

BEN CHRISTIAN

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

12/2022 – ongoing	Postdoctoral Researcher Goethe University Frankfurt Associate Fellow Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
02/2026 – 03/2026	Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow University of Copenhagen (UCPH)
09/2023 – 12/2023	Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
03/2019 – 02/2023	Doctoral Researcher Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF/HSFK)
Career Breaks	Parental leave (8 months between 2023-2026; two children: *2023 & *2025)

EDUCATION

2019 – 07/2023	PhD, Political Science (Dr. phil) Goethe University Frankfurt Thesis: Criticism from Within in International Organizations Committee: N. Deitelhoff, J. Steffek, L. Zimmermann, J. Wolff, T. Scheffer
2016 – 2019	MA, Political Science Goethe University Frankfurt Overall grade: 1,0 With Distinction
2012 – 2016	BA, Political Science University of Mannheim & University of Exeter Overall grade: 1,0 With Distinction
2012	Abitur, Herderschule Gießen Overall grade: 1,0 Best graduate of the year

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

- 1 | **Christian, Ben.** *Criticism Dilemma: The Limits of Learning in International Organizations*. Oxford University Press. (Under contract, in production, forthcoming 2027).

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 8 | **Christian, Ben** (2025): Why International Organizations Don't Learn: Dissent Suppression as a Source of IO Dysfunction. *International Studies Quarterly* 69 (1), sqaf008. [Access](#).
- 7 | **Christian, Ben** & Dirk Peters (2025): Establishing trust and distrust when states leave international organisations: the case of Brexit. *Journal of European Public Policy* 32 (5): 1253-1279. [Access](#).
- 6 | **Christian, Ben** (2024): "Just Theatre!" – How Self-Legitimation Practices Can Backfire in International Organizations. *Global Studies Quarterly* 4 (1), ksae010. [Access](#).
- 5 | **Christian, Ben** (2023): Working for World Peace: Between Idealism and Cynicism in International Organizations. *Swiss Journal of Sociology* 49 (1): 21-39. [Access](#).
- 4 | **Christian, Ben** (2022): A threat rather than a resource: why voicing internal criticism is difficult in international organisations. *Journal of International Relations and Development* 25 (2): 425-449. [Access](#).
- 3 | **Christian, Ben** (2022): Mediation and Critique in International Organizations [in German]. *zeitschrift diskurs* 8: 27-40. [Access](#).

- 2| **Christian, Ben** (2020): Suppression or avoidance? “Criticism from within” in German development agencies? [in German]. *ZfIB Zeitschrift für internationale Beziehungen* 27 (2): 65-93. [Access](#).
- 1| **Christian, Ben** (2017): Correct Voting at the 2013 German Federal Election: An Analysis of Normatively Desirable Campaign Effects. *German Politics* 26 (1): 170-186. [Access](#).

Book chapters

- 3| **Christian, Ben** & Sebastian Schindler (2025): The Social Constitution of International Organizations as Actors of World Politics. In: Stacie Goddard, George Lawson and Ole Jacob Sending (eds.). *Oxford Handbook of International Political Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 811–826. [Access](#).
- 2| **Christian, Ben** (2025): Cynicism. In: Beate Jahn and Sebastian Schindler (eds.). *Elgar Encyclopedia of International Relations*. Edward Elgar Publishing. [Access](#).
- 1| **Christian, Ben** & Elisabeth Christian (2023): Between Promises of Salvation and Disillusionment: On the Risks and Side Effects of Leadership in Public Institutions [in German]. In: Annemarie Bauer, Marlies W. Fröse and Jörg Seigies (eds.). *Verborgene und unbewusste Dynamiken in Organisationen: Systeme psychoanalytisch verstehen in Beratung, Coaching und Supervision*. Psychosozial-Verlag. [Access](#).

