



Brandt School Newsletter:
Issue 03/2022

UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT

Willy Brandt School
of Public Policy

Dear Friends of the Brandt School,

After three years, it is time for me to step down as Director of the Brandt School. Three eventful years, I might add. The pandemic has clearly challenged everyone at the Brandt School, but I am happy to say that we have quickly bounced back and made the most of this novel situation. We also learned a lot in these last years — from learning how to conduct classes online to adapting and responding to the unique mental challenges students and colleagues have faced.

We have also achieved a lot in these last years. We have successfully reaccredited our two-year program and we have received further funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), being part of the highly visible [Helmut Schmidt Scholarship Program](#). We have put our school on a new formal basis as stated in the new statutes of Brandt School. These new statutes allow us to cooperate more effectively with the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Sciences.

Perhaps most importantly, we have built a strong institutional foundation for both our PhD program as well as our own research network. [EIPCC, Effective and Innovative Policy Making in Contested Contexts](#) is a Graduate Research Group, with regular meetings and funding opportunities for PhD and Postdoc researchers. It also serves as our main hub to collaborate across different specialization areas and with other faculties. It shows that the Brandt School combines practice-oriented MA education with an excellent academic research environment.

During the last three years, we have also strengthened our [networks](#) both in Germany and abroad. With our new [advisory board](#), we have managed to recruit important partners in foundations, development organisations and academic institutions. Our new *international board* helps us in building bridges to fellow institutions worldwide. We have also initiated closer cooperation with select institutions in Colombia, Malaysia and other countries. Finally, we have welcomed three new [Senior Brandt Fellows](#) all of whom bring their considerable practical experience to our classes and activities.

The Brandt School is an institution that cares not only about academic excellence, but really about human beings. An institution as diverse and global as the Brandt School feels the pulse of world politics very closely – sometimes too close for comfort. Both the military coup in Myanmar and the chaotic withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan have had immediate impact on our Brandt School family. We do our best to provide support in any way we can to those affected. We responded with several initiatives, for instance, a so-called [PExaR program](#) that gives Political Experts at Risk (PExaR) fleeing from political persecution a form of preliminary refuge.

On a much more positive note, I look back at three years as the School's director during which more than 130 students graduated with a [Master in Public Policy](#). Also on the positive side, we have had numerous events in the last years, some of which clearly belong to my personal highlights. The