

# Ilyas Saliba

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## Work Experience

### **GPPi – Global Public Policy Institute** – since May 2019

*Associate Fellow working on Human Rights and Democracy*

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*

Commenting, monitoring and analyzing the current political developments and Human Rights situation across the MENA Region.  
Advocating and campaigning for equality, justice and freedom. Exposing Human Rights violations and holding the once's responsible accountable.

### **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)

### **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

### **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 applications, setting up a database on piracy incidents and editorial tasks

**Institute for Political Science at the University of Hamburg**, Oct 2008–Mar 2011

*Research Assistant at the chair for Global Governance (Antje Wiener)*

Management and administration of project: Dialogue and Diversity in Diplomatic Interaction

## *Teaching*

**Hertie School of Governance**, Berlin, Jan–May 2017

Teaching assistant – mentoring a group of graduate students involved in developing a practical project aimed at establishing a think tank drawing on Refugees as Foreign Policy Experts

**Humboldt University**, Berlin, Mar–Aug 2014

Lecturer at Institute for Social Sciences – Teaching undergraduate course on: basics of political theory

**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

**Institute for Political Science at the University of Hamburg**, Oct 2008–Mar 2011

Teaching assistant at the chair for Social Science Methodology (Kai-Uwe Schnapp) – Teaching tutorial on: Introduction to Social Science Methods

## 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 Transitology, Comparative Authoritarianism, Political Contestation and Social Mobilization, 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 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, Trainings and Scholarships

### *Languages*

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

### *Trainings and Courses*

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)

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

TV and Radio focused media training

Introduction to info-graphics, visualization and story telling at the Dahlem research School

### *Scholarships and Grants*

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

PhD scholarship of the German national academic association – 35.000 Euro

Student scholarship of the German national academic association – 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 (6 months part time) 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

**Trajectories of Change Fellowship**, Nov 2014

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

**Studienkolleg zu Berlin**, Sep 2012– Oct 2013

Scholarship program by Herthie-Stiftung and German national academic association – 10.000 Euro

## Publications

### *Books*

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) with Sage UK.

### *Journal Articles and Policy Briefs*

Free Research in Fearful Times: Conceptualizing an Index to Monitor Academic Freedom (with Jannis Grimm), accepted in the Journal for Interdisciplinary Political Studies (forthcoming).

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

The dilemma of simultaneity. (with Wolfgang Merkel), forthcoming, in: *Oxford Handbook of Transformation*, Raj Kollmorgen, Wolfgang Merkel and Hans-Juergen Wagner (eds), 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 (eds), 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 unterstützen (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

## Skills and Software

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

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

Bibliographies with Citavi, Zotero and Endnote

## 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

Member of the board of Netzwerk Europa, an initiative that aims to enhance European dialogue and exchange on cultural and political issues

Representative at the Academic Council of the WZB – Berlin Social Science Center

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 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