

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 consulting project on democracy promotion with the German Federal Foreign Office

Responsible for an engagement project with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation encouraging regional security cooperation of young professionals from think tanks, NGOs and research in the MENA-Region

Writing Op-eds and giving interviews on current foreign policy related to 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 a conference on alternative foreign policy approaches towards the Arab World

Consulting the V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg as a country expert for Morocco

Consulting the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on Morocco

Editor in chief at the WZB Democracy Blog and 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

Leading Amnesty Germany's human rights advocacy work in Berlin on the Middle East and North Africa in ministries, parliament and with other stakeholders in civil society

Strategic planning of advocacy and campaigning measures in Europe with other Amnesty chapters

Presenting Amnesty's research and positions to the German public in print, radio and TV media

Co-organized workshops with exiled human rights defenders from Syria and Egypt in Europe

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

Independently conducted expert and stakeholder interviews with security services, administration, civil society and elected officials in Switzerland and 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 applications, database management and editorial work for: S+F Peace and Security

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

Thesis title: Authoritarian Learning in Crises: Egypt and Morocco during the Arab Spring

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

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

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 und Isabell Schierenbeck), 2020 Sage UK.

Journal Articles and Policy Briefs

Free Universities. Putting the Academic Freedom Index into Action (with: Katrin Kinzelbach, Janika Spannagel and Robert Quinn) *Global Public Policy Institute Report*, March 2020.

The Academic Freedom Index and other new indicators relating to Academic Space (with: Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel) *V-Dem Users Working Paper Series*, 2020: 26, March 2020.

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-Jurgen Wagener, 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

Deutschland sollte Tunesien unterstützen (with Mariam Salehi) in FR (28.10.2019) – German only

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 (with Niklas Kossow) at Qantara (01.02.2017)

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)

Schuss vor den Bug fuer Millionen Aegypten in Tagesspiegel (03.06.2015) – German only

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

Reviews

Europäische 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 Academics in Solidarity 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

2020

Workshop on Academic Freedom in Authoritarian Regimes, Lund University, Sweden

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 30, 2020