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Employment

2019 - Present: Senior Researcher, German Inst. of Development and Sustainability; Bonn, Germany
2017 - 2019: Researcher, German Inst. of Development and Sustainability; Bonn, Germany
2016 - 2017: Visiting Scholar, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University

Academic Affiliations

Research Affiliate, The Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS), University of Auckland
Adjunct Fellow; Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative (HADRI), Western Sydney University
Guest Lecturer; Institute for Political Research (IPW), Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany
Research Affiliate; International Security and Development Center, Berlin, Germany

Education

2011-16 PhD, Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, USA
2008-10 MA, School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C.
2003-5 BA, College of Arts and Sciences, American University, Washington, D.C.

Book

2024. *Urban Refugees and Digital Technology: Reshaping social, political, and economic networks*, Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press

Reviewed in: *International Migration Review*

Peer-reviewed articles

2025. "Institutional voids, misalignments and workarounds: the role of intermediaries for forced migrant entrepreneurship." *International Small Business Journal*. OnlineFirst. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02662426251346734>. With Andrés Barrios and Sonia Camacho.
2025. "Managing' the paradox: refugee self-reliance and solving the problem of refugee policy discontinuity." *Journal of Refugee Studies*. OnlineFirst. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feaf012>. With Judith Kohlenberger and Evan Easton-Calabria.
2024. "Do Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) support self-reliance among urban refugees? Evidence from Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia." *International Migration Review*. 58(1), 69-93. With Katrina Munir-Asen.
2022. "Ride-Sharing Apps for Urban Refugees: Easing or Exacerbating a Digital Transport Disadvantage?" *TRIALOG Journal*. 140-141(1-2), 58-62.
2022. "Digitalization and E-government in the Lives of Urban Migrants: Evidence from Bogotá." *Pe&I Policy and Internet*. 14(2), 450-467. With Sonia Camacho, Rodrigo Taborda, and Constantin Ruhe.
- Media coverage: *El Espectador* (In Spanish) "Conectividad y acceso a TIC para migrantes, otro desafío para los candidatos"
2021. "The Asylum Hump: Why Country Income Level Predicts New Asylum Seekers, But Not New Refugees," *Journal of Refugee Studies*. 34(2), 1730-1746. With Constantin Ruhe and Lisa Maria Groß
2019. "When Information Becomes Action: Social and political drivers of individuals' trust in broadcast versus peer-to-peer information during disaster response," *Disasters*. 43(3), 612-633

2019. "Food Security and Conflict: Empirical challenges and future opportunities for research and policy making on food security and conflict." *World Development*. 119, 150-164. With Wolfgang Stojetz.
2019. "Challenges and possible solutions to conducting quantitative surveys with displaced populations." *Briefs on Methodological, Ethical and Epistemological Issues*. 13. With Jana Kuhnt and Ruben Wedel.
2018. "Peacekeeping's Digital Economy: The Role of Communication Technologies in Post-conflict Economic Growth," *International Peacekeeping*. 25(3), 420-445. With Nicholas Bodanac.
2017. "Towards a People Centred Early Warning and Disaster Response System in Samoa: The Use of ICT by Samoans During Disaster." *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*. 81(2), 1-18 With Ioana Chan Mow, Hobert Sasa, and Lealaosesau Fitu.
2017. "Peace Tech: The Liminal Spaces of Digital Technology in Peacebuilding." *International Studies Perspectives*. 18(1), 4-42. With Pamina Firchow, Roger Mac Ginty and Atalia Omer.
2016. "Communicating Stability: Managing the regulatory process to get the most out of communication infrastructure in post-conflict settings." *Business, Peace and Sustainable Development*. 16(7), 50-65
2014. "Smart Phones and Social Bonds: Communication Technology and Interethnic Cooperation in Kenya." *The Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*. 9(3), 50-64. With Elizabeth Stones.
2013. "Interethnic Cooperation Revisited: Why mobile phones can help prevent discrete events of violence, using the Kenyan Case study." *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*. 2(3), article #58
2013. "The Technologist's Dilemma: Ethical Challenges of Using Crowdsourcing Technology in Conflict and Disaster- Affected Regions." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. 14(2), 135-141

Book Chapters

2024. "Moderating Digital Communities in Hybrid Governance Contexts: Refugees' Digital Inclusion and Communication in Nairobi." In *Technology and governance beyond the state: the rule of non-law*. Edited by Nicole Stremlau and Clara Voyvodica Casabó. 93-104. Milton Park: Routledge
2023. "The Relationship Between State Fragility and Refugees." In *Handbook of Fragile States*. Edited by David Carment and Yiagadeesen Samy. 192-204. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
2023. "Human Subjects, Digital Protocols: The Future of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Digital Research in Vulnerable Communities." In *Personal Data Collection Risks in a Post-Vaccine World*. Edited by Colette Mazzucelli, James Felton Keith, and C. Ann Hollifield. 25-47. New York: Anthem Press. With Ziad al Achkar.
2022. "Where Privacy Meets Politics: EU–Kenya Cooperation in Data Protection." In *Africa–Europe Cooperation and Digital Transformation*. Edited by Chux Daniels, Benedikt Erforth, Chloe Teevan. 142-155. London: Routledge. With Benedikt Erforth.