Journal articles without peer review

- 5| **Christian, Ben** (2026): Who is being protected? (in German). Book Review: Billerbeck, Sarah von, Birte Julia Gippert, Kseniya Oksamytna, Oisín Tansey. 2025. United Nations peacekeeping and the politics of authoritarianism. Oxford University Press. *German Review on the United Nations*, 02/2026: 94.
- 4| **Christian, Ben** (2024): Failure through fragmentation (in German). Book Review: Anderl, Felix. 2022. Broken Solidarities: how open global governance divides and rules. Bristol University Press. *Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen* 37 (3): 462-466. [Access](#).
- 3| **Christian, Ben** (2023): Book Review. Kseniya Oksamytna. 2023. Advocacy and Change in International Organizations. (OUP). *The Review of International Organizations*. [Access](#).
- 2| **Christian, Ben** (2021): Necessary hypocrisy [in German]. *German Review on the United Nations*, 6/2021: 267-271. [Access](#).
- 1| **Christian, Ben** (2019): The Escape into the Postfactual. From self-denial to world-denial. [in German]. *Soziologiemagazin* 12 (2): 19-31. [Access](#).

Policy writing (selection)

- 14| **Christian, Ben**, Johanna Speyer & Lisbeth Zimmermann (2024): The rules-based international order will not survive if its institutions only work in powerful states’ interests. *LSE USAPP Blog*. [Access](#).
- 13| **Christian, Ben**, M. Coni-Zimmer, N. Deitelhoff, M. Dembinski, S. Kroll, M. Lesch, and D. Peters (2023): Multilateralism as a Framework: On the Crisis and Future of the Multilateral World Order [in German]. *PRIF Report* 2/2023. [Access](#).
- 12| **Christian, Ben** & Dominik Herold (2024): What kind of spaces does democracy need? [in German]. In: Frank Dievernich, Jasmin Schülke, Paula Macedo Weiß (eds.). *Demokratie gestalten. Eine Aufforderung zum Handeln*. Frankfurter Allgemeine Buch. [Access](#).
- 11| **Christian, Ben** & Antonia Witt (2022): There’s life in the old dog yet: the United Nations and the war in Ukraine [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).
- 10| **Christian, Ben** & Nicole Deitelhoff (2021): The UN as a Global “Dispute Space”: On the Actuality of Dag Hammarskjöld’s Legacy [in German]. *PRIF Spotlight*. [Access](#).
- 9| **Christian, Ben** & Dominik Herold (2021): Beyond the election: “Strengthening democracy” – but which one? [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).

- 8| Wolff, J., A. Witt, J. Stappenbeck, S. Schnabel, A. Peez, J. Junk, M. Coni-Zimmer, **B. Christian**, S. Birchinger & F. Bethke (2020): *Peace and Development 2020. An Analysis of Recent Experiences and Findings*. Frankfurt am Main: HSFK. [Access](#).
- 7| Bethke, F., S. Birchinger, **B. Christian**, M. Coni-Zimmer, J. Junk, A. Peez, S. Schnabel, J. Stappenbeck, A. Witt & J. Wolff (2020): *Developing Peace: Impulses for German and International Development Cooperation*. *PeaceLab-Blog*. [Access](#).
- 6| **Christian, Ben** & Sascha Hach (2020): *Infected World Order: The End of Camp Thinking – Comeback of the UN?* [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).
- 5| **Christian, Ben**, N. Deitelhoff, M. Dembinski, G. Hofmann, N. Noesselt, A. Peez & M. Polianskii (2020): *Institutional peacekeeping: who orders the world? New powers and old institutions* [in German]. In: BICC, HSFK, IFSH, INEF (Hrsg.). *Im Schatten der Pandemie: Letzte Chance für Europa. Friedensgutachten 2020*. Bielefeld: Transcript: 116-137. [Access](#).
- 4| **Christian, Ben** & Melanie Coni-Zimmer (Hrsg.) (2020): *Germany in the UN Security Council: A Mid-term Review* [in German]. *PRIF Report*. Frankfurt am Main: HSFK. [Access](#).
- 3| **Christian, Ben** & Simone Schnabel (2019): *Blindspot conflict: The first Global Sustainable Development Report ignores a key cross-cutting issue* [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).
- 2| **Christian, Ben** (2019): *Open the Curtain: Germany's Presidency of the UN Security Council* [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).
- 1| **Christian, Ben** (2019): *Development cooperation in the federal budget: „Schwarze Null“ trumps „Fluchtursachen bekämpfen“* [in German]. *PRIF-Blog*. [Access](#).

