

CIS News

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CIS News

EDITORIAL



Katharina Michaelowa is professor for Political Economy at the University of Zurich and director of the Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS).

The CIS has gone through a dynamic fall and winter season, and now expects a challenging new year. The beginning was made in January with our annual "Uetliberg Colloquium", during which the whole CIS comes together at a pleasant location to discuss recent research. The end of January brought a well-attended international conference on the "Political Economy of International Organizations" (PEIO), which was in fact the third in a series of PEIO conferences initiated two years ago in a joint effort of the CIS and KOF (Swiss Economic Institute, ETH). This time, the event was convened by Georgetown University, Washington. A number of other exciting events organized (or co-organized) by the CIS will continue through 2010, most prominently our CIS research seminar series, again with numerous well-known guest speakers from all over the world. Moreover,

we will continue to hold our (mostly internal) brown-bag seminars, as well as a variety of workshops and conferences.

Apart from this, we are looking forward to various developments in research and teaching. Our large-scale interdisciplinary research program on "Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century" (NCCR Democracy) is entering its second phase. In the process, this research program will be integrating a few new projects and faces. Our international program "Master of Comparative and International Studies" (MACIS) has now been approved by the responsible authorities of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich as a joint program. This formal recognition will certainly further boost our enthusiasm for teaching this program, which attracts a growing number of highly qualified students in the social sciences from many different countries. For our CIS PhD, we are discussing a stronger emphasis on course work, as an option for new PhD students. Moreover, within the University of Zurich component of the CIS, we will have the opportunity to hire three new colleagues: an assistant professor in Democratization

(for the NCCR Democracy), a professor in Swiss Politics, and a professor in Methods of Political Science. They will no doubt provide a strong reinforcement of our existing team. However, there are also some challenges ahead. Due to the intractable capacity limitations of both the ETH and the University in the Zurich city center, we will all have to move offices. Unfortunately, this will lead to a spatial separation of ETH and University colleagues within the CIS. At the same time, however, we will be able to provide space to NCCR researchers, and gain some teaching and conference facilities in our new building complexes. Generally, this means that joint CIS activities will require better planning, but we are determined to meet the challenge.

The following pages will provide a lot of additional information about the ongoing activities within the CIS and on its periphery. You will also find personal reports on impressions about research visits abroad, conference experiences, and exchanges within the CIS.

Wishing you all the best for 2010

Katharina Michaelowa

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Michael Bechtel wins Suedwestmetall Best Dissertation Award 2009

Michael Bechtel has received the Suedwestmetall Best Dissertation Award 2009, awarded by the University of Constance, for the best dissertation in political science, economics, business administration, law, engineering, or computer sciences dealing with a topic relevant to sociopolitical conditions and/or industrial relations.

CHE ExcellenceRanking 2009: The Department for Political Science is excellence group

The Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) in Germany has completed a second round of the CHE Excellence Ranking, focusing on the academic disciplines of economics, political science, and psychology.

On the basis of five indicators with either a research orientation (number of publications - including highly cited books and citations by international standard) or an international dimension (Erasmus-Mundus master's programmes, student mobility, and staff mobility), the Department for Political Science (IPZ) at the University of Zurich is an Excellence Group. The IPZ received stars for performing particularly well in some of the above indicators.

"It all fits a coherent ideology" - An interview with UZH News

Right-wing populist parties capitalize on more than just the provocation inherent in breaking political taboos. Across Western Europe, they share a core ideology that centers on preserving the cultural distinctiveness of national populations, says political scientist Simon Bornschieer (CIS) in an interview with UZH News. The parties of the left and center-right should take up the challenge.

<http://www.uzh.ch/news/articles/2010/es-gibt-eine-ideologie-in-die-alles-hineinpasst.html>

"Democracy also endangers peace" - An interview with ETH Life

Judith Vorrath, PhD candidate at CIS, is examining democratization after ethnic civil wars in her dissertation. In this interview, she explains potential pitfalls on the road to democracy, the dilemmas in post-war contexts, and

why armed violence seems to pay off in peace processes. She also illustrates the role of international actors.

http://www.ethlife.ethz.ch/archive_articles/100115_Demokratisierung_tl_def/index

MACIS becomes legally effective as a joint program retroactively

Following the decision of the council of the University of Zurich (Universitätsrat), the joint degree program in "Master of Arts in Comparative and International Studies" (MACIS) is now legally effective as a joint program of ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich retroactively as of 1 August 2009.

In brief

Lars-Erik Cedermann takes over as CIS vice-director from Thomas Bernauer at the beginning of the spring semester 2010.

Event announcement: 2. Aarauer Demokratietage 2010: "Finanzkrise und Demokratie", 18-19.3.2010.

<http://www.demokratietage-zda.ch/>

Dr. Dirk Leuffen has taken up a position as Interim Professor for Political Science and International Politics at the University of Constance during the winter term 2009/2010.

On the UZH side of CIS, the recruitment committee for the Chair of "Swiss Politics" has started its work. The appointment process for the Chair of "Social Science Research Methods" is also underway.

In June 2010, the Department for Political Science (IPZ) will definitely move to Oerlikon. As a result the two CIS bodies (ETH and UZH) will be located separately. In the future CIS therefore will have to face new challenges in maintaining this successful cooperation.

The news and activities of the Department of Political Science (IPZ) can now be followed on Twitter.

<http://twitter.com/IPZuser>

CIS Working Papers are now also available on the Social Science Research platform (SSRN).

<http://papers.ssrn.com>

The program for the CIS Colloquium Spring 2010 is now available for download.

<http://www.cis.ethz.ch/events/index>

CIS UETLIBERG COLLOQUIUM

The Uetliberg Colloquium serves as a platform for the CIS community to learn about recent developments and activities. This year, the new CIS professors presented some of their latest research.



CIS director Katharina Michaelowa informs the audience about what's new at CIS.



Professor Stefanie Bailer presenting her work on legislative norms in the Swiss Parliament



The audience participated in a lively fashion in the follow-up discussions

By **Dunja Ewinger**

This year's Uetliberg colloquium took place on 12 January 2010. CIS director Katharina Michaelowa opened the colloquium with some reflections on the ongoing institutionalization process of CIS as initiated by the previous colloquium. First of all she was glad to announce that the administrations of both universities and the council of the University of Zurich have given their agreement for the CIS' Master of Arts program (MACIS) to become a joint program of ETH and the University of Zurich. The academically oriented two-year program has been very successful since its introduction in 2006. Today, the number of applicants has more than doubled from 35 to 74, and the current Master class consists of 18 highly qualified students from all over the world. Furthermore, Prof. Michaelowa informed the CIS community about the introduction of a structural doctoral program in fall of 2010. CIS is responding to changes and challenges in PhD training today by introducing general skills as a compulsory element of the curriculum, changing supervisor system, adding tailored course work on demand and providing individual mobility funds (see also article on page 10f). Altogether, 80 students are currently enrolled in the PhD programs within CIS; of these 50 students are matriculated at the University of Zurich and 30 at ETH. The research project NCCR Democracy currently employs about 20 PhD students.

Following the introductory speech of Prof. Michaelowa, the colloquium continued with discussions of current research topics presented by the new

CIS professors Stefanie Bailer, Daniel Kübler, Isabel Günther, and Fabrizio Gilardi. Stefanie Bailer, who took up her assistance professorship in Global Governance in August last year, gave a vivid presentation on "Legislative Norms and Party Group Discipline in the Swiss Parliament". Her research investigates whether norms concerning party group discipline are influenced by individual parliamentarians, institutions, or party groups. Comparative research on European parliamentary systems has found that party group cohesion has been influenced by electoral systems and selection mechanisms. However, little research has been dedicated to the role of norms concerning party group discipline, e.g., the question of whether deputies differ in their opinions concerning disciplinary measures in the party groups. Stefanie Bailer and her collaborators conducted a survey among Swiss parliamentarians, using the data to analyze how norms concerning party group discipline can be explained. The results of the analyses further paths for research in order to find out whether norms concerning party group discipline are a function of institutions or rather of individual legislative careers, or whether they are consciously supported by party group leaderships.

Daniel Kübler, who holds the chair of Research on Democracy and Public Governance, followed with his presentation on "The metropolitanization of politics. Intermediary results from the International Metropolitan Observatory". This presentation briefly summarized a ten-country collaborative study of metropolitan regions and



Thomas Widmer asks for more details.



Professor Daniel Kübler is in his element as a gifted and engaging presenter.



