

Dr. Mitja Sienknecht

Research Focus

Digital Transformation of War · Ethical Challenges in Developing Responsible AI · Responsibility in World Politics · Norms Research · Global Governance · Artificial Intelligence/Argumentative Analysis · Kurds in Turkey and Iraq

Work Experiences

Professional Positions

- 12/2021-11/2025 Postdoctoral researcher at the European News School of Digital Studies – European University Viadrina
- Project “SKILL – A Social Science Lab for Inquiry-based Learning” (funded by the BMBF, Volume: 1.043.772,40€)
 - a cross-disciplinary project between political scientists (PI Prof. Jürgen Neyer, EUV), educational experts (PI Prof. Katrin Girgensohn, EUV), computational scientists (PI Prof. Benno Stein, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar), and data visualization scholars (Prof. Bernd Fröhlich, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)
 - Project Co-Coordination of the political science group
 - Research and critical reflection on “making an AI”, AI-tools in higher education, argument analysis and visualization in theories of international relations
- 10/2021-10/2022 Interim Professor (Vertretungsprofessur) “European and International Politics” at the European University Viadrina
- Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences [Chair: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Neyer]
 - Research on the digitalization of violence, theories of international relations, responsibility in world politics
 - teaching and supervision at the B.A. level
 - mentoring of PhD students
- 01/2020-12/2021 Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Münster
- Institute of Political Science, Chair for Global Governance, Prof. Dr. Antje Vetterlein
 - research on responsibility in world politics, borders and conflicts
 - teaching and supervision at the B.A. and M.A.-level
- 01/2020-12/2021 Visiting Researcher at the Berlin Social Science Center, WZB
- Department for Global Governance, Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn
- 06/2017–12/2019 Postdoctoral Researcher at the Berlin Social Science Center, WZB
- Department for Global Governance, Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn
 - research on responsibility in world politics, de-bordering processes in intrastate conflicts, rebel governance and referendums

- data collection, preparation of third-party funds application, conduction of interviews, building and editing of the WZB-Blog “Orders Beyond Borders”
- 04/2016–
05/2017 Research Positions at the European University Viadrina
- Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION
 - Research fellow in the research group “Border & Boundary Studies”, research on the complexity, infrastructures, and contestations of borders, 01/2017-06/2017
 - Postdoctoral fellowship at the Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION, research on conflicts and b/orders, 10/2016-12/2016
 - Active member of the working group “Grenztheorien”, [Border & Boundary Studies], preparation of a successful Seed-Money-project application, 04/2016-09/2016
- 06/2013–
12/2015 Research Fellow Positions at the European University Viadrina
- Chair of European and International Politics, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Neyer
 - Seed-Money Project: „Contesting the European Border Regime: How, Where and When Do Good Arguments Matter?” (2015), funded by the European University Viadrina
 - research on responsible decision-making processes of European Institutions in the European Asylum policy, European Foreign and Security Policy
 - teaching, committee work
- 11/2012–
11/2014 Research Fellow at Bielefeld University
- Chair of Political Science, Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert
 - Project: „The discursive construction of conflict and international organizational decision-making processes between normative frameworks of peacebuilding and securitization – the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)”, funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF)
 - research on international interventions and the construction of peace and security in (post-)conflict contexts
 - short-term fieldwork stay in New York/U.S. to conduct interviews with UN personnel
- 07/2009–
07/2015 Doctoral Fellow at European University Viadrina
- Research Training Group „Transformations in Global Governance. Europe and the World Order in Historical Perspective”, headed by Prof. Dr. Nützenadel and Prof. Dr. Neyer
 - Several short-term fieldwork stays in Strasbourg and Brussels to conduct interviews with EU personnel and NGOs
- 09/2008–
02/2009 Student Research Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- Research Division: Europe/EU, Dr. Annegret Bendiek
 - Research on European Foreign and Security Politics, EU-Turkey relations, M.A. thesis

- 04/2007–
09/2007 Graduate Assistant at University of Tübingen
- Chair of International Relations/ Peace and Conflict Studies, Prof. Dr. Volker Rittberger
 - Research Assistance in the lecture “Germany/EU in International Politics”
- 08/2003–
08/2006 Student Assistant at Bielefeld University
- Chair of Political Science, Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert
 - Assistance in the Collaborative Research Center 584 “The Political as Communicative Space in History”
 - Assistance of the Fifth Annual European Summer School in EU Studies “Global and European Governance” (ECPR)