CONFERENCES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)

ISA Annual Convention (2021, 2022 & 2024; 2023 & 2025 withdrawn due to parental leave)
 EISA-PEC (2026)
 ECPR General Conference (2020 & 2021; 2023 withdrawn due to parental leave)
 ECPR Joint Sessions (2021)
 Book Talk at University of Copenhagen's IR seminar (2026)
 IO-Special Issue Author Workshop "Individuals in International Policy", Austin (2025)
 IDOS-Workshop "Bureaucratic Aversion to Criticism", Berlin (2025)
 LSE International Institutions, Law and Ethics Research Workshop (2023)
 BISA Conference (2023, withdrawn due to parental leave)
 DVPW Kongress (2024)
 DVPW IB-Sektionstagung (2020 & 2023)
 DVPW-Themengruppe „Internationale Organisation“ (2022 & 2024 & 2025)
 DVPW-AK „Soziologie der internationalen Beziehungen“ (2019 & 2020 & 2024)
 IB-Nachwuchstagung (2020)
 DGVN Forschungskolloquium (2019)

TEACHING

Courses

Research Design and Methods

BA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, forthcoming 2026

Expertise in international politics

MA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, forthcoming 2026

Applying IR Theories – Understanding UN Peacekeeping [in German]; Eval: 5.6/6 (faculty average: 5.2)

MA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2025-26

Introduction to International Organizations [in German]; Eval: 5.7/6 (faculty average: 5.2)

BA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2024-25

International Organizations [in German]; Eval: 5.8/6 (faculty average: 5.2)
MA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2024

Blackbox IO: Understanding international organizations "as organizations" [in German]; Eval: 5.7/6 (faculty average: 5.2)
MA seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2022

What do I need to know about the UN: a crash course
NMUN Preparation Workshop, DHBW Lörrach, 2021

The United Nations: Principles, structure, and activities in the main policy fields
NMUN Preparation Workshop, DHBW Lörrach, 2019

Supervision

Completed: 6 BA and 3 MA theses as first supervisor, 6 BA/MA theses as second supervisor
Ongoing: 4 MA and 3 BA theses as first supervisor

Pedagogical training

Teaching Certificate from the Interdisciplinary Center for University Teaching and Learning (IKH) at Goethe University: qualification in higher education didactics, including workshops on university teaching fundamentals, syllabus design, moderating group discussions, supervising students, exams, and active teaching techniques; plus two mandatory work shadowings and a teaching research project. Workload: 150 hours (200 units of 45 minutes each).

Teaching-related events

Input on alternatives to student presentations at "Teaching IOs" event by DVPW thematic group on IOs (2025);
Opening address at MainMUN 2025; Organization and moderation of career events on international organizations/development cooperation with impulses from various practitioners (2023 & 2025)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Academic self-governance

Co-Speaker of the Working Group "International Political Sociology" of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), 2023 – ongoing
Co-Speaker of the PhD candidates at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (2019-2021)

Committee activities

Examination Committee for the Master's Program International Studies/Peace and Conflict Studies (2026)
Hiring Committee of a Tenure Track Professorship, GU Frankfurt (2024)
Evaluation Committee of a Tenure Track Professorship, GU Frankfurt (2024-2025)
Selection Committee MA Students, GU Frankfurt (2024)
Evaluation Commission of PRIF's PhD guidelines (2022-2023)
Several internal appointment committees at PRIF for Postdocs and Doctoral Researchers (2019-2023)

Organization of academic events

Panel on "Everyday Multilateralism in Polarized Times", EISA-PEC, Lisbon (2026)
Panel on "Individuals in Global Governance", IB-Sektionstagung, Würzburg (2026)
Panel on "Conflicts in and around IOs", DVPW-Congress, Göttingen (2024)
Annual Conference of the DVPW-Working Group "International Political Sociology" in Tübingen (2026), Bielefeld (2024), and Frankfurt (2020)
Online Book Launch (Oxford Handbook of IPS) and Discussion with OJ. Sending and I. Bode (2025)
Monthly PhD colloquium at PRIF (2019-2021); PhD retreat at PRIF (2021)