Collegial discussions during the welcome reception for the newly appointed CIS professors.

their consequences for political behavior. He presented results from multilevel regression models of partisanship, national election turnout, and local election turnout over the 1990s and early 2000s. Across most advanced industrial countries and beyond, the findings reveal an emerging new political geography that is rooted in metropolitan places. Divisions within and between metropolitan regions have increasingly replaced both urban-rural cleavages and national class interests as the determinants of electoral participation and partisanship. These new patterns help to account for the expanding bases of support for neoliberalism in most advanced industrial societies, and for emerging political cleavages linked to cultural divergences and globalization. In ways that vary according to national systems of institutions, disparities in local and national voter turnout are also rooted not just in the socioeconomic composition of communities, but in the contextual conditions of metropolitan places.

In the second half of the colloquium, Isabel Günther, assistant professor of development economics at NADEL gave a presentation on "Mortality, Fertility and Social Interactions in Developing Countries", based on her collaborative work with David Bloom, David Canning, and Sebastian Linnemayr of the Harvard School of Public Health. Their work aims to empirically contribute to the debate on whether health improvements and hence child mortality declines can act as a catalyst for economic growth by initiating fertility decline and a decrease in population growth. In contrast to previous empirical work on the topic, their study takes into account the special role of social interactions, where parents learn about mortality levels and copy optimal ferti-

lity behavior from their social reference group. The model is estimated for a wide range of demographic and health surveys from over 60 developing countries. Taking into account social interactions, they find that reductions in mortality are followed by a one-for-one reduction in fertility. This means that mortality declines lead to decreasing total fertility rates (number of children born) but to no reduction in net fertility (number of surviving children), i.e. to no reduction in population growth.

Fabrizio Gilardi, professor for Policy Analysis, concluded the colloquium with his presentation on "Who learns from what in policy diffusion processes?". The idea that policy-makers in different states or countries may learn from one another has fascinated scholars for a long time, but little systematic evidence has been produced so far. Gilardi contributes to this argument by distinguishing between the policy and political consequences of reforms and by emphasizing the conditional nature of learning processes. Using a directed dyadic approach and multilevel methods, the analysis of unemployment benefits retrenchment in OECD countries demonstrates that policy-makers learn selectively from the experience of others. Right-wing governments tend to be more sensitive to information on the electoral consequences of reforms, while left-leaning governments are more likely to be influenced by their policy effects.

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THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT

A team of CIS researchers have been attending the UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen to interview negotiation participants and heads of delegations about their bargaining strategies and positions in the ongoing climate negotiations. Florian Weiler reports his insights and describes the obstacles encountered in gaining the needed interview data.



Climate change activists stage a demonstration.

By **Florian Weiler**

At the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen, the leaders of the world were supposed to find solutions to tackle global warming. Much had been written about what was supposedly the biggest ever high level conference prior to its start, NGOs had been campaigning hard, and expectations were extremely high. Or were they? Let me put it this way: having already been to the preparatory conferences in Bangkok and Barcelona in the run-up to the conference, I personally had no high hopes for an all-encompassing, legally binding agreement at the end of the two weeks. Certainly I was not the only one. "I don't think we can get a legally binding agreement by Copenhagen," admitted Yvo de Boer, head of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, after the Barcelona meeting. And the Danish hosts of the COP 15 had acknowledged that although a legally binding agreement might be out of reach, a politically binding deal might still be attainable. This statement was not at all to the liking of many NGOs, as they expected nothing less from the politicians than to "seal the deal" or to "solve the climate

crisis". Their views were certainly reflected in the city of Copenhagen, which had started calling itself Hopenhagen: The world was on the brink of disaster, and the conference was the last hope for humankind to steer clear of catastrophic global warming.

This was the scene when I arrived in Denmark on the first day of the conference. A team of CIS researchers and myself were here in order to interview as many country delegates as possible. We wanted to learn about the countries' aims for the negotiations, as well as the means by which they aimed to achieve them. In other words: What were the optimal outcomes from a country's perspective in different areas such as overall mitigation targets, mitigation and adaptation funds, distribution of these funds, etc., and which bargaining strategies were used to come as close to these optimal outcomes as possible. The data gained through these interviews are key inputs for the project "Negotiating Climate Change", which aims at determining which of the mentioned bargaining strategies, if any, leads to success. Hence, on the first day of the conference at 10-pm and after some initial problems finding my way,

I finally stumbled into the flat that Axel Michaelowa (University of Zurich) had rented already a year prior to the conference, only five minutes' walk away from the summit venue. The proximity to the Bella Center would turn out to be of great value.

A host of people shared the flat during the two weeks of the conference, including CIS-members Axel Michaelowa, Florens Flues, Paula Castro, Julia Fauth, and myself. But before we could get down to business, we had to get access to the Bella Center. Axel and Paula had already been accredited when I arrived, but another occupant of our apartment had been turned away after waiting outside the building in the cold for hours. Our Danish hosts were not prepared for the huge demand for badges and were unable to process them quickly, resulting in a bottleneck for newcomers to the conference. As the admission counters closed at 6-pm irrespective of the queue outside, this would cause a major upset, particularly in the second week, with people queuing for hours, often to no avail. Soon, severe criticism was voiced by NGOs and the media, as reporters and campaigners were stuck in the lines outside the Bella Center. We were also affected as Stefanie Bailer, assistant professor at CIS, cancelled her trip to Copenhagen when no admissions were granted anymore.

Luckily, the situation was not as severe on the second day of the conference, when I headed to the main entrance early in the morning to avoid exorbitantly long queues. I still had to wait for a while as we reached the center before the admission gates had opened. Fortunately, some campaigners from Greenpeace provided hot drinks, while mem-

"WE AGREE THAT WE DON'T AGREE. SO LET'S KEEP



A string of international journalists report from the conference venue.

bers of an organization campaigning for a vegan lifestyle entertained the queue with their sheep and cow outfits. After another little problem at the admission counter, I finally entered the conference and could start conducting interviews. The experience of Bangkok and Barcelona left me and the team doubtful as to whether we would manage the 80 interviews we had originally aimed for: It turned out to be harder than expected to get the delegates to talk to us. The reasons were manifold. Some delegations had extremely tight hierarchies, with the lower ranks unwilling or even forbidden to provide any information. China was one of these. On the surface, the delegation from Beijing appeared to be quite open-minded about providing information to researchers and journalists, holding its own public relations/conference/side events venue for the first time at any COP. However, this seemingly promising location for digging up an interview turned out to be a disappointment, as the low-level staff patiently and smilingly listened to our appeal, told us to fill out an interview request form and promised to get back to us soon – which of course never happened. The staff changed frequently, so each time we returned to the stand we had to go through the same procedure again and again, with the same result.

With this in mind, Tuvalu's response might have been more annoying at first, but at least their immediate refusal saved us going on a wild goose-chase. Their reason? It was something along these lines (I quote from my memory): "We are very sorry, your project sounds really interesting, but there are hundreds of thousands of universities researching these issues, and we cannot provide information to all of them. So we have decided that our policy is to talk to no one!" So much for Tuvalu and China, two countries we really wanted to include in our data set. Of course, there are some other "bizarre" strategies for avoiding an interview. One of these is to agree to meet at a certain time and place, not show up, and then make oneself scarce by not replying to e-mails, as was the case with Senegal and Brazil. The Brazilian lady even managed to do this to me three times, in Bangkok, Barcelona, and Copenhagen, but at least she always got back to me once the conference was over, promising to talk to me next time (presently, I am promised a phone interview in January). Senegal, on the other hand, is lying low and refusing to answer my e-mails ever since I was left waiting at our agreed meeting place. However, all this should not lead the reader to think getting interviews

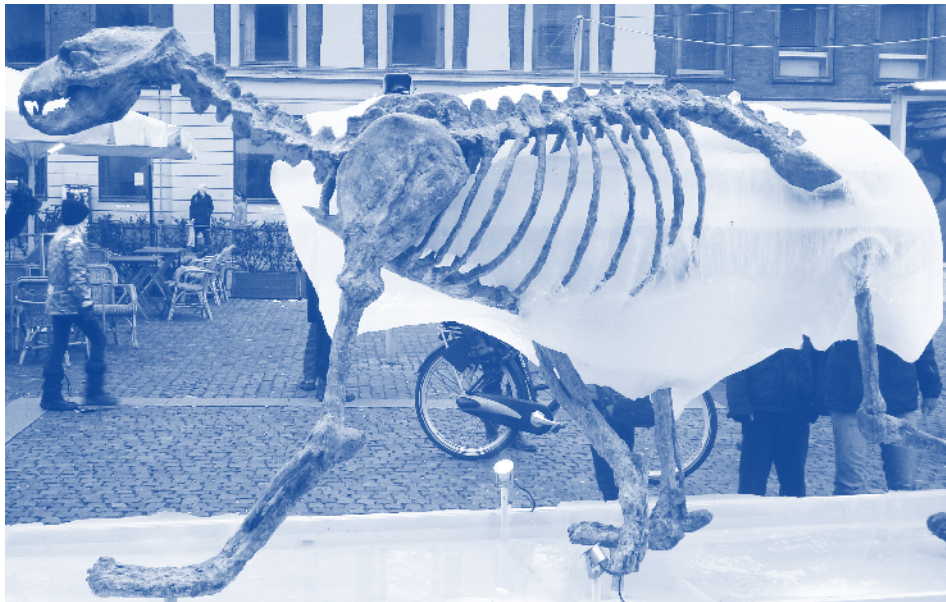
was hopeless. We did have successes and a host of very interesting and long interviews with important delegation members of countries as different as Indonesia, Nigeria, Argentina, Switzerland, or Georgia, to name just a few. It was not always easy, but with some stamina and enthusiasm, we managed to compile a nice collection of completed questionnaires.