Education

Academic Qualifications

- 2015 Ph.D. at the European University Viadrina (Dr. phil.), Frankfurt (Oder)
- Thesis Title: „Entgrenzte Konflikte in der Weltgesellschaft. Eine Untersuchung kommunikativer Entgrenzungsprozesse am Beispiel des kurdischen Konfliktes in der Türkei“ [Debordered Conflicts in World Society. An analysis of communicative de-bordering processes in the Kurdish conflict in Turkey]
 - Grade: magna cum laude
 - Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Neyer, Prof. Dr. Mathias Albert
- 02/2012–
06/2012 Visiting Scholar at Koç-University in Istanbul/Turkey
- associated with the Graduate School of Social Sciences, Ph.D. program in International Relations and Political Science, Prof. Belgin San-Akca
 - interviews with experts on the Kurdish conflict in Turkey
 - field research in Diyarbakir/Turkey to conduct interviews with local politicians, experts and civil society organizations
- 07/2009–
07/2015 Doctoral Fellow at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt(Oder)
- Research Training Group „Transformations in Global Governance. Europe and the World Order in Historical Perspective”
- 10/2006–
05/2009 M.A. in International Politics and Peace Research, University of Tübingen
- Grade: 1,3
- 01/2008–
06/2008 University of Uppsala (Sweden)
- Erasmus Student at the Department for Peace- and Conflict Research
 - M.A. Program on Peace- and Conflict Studies

- 10/2002–04/2006 B.A. in Political Science, Bielefeld University
- Grade: 1,5 (Graduation with distinction)
 - Certificate of honor of the Faculty for Sociology for best student in the year
 - Certificate of honor of the Faculty for Sociology for the outstanding B.A. thesis (Grade: 1,0)
- 10/2005–09/2006 Bielefeld University
- Supplementary Study Program „Europa Intensiv“ [Europe Intense] at the Faculties for Sociology, Law, Economics, History/Philosophy, Health Science

Third-Party Funding

Awards

- 2019 Honored with the *zib Best Paper Award* of the German Political Science Association, Section International Relations, for the paper: “Entgrenzte Konfliktkommunikation. Zum Aufbau von Kommunikationsstrukturen von nichtstaatlichen Konfliktparteien ins weltpolitische System”, [*De-Bordered Conflict Communication. The Development of Communication Structures in World Politics*], in: *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen* (ZIB), Vol. 25, No. 1, p. 5-34. (paper based on my dissertation)
- 2006 Certificate of the Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, best of her B.A. class in Political Science
- 2006 Certificate of the Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, best B.A.-thesis in Political Science

Scholarships & Travel Grants

- 2019 Selection for the ProFiL Mentoring Program “Professionalisierung für Frauen in Forschung & Lehre: Mentoring – Training – Networking”, [*Professionalisation of Women in Research and Teaching: Mentoring – Training – Networking*], joint program of the HU Berlin, FU Berlin, TU Berlin in order “to support highly qualified female scholars in their quest to attain a full professorship”.
- 10–12/2017 Postdoctoral Scholarship from the Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION at the European University Viadrina
- 2010–2014 Several travel grants from the Viadrina Center for Graduate Studies (European University Viadrina) for participation in conferences, workshops and field research
- 2009–2012 PhD Scholarship awarded by the European University Viadrina

01–06/2008 Scholarship awarded by the Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg for a study program at the University of Uppsala, Sweden

Contribution to Third-Party Funding Applications (*granted*)

- 2017 Seed-Money-Project, European University Viadrina, Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION
- Title: „Infrastrukturen der Grenze“ [*Infrastructures of Borders*]
 - Collaboration in the application, principal applicant: Hannes Krämer
 - requested funding amount: 279.940,00€
- 2015 Seed-Money-Project, European University Viadrina, Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION
- Title: „Contesting the European Border Regime: How, Where and When Do Good Arguments Matter?“
 - Collaboration in the application, principal applicant: Jürgen Neyer
 - Requested funding amount: 102.512,00€

