theory

CSS - Center for Security Studies, Zuerich, Jul–Oct 2012 + Nov–Dec 2016

Research Assistant in project: Securitization of the Public Sphere

Conducted and analyzed expert and stakeholder interviews with security services, administration, civil society and elected officials in Switzerland and in Morocco.

CIS - Center for Comparative and International Studies, Zuerich, Sep 2011–Sep 2012

Teaching Assistant at the chair for Political Violence (Lars-Erik Cedermann)

Teaching tutorial on: Contemporary Conflicts: Challenges and Solutions

SWP - German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Mar–Jun 2011

Research Assistant at the research division for international security

Analyzing EU crisis management institutions and compiling a dataset on EU military cooperation

IFSH - Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg, Jan 2010–Mar 2011

Research Assistant at PiraT project on maritime security and terrorism

Supporting funding application application, database management and editorial work

Education and Research

Ph.D. Candidate, Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin, since 2013

Fieldwork-based qualitative data collection through actor-interviews in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia
Collecting original quantitative protest event and repression data from coding Arab newspapers

Research Interests: Democratization and Transformation, Authoritarianism, Political Contestation and Social Mobilization, Foreign Policy and Politics of the MENA Region, Academic Freedom.

Thesis title: Perceptions, sequence and elite cohesion in authoritarian decision-making. The effect of spreading protests on regime responses in crisis.

Supervisors: Wolfgang Merkel (HU Berlin and WZB) and Donatella Della Porta (EUI and SNS)

Research and Fieldwork stays:

Oxford University, Nuffield College, Oct–Dec 2016

EGE – Ecole de Gouvernance et d’Economie de Rabat, CRESC, Aug–Dec 2015 and Apr–Jun 2016

NVIC – Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo, Jan–Apr 2016

AUC – American University in Cairo, Department for Political Science, Feb–Jul 2015

EUI – European University Institute in Fiesole, Department for Political Science, Aug–Dec 2014

M.A. Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zuerich and University of Zuerich, 2011–2013

Thesis title: Authoritarian Resilience in Moments of Contestation: Morocco during the Uprising.

Supervisors: Frank Schimmefflennig (ETH Zuerich) and Wolfgang Merkel (HU Berlin and WZB)

Semester abroad: Free University Berlin, Otto-Suhr-Institute, Oct 2012–Feb 2013

B.A. Political Science, University of Hamburg, 2007–2011

Thesis title: EU Foreign Policy towards Libya.

Supervisors: Petra Dobner and Kai Uwe-Schnapp (University of Hamburg)

Semester abroad: University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies, Aug 2009–Jan 2010

Languages and Trainings

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Arabic (basic), Dutch (basic), Spanish (basic)

Trainings and Courses

Election observation course by the Center for International Peace operations, Berlin (ZiF)

TV and Radio focused media training

Oslo Summer School in Comparative Authoritarianism (Joseph Wright)

IPSA Summer School in Case Study Methodology (Derek Beach)

IARU Summer School Security: Theories and Dilemmas of the Concept (Ole Waever)

QCA workshop at BGSS (Claudius Wagemann)

Process Tracing workshop at the Hertie School of Governance (Derek Beach)

Case Selection workshop at the WZB (Gary Goertz)

Pedagogical training: Teaching in higher education at WZB

Self-management for PhD students at the Humboldt Graduate School

Scholarships and Grants

Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German national academic association), Oct 2010– Jul 2019
PhD scholarship (3 years since Jul 2016) – 35.000 Euro,

Studienkolleg zu Berlin scholarship programme with the Herthie-Foundation (1 year) – 10.000 Euro

Graduate student scholarship of the German national academic association (2 years) – 16.000 Euro

APSA MENA fieldwork grant, Jul 2017

Fieldwork grant from the American Political Science Association network on Middle East and North African political science yearly meeting – 3.000 Euro (joint application with Yasmina Abouzzohour)

WZB flexible funding grant, Mar 2017

Grant for a research assistant at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center to compile a protest event and repression database for Morocco (2010-2011) from Arab newspapers – 5.000 Euro

DAAD and APSA graduate student travel grants, Sep 2015

DAAD travel grant for American Political Science Association (APSA) yearly meeting – 1.500 Euro

Trajectories of Change Fellowship, Nov 2014

Fieldwork grant by the Bucerius Zeit Foundation for fieldwork in Egypt and Morocco – 3.000 Euro

Banco Santander scholarship, Aug 2012

Awarded for excellent students at the IARU Summerschool Program – 1.500 Euro

Publications

Journal Articles and Policy Briefs

Free Research in Fearful Times: Conceptualizing an Index to Monitor Academic Freedom (with Jannis Grimm), *Journal for Interdisciplinary Political Studies*, vol. 3 (1), 2017, pp. 41–75.

Change or charade? Morocco's constitutional reform process in 2011 *ORIENT German Journal for Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East*, vol. 3, 2016, pp. 50–55.