In a huge place like the Bella Center, humming with business and hardly a quiet spot to relax, such an enterprise can be quite tiring. And what do you do when you need a little change at the COP? You go to a side event of your choice! I don't know how many side events, official or unofficial, had been organized during the two weeks in Copenhagen, but I know they covered all the topics under discussion in the negotiations (and more). There were scientific side events on market mechanisms, others on cash transfers to developing countries, and on the necessary financial architecture, and even a film festival. The side events made "my" COP not merely an opportunity to gather data, but also an academically interesting experience. The event also provided me with several kilos of interesting reading material, although I did not collect the back-breaking amount of material Axel Michaelowa took home.

However, before moving on to the less than impressive closing stages of the conference, the protests and the security forces in the city and around the convention center should not go unmentioned. Those of us present on the weekend between the two conference weeks took the opportunity on a Sunday to join the protests in the streets of Copenhagen. The mix of world views and campaign issues at these protests were astounding, from the aforemen-

NEGOTIATING."

tioned vegans, to indigenous peoples' rights organizations, environmental organizations, Socialist and Communist groups, and, inevitably, the Black Block. Paula and I had the misfortune to join the march to the Bella Center when it had already left the city center; we had to overtake the rear guard, including the Black Block, yet everything seemed to be relatively quiet (apart, of course, from the obligatory chants "A – Anti – Anticapitalista"). Later, we lear-



The Copenhagen Polar Bear

ned that there had been some clashes. The police had reacted with disproportionate force and temporarily arrested almost 1.000 people: only 15 were later prosecuted. The arrests were made possible under a newly passed Danish law, called "Prevention Detention", which led some of the British press to sarcastically comment that the level of English in Denmark must be very high. Jokes aside, all of the detained had to sit in the freezing cold with their hands tied behind their backs for hours, and one wonders whether the police might have overstretched their authority...

Another problem arose as more and more delegations of parties and NGOs

arrived in Copenhagen, which resulted in ever longer queues. The resulting "assault" on the Bella Center in the second week, combined with too few staff and bad organization, meant that people waited in the cold for whole days without being able to get into the conference. Those outside were just left waiting, without any provision for food or drink or even basic information about whether it would still be possible to enter the Bella Center. Unfortunately

for the Danes, there were also many reporters from international media organizations in the queues, and their outrage was broadcast in the news around the world the next day. But the resentment among NGOs was to increase further, as once heads of states started to arrive, the number of people allowed into the conference venue was further reduced drastically due to ever tighter security measures. In the final two days, only 300 people were accredited, of which I unexpectedly happened to be one.

What happened during these last two days in Copenhagen is now knowledge. The feeble, non-legally binding

agreement, termed the "Copenhagen Accord", received much media attention. There is not much to report on our project either, as quite expectedly, delegates did not have much time or willingness to sit down and fill out a questionnaire while the drama of the conference was unfolding around them. However, I managed to get hold of a host of new contacts that last two days, which might come in handy in future meetings. Interestingly, there was a total change of atmosphere in the last two days. Whereas before there had been life, fun, and creativity due to the many NGOs, now there was either emptiness or the busy professionalism of the ever-present media. Wherever there were a large number of cameras accompanied by a lot of noise, you could be sure to see an important face. Over three days, I saw Merkel, Sarkozy, Brown, Barroso, Chavez, Morales, Schwarzenegger, Gore, and a host of less well-known heads of states and government.

They did secure an agreement in the end, although this agreement in plain language comes down to this: "We agree that we don't agree. So let's keep negotiating." That outcome is bad in many respects, yet at least it keeps the process of finding a solution to the climate crisis alive. And there is one other positive side effect. As we still lack around 20 interviews, it gives us a little more time to finish our project.

Florian Weiler

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MACIS CLASS VISITS GENEVA

The group of MACIS students, who enrolled in the program in 2008, went to Geneva in September 2009. Thomas Winzen, one of the MACIS students, reports.



Thomas Bernauer and the attentive MACIS class

By **Thomas Winzen**

From 6–9 September 2009, Professor Thomas Bernauer offered his annual MACIS field trip to the international organizations hosted in Geneva, Switzerland. The trip gave 14 students the chance to look beyond the confines of the classroom and to meet and discuss pertinent issues with distinguished professionals and representatives from international organizations.

Besides a guided tour through the heart of the United Nations system in Geneva, the Palais de Nations, the agenda was filled with substantive discussions at the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Swiss Mission to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and finally, with UN veteran Jozef Goldblat. These meetings offered many valuable insights into the practice of international politics.



Visit at the WHO

At the World Health Organization (WHO), for instance, three staffers presented the global effort to eradicate malaria. The most promising strategy

is to interrupt transmission of the parasite causing malaria by shortening the life-span of the transmitting mosquito and by preventing access to the human body. Seemingly simple in theory, the problems faced by health professionals on the ground include the difficulty of training individuals in the use of chemicals, protective nets, or the appropriate storage of malaria tests, not to mention sometimes difficult weather conditions that render the eradication of mosquito breeding sites essentially impossible.

Anyone who believes that UN activities relating to the environment do not go beyond producing high-level reports will be convinced otherwise after a visit to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Post-Conflict and Disaster Management branch.

The UNEP representative reported the



Presentation on post-conflict management

difficulties of post-conflict management in countries such as Sierra Leone, where well-designed policy schemes with ideas about proper land use or employment programmes meet sometimes chaotic conditions on the ground. It may be wise to involve clan leaders in negotiations – but is it possible to find them in the first place? It may be better for an individual to engage in agricultural work, but the miniscule chance of finding a valuable diamond leaves a lot of persuasion to be done by development professionals. The president of the International Committee

of the Red Cross (ICRC), Jakob Kellenberger, offered first-hand insights into some of the dilemmas facing an organization designed to help victims of armed conflict and violence. Prisoners of war, for instance, need ways to communicate with their families and friends, as well as adequate treatment and help in protecting their dignity. If the ICRC is to retain access to prisoners, it must work away from the limelight. Public naming and shaming of states may yield publicity, but it can do harm to detainees. Some may therefore be surprised to learn about the geographical scope and activity of the ICRC in many contemporary international conflicts as high-profile as the war in Afghanistan.

The MACIS field trip to Geneva concluded with a meeting with Jozef Goldblat. Having straddled the fences between research and practice in global disarmament efforts for some 50 years, he offered his views on the proliferation of nuclear weapons during the Cold War and after. He welcomed US President Obama's disarmament initiative, though one should not forget the challenges including, amongst others, the difficulties in distinguishing the peaceful use of nuclear energy from preparations for less benign activities - a dilemma currently witnessed in Iran.

Notwithstanding numerous enriching visits to international organizations, nobody was prevented from experiencing the social life of Geneva while enjoying a nice dinner, a refreshing drink or, indeed, a swim in the lake with the view on the famous Jet d'Eau projecting water to a height of up to 140 meters.

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INTO THE BUBBLE: POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH AT THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE IN FLORENCE

By **Silja Häusermann and Simon Borschier**

To some extent, spending a year at the European University Institute (EUI) means living in one of those bubbles of slightly surreal academic places where having a PhD seems the most natural thing in the world, and where people talk about designs, sampling, and "catdogs" from cappuccino early in the morning to aperitivo late at night. However, unlike some other universities where the intellectual excitement has to compensate for downsides such as remoteness, unpleasant climate, or nasty food, the EUI-bubble is spectacularly located on the hills overlooking Florence and comes with a range of undeniable culinary and cultural delights. For PhD students, the EUI is a good place for a year of post-doctoral research. Here is why.