Reviews

The Review of International Organizations, International Affairs, International Studies Review, Journal of European Public Policy, Global Studies Quarterly, Global Society; Journal of Human Rights; GU Frankfurt's Ethics Board

GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Individual

Runner-up, Dissertation Award of the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN), 2025
Seed Money for Early Career Researchers in the “Focus” line by GRADE, 2026 (7.000 €)
Visiting Fellowship, University of Copenhagen, 2026
Visiting Fellowship, London School of Economics and Political Science/LSE, 2023
Research Support Grant, Goethe University Frankfurt, 2024 (2.500 €)
Travel Grant, German Academic Exchange Service / DAAD, 2024 (2.100 €)
Travel Grant, GRADE Social Science Frankfurt, 2023 (1.000 €)
Scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, 2017-2018 (≈ 6.600 €)
Scholarship from Goethe University Frankfurt, 2016-2017 (≈ 1.500€)

Collective Awards

“Aktiv für Demokratie und Toleranz“ Award for NGO mehr als wählen e.V. (5.000 €)
“Walter-Möller-Plakette” of the City of Frankfurt for NGO mehr als wählen e.V. (2.000 €)
“Engagementpreis” of FES-Ehemalige e.V. for NGO mehr als wählen e.V. (2.000 €)

POLICY-RELATED WORK (SELECTION)

Member of the working group “Public Participation Guidelines” of the City of Frankfurt am Main (2024-25)

Impulse talk: “Zeitenwende – Why there is a need for a new investment in diplomacy”, Department 3 at the German Foreign Office, together with Antonia Witt (2022)

Contribution to the study “Paulskirche: House of Democracy” on behalf of the City of Frankfurt (2020)

Co-Author of the study “Peace and Development 2020. An Analysis of Recent Experiences and Findings” on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (2020)

Contribution to the Peace Report/Friedensgutachten “In the shadow of the pandemic” (2020)

Internships: German Bundestag (2015), Amnesty International Germany (2016), KfW Development Bank (2017)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & OUTREACH (SELECTION)

Live Online Dialogue: “Why the UN Doesn’t Learn and What This Means in an Era of Reform” - Input and Discussion with Practitioners/UN Staff, facilitated by NGO ReformWorks (2025)

Public panel discussion “How do we become peacemakers?” [in German], Katholische Erwachsenenbildung Hochtaunus (2025)

Public lecture “Democracy in the Making: A House of Democracy for All?” [in German], at the conference “The Revolution of 1848/49: How to Communicate the Milestone of the History of Democracy after 175 Years?“, Historisches Museum Frankfurt (2022)

Public panel discussion “Apocalypse now? Corona, Ukraine and the climate crisis – is the end of the world looming?” [in German], Katholische Erwachsenenbildung Hochtaunus (2022)

Panel discussion “Germany in the UN Security Council - Conclusion and Outlook” [in German], DGVN-Hochschulgruppe Jena (2021)

Podcast contribution “Does democracy have a future?” [in German], Podcast “Off_line“ of the Offenbach University of Applied Sciences (2020)

Public lecture “Germany in the UN Security Council - a mid-term review” [in German], Frankfurter Stadtbücherei (2019)

Guest commentaries/interviews in the following German media outlets: hr-info, Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurter Neue Presse, Journal Frankfurt, Weser-Kurier, Familienmagazin Lausebande

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Co-Founder mehr als wählen e.V.

Frankfurt-based NGO with two main projects: (1) “Frankfurter Demokratiekonvent” — a citizens’ assembly with randomly selected participants; (2) “DemokratieWagen” — a redesigned public bus that travels through Frankfurt’s streets as a mobile experience space for democracy. To date, we have raised approximately €200,000 in donations and public grants for our work.

Co-Founder Netzwerk Paulskirche

A civil society network comprising more than 40 Frankfurt-based organizations, associations, and institutions, founded on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the German National Assembly in the Paulskirche. The network initiates a diverse program with more than 30 democratic projects in 2023-2024. For the network, we have been awarded a grant of over € 1,100,000 by the City of Frankfurt.