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Berlin Social Science Center



„Post-doctorate Pathways: academic and non-academic career trajectories”

Event series collaboration between SCRIPTS & BR50

With 7 Clusters of Excellence, the Berlin University Alliance and the BR50 as joint initiatives by Berlin’s universities and research institutes, the capital is becoming increasingly attractive for junior researchers in Germany and abroad. Opening with a roundtable on academic career paths, the series attempts to showcase career paths in different disciplines, specifically the social sciences, inside and outside of academia. This is specifically dedicated to junior researchers on the verge of choosing their career path after their doctorate. The purpose is not to showcase glamorous careers, but rather have an open and honest conversation with helpful recommendations and pointers. This includes workshops on funding formats (e.g. funding schemes in Germany and Europe) as well as in-depth workshops on how to write applications for funding and which criteria to consider to strengthen an application and set it apart (e.g. diversity).

ABOUT THE EVENTS

Life outside of Academia? Career paths beyond basic research

Date: Monday, September 20th, 2021
4 pm – 5.15 pm

Please join the session on the day of the event by using the **following link**:

<https://wzb-eu.zoom.us/j/83137067256?pwd=c0QzR2t5Z3lrZVhob1Y2b0tTN3EyQT09>

Quitting academia is initially unimaginable for many researchers. But in the course of one's career, one is inevitably confronted with the question of whether one cannot find the same level of fulfillment outside of basic research. After all, not everyone has the opportunity to make it through the bottleneck of the academic job market to a professorship. Last but not least, in Germany in particular, the clock of the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz is also ticking. Together with Dr. Juliane Kampe from the Helmholtz Association, Philipp Rotmann from the Global Public Policy Institute and Dr. Annika-Elena Poppe, who works at IsrAID Germany e. V. as well as a freelance coach, we will discuss possible alternative career paths. Moderated by Dr. Gregor Hofmann from the BR50 office, we will explore together with the audience the question of how knowledge-based careers can look like beyond the "typical" academic career oriented towards basic research. What qualifications does the more applied research in a think tank require and what are the recruitment requirements for applicants there? What does one actually do in science management, and what skills from one's time as a researcher are useful for working in a research organization? And how does it feel to switch sides from analyzing political and social processes to managing humanitarian projects and advising experts oneself?



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Professorship or nothing? Options and pathways in academia

Thursday, October 28th, 2021

3.30 pm- 6 pm

To join the session on the day of the event, please register **by September 30th, 2021** by writing an E-Mail to irc@scripts-berlin.eu

The series attempts to showcase career paths in different disciplines, specifically the social sciences, inside and outside of academia. This is specifically dedicated to junior researchers on the verge of choosing their career path after their doctorate. The purpose is not to showcase glamorous careers, but rather have an open and honest conversation with helpful recommendations and pointers for all those researchers in their qualification phase who are interested in pursuing a further career in academia. Pathways seem rather straightforward, no matter the country or system: starting with a doctoral position, moving to postdoc and then ultimately and hopefully a full professorship. The reality of academic positions in Europe (and beyond) is more complex, #IchbinHanna reminds us that it is everything but straightforward to succeed in climbing the aforementioned ladder within the required time. Non-academic options are plentiful, but perhaps not all widely known when first considering leaving the university. We would like to encourage a broad exchange network within Berlin to connect academics and non-academics at different stages, the outcome is open: exchanging experiences, providing advice, connecting for joint applications or following up with job offers. The purpose of the series is to create opportunities for networking and provide support and training where needed. Further information about upcoming workshops will be provided as soon as possible. It is planned to host workshops on funding schemes (e.g. DFG, ERC, Emmy Noether and others) and how to apply for them, provide grant proposal coaching, diversity and professional skills training.

PARTICIPANTS' BIOGRAPHIES

Options and Pathways in Academia

- Prof. Dr. Anna Holzscheiter,** Technische Universität Dresden
Since May 2019, Anna Holzscheiter has held the Chair of Political Science with a focus on International Politics. Parallel to her professorship at the TU Dresden she heads the research group 'Governance for Global Health' at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB). In her research and teaching activities Anna Holzscheiter focuses on the emergence, impact and change of international organizations as well as the manifold relationships between (inter)governmental and societal actors in international politics. Anna Holzscheiter completed her PhD at Freie Universität Berlin in 2006. Before accepting her appointment as Full Professor at TU Dresden, she worked as an assistant professor for International Relations (2015-2019) and as a research assistant at the Research Unit for Transnational Relations, Foreign and Security Policy at Freie Universität Berlin (2006-2014).
- Prof. Dr. Simon Koschut,** Freie Universität Berlin
Simon Koschut is a DFG Heisenberg Fellow at the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. He is also a Principal Investigator in the interdisciplinary joint research project Social Cohesion and Civil Society: Interaction Dynamics in Times of Disruption funded by the Berlin University Alliance. His research interest lies at the intersection of International Relations, Security Studies, and Peace and Conflict Studies, in particular regional security governance, norms, and emotions in world politics. His most recent book *Normative Change and Security Community Disintegration* (Palgrave Macmillan 2016) received the Ernst Otto Czempel Award for the best postdoctoral monograph published in the field of peace research.
- Dr. Julia Langbein,** Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS)
Julia Langbein leads the research cluster *Political Economy and Integration* at ZOiS. In her research she deals with the integration of (semi-) peripheral economies in transnational markets and value chains and consequences for their economic and political development. Her regional focus lies on Eastern Europe and European economic integration, also taking into account the role of China's economic engagement. She holds a degree in political science from the Free University of Berlin and a master's in Russian studies from the European University Institute in St Petersburg. After receiving her PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Julia was a postdoctoral fellow at the Kolleg-Forschergruppe (Research Group) 'The transformative power of Europe' and scientific coordinator of two EU-funded collaborative research projects at the Centre for European Integration at the Free University of Berlin.