Every year, nearly 60 post-doctoral fellows from all over the world gather in the EUI villas scattered over the hills of Fiesole as participants of the two post-doctoral programs of the EUI: the Max Weber program hosts about 45 fellows (roughly the same number from each of the four EUI disciplines: social sciences, history, economics and law) and the Jean Monnet programme about 15. Both programmes are highly selective, but they differ in their orientation: Max Weber fellows participate in a comprehensive program of training in research, teaching and soft skills, while the Jean Monnet program is purely oriented towards research. However, there is ample intellectual and social exchange among all fellows, as well as with the professors and PhD students at the departments. We spent a year in the Max Weber program. Once you have defended your thesis, it's all about publication, raising the visibility of your research, strengthening your CV, and extending your network; endeavours that the Max Weber program aims at supporting. What did we do over this year?

The most important part for all fellows was of course their own research agenda. Both



Silja Häusermann and Simon Borschier

of us submitted a few articles, polished our thesis manuscripts, and got contracts for book publications. We also both benefited from the stimulating environment and more ample reading and research time to launch new projects and develop a research agenda for the next few years. That was the "solitary" part of the post-doc year. Within the Max Weber program, however, a range of activities and training kept us (sometimes slightly too) busy: from lectures given by eminent scholars to multidisciplinary workshops; from meetings with editors from top journals and university presses to workshops in time management and teaching skills: the Max Weber program trained us in everything that the EU's "DG Education and Culture" thinks academics need to be good at. Most of the activities had a real added value, especially since all invitees took time for individual tutorials with the fellows. In addition, we interacted with the professors at the Social and Political Science Department through staff colloquia, conferences, or individual meetings. Every postdoctoral fellow works with a mentor in his or her field of specialization. The personal contacts and collaborations with other post-docs, professors, and visitors (there are conferences all the time, and everybody seems to come to the EUI sooner or later) were certainly the most valuable part of the activities. Last but not least, the EUI is a very family- and couple-friendly place. Among the Political Science Max

Weber fellows only, four couples participated in the program. In each couple, one member held the fellowship and the other participated in the programme as a visitor on an equal footing, with access to offices, all infrastructure and the programme activities. In addition, the crèche provides fulltime child-care for children aged six months and older. Overall, there is a high level of awareness at the EUI that universities increasingly need to accommodate dual career couples to be able to attract fellows and professors. In addition, the EUI has some comparative advantages, which "naturally" add to its attractiveness: the beautiful Villas in which the institute is housed, the spectacular surroundings, that offer ample opportunity for hiking, and an overwhelming choice cultural activities in Florence and Tuscany. For many of our Italian colleagues who had taken a PhD abroad, spending a year at the EUI meant living in the best of possible worlds, since it entailed working in a well-funded and internationally highly competitive university while enjoying the undeniable amenities of life in Italy.

Overall, we think that a post-doc at the EUI is a good thing to go for if you want to pursue an academic career, if you need time to develop your research agenda and publications, and if you can find some people among the EUI-professors whose research interests overlap to some extent with yours. As with the applications for PhD positions, this last point is crucial, since one of the professors has to agree to act as a mentor for candidates to be accepted. Although the department of Political and Social Sciences has 15 professors, this last requirement to some extent limits the range of applicants.

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BLAME IT ON BOLOGNA : THE PHD – PLUS – OR THE

In the fall of 2010, the Department for Political Science at the University of Zurich will begin its new doctoral program in Comparative and reflects an approach offering a PhD education and more, which is an outcome of the debate on the success and failures of the Bologna

By **Petra Holtrup Mostert**

The European political sciences are undergoing rather massive changes. These changes result from growing international competition as well as from national constraints that are owed to political and economic factors. For the last 20 years, European universities have been exposed in their evaluation to a wider international perspective and competition caused by increasingly globalized and interlinked academic life. As transparency and competition are pushing factors for the overall development and innovation of the discipline, they also bring tougher competition, more demands on mobility and flexibility, less security, and a general shift of pace and style in the European academic job market as well as in the general scientific landscape. Practices of hiring, firing, promotion, and tenure are becoming increasingly standardized. Universities are adopting the management styles of the private economic sector for attracting funds and students, teaching styles and the general scientific management. This has met with varying degrees of success, quite critically summarized in the intense discussion about the usefulness of the Bologna process. As a matter of fact, Bologna is the attempt to realize the above-mentioned demands in a rigorous European-wide strategy. But it fell short in implementing necessary reforms in a sound and sophisticated manner. The deficits become visible in the fact that too often, the heterogeneous and versatile European academic system has been imposed on the new bachelor and master degrees and now, with the Bologna III phase, even on the PhD education, without reflecting the special characteristics of the European scientific traditions, or taking into account that these traditions constitute the rest

of the world that are worth keeping, at least in part. In many cases, opportunities that Bologna offers are not translated into practice, and students are still not sufficiently informed as to how they can adopt Bologna in a good and flexible manner to their own needs, leaving behind the idea of "one fits all". Moreover, the European academic system is displaying more resistance to reforms than even the reformers imagined. The protest against the Bologna reforms is often accompanied by the glorification of the European traditions, as embodied in Humboldt education ideals of self-directed independent studies. "Humboldt" is used as a terminal argument of structural conservatives whenever they want to impede changes. But the old-fashion, and fallacious interpretation of Humboldt ideals neglects the obvious shortcomings of the former system in the changing environment: high dropouts rate after several years of study, which in many cases amounts to a waste of valuable personal life time. Moreover, it implied extensive duration of academic education, lack of competitiveness, as well as immobility. Undoubtedly, Bologna is not a magic cure for all the shortcomings of the traditional system. But implemented with common sense, enough creativity, and mental flexibility, it could provide more opportunities than pitfalls.

The job-market perspective

Thinking about educational reforms is always accompanied by thinking about job perspectives. The academic job market – especially when contrasting Europe against North America – is now generally geared towards standardized qualification. Briefly speaking a successful candidate should combine the following skills, which are mainly described as PhDplus:

an excellent thesis, finished within no more than four years, a good rate of highly ranked publications, evidence of research skills, experience in obtaining and managing research funds, didactic skills and good teaching evaluation, proven mobility, networking experience, and an already established linkage to the own epistemic community, and last but not least, excellent English skills.

When it comes to hiring, e.g. for a tenure track position, successful candidates must demonstrate additional post-doc experience, a step that is an increasingly standard step on the career ladder. This may include solid management skills, with regard to funding, budget and HR and leadership management, experience in general university management matters, that far exceeds the boundaries of one's own profession, as well as excellent time management that allows scholars to satisfy these demands while pursuing their own academic career in a rigorous manner.

Due to global scientific networking, CVs are now more transparent and comparable. This is especially true when it comes to recruiting. Quite often universities, aggressively recruit productive mid-career and senior scholars. Being an excellent but sedentary scholar without work experience abroad is no longer a guarantee of a job; nevertheless, networking and personal contacts are still crucial for securing a good position, especially in Europe. European universities increasingly copy the US recruiting system and seek out candidates with all the above-mentioned skills, but at the same time still fall short in offering a decent graduate education system that guarantees all this. Ultimately educated in North America where the educational systems generally provide the demanded

ACADEMIC CAREER IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

International Studies. The program focuses on basic elements of a modern PhD education, as encapsulated in the label "PhD plus". This reform in the European academic education system and the effects of the evolving globalized academic job market.

qualification in structured graduate programs, compete against applicants from Europe, where academia is still resisting these programs, the former often come out ahead. While the European academic job market is becoming increasingly open and attractive to American scholars, the access to the US and Canadian job market remains rather restricted for the latter.

