Ilyas Saliba

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Work Experience

GPPi – Global Public Policy Institute – since May 2019

Research Fellow working on Human Rights and Democracy (currently on sabbatical)

- Contributing to the GPPi's project to measure academic freedom and presenting the research results at international conferences and at the task force of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Responsible for a project on democracy promotion with the German Federal Foreign Office
- Responsible for a project with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation encouraging regional security cooperation of young professionals from think tanks, NGOs and research in the MENA-Region
- Op-eds and interviews on developments related to academic freedom, human rights and democracy

WZB – Berlin Social Science Center – 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, radio interviews, blogs and newspapers in German and English
- Organized workshops on alternative Foreign Policy approaches towards the Arab World in Berlin
- Editor in chief at the WZB Democracy Blog
- Hosting and producing the WZB Democracy Podcast
- Creating and managing social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook

Amnesty International Germany – Jan 2018–May 2019

Middle East and North Africa Coordinator

- Monitoring and analyzing the current political developments and Human Rights situation
- Advocating and campaigning for equality, justice and freedom by exposing violations

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 (in French, German and English)

Humboldt University, Berlin, Mar–Aug 2014

Lecturer at Institute for Social Sciences

- Teaching undergraduate course on: basics of political theory

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

Intern at the research division for international security

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

Research and Education

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 HUman Rights, Comparative Authoritarianism, Political Contestation, Fieldwork Methods, Foreign Policy and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa, Academic Freedom.

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

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 Schimmeflennig (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

Skills, Scholarships and Languages

Skills

Audio editing and cutting with Audible and Garage Band

Strategic communication, public relations and outreach through Podcasts, Blogs and Social Media

Office applications with Word, Excel, Power Point, MS Project and LateX

Info-graphics, visualization and story telling

Statistical analysis with STATA and SPSS

Web content management with Typo 3, Weebly and Wordpress

Street-, Event- and Portrait Photography and post production with Lightroom

Qualitative analysis with MaxQDA

Scholarships and Grants

Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Oct 2010– Oct 2013 and Jul 2016– Jul 2019

Student and PhD scholarship of the German national academic association

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 (joint application with Yasmina Abouzzohour)

Trajectories of Change Fellowship, Nov 2014

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

Studienkolleg zu Berlin, Sep 2012– Oct 2013

Scholarship program by Hertie-Stiftung and German national academic association

Languages

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

Publications

Books

University Autonomy Decline: Causes, Responses, and Implications for Academic Freedom, with Kirsten L. Roberts and Janika Spannagel forthcoming in 2022, Routledge.

Safer Field research in the Social Sciences. A Guide to Human and Digital Security in Hostile Environments, with Jannis Grimm; Kevin Koehler; Ellen Lust and Isabell Schierenbeck, 2020, Sage UK.

Journal Articles and Policy Briefs

Global data on the freedom indispensable for scientific research: towards a reconciliation of academic reputation and academic freedom, with Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel

The International Journal of Human Rights, 2021.

The Academic Freedom Index and Other New Indicators Relating to Academic Space: An Introduction, with Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel

V-Dem Users Working Paper Series, 2020, number 26.

Free Research in Fearful Times: Conceptualizing an Index on Academic Freedom, with Jannis Grimm

The Journal for Interdisciplinary Political Studies, 2017, vol. 1, pp.42–75.

Change or charade? Morocco's constitutional reform process in 2011.

ORIENT German Journal for Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East, 2016, vol. 3, 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

Academic Freedom in Egypt. 2020, in: Researching Academic Freedom. Guidelines and Sample Case Studies, edited by Katrin Kinzelbach, FAU University Press.

Research Guidelines for Country Case Studies on Academic Freedom, with Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel 2020, in: Researching Academic Freedom. Guidelines and Sample Case Studies, edited by Katrin Kinzelbach, FAU 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

COVID-19: field research needs to find a way back fast after the pandemic, The Conversation (11.05.2021)

Deutschland sollte Tunesien unterstuetzen, with Mariam Salehi, FR (28.10.2019) – German only

Belagerte Hochschulen. 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, with Niklas Kossow 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)

Tunisia's darkest hour at Qantara (01.04.2015)

The Securitisation of Stability and the Demise of the Arab Uprisings at LSE Middle East Blog (18.03.2015)

Germany is the perfect mediator in Syria in die Zeit (16.01.2014) – German only

Involvement and Engagement

Member of Scholars At Risk's European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy

Served as short-term election observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) during the Belarussian parliamentary elections 2019

Chairperson of Netzwerk Europa, an initiative aimed to enhance European dialogue on political issues

Mentor at Academics in Solidarity – a peer-to-peer mentoring program supporting refugee scholars

Doctoral representative at the Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences at Humboldt University

Member of selection committee at the German academic council (Studienstiftung)

Waterpolo at highest national level with SV Poseidon Hamburg, SC Winterthur from 2010–2013

Since 2020 active in the second German division with SC Wedding