

Dr. Johannes Scherzinger

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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

- 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
- 07/2026-12/2026** **University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany**
Visiting Research Fellow
- Host: Prof. Dr. Thomas Sommerer
- 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

- 2024 & 2025 & 2026** **University of Zurich, Faculty of Philosophy and Political Science**
Travel Grant, 1,500 CHF
- 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 <i>ISA Robert and Jessie Cox Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in International Relations in 2021-2022, 500\$</i>
09/2019- 03/2020	Free University of Berlin <i>Doctoral Scholarship, 7,800 € (paid in monthly installments of 1,300 €)</i>
08/2016- 05/2017	Fulbright Scholarship at American University Washington, D.C. USA <i>Fulbright Full-Coverage Scholarship- One academic year at the School of International Service of American University, Washington D.C., ~ 38,000 \$</i>
10/2016	IMF & World Bank Group Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. USA <i>Selected Attendee (after essay competition)</i>
08/2016	American University, Washington, D.C., USA <i>SIS Merit Award for Incoming Fulbright Scholar, 17,000 \$ (as tuition waiver)</i>

TEACHING

Spring 2026	<i>Theories of Legitimacy and Authority in World Politics. 2 SWS M.A.</i> Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich und MA Program „MACIS“ Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zurich) & <i>The Security Council in the 21st Century</i> , 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH).
Fall 2025	<i>The Legitimacy of International Organizations: 2 SWS M.A.</i> Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich und MA Program „MACIS“ Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zurich).
Spring 2025	<i>The Legitimacy of International Organizations: 2 SWS B.A.</i> Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich & <i>The Security Council in the 21st Century</i> , 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH).
Fall 2024	<i>The Legitimacy of International Organizations: Comparing Mandates, Procedures and Effectiveness. 2 SWS M.A.</i> Seminar, Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich und MA Program „MACIS“ Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH Zurich).
Summer 2024	<i>MA Colloquium Political Science & International Relations, 2 SWS MA Seminar</i> , Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH). & <i>The Security Council in the 21st Century</i> , 2 SWS Bachelor Seminar, Institute für Politikwissenschaft (IPZ), Universität Zürich (UZH).

Fall 2023	<i>‘Introduction to International Politics’</i>, 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	<i>‘The Security Council in the 21st Century: Examining Theoretical and Empirical Challenges to International Peace and Security’</i>, 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

06/2026	European Political Science Society (EPSS Annual Conference 2026, Belfast, UK) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
01/2026	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2026, IE University, Spain) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
01/2026	Schweizer Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (SVPW) Annual Conference 2026, Zurich, Switzerland <i>Paper Presenter</i>
08/2025	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR General Conference 2026), Thessaloniki, Greece <i>Panel Organizer, Paper Presenter</i>
04/2025	DISINTEGRATION ERC Wrap-up Workshop (2-Day Workshop, Kloster Fischingen, Switzerland) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
03/2025	The Changing Boundaries of Europe (3-Day Workshop, Monte Verita, Switzerland) <i>Paper Presenter</i>

01/2025	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2025, Harvard University, USA) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
09/2024	German Political Science Annual Convention (DPVW), Göttingen, Germany <i>Paper Presenter</i>
06/2024	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO Annual Conference 2024, Stockholm, Sweden) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
05/2024	IO Editorial Café Workshop 2024, Online <i>Paper Presenter</i>
04/2024	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference 2024, San Francisco, United States of America <i>Panel Organizer, Paper Presenter, Roundtable Participant</i>
03/2024	International Negotiation and Cooperation in Hard Times (3-Day, 21 Participants Workshop, Wädenswil, Kanton of Zurich, Switzerland) <i>Workshop Organizer, Paper Presenter, Chair</i>
02/2024	Swiss Political Science Association General Conference (SVPW 2024, St. Gallen, Switzerland) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
01/2024	Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), ETH Zurich, Zürichberg Annual Colloquium 2024, Switzerland <i>Paper Presenter</i>
03/2022	International Studies Association (ISA- Annual Conference 2022, Nashville, United States of America) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
10/2020	Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW / Sektionstagung: Internationale Beziehungen 2020, Online) <i>Paper Presenter</i>
08/2020	European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR General Conference 2020, Online) <i>Paper Presenter</i>

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 <i>Member of the Student Council of the Department of North American Studies</i>
08/2012 – 08/2013	Lewis & Clarke Exchange Program, Munich, Germany <i>Mentor of an American Exchange Student for one year</i>

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 <i>Microsoft Office</i> skills • Expert knowledge of <i>STATA</i> • Frequent use of <i>Citavi</i>, <i>CMD</i> 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>

Peez, A., & Scherzinger, J. (2026). Using LLMs for measurement in diplomatic speeches: The evolving politics of UN sanctions in Security Council debates. *The Review of International Organizations*, 1-26. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11558-026-09620-y>

Scherzinger, J. (2026). One Theme to Unite Them All? Rhetorical Signals and Unanimity in the UN Security Council. *International Studies Quarterly*, 70(3): sqag057. <https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/70/3/sqag057/8748436>

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

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

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

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*.

Huikuri, Tuuli-Anna, **Scherzinger, Johannes** and Christoph Steinert. Condemning in the Strongest of Terms: U.S. Exit and Shaming in the UN Human Rights Council. *Early Stage Research Paper*.

Scherzinger, Johannes, Sundström, Karin and Carl Vikberg. Autocratic Leadership and the Policy Agendas of International Organizations. *Early Stage Research Paper*.

REFERENCES

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

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

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