Additionally, European academic education still suffers from structural barriers such as the absence of graduate course work and field examinations. European candidates often lack knowledge beyond their specialized research topics and fail to keep up with literature in other subfields of political sciences and related disciplines. Here again, Humboldt comes into play. One of the major ideas in Humboldt's education philosophy is the notion of an overarching disciplinary thinking, the development interests outside the box to gain new insights in top a given problem, as expressed by the concepts of "interdisciplinary" or "multidisciplinary" education and research. This is where current criticism of the education reform goes to the heart of the problem. Although publications on scientific management strongly stress the importance of interdisciplinary research and applaud those universities that have reintroduced multidisciplinary elements to the curriculum, many faculties still emphasize their own subjects, considering multidisciplinary thinking to be of little or no help. Therefore, some scholars still fail to think outside the box, and are consequently insufficiently prepared analyzing a problem from different perspectives. These abilities, however, are becoming more and more crucial in sciences that deal with increasingly complex research questions, and are trying to respond adequately to the pressing ques-

tions of the globalized world. In the long run, multidisciplinary working processes guarantee innovation and creativity, that are the basis of scientific advances. Another problem can be found in research funding: The nature of the Political Sciences makes it particularly vulnerable to various political agendas that permeate funding decisions. Therefore, besides focusing and establishing their own research in the broader academic discussion in order to be acknowledged in their own scientific community, scholars must take care to study the overall political environment in order to enhance their chances of securing future funding. This is always accompanied by the ability to cross the bridge between hard science and think-tank work in practical policy advice, while in practice, the traditional European system still draws a clear distinction between these two. One frequently encounters the belief that you cannot be a serious scientist and an eloquent policy advisor at the same time, a view that is not shared in North America. When talking about future job perspectives, one must always draw attention to the fact that even the globalized academic employment market cannot absorb all applicants. Because this particular field of work is still a small and contested field, candidates must always consider job alternatives to showing flexibility on changing demands and circumstances. Although a sound and well thought-out academic training program provides skills, that are suitable for jobs outside academia, a much stronger focus is needed on additional skills such as multidisciplinary research, teamwork, and leadership qualities. In this working environment new job prospects arise from broad knowledge of one's profession or the topic of one's PhD thesis, from the ability to transfer general skills to

a new and rapidly changing working environment, e.g., project management, teamwork, general leadership skills, interdisciplinary strategic thinking, and working on complex issues.

Demands on the institutions – The CIS PhD training

All of these considerations presents universities with great challenges. With regard to Bologna, the PhD training is now defined as the third step of academic training based on the B.A. and M.A. degree along with the first time of professional conduct. It goes without saying that the foremost goal of universities must be a high-quality PhD education and the performance for excellent candidates with first-rate perspectives for a academic career. Students must be given the best possible education and be empowered to the demands of PhDplus and the "secondary" job market. The CIS has adapted to the changes in PhD training by introducing general skills as a compulsory element of the curriculum and by establishing a structural doctoral program, starting in fall 2010. The implemented reforms range from a special structural training program in research design, advanced methods and publication skills, theory and evidence courses to individual supporting courses, individual mobility funds, tailored course work on demand, and the awarding of course credits for individual and general skills and practical work. Thanks to a changing supervisor system, the relation between PhD candidates and their supervisors is shifted to a more collegial and cooperative basis.

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CIS BROWN-BAG LUNCHES

In the fall term of 2009, PhD students met regularly to discuss recent research in their specific field of interest. The brown-bag lunches offered by CIS provided an ideal opportunity for exchange on shared research interests.

Thomas Jensen and Thomas Winzen initiated a series of brown-bag lunches on European Union Research.

By Thomas Jensen

The topics ranged widely, from the role of the Council presidency in member state negotiations to external relations and security policy as well as euro-scepticism.

The main purpose of the brown-bag seminars was to make researchers aware of developments in the discipline beyond their own narrow subfield, and in this regard they can be considered a great success. Each member of the group had to give a short presentation on recent important research within their subfield, and then open up the issue for discussion.

In particular, the sessions on euro-scepticism and external relations spurred some great discussions, and the international composition of the group meant that representatives from both new and old member states were present, which led to a vibrant and very interesting discussion. Furthermore, the sessions on decision making in the Council and the democratic deficit of the EU exposed many in the group to strands of research that they were not familiar with before.

The most important part of having these sessions has been the exposure to strands of research that are of relevance to all of the group members, but with which they do not engage in everyday research activities. The advantage of having researchers from many subfields was that perspectives from different subfields could be applied to the relevant topic of the session.

Another brown-bag lunch series organised by Felix Strebel, offered researchers a space for exchange on the shared research interest in policy diffusion.

By Felix Strebel

Policy diffusion studies have gained more and more importance in nearly all fields of political science during the last decade. Winston Churchill once stated that his rule of life was an absolutely sacred rite of smoking cigars before, after and, if needed, during all meals and in the intervals between them. It is doubtful whether people like Churchill were the main consideration when the federal government decreed a smoking ban for public places in Switzerland last autumn. Since the majority of cantons and neighboring countries had already introduced a similar ban, it is generally assumed that the reason for adopting of such a public policy was policy diffusion.

In the light of the hybridisation of territory and globalisation, decisions by jurisdictions such as in the above-mentioned example are increasingly interdependent. This is increasingly acknowledged in the research field of public policy-making. After seminal policy diffusion studies in the 1960s and 1970s in US politics, the past decade indicated a dramatic surge of interest in this topic. The focus of current research is mainly on the mechanisms and the institutions that drive diffusion. As the possibility of interdependent policymaking has so far been neglected in many policy fields, there is ample scope for further research.

The aim of this brown-bag seminar was to discuss members' work at all possible stages in the research process.

The homogeneity in the conceptual and theoretical background, on the one hand, provided a common basis for fruitful discussions and support for specific questions. The heterogeneity of the policy fields (e.g., health-care policy in Switzerland, education policy in Sub-Saharan Africa, and clean air regimes on a global level), on the other hand provided interesting insights into new policy fields at various levels. These two aspects, in combination with an average participation in the seven sessions of more than ten people (both from ETH Zürich and the University of Zurich) and professorial backing, made these lunches a success.

However, irrespective of whether bounded or rational learning, coercion or social pressure drives the diffusion of smoking bans or other policies, it is planned to continue with the sessions in the upcoming semester. While the circle will be open for new participants and the presentation of their work, further sessions will be held on central questions of this research strand such as underlying mechanisms of diffusion or methodological questions.

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POLINET: A YEAR-AND-A-HALF LATER

Last year, we introduced the peer-mentoring group PoliNet in the CIS newsletter. Now, after 18 months of peer-mentoring, we would like to share our experiences of coaching, courses, and career discussions.



The academic young women of PoliNet

By **Anna Christmann**

PoliNet was founded in June 2008 as a group of 12 female PhD candidates at CIS. Our main goals were the acquisition of specific skills required for an academic career, building networks, and planning our career. The idea of peer-mentoring is to achieve these goals by using your own resources within the group as well as by inviting guest or coaches.

Hence, we had one-and-a-half years of group meetings, skill courses, and network events.

Our most important and most helpful courses were an English presentation workshop given by Josephine Keller-Bladgen, a project management workshop by Pamela Alean-Kirkpatrick, and a networking workshop by Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold. We followed up on the workshops by meeting in small groups and commenting on our presentations. These activities were very useful for giving presentations at international conferences and managing our dual work load at the institute and on the PhD. Several coaching events widened our perspective on career options and enlarged our personal academic networks. We are thankful to our scientific committee consisting of Katja Michaelowa, Fabrizio Gilardi, and Sandra Lavenex for giving us helpful advice regarding our CVs. Informal lunch

discussions with Stephanie Engel, Stephanie Bailer, and Petra Holtrup on their careers, academic experiences, and on the compatibility of private life and academic work were very inspiring. Hanspeter Kriesi was kind enough to share his experiences

with publishing with us.

Our biggest events during our first mentoring period were a plenary discussion on “Successful women in politics and practice” with our notable guests Ruth Lüthi (political scientist in parliamentary service), Barbara Haering (former national councillor, Social Democratic Party (SP), member of the ETH Council), Tiana Moser (national councillor, Green Liberal Party) Nicole Töpperwien (lawyer, state concepts: consulting) and the “PoliNet Science Lunch”. Fabrizio Gilardi moderated the plenary discussion, which was well attended and very interesting. All of these women had chosen different career options, and none of them had really planned for their current line of work. This may have been one of the most important lessons: It is good to have some plans and to aim at a specific goal. But you cannot really plan an academic career. Just stay alert and grasp opportunities that are offered to you.

One more thing should be understood about peer-mentoring: it is not free. A lot of hard work is required to secure funding. But most of our group members agree that it is worth the effort because the rewards are high. We profited significantly from our guests and from each other; sometimes just by forwarding information on confe-

rences, workshops, or data, sometimes by personal coaching in small groups or from our group meetings.

The first coaching period has now ended, and some of our members are leaving us. But most of us will continue and look forward to interesting discussions and meetings. Since all of us are now in the middle or final stages of their PhD, our focus will probably shift from skills workshops to networking and career events.

In the end, one could ask: Why did it work? We think that the fact that we were all in a similar situation when we constituted our group made things easier. It was easy to find workshops and discussion topics that were of interest for the whole group, and we were well positioned to assist each other. The bottom line is that writing a PhD in company is much more fun than being all alone with your books and your computer.