Working Papers in Peer-Reviewed Series

2025. "Social cohesion in the context of environmental/climate-related internal displacement in Ghana." IDOS Discussion Paper 15/2025. With Susan Ekoh, Carolin Kitzmann, Nina Küssau, Mario Pfeffer, Merle Platen, Theresa Reinel, Mary Boamataa Setrana, Johnson Wilson Appiah, and Stella Efah.
2021. "Digitalization in Displacement Contexts: Technology and the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees." Reference Paper for the 70th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Geneva: UNHCR
2020. "Digitalisation and Information in the Lives of Migrants and Refugees in Kenya." DIE Discussion Paper 15/2020. With Jana Kuhnt, Eva Dick, Mirko Eppler, Stella Gaetani, Francy Koellner, Nyat Mebrahtu, Antonia Peters, and Carlotta Preiß
2019. "Digitalisation in the Lives of Urban Migrants: Evidence from Bogota," DIE Discussion Paper 12/2019. With Sonia Camacho, Rodrigo Taborda, and Constantin Ruhe.
2018. "Food security and conflict: Empirical challenges and future opportunities for research and policy making on food security and conflict," FAO ESA Working Paper 18-04. With Wolfgang Stojetz

2017. “Conceptualizing Forced Displacement as an Outcome of State Fragility,” DIE Discussion Paper 30/2017

2017. “Conflict and Development: Recent Research Advances and Future Agendas.” Helsinki: UNU-WIDER Working Paper 178/2017. With Tilman Brück and Patricia Justino.

Selected General Audience Writing (English and German)

“Security as a Collective Good: Development and the New Global Order.” *Global Policy*. 17 March 2025.

“Warum Entwicklungspolitik zentral für den Erfolg deutscher Sicherheitspolitik ist.” *Table Briefings*. 11 March 2025. With Julia Leininger.

“Wen schert die Entwicklungspolitik? Die Wähler*innen!” *Die Aktuelle Kolumne*. 18 February 2025. With Julia Leininger.

“Electronic options for improving government services.” *D+C Development and Cooperation*. April 2023 issue, pp. 27-29.

“New digital world order.” *D+C Development and Cooperation*. September 2021 issue, pp. 27-30. In German: “Neue digitale Weltordnung.” *E+Z Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit*. September 2021, pp. 27-30

“Neue Stimme für Menschenrechte und gute Regierungsführung.” *Welternährung - Fachjournal der Welthungerhilfe*, 02/2021

“Konfrontation oder Kooperation?” *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 30 October 2020

“Digitalization and Forced Displacement: How addressing access, online behavior, and privacy issues can lead to better digital solutions.” Policy Brief, TF9, Migration and Young Societies; T20 Saudi Arabia

“Digital Technology in Daily Lives of Urban Refugees” *Transient Spaces Project*. 23 January 2020. With Katrina Munir-Asen.

“Mehr als nur ein Notstand” *Frankfurter Rundschau*. 24 July 2018

“Keeping the Knowledge Flowing: Policy recommendations for supporting high-skill migration.” T20 Argentina Policy Brief, 2 July 2018. With Katrina Munir-Asen

“Dare to be More Complex!” DIE Current Column, 19 February 2018, with Benjamin Schraven (also available in German, cited by the SPD parliamentary committee in developing the party platform on migration)

“Digitalization and Flight: how can donors leverage digital technologies to support refugees?” DIE Briefing Paper 18/2017

“When and how can foreign aid slow migration?” Monkey Cage Blog, *Washington Post*, November 2, 2017. With Steffen Angenendt and Benjamin Schraven.

“Mehr Entwicklung – mehr Migration? Der “migration hump” und seine Bedeutung für die entwicklungspolitische Zusammenarbeit mit Subsahara-Afrika.” DIE Analysen und Stellungnahmen 15/2017 (cross-published as a SWP Aktuell) September 2017. With Dr. Steffen Angenendt and Dr. Benjamin Schraven

“Gründe, um zu bleiben.” *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 7 September 2017

Awards and Grants

Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, “Social Cohesion in Displacement Contexts.” 2023-2026. €1.5 million. Co-Principal Investigator.

