

Dr. Johannes Scherzinger

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Last updated March 13th, 2026.

CURRENT POSITION

Since 05/2023

University of Zurich (UZH), Zurich, Switzerland

Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Chair of International Relations and International Political Economy

- Research on Diplomatic Rhetoric, Disintegration from International Organizations, Quantitative Text Analysis, NLP
- Teaching: Introduction to International Politics (B.A. Lecture ~ 200 students), BA & MA Seminars on Legitimacy, IOs (UNSC, WTO, WHO, IMF), Intervention & IR Theory

EDUCATION

09/2019- 06/2023

Freie Universität Berlin & WZB Social Science Center, Germany

Ph.D. (Dr. rer. pol) in Political Science, Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn & Prof. Dr. Frank Schimmelfennig

- Title: *Searching for Themes in a Chamber full of Noise? How Language affects United Nations' Actions and Decisions*
- Won the ACUNS [*Best Dissertation Award*](#).

10/2015- 02/2019

Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

Master of Arts in North American Studies (Political Science)

- Focus: American Hegemony in International Institutions, IR Theory, Quantitative Methods
- Thesis: *'Acting under Chapter VII': Examining Authorization of the Outright Use of Force in UN Security Council Resolutions, 1994 – 2018*

08/2016- 05/2017

Fulbright Scholarship, American University, Washington, D.C. USA

Fulbright sponsored One-Year-Program in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the School of International Service

- Focus on International Negotiations
- Courses in IR Theory, Transnational Crime & Terrorism, International Affairs: Stats and Methods

10/2011 – 03/2015

Ludwig- Maximilians University, Munich, Germany

Bachelor of Arts in North American Studies and Political Philosophy

08/2013 – 01/2014

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Erasmus Academic Exchange

09/2001 – 06/2010

Kolleg St. Sebastian (Grammar school), Stegen, Germany

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- 06/2017-09/2019** **WZB Social Science Center, Berlin, Germany**
Research Assistant at the Global Governance Unit, Director: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn
- Used various statistical analyses (selection models, survival analysis, quantitative text analysis) supporting peer-reviewed publications
 - Wrote literature reviews and built large n-datasets
 - Research assistance, data collection, visualization, and evaluation for the Director of the Unit (contributed to work that got published in *IO* and *Perspective on Politics*)
- 08/2016- 05/2017** **American University, Washington D.C., USA**
Research Assistant for Prof. Elizabeth Thompson, Chair of Int. Peace at the School of International Service
- Analyzed secondary and primary sources and wrote literature reviews
 - Archival research in National Archives & Library of Congress
- 07/2015- 09/2015** **U.S. Consulate General Munich, Munich, Germany**
Intern Public Affairs Department- Foreign National Service
- Drafted memos, speeches, and talking points for the Consul General
 - Wrote daily news reports for the Public Affairs Officer (PAO)

HONORS & AWARDS

- 06/2024** **Academic Council of the United Nations System (ACUNS)**
[Best Dissertation Award](#) in the year 2024 for “Searching for Themes”.
- 04/2020- 04/2023** **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung e.V.**
Doctoral Scholarship, 55,800 € (paid in monthly installments of 1,550 €)
- 03/2022** **International Studies Association**
ISA Robert and Jessie Cox Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in International Relations in 2021-2022, 500\$
- 09/2019- 03/2020** **Free University of Berlin**
Doctoral Scholarship, 7,800 € (paid in monthly installments of 1,300 €)
- 08/2016- 05/2017** **Fulbright Scholarship at American University Washington, D.C. USA**
Fulbright Full-Coverage Scholarship- One academic year at the School of International Service of American University, Washington D.C., ~ 38,000 \$
- 10/2016** **IMF & World Bank Group Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. USA**
Selected Attendee (after essay competition)
- 08/2016** **American University, Washington, D.C., USA**
SIS Merit Award for Incoming Fulbright Scholar, 17,000 \$ (as tuition waiver)

TEACHING

- Fall 2025** *Theories of Legitimacy and Authority in World Politics*. 2 SWS M.A. Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich und MA Program „MACIS“ Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zurich).
- Spring 2025** *The Legitimacy of International Organizations: 2 SWS B.A.* Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich & *The Security Council in the 21st Century*, 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH).
- Fall 2024** *The Legitimacy of International Organizations: Comparing Mandates, Procedures and Effectiveness*. 2 SWS M.A. Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich und MA Program „MACIS“ Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zurich).
- Summer 2024** *MA Colloquium Political Science & International Relations*, 2 SWS MA Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH). & *The Security Council in the 21st Century*, 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH).
- Fall 2023** ‘*Introduction to International Politics*’, B.A. lecture at the **University of Zurich** (~ 200 undergraduate students). Designed, taught, the entire lecture. Created original final exam, combining multiple choice, essay questions and remote tasks.
- Summer 2022** ‘*The Security Council in the 21st Century: Examining Theoretical and Empirical Challenges to International Peace and Security*’, 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Otto-Suhr-Institut, **Freie Universität Berlin**. Designed, taught, and graded the entire course.