PoliNet Peers:

Anna Christmann (*former project lead*)

Paula Castro

Jessica Crivelli (*lead 01.01.2010-31.08.2010*)

Christa Deiwiks

Sophia Hänny

Linda Maduz (*lead 01.05.2011-31.12.2011*)

Anita Manatschal

Livia Schubiger

Hanna Schwander (*lead 01.09.2010-31.04.2011*)

Sophie Perrin

Lena Maria Schaffer

Scientific committee:

Fabrizio Gilardi (CIS)

Sandra Lavenex (University of Lucerne)

Katharina Michaelowa (CIS)

HOW GLOBALIZATION AND MEDIATIZATION IMPACT

Democracies are currently faced with a number of serious challenges that pose problems to the ways they have traditionally operated. Working together on the Swiss research program on "Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century" (NCCR Democracy) in order to study these

By **Yvonne Rosteck**

The point of departure of the NCCR Democracy is an observed malaise of the state of democracy and the assumption that this is primarily a consequence of two global phenomena:

First, globalization has set in motion a process of de-nationalization in which the significance of national borders has decreased. Governments no longer have the degree of control that they once had, their decisions are increasingly affected by decisions taken elsewhere, and their problem-solving capacities are undermined. At the same time, international institutions – to which political authority is increasingly transferred – lack democratic legitimacy. Furthermore, the process of extending democracy into unstable countries and regions has proven to be more difficult than expected.

Second, democratic systems are confronting the increasingly powerful role of the media in politics. In this mediatization process over recent decades, the mass media have been moving from being merely a channel of communication to being a major actor in the political arena. This can be problematic as the media are able to influence the entire decision making process, and they can assign political relevance and importance to societal problems according to their own logic.

Since studies on the long-term effects of both trends and solutions for how democracies may best adapt to these new developments had been missing, the Swiss government and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) launched the NCCR Democracy in 2005. The goal of the program is to better understand how democracy is developing under these conditions and how it can be improved and further developed. The SNSF also expects

the NCCR Democracy to have a structural impact and to build up long-term perspectives for democracy research in Switzerland. A first important step was made with the founding of the Center for Democracy in Aarau (ZDA) in 2007.

The NCCR's first generation of research projects is now being completed. Their results show that both trends pose significant challenges to democracy, but also provide new opportunities for reinforcing democracy. For example, five projects analyzed the democratization of unstable regions and of international institutions, and show that democratization is a highly conditional process. On the one hand, the research results indicate the unfavorable consequences of democratization: In unstable regions in Africa, the Balkans, and the Caucasus, the process of democratization can trigger new violent conflict and war. A positive example can be found in the EU's neighboring countries in Eastern Europe and Northern Africa. Even though these countries are not being offered the incentive of EU membership, the EU was able to anchor norms of democratic governance in the legislation of the countries under investigation. Regarding the democracy deficit of international and supranational institutions, NCCR researchers have elaborated concepts to democratize them and improve their legitimacy. Taking the example of the WTO, one project also analyzed whether there is a trade-off between legitimacy and efficiency, and whether further efforts to open up may paralyze the organization.

The majority of NCCR projects examined the effects of globalization and mediatization on governance and political communication in established liberal democracies. They addressed changes in decision making systems and how these affect

policy making and the legitimacy of democratic systems. European integration, for example, alters the balance of power between political actors and also modifies the decision making process in non-member countries such as Switzerland. Mediatization leads to a commercialization of news and extends the techniques of manipulating public opinion; however, there is also a trend towards a growing diversity of sources of news reporting, which opens politics to the scrutiny of an increasingly sophisticated public and sharpens the focus on dialog.

Several projects also developed tools for democracy research and for the transfer of knowledge into society. The Democracy Barometer, for example, collected data for 75 democracies and is building up a publicly accessible website (www.democracy-barometer.org) that presents country rankings and diagrams facilitating a critical assessment of the quality of democracy in established democracies over time. In order to support civic education in Swiss secondary schools and political science courses at Swiss universities, the NCCR has also produced two e-learning tools.

In the coming four years, the NCCR researchers will study the same basic questions in order to make use of the advantages of the NCCR instrument, which allows complex questions to be studied on a long-term basis:

With regard to the democratization of troubled regions and international institutions, three projects in Module 1 will focus on the specific question of which rules and institutions of democratic governance are likely to promote democratization.

Module 2 continues to analyze the effects of globalization and mediatization on established democracies. The focus of these projects will shift from political ins-

DEMOCRACY

CIS COLLOQUIUM FALL 2009

Since 2005, social scientists have been working on challenges.

The CIS Colloquium is a central CIS forum for exchange and interaction on topical research taking place outside as well as within CIS.

stitutions and procedures to political actors and the question of how they adapt to the new challenges.

Two modules continue to focus on media-tization: The projects in Module 3 examine questions such as whether the media fulfilling their role in a democratic system, whether political institutions are governed by a political or a media logic, and which role the media play in the opinion-formation processes of younger citizens; and Module 4 studies public debates as the most important democratic instrument, since they enable an exchange of opinions between political actors and citizens. The aim is to find out how public debates evolve in different countries and which actors dominate the debate.

A fifth module deals with the question of how globalization and mediatization challenge political representation. This issue is studied against the background of citizens being able to make use of new forms of voting and deliberating on political issues, while elected representatives find themselves more and more confronted with problems that are no longer of concern to their constituency.

Furthermore, the NCCR will continue with its two programs in education and training: the doctoral program for PhD students in the NCCR's two core disciplines – Political Science and Media and Communication Science; and the peer-mentoring program to promote female NCCR researchers in academia.

For more information on the various projects and their publications, please visit the NCCR Democracy's website at www.nccr-democracy.uzh.ch.

Yvonne Rosteck

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The fall 2009 colloquium season included such diverse topics as dynamics and causality in civil wars, theoretical and methodological issues in Political Science, or issues related to democracy.

Power is widely considered to be the key determinant of interstate conflict and is often viewed as a source of state preferences that determine who fights whom, and when. Political geographers, for their part, emphasize the role of power in conditioning distance. Erik Gartzke's presentation showed that a synthesis of political geography and power produces a non-linear relationship between capabilities, proximity, and conflict. That means weak states are less likely to fight in distant dyads, while capable countries do the opposite. Power appears to matter most in determining where nations fight.

Power played an important role, too in Lisa Hultman's presentation on "Uncivil Warfare in Civil War". Civil wars sometimes take the form of brutal warfare, with a great portion of violence being directed against the civilian population. She argued that state capacity indirectly shapes the conditions for fighting – where the state has limited control, for example. Rebels fighting weak governments can pose a greater threat to

the government's hold on power and gain more territorial control through violence. Therefore, the stronger the rebel group is relative to the government, the more violence we can expect the rebel group to direct against the civilian population.

Civil war was also an issue in Jeff Checkel's presentation. He states that this has become a dominant mode of organized violence in the post-Cold War international system - with international and transnational dimensions. In order to capture such dynamics – and thus to craft better theory about and policy on civil war – according to Jeff Checkel, three moves are required. Analytically, one needs a more robust understanding of causality, where the goal is the measurement of causal mechanisms. Theoretically, the finding of transnationalism's importance in civil war needs to be linked to conceptualized and empirically documented non-state dynamics. Methodologically, the central challenge is to establish a roster of techniques and appropriate community standards for doing mechanism-based social science.

The colloquium always takes place at Seilergraben 49 (room E13) on Thursdays, 12.30-14.00, unless otherwise stated.

Program Fall 2009

17 September: **Erik Gartzke** (University of California, San Diego), The Relevance of Power in International Relations

1 October: **Michael Bechtel** (CIS, ETH Zurich), Game Theoretic Models and Equilibrium Selection in Political Science

22 October: **Lisa Hultman** (Swedish National Defence College and Uppsala University), Uncivil Warfare in Civil War

5 November: **Jean-Paul Azam** (Université Toulouse), Betting on Displacement: Oil, Violence, and the Switch to Civilian Rule in Nigeria

19 November: **Dominik Rohner** (University of Zurich), War and Natural Resource Exploitation

3 December: **Hans Gersbach** (CER, ETH Zurich), Vote-share Contracts, Constraining Government Debt and Democracy

10 December: **Jeff Checkel** (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver), Causal Mechanisms and Transnationalized Civil War

17 December: **Rune Slothuus** (Aarhus University, Denmark), Political Parties and Framing Effects on Public Opinion

INTRODUCING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT CIS

Do you have a strong connection to Political Science in Zurich? There is an exclusive group for former and current students, employees, researchers, and everyone else linked to this field at CIS.