Conferences

Organized Conferences, Workshops and Panels

- 2024 ISA-Annual Conference San Francisco
- Participation in a Roundtable on “Anticipating the Future of War”
 - Organization, chairing, paper presentation (together with Antje Vetterlein), Panel: “Responsibility and Temporality”
- 2023 EISA Annual Conference, Potsdam
- Organization, chairing, paper presentation (together with Sassan Gholiagha), Panel: “AI, Technology, Digitalization and War “
 - Organization, chairing, paper presentation (together with Antje Vetterlein), Panel: “Responsibility in Practice: Obstacles and Opportunities for an Ethical Approach to Tackle Global Harms”
- 2022 ISA-Annual Conference, Montreal
- Organization, chairing, paper presentation (together with Sassan Gholiagha), Panel: “Between Interpretation and Explanation: Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in International Relations“
 - Paper Presentation (together with Sassan Gholiagha, Jürgen Neyer)
 - *cancellation of own participation due to parental leave*
- 2020 DVPW Conference of the Section: International Relations, Freiburg (digital)
- Organization, chairing, paper presentation (together with Antje Vetterlein), Panel: „Verantwortung in den Internationalen Beziehungen“ [Responsibility in International Relations]

- Paper Presentation (together with Friederike Luise Kelle)
- 2019 ISA-Annual Conference, Toronto
- Organization, chairing (together with Sassan Gholiagha)
 - Panel: “Responsibility in World Politics – International institutions as subjects of responsibility”
 - *cancellation of own participation due to parental leave*
- 2018 DVPW-Annual Conference, Frankfurt/ Main
- Organization, chairing
 - Panel: „Grenzen der Demokratie überwinden – Kosmopolitische Verantwortung als politisches Konzept”, [*Overcoming Barriers to Democracy – Cosmopolitan Responsibility as a Political Concept*]
 - *cancellation of own participation due to parental leave*
- 2017 DVPW, Conference of the Section: International Relations, Bremen
- Organization, chairing, paper presentation
 - Panel: „Grenzkonflikte und Entgrenzte Konflikte”, [*Border Conflicts and De-Bordered Conflicts*]
- 2016 Conference „Komplexe Grenzen – Dimensionen, Dynamiken, Technologien” [*The Complexity of Borders – Dimensions, Dynamics and Technologies*] at European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)
- Organization, chairing
- 2015 ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans
- Organization, chairing, paper presentation
 - Panel: “Conflicts as Social Systems in World Society”
 - supported by the DVPW, section for International Relations
- 2014 Workshop “Justifying the European Border Regime and holding it to account: Ideational versus Material Dimensions?” at European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)
- Organization, paper presentation

Invited Talks and Workshops

- 2025 ISA Annual Convention, Chicago
- “IETHICS Distinguished Scholar Reception in Honor of Toni Erskine”
 - Roundtable organized by the International Ethics Section
- 2024 Australian National University (ANU) Bell School, Canberra/Australia
- Invited participation in the Workshop on “AI, Automated Systems, and Resort-to-Force Decision Making: Lessons for Defence Policy”
 - Workshop Co-convenors Prof. Toni Erskine (ANU) and Prof. Steven Miller (Harvard)
- 2023 Australian National University (ANU) Bell School, Canberra/Australia

- Invited participation in the Workshop on “Anticipating the Future of War: AI, Automated Systems, and Resort-to-Force Decision Making”, Workshop Co-convenors Prof. Toni Erskine (ANU) and Prof. Steven Miller (Harvard)
- 2020 Thomas-Morus Akademie Bensberg
- Presentation: “Challenges from de-bordered Conflicts for the NATO” (cancellation due to the Covid-19 pandemic)
- 2018 HSU Hamburg, Workshop: “Non-Recognition of Armed Non-State Actors: Risks and Opportunities for Conflict Transformation”
- organized by Maéva Clément, Anna Geis, Hanna Pfeifer)
 - Presentation: “The PKK’s zig-zag in its Global Quest for Recognition”
- 2017 ARENA Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo
- Presentation: “Cosmopolitan Responsibility: Between Normative Aspirations and Political Reality”
- 2017 Summer School „Border(Land) Studies“, European University Viadrina
- Presentation: “Borders and Boundaries in Conflict Situations. Analyzing and overcoming ethnical boundaries in violent conflicts”
- 2016 University of Frankfurt/Main, Authors Workshop: “Politik und Verantwortung. Analysen zum Wandel politischer Entscheidungs- und Rechtfertigungspraktiken”, [*Politics and Responsibility. Analysis of transforming practices of decision-making and justification*], organized by Christopher Daase, Julian Junk, Stefan Kroll, Valentin Rauer
- Presentation: „Verantwortung für Andere: Flüchtlingspolitik im EU-Mehrebenensystem der EU“, [*Responsibility for Others: Refugee Policy in the multi-level EU system*]
- 2016 Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing
- Presentation: „Die Vereinten Nationen – Eine internationale Organisation vor neuen Herausforderungen“, [*The United Nations – An International Organisation facing new Challenges*]
- 2016 IFAIR – Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations e.V., Symposium on the idea of a World Parliament
- comment on the presentation of Prof. Thomas Pogge (Yale University)
 - Presentation: „Kosmopolitische Verantwortung und globale Institutionen“, [*Cosmopolitan Responsibility and global institutions*]
- 2013 University of Potsdam, Authors Workshop: “International Organizations”, organized by Eugénia da Conceicao-Heldt, Martin Koch, Andrea Liese
- Presentation: Integrierte UN-Interventionen in der Weltgesellschaft“, [*Integrated UN-Interventions in World Society*]