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Dr. Thorsten Thiel,
Weizenbaum Institute for
the networked society /
Berlin Social Science Center
(WZB)

Thorsten Thiel is the leader of the research group »Democracy and Digitalisation« at the Weizenbaum-Institute for the Networked Society and currently an interim professor for comparative politics at Erfurt University. Previously, he has been the coordinator of the Leibniz Research Alliance »Crisis in a Globalised World« and a postdoctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence »The Formation of Normative Orders« (Frankfurt). His research interests include digitalization and democracy, international political theory, European integration and democratic theory.

**Assistant Prof. Hilde van
Meegdenburg,**
Leiden University

Hilde van Meegdenburg is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Political Science, Leiden University. She is currently employed as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow working on her project 'Social Distance in International Relations' (SoDiIR). Before going to Leiden in 2018, she held positions at the Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU) and the Technical University (TU) in Munich. She received her Ph.D. from the Free University Berlin in 2016. During her Ph.D. candidacy she was based at the Hertie School of Governance as a research fellow. Her substantive research focuses on the narrative basis of state foreign policy making with a particular focus on foreign aid and military interventions. She also works on research methods and taught numerous courses on process tracing and qualitative case studies throughout Europe.

Life outside of Academia? Career paths beyond basic research

**Dr. Annika
Elena Poppe,**
Peace Research
Institute
Frankfurt

Dr. Annika Elena Poppe is working as project manager and team leader at the humanitarian aid organization IsraAid Germany e.V. as well as a coach and consultant and as yoga and meditation teacher. She is trained as a political scientist and has served as coordinator of the Research Network External Democracy Promotion and as Project Director and Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, where her research focused on international democracy promotion, normative and political change, US foreign policy, and the US-Egyptian relationship. Annika has had academic training in Political Science and American Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt and in U.S. History at the American University, Washington DC. In 2011, she spent a semester as a visiting researcher at the Department of Government at Georgetown University.

**Dr. Juliane
Kampe,**
Helmholtz
Association

Dr. Juliane Kampe is the Research Field Officer Health at the Berlin Office of the Helmholtz Association. Before that she has been working as the Head of the Research Management Unit of the Institute for Diabetes and Obesity at Helmholtz Zentrum München and as Head of Program management at the Helmholtz Diabetes Center HDC & Helmholtz Alliance in Munich. Before she started her career as a research manager, she was working as postdoc at the Monash Obesity & Diabetes Institute at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Juliane received a PhD in Neuroscience from Monash University, a Master degree in Nutritional Science from the German Institute of Human Nutrition in Potsdam-Rehbrücke, and a Bachelor of Nutritional Sciences from Potsdam University.

**Philipp
Rotmann,**
Global Public
Policy Institute

Philipp Rotmann is associate director of the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI) in Berlin, where he leads the work on peace and security. Philipp served as a senior political adviser with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, worked in the German Federal Foreign Office on the Afghanistan-Pakistan task force, contributed as a consultant to the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations, and collaborated with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Previously, he developed web applications and co-managed a small IT company. Philipp studied economics, political science and law for his bachelor's degree in Erfurt and Essex, and international relations for his master's degree in Berlin and Potsdam. From 2008 to 2010, he was a McCloy Scholar at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where he received a master's degree in public administration.

**Dr. Gregor
Hofmann,**
Berlin Social
Science Center
(WZB)

Dr. Gregor Hofmann is desk officer in the presidential Department at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. At the WZB, Gregor is responsible for setting up and coordinating the office of Berlin Research 50 (BR50), an association of non-university research institutes in Berlin. Previously, he worked as advisor to the director at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). Before that he has been working as a doctoral researcher at PRIF in research projects on multilateral negotiations and the contestation of international norms. Stays as visiting researcher led him to the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies New York in 2014 as well as to the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney in 2016.