By **Bernhard Gasser**

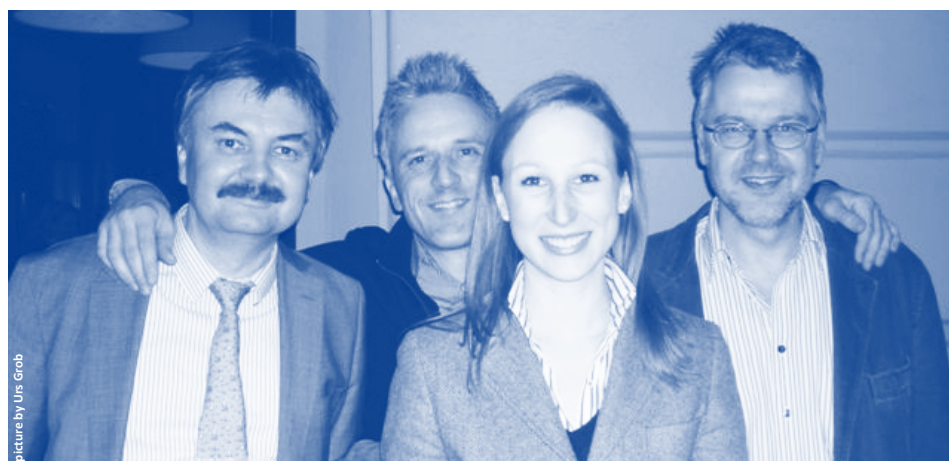
Studying, researching, and working in the field of Political Science at the University of Zurich or the ETH Zurich is certainly a great experience – and a time to remember! To keep the network alive, the Association of Political Science Zurich VZP (Verein Zürcher Politikwissenschaft) offers you its services.

Founded in September 1999, VZP promotes the activities related to Political Science in Zurich and promotes contact with the Institute of Political Science of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich as well as their current and former students, researchers, and employees. In Switzerland, the tradition of alumni organizations is not as strong as in the US from the United

Zurich or ETH Zurich at Bachelor, Master, or PhD level. But we are not solely an alumni organisation. Anybody who show strong ties to this field in Zurich may join. VZP also offers a link between academic and professional life. Many of its members today are successful entrepreneurs and associates or work in politics and administration, including some Members of Parliament.

The organisation organizes regular events for its members. Every term starts with a reception – an informal get-together where a few drinks are shared. This is being followed by a formal table talk ("Tischgespräch"), mainly addressed to former students of Political Science. Here, the members of VZP have the opportunity to hear the opinions of a special guest. They can then get in touch with these

that is addressed to students. In this setting, political science graduates present their professional career track and describe their current activities. This allows the students to get an insight into the life "after University". We hope to see you at one of our next events!



The management team (from left to right): Bernhard Gasser, Roman Blaser, Pia G. Guggenbühl, and Prof. Thomas Bernauer (not in the picture: team member and strong VZP supporter Prof. Dieter Ruloff).

States or the UK – Swiss students do not usually keep in touch with their Alma Mater after graduation. VZP wants to change this!

Our members are mostly alumni of Political Science from the University of

high-level political, media, or business professionals and cultivate their own network.

VZP furthermore organizes the event series portraying political scientists on the job ("PolitologInnen im Beruf")

Are you interested in joining?

Our association VZP (Verein Zürcher Politikwissenschaft) always welcomes new members to its group.

The VZP can be joined by all current and former students and employees of CIS as well as by all other people and institutions that have strong ties to Political Science in Zurich and would like to support the association's aims.

The annual fee is CHF 60 for individuals and CHF 300 for institutions.

Please contact

Nicole Staubli (secretary)

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or

Pia G. Guggenbuehl (president)

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CLAUDE LONGCHAMP: MOST POWERFUL SWISS POLLSTER?

Claude Longchamp is a political scientist and director of the Swiss research institute gfs.bern. Switzerland's "most powerful pollster" will be the guest speaker at the next Round Table Discussion of the Association of Political Science Zurich VZP

By **Pia G. Guggenbühl**

Every term, the Association of Political Science Zurich (VZP) invites its members to a Round Table Discussion ("Tischgespräch") with personalities from politics, the media, and the economy. Political scientists report from their professional life and offer a personal insight of their challenging tasks and of the way their studies have affected their career trajectory.

Past guests include illustrious speakers such as Michael Ambühl (secretary of state at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), Philipp Hildebrand (chairman of the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank), Roger de Weck (publisher, journalist, and former editor-in-chief of "Die Zeit"), Markus Spillmann (editor-in-chief of "Neue Zürcher

Zeitung"), and Annemarie Huber-Hotz (former federal chancellor).

Our next Round Table Discussion on 27 May, 2010 will host Claude Longchamp, director of gfs.bern in Zurich. The political scientist and lecturer (MAZ Swiss School of Journalism, Polytechnic Winterthur, Polytechnic Solothurn, VMI Fribourg, and IDHEAP Lausanne) is a for-

mer assistant and lecturer in political science at the University of Berne.

Longchamp's election polls have made headlines and recently came under heavy attacks after falsely predicting a rejection of a ban on the construction of minarets in Switzerland. We can surely expect a controversial discussion and are very much looking forward to this event. Members of VZP will receive a written invitation to register.

Make sure you already save the date today!



What impact do his predictions have on Swiss elections? Claude Longchamp and the analyses of his research institute have become a media topic.

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VZP CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR

How better to start 2010 than with old and new friends? The Association of Political Science Zurich (VZP) traditionally invites its members to a joyful New Year's get-together. After celebrating last year at the Swiss Parliament, VZP met on 20 January in Zurich at Bar Helvetia to share interesting discussions and a few drinks. Some impressions.



RECENTLY COMPLETED PhDs



The Effects of Software Patent Policy on the Innovativeness of FOSS Developers

(Supervisor: Thomas Bernauer)

By **Marcus M. Dapp**

Innovation policy related to software is occupied with two main questions: How does the innovation model of Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) function, as it seems to put into question several of the assumptions of traditional intellectual property theories? How does the patenting of software play out in the FOSS context? Despite an ongoing policy debate, there have so far been no dedicated studies that systematically and empirically investigated these questions.

In the first empirical study, the effects of software patent presence on selected, representative motivational factors are investigated. To this end a concept of software patent presence is introduced that includes not only includes jurisdictional components, but also a new metric that captures the variations of patent pressure across software domains. In the second empirical study, the effects of software patent presence and motivational setup on the individual innovation behavior of FOSS developers are investigated. To this end, a new metric for innovation behavior is introduced that ranks individual code contributions according to their level of innovativeness by distinguishing algorithm-based from reuse-based contributions.



The Economic Foundations of State-Building and State-Failure: A Political Economy of Sub-Saharan African States

(Supervisor: Thomas Bernauer)

By **Gaby Hesselbein**

The thesis investigates why so many states in Africa have difficulty in applying the monopoly of legitimate force and building institutions to provide basic public goods such as health or education to their populations. In this regard, the economic foundations of statehood are regarded as pivotal.

Both the theoretical foundations of states and the empirical evidence of Sub-Saharan states over 40 years point to the importance of economic weakness, which translates into declining government budgets, and often a free fall into an abyss since the 1980s. The economic decline preceded the outbreak of violence and state contestation. Studies of three countries – varying in stability – support the argument that more state-building efforts are still required, which will necessitate growth and wealth creation strategies in order to build a legitimate state.



Governance Change and Legitimacy in Swiss Agglomerations. An analysis of urban public transport governance in four Swiss agglomerations, 1945-2000.

(Supervisor: Daniel Kübler)

By **Philippe Koch**

The thesis describes and explains governance change in Swiss agglomerations between 1945 and 2000. The findings reveal that the well-known from-government-to-governance thesis cannot be confirmed for the Swiss case. On the contrary, governance patterns are only intermediate steps in the process towards consolidated modes of political steering and integration. The analysis elucidates that functional pressure is indeed a trigger for governance change. However, the institutional embeddedness, the dominant discourse, and the local interpretation of the functional pressures determine the struggle and the final result of the transformation. Further, the dissertation analyses the theoretical and empirical relationship between the transformation of governance and democratic legitimacy. The results of the study show that there is a productive interrelation between governance change and democratic legitimacy.

A RECEPTION OF A DIFFERENT KIND

CIS researchers were invited to a special kind of closing reception of the ECPR general conference. The host, Marc Helbling gives a tongue-in-cheek report.