Selected Conferences (active participation)

- 2023 • German Political Science Association (DVPW), Section: International Relations, Zeppelin University
- 2022 • Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), Konstanz
- 2022 • 3. DVPW Thementagung "Turning Point – 'Zeitenwende' - in German IR? How we (should) respond to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine", University of Hamburg
- 2021 • SVPW (Swiss Political Science Association), online
- 2021 • ISA Annual Convention (online)
- 2021 • German Political Science Association (DVPW), online
- 2020 • German Political Science Association (DVPW), Section: International Relations, University of Freiburg
- 2019 • ISA Annual Convention, Toronto (*cancellation of own participation due to parental leave*)
- 2018 • German Political Science Association (DVPW), Frankfurt/Main (*cancellation of own participation due to parental leave*)
- 2018 • Workshop at the HSU Hamburg: „Non-Recognition of Armed Non-State Actors: Risks and Opportunities for Conflict Transformation“
- 2018 • Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), Berlin
- 2017 • Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), Schwerte
- 2017 • Pan-European Conference on International Relations (EISA), Barcelona
- 2017 • DVPW, Sektionstagung Internationale Beziehungen, University of Bremen
- 2015 • Pan-European Conference on International Relations (EISA), Sicily
- 2015 • International Conference for Europeanists, Council of European Studies (CES), Paris (Sciences Po)
- 2015 • ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans
- 2014 • DVPW, Section: International Relations, University of Magdeburg
- 2014 • ISA Annual Convention, Toronto
- 2011 • Graduate Student Workshop at Koç University, Istanbul
- 2010 • Annual ASN World Convention at Columbia University, New York

Service, Reviews, Memberships

Services to the Profession

- 2024 DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service
- Member of the Selection Committee for the Carlo-Schmid-Program
- 2020/21 University of Münster
- Representative of the academic staff on the board of the political science institute
 - Representative of the academic staff in the commission “Tenure Track”
- 2018-2020 Member of the Christiane Rajewsky-Jury, AFK
- Annual selection of the best graduate thesis in peace and conflict studies
- 2018 Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
- Postdoctoral Representative in the Committee “Flexible Funding”
- 2015 European University Viadrina
- Representative of the research associates in the appointment committee for a professorship in “International Relations”
- 2015/16 European University Viadrina
- Representative of the research associates in the faculty council
- 2015/16 European University Viadrina
- Representative of the research associates in the committee for internal accreditation
- 2002-2006 University Bielefeld
- founding member of the students council social science/political science

Reviews

German Foundation for Peace Research, International Theory, International Quarterly for Asian Studies, Review of International Studies, Routledge, The Hague Journal of Diplomacy, Review of International Studies, Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen (ZIB)

Thesis supervision and examination

- 2019-2023 Mentoring of a PhD at the WZB Berlin
- Since 2014 21 B.A. theses, European University Viadrina/ University of Münster (13x first supervisor, 8x second supervisor)
- Since 2020 3 M.A. theses, European University Viadrina (1x first supervisor, 2x second supervisor)

Membership in Professional Associations

- International Studies Association (ISA)
- European International Studies Association (EISA)
- German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK)
- Co-opted Member of the Institute for World Society at the Bielefeld University

Further Qualifications

Languages

German (native)

English (fluent)

French, Swedish, Turkish (basic knowledge)

Methods

Expert interviews, semi-structured interviews, qualitative content analysis, comparative designs, descriptive statistics

Software Skills

QCA/ fsQCA

MAXQDA

Wordpress

Adobe Illustrator

Berlin, July 7, 2024