No Rivals to the King. Limits to Political Reform in Morocco's 'Enlightened Authoritarianism'. (with Isabelle Werenfels) *SWP-Aktuell*, no 25, May 2017

Chapters in Edited Volumes

The dilemma of simultaneity. (with Wolfgang Merkel), 2019, in: the Handbook of Political, Social, and Economic Transformation, edited by Wolfgang Merkel, Raj Kollmorgen, and Hans-Jürgen Wagners, Oxford University Press.

Academic Freedom in the MENA Region: Universities under Siege. 2018, in: IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2018, pp. 313–316.

Das Dilemma der Gleichzeitigkeit. (with Wolfgang Merkel), 2014, in: Handbuch zur Transformationsforschung, Raj Kollmorgen, Wolfgang Merkel and Hans-Juergen Wagner (edts), pp. 517-526.

Security of the Public Sphere: Meeting place in an area of tension between control, freedom and democracy. (with Jonas Hagmann), 2013, in: Bulletin zur Schweizer Sicherheitspolitik, pp. 91–112.

Selected Newspaper and Blog Contributions

Belagerte Hochschulen in Amnesty Journal (21.03.2018) – German only
 Brandbeschleuniger Grossmachtspolitik (with Jan Wilkens) in FAZ (22.04.2017) – German only
 The myth of the Facebook revolution at Qantara (01.02.2017)
 The Demise of Academic Freedom on the Nile at WZB Democracy Blog (23.08.2016) – German only
 Europe's misguided applause for Morocco's reform process at Open Democracy (18.08.2016)
 False solidarity. Military adventures in Syria are no solution (with Jannis Grimm) at IPG (18.12.2015)
 A Plea for Diplomacy in Syria (with Niklas Kossow) at LSE Middle East Blog (29.10.2015)
 Tunisia's darkest hour at Qantara (01.04.2015)
 The Securitisation of Stability + the Demise of the Arab Uprisings at LSE Middle East Blog (18.03.2015)
 Schuss vor den Bug fuer Millionen Aegypter in Tagesspiegel (03.06.2015) – German only
 Germany is the perfect mediator in die Zeit (16.01.2014) – German only

Reviews

Europaeische Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik – Anspruch oder Wirklichkeit? by Volker Epping, Christiane Lemke, Alim Baluch, in S+F. Sicherheit + Frieden. Security + Peace, (4) 2011, pp. 292–294.
 The Afghanistan Challenge: Hard Realities and Strategic Choices. by Hans-Georg Ehrhart and Charles Pentland, Queens University Press in S+F. Sicherheit + Frieden. Security + Peace, (2) 2010, pp. 124–125.

Software Skills

Office applications with Word, Excel, Power Point, MS Project, Overleaf and LaTeX
 Statistical analysis with STATA and SPSS
 Bibliographies with Citavi, Zotero and Endnote
 Street-, Event- and Portrait Photography and post production with Lightroom
 Audio editing and cutting with Audible and Garage Band
 Comparative Qualitative Analysis (QCA) with Kirq and fsQCA
 Qualitative analysis with MaxQDA
 Web content management with Typo 3, Weebly and Wordpress

Involvement and Engagement

Representative in the Academic Council of the WZB – Berlin Social Science Center
 Mentor at Adopt an Academic peer-to-peer mentoring program supporting refugee scholars
 Doctoral representative at the Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences at Humboldt University
 Member of the selection committee at Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences
 Member of selection committee at the German academic council (Studienstiftung)
 Election officer at the EU parliamentary elections 2014 and the Berlin regional elections in 2016
 Waterpolo at highest national level with SV Poseidon Hamburg and SC Winterthur from 2010–2013
 Since 2017 active in the second German division with SGS Schoeneberg

Selected Talks and Presentations

2019

German Council on Foreign Relations Conference on the MENA Region (invite), Berlin
ISA Annual Convention, Toronto

2018

ECPR General Conference, Hamburg
–organized panel on regional diffusion of authoritarianism with Ann-Sophie Gast

2017

Modern Maghreb Workshop (invite), St Anthony's College, Oxford
ECPR General Conference, Oslo
APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco

2016

APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
–organized panel on international dimension of authoritarianism with Gerasimos Tsoupras
Third IDCAR Network Conference (invite), Oxford
Conference by the IRMC – Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain, Tunis
Joint BGSS / BGSMS / POLIS180 Conference on status of Civil Society in Egypt, Berlin
–gave workshop on Academic Freedom in Egypt and moderated panel discussion

2015

APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco
EPSA General Conference, Vienna
Expert Seminar: Law and Politics of State Transformation at EUI (invite), Fiesole
AUC MENA Working group at the American University in Cairo (invite), Cairo

2014

MESA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
ECPR Joint Sessions, Salamanca

Last updated: March 8, 2019