Grow Rich and Clean Up Later? Joint Effects of International Integration and Democracy on Environmental Quality in Developing Countries (Supervisor: Thomas Bernauer)

By **Gabrielle Ruoff**

Many forms of environmental degradation first increase, then level off and decrease as national income grows. Does this mean that poorer countries have to grow rich before they can improve their environmental performance? This thesis argues that integration into the international system in combination with democratic forms of government mitigates this dilemma. This argument is tested on panel data for 115 developing countries in the period 1970-2000. The empirical analysis shows that membership in IGOs is the only aspect of international integration that is robustly associated with a reduction in air and water pollution. Furthermore, whereas the type of the political system does not appear to affect developing countries' environmental performance directly, it strongly mediates the effect of international integration. For IGO membership, democracy seems to amplify the positive integration effect with respect to SO₂ emissions, but dampens the effect for CO₂ emissions and water pollution. Concerning trade openness and foreign direct investment (FDI), the results show that at any given level of trade openness or FDI, air pollution emissions are higher in autocratic developing countries than in democratic developing countries.

By **Marc Helbling**

A group of Swiss political scientists were puzzled to be invited to the former headquarter of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) to an alternative closing reception of the ECPR general conference in Potsdam last September.

But as a matter of fact, two former members of CIS now live in Berlin in the apartment that served as the Social Democrat's offices after the party was legalized in 1890.

Today, it is an ordinary apartment building, and the owners no longer ask



No. 9, Katzbachstrasse in Berlin: The headquarters of the Social Democratic Party from 1890 onwards.

prospective tenants which party they would vote for if national elections were held next Sunday.

While some brought their party membership books to be allowed in, others contacted the organizers beforehand to ask whether they would get the opportunity to present their conference papers again. And some asked us whether it is necessary to wear a suit. Still others were more concerned about their physical well-being and made inquiries about the drinks that would be served. The latter faction was probably best prepared for the evening. As one participant remarked

after the political party reached its climax: "I would have never imagined that political scientists can move their bodies the way they are right now." Bottles were spilled, windows were smashed, and videos taken that will hopefully never be shown to selecting committees.

Fortunately, the other inhabitants of the former SPD-headquarters (be they left-wing or right-wing, annoyed by political noise or not) turned out to be quite tolerant and did not complain about the fact that the last guests did not leave until dawn. But we were amused to hear some days later that some of the neighbors were convinced that we had organized a children's birthday party.

At least, that is what it sounded to them.

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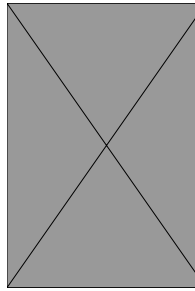
RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS



Bernauer, Thomas, D. Jahn, P. Kuhn, and S. Walter (2009). Einführung in die Politikwissenschaft, Baden-Baden: Nomos.

ISBN: 978-3-8329-3807-9

This new textbook provides an introduction to key concepts, theories, methods, and research topics in Political Science. The text is organized into three parts: Part I covers the research process, theory, and methodology in Political Science: what is politics, how did the discipline-Political Science emerge, and how are political phenomena examined? Part II focuses on the building blocks of political systems as exemplified by the German, Austrian, Swiss, and European Union systems of government. Part III covers political phenomena that extend beyond national borders, specifically International Relations as well as the causes and consequences of globalization. All chapters may be read in context or as independent units. References and an annotated bibliography are provided for easy access to further reading. The book is accompanied by a website with test questions, glossary, and additional resources at www.ib.ethz.ch/teaching/pwgrundlagen.



Caveltly Dunn, Myriam and V. Mauer (eds.) (2010), The Routledge Handbook of Security Studies, London and New York: Routledge.

ISBN: 978-0-4154-6361-4

Focusing on contemporary challenges, this major new Handbook offers a wide-ranging collection of cutting-edge essays from leading scholars in the field of Security Studies. The field of Security Studies has undergone significant change during the past 20 years and is now one of the most dynamic sub-disciplines within International Relations. It now encompasses issues ranging from pandemics and environmental degradation to more traditional concerns about direct violence, such as those posed by international terrorism and inter-state armed conflict. A comprehensive volume, comprising articles by both established and up-and-coming scholars, the Routledge Handbook of Security Studies identifies the key contemporary topics of research and debate today.



Doktor, Christoph (2009), Die Aussen- und Sicherheitspolitik Österreichs und der Schweiz gegenüber der GASP der Europäischen Union. Eine diskurstheoretische Analyse, Berlin/Münster: LIT Verlag.

ISBN: 978-3-6438-0009-1

This volume examines the very different policies of the two Central European small states Austria and Switzerland

towards European integration, in particular towards its foreign and security policy dimension, CFSP. The analysis focuses on the discursive constructions of national identities as reproduced in the political debates. The study shows how the substance of the concepts “state and nation”, “Europe”, and “security”, which are firmly embedded into divergent historical patterns of reception and national identities, influences the respective responses of the two states towards the European Union and thus serve as a structural framework for their national foreign and security policies.



Krebs, Lutz F., S. Pfändler, C. Pieper, S. Gholi-pour, and N. Luchsinger (eds.) (2009), Globale Zivilgesellschaft: Eine kritische Bewertung von 25 Akteuren, Nor-dstedt: BoD.

ISBN: 978-3-8391-0991-5

Civil society plays a central role in society, mediating between private individuals on the one hand and government institutions and profit-driven companies on the other hand. Often, civil society serves equilibrating functions, ensuring that the interests of weaker or neglected parts of society are heard and offering provisional solutions to problems that are not (yet) addressed by the state or the market. This volume is a collection of assessments of civil society actors by interested observers. Based on a shared catalogue of criteria developed for this volume, 25 civil society actors in humanitarian and development aid, peace building, media, and PPP as well as actors in the Middle Eastern and African regions are discussed. The resulting reports

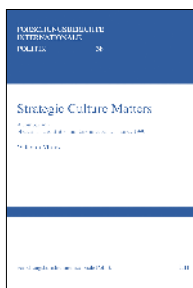
reflect on individual organizations and movements, and show the challenges that civil society faces as a whole.



Della Porta, Donatella, H.P. Kriesi, and D. Rucht (eds.) (2009), "Social Movements in a Globalising World.", 2nd edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan.

ISBN: 978-0-230-23531-1

The growing interdependence on a global scale, which characterizes the human condition at the turn of the century, constitutes a challenge for both the mobilization of social movements and social movement theory. The present volume attempts to adjust the perspective of the "political process" approach to a world in which political opportunities, mobilizing structures, framing processes, and collective action of social movements are no longer confined to national political contexts. The contributors discuss various implications of a globalizing world in the mobilization for collective action within national contexts (cross-national diffusion of protest, inter-national opportunities and constraints for national mobilization, national social movements engaged in two-level games, and new forms of mobilization beyond the nation-state), as well as the creation of transnational mobilizing structures, collective action for supranational issues, and the mobilization of social movements in the supranational arena.



Mirow, Wilhelm (2009), Strategic Culture Matters. A comparison of German and British military interventions since 1990, Berlin/Münster: LIT Verlag.

ISBN: 978-3-8258-1866-1

This book explores the persistence of a significant difference in the frequency and intensity with which Great Britain and Germany used military force since 1990, despite reunification and the end of the Cold War. Based on the theoretical framework of moderate constructivism, this thesis argues that differences in strategic culture can explain this puzzle. To this end, it analyses opinion polls and military interventions abroad and then compares decision making processes and debates leading to military interventions in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan.

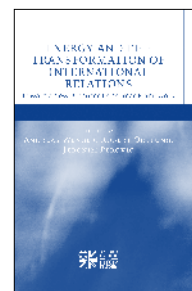


Schneider, Gerald, M. M. Bechtel, and C. Fahrholz (2009), Krieg, Kooperation, Kursverlauf. Die Internationale Politische Ökonomie von Finanzmärkten., VS Verlag.

ISBN: 978-3-5311-6509-7

Although financial markets play a crucial role in the globalized economy, we still know very little about whether and how international political events affect their ups and downs. This book analyzes how European Union politics, armed conflict, and economic globalization influence a variety of financial markets. The authors use a unified theoretical framework and a large set of advanced econometric

tools. Their results illuminate the short-term economic effects and the distributional consequences of international politics in an era of globalization.



Andreas Wenger, R. W. Orttung, J. Perovic (eds.) (2009), Energy and the Transformation of International Relations. Toward a New Producer-Consumer Framework, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

ISBN: 978-0-1995-5991-6

With energy security at the top of the global agenda, Energy and the Transformation of International Relations examines the development of a new producer-consumer framework. As the era of cheap energy comes to an end, Asia's demand for energy grows, and concerns over climate change increase, it is clear that the old framework is no longer sustainable in this new era. This book examines the evolving relations between the key producers (Middle East, Russia, Latin America, and Africa), traditional consumers (the US and Europe), and new consumers (China and India) as they adjust to the changing marketplace and political realities. At the center of the book is the key question of how dynamics in the global energy market affect the nature of international relations. The authors argue that while conflict over resources is possible, there are many opportunities for international cooperation regarding energy resources.

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