IDOS Post-graduate Course Project Funding Cycle, “Social Cohesion in the Context of Environmental and Climate-Related Internal Displacement in Ghana.” Spring 2024 (€57,000)

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, “Contested mobility: Migration policy in countries of the global South between local needs, national interests and global agendas.” 2020-2022. €1.5 million. Co-Principal Investigator

DIE-GDI Post-graduate Course Project Funding Cycle, “Digitalisation and Information in the Lives of Migrants and Refugees in Kenya.” Spring 2019 (€89,320)

Dissertation Completion Grant, George Mason University, Spring 2016 (\$10,000)

James H. Laue Memorial Scholarship, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, 2015-2016 (\$2,000)

Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship, Dissertation fieldwork in Samoa 2013-2014 (\$30,150)

Invited Talks

- University of Bonn* “Urban Refugees and Digital Technology: Reshaping Social, Political, and Economic Networks,” 14 May 2025
- University of Western Sydney* “Urban Refugees and Digital Technology: Reshaping Social, Political, and Economic Networks,” 8 May 2025
- University of Auckland* “Urban Refugees and Digital Technology: Reshaping Social, Political, and Economic Networks,” 6 May 2025
- European University Institute*, “Digitalization and Peacebuilding: Future Agendas,” 11 October 2024
- University of Amsterdam*, “Urban Refugees and Digital Technology: Reshaping Social, Political, and Economic Networks,” Book launch, 8 October 2024
- Johannes Rau Forschungsgemeinschaft*, “Ethische Digitalisierung: Perspektiven aus Entwicklungsforschung,” 30 November 2023
- Austrian Institute of International Affairs*, “Refugee policy in the global south: The influence and power dynamics of development and humanitarian aid,” 11 May 2023
- University of Nuremberg*, “Selective Solidarity: The Challenges of Setting Regional Displacement Policy,” FFVT Summer School, 12 July 2022
- University of Bonn*, “Digitalization and Peacekeeping: SDG 16,” Digitainable Spring School, 8 March 2022
- Free University of Bozen/Bolzano*, “Digital Sojourners: Technological change and the role of migrants in urban development”, October 27, 2021
- University of Bonn*, “Digitainable Forum”, Invited speaker, February 24, 2021
- Oxford University*, “Governing Refugees’ Digital Lives: Legal grey areas and refugee digital self-governance in Nairobi”, January 19, 2021
- University of Innsbruck*, “Digital Sojourners: Technological change and the role of migrants in urban development”, November 19, 2020
- T20 Saudi Arabia*, ““Digitalization and Forced Displacement: How addressing access, online behavior, and privacy issues can lead to better digital solutions,” June 6, 2020.
- World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator*, “Technology and Digitalization in the Work of the United Nations” (Panel Moderator), November 21, 2019
- Pew Research Center*, “Survey data collection in urban displacement contexts: Lessons from Bogota & Nairobi”, June 27, 2019
- University of Utrecht*, “Between the Benefits of Connectivity and the Risks of Surveillance: urban refugees’ experiences of digital technologies in Kenya”, June 4, 2019
- Leibniz Association Annual Meeting*, “Making Invisible Crises Visible”, December 13, 2018
- Global Landscapes Forum*, “Forced Displacement and Environmental Change”, December 2, 2018
- Oslo University Law Faculty*, “Beyond encampment” refugee policy workshop, November 2, 2018
- School of Advanced Study, University of London*. “Digitalization in the lives of IDPs and Refugees.” July 20, 2018
- Re:publica Festival (Berlin)*. “Bulding a new life one e-lesson at a time: E-learning for refugees.” May 3, 2018
- Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations (Brussels)*. “Technology for Peacebuilding in Africa.” November 13, 2017
- German Development Institute*. “Digitalization and Development: Getting from TED Talks to Practical Applications.” September 20, 2017
- Boston University*. “Using Mobile Phones to Maintain Networks and Services for Unaccompanied Youth Migrants in France.” December 2, 2016

University of Mannheim. “When Information Becomes Action: Information Technology Use in Kenya and Samoa when Managing Collective Action Problems During Crisis.” October 11, 2016

U.S. Institute of Peace. “When Information Becomes Action: Information Technology Use in Kenya and Samoa when Managing Collective Action Problems During Crisis.” August 18, 2016

White House Office on Technology Policy. “Ethics and Privacy for Crowdsourcing in Conflict Settings,” February 21, 2016

Academic Conference Participation

American Political Science Association
2016, 2020

European Consortium of Political Research
2019

International Studies Association
2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020 (cancelled), 2022, 2023

Peer-Reviewing Activities

Journals: *Applied Economics*, *Applied Geography*, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *Financial Innovation*, *Genocide Prevention: An International Journal*, *Globalizations*, *Information Polity*, *International Journal of Communication*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, *Journal of Public Affairs*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *The Lancet*, *Stability*, *Third World Quarterly*, *World Development*, *International Migration*

Grant Making Foundations: *Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)*, *Dutch Institute for Advanced Study*, *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*

Public Policy Experience

2020 - 2021: UNHCR, Consultant, State of the Worlds Refugees Report

2016 - 2017: Food and Agriculture Organization, Consultant; Remote

2015 - 2017: World Bank Group, Consultant; Washington, D.C.

2013 - 2014: Policy Advisor, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT); Apia, Samoa

2011 - 2013: TechChange Inc, Director of Conflict Management and Peacebuilding Programs; Washington, D.C.

References

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