SUPERVISION

4 x MA Thesis, 1 x BA Thesis

FURTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Teaching in Higher Education Training (with Certificates) such as “*Constructive Alignment with AI*”, “*Diversity and Inclusivity in Teaching*”, and “*Managing Classroom Conflict*”

CONFERENCES, INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS

- 01/2026** **Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2026, IE University, Spain)**
Paper Presenter
- 01/2026** **Schweizer Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (SVPW) Annual Conference 2026, Zurich, Switzerland**
Paper Presenter
- 08/2025** **European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR General Conference 2026), Thessaloniki, Greece**
Panel Organizer, Paper Presenter
- 04/2025** **DISINTEGRATION ERC Wrap-up Workshop (2-Day Workshop, Kloster Fischingen, Switzerland)**
Paper Presenter
- 03/2025** **The Changing Boundaries of Europe (3-Day Workshop, Monte Verita, Switzerland)**
Paper Presenter
- 01/2025** **Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2025, Harvard University, USA)**
Paper Presenter
- 09/2024** **German Political Science Annual Convention (DPVW), Göttingen, Germany**
Paper Presenter
- 06/2024** **Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2024, Stockholm, Sweden)**
Paper Presenter
- 05/2024** **IO Editorial Café Workshop 2024, Online**
Paper Presenter
- 04/2024** **International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference 2024, San Francisco, United States of America**
Panel Organizer, Paper Presenter, Roundtable Participant
- 03/2024** **International Negotiation and Cooperation in Hard Times (3-Day, 21 Participants Workshop, Wädenswil, Kanton of Zurich, Switzerland)**
Workshop Organizer, Paper Presenter, Chair
- 02/2024** **Swiss Political Science Association General Conference (SVPW 2024, St. Gallen, Switzerland)**
Paper Presenter

- 01/2024** **Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), ETH Zurich, Zürichberg Annual Colloquium 2024, Switzerland**
Paper Presenter
- 03/2022** **International Studies Association (ISA- Annual Conference 2022, Nashville, United States of America)**
Paper Presenter
- 10/2020** **Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW / Sektionstagung: Internationale Beziehungen 2020, Online)**
Paper Presenter
- 08/2020** **European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR General Conference 2020, Online)**
Paper Presenter

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- Since 05/2025** **IPZ Mentor via departmental Mentoring Program, University of Zurich**
- 06/2022 – 03/2023** **Committee Member WZB Guest Scholar Program**
- 11/2021** **Committee Member WZB Harvard Merit Fellowship**
- 10/2021** **Committee Member WZB World Merit Fellowship**
- 10/2011 – 09/2015** **Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany**
Member of the Student Council of the Department of North American Studies
- 08/2012 – 08/2013** **Lewis & Clarke Exchange Program, Munich, Germany**
Mentor of an American Exchange Student for one year

REVIEWER ACTIVITY

Global Studies Quarterly, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Politics, Nordic Journal of International Law, Political Psychology, Review of International Organizations

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Languages**
- German – native speaker
 - English – fluent (C2)
 - Großes Latinum
- Work-Desk**
- Expert *Microsoft Office* skills
 - Expert knowledge of *STATA*
 - Frequent use of *Citavi*, *CMD* back-end systems

Programming

- Expert knowledge of programming language “R”.
- Automated Text Analysis & NLP (automated sentiment analysis, semi, super, and unsupervised machine learning via topic modeling, word embeddings, LSS, BERT, and any kind of classification or scaling task via locally integrated LLM, or proprietary LLM via API access)
- Any kind of rectangular data shaping
- Web-scraping

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

Scherzinger, J. (2023). ‘Acting under Chapter 7’: rhetorical entrapment, rhetorical hollowing, and the authorization of Force in the UN security council, 1995–2017. *International Relations*, 37(1): 3-24. **Winner of the ISA Robert W. & Jessie Cox Award 2022.** <https://doi.org/10.1177/00471178221082870>

Scherzinger, J. (2023). Unbowed, unbent, unbroken? Examining the validity of the responsibility to protect. *Cooperation and Conflict: Journal of the Nordic International Studies Association*, 58(1): 81-101. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00108367221093155>

PUBLICATIONS (NON-PEER-REVIEWED)

Rauh, Christian, Scherzinger, Johannes. Widersprüchliche Signale. Wie EU-Staaten vor dem Ukrainekrieg über Russland sprachen. *WZB-Mitteilungen*, (2/176), S. 45-48: <https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/artikel/2022/f-24813.pdf>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Scherzinger, Johannes. “One Theme to unite them all? Rhetorical Signaling and Unanimity in the UN Security Council.” *International Studies Quarterly*. Conditional Accept.

Peez, Anton, and **Johannes Scherzinger.** "Using LLMs for Measurement in Diplomatic Speeches: The Evolving Politics of UN Sanctions in Security Council Debates." *Review of International Organizations*. Accepted.

Malet, Giorgio, Hunter, Tom, **Scherzinger, Johannes,** and, Walter, Stefanie. “Policy Orientation and Output Legitimacy in the European Union.” *Review of International Organizations*. R&R.

Scherzinger, Johannes, Binder, Martin. “Decoding Diplomacy: How UNSC members justify Council Responses to Civil Conflicts? Evidence from a Textual Machine Learning Model (1995-2015).” *Review of International Organizations*. Reject & Resubmit.

Stephen, Matthew, **Scherzinger, Johannes.** “Is China Building a Rivaling Global Order and How Would we Know?”. *International Security*. Under Review.

Hunter, Tom, Rauh, Christian, **Scherzinger, Johannes**, and, Walter, Stefanie. “The Legitimation and Delegitimation of International Organizations: Evidence from Parliamentary Speeches”. *Early Stage Research Paper*.

Scherzinger, Johannes. Peez, Anton. “The Gavel Effect: Does Holding the UNSC Presidency Affect Speaker Behavior?” *Early Stage Research Paper*.

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn. Director of the Research Unit Global Governance, WZB Berlin. Professor of International Relations, Free University Berlin. zuern@wzb.eu

Prof. Dr. Frank Schimmelfennig. Professor of European Politics, ETH Zürich.
frank.schimmelfennig@eup.gess.ethz.ch

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Walter. Chair of International Relations & Political Economy, University of Zurich.
walter@ipz.uzh.ch

Prof. Dr. Christian Rauh. Professor of Multilevel Governance, University of Potsdam. Senior Researcher, WZB Berlin. christian.rauh@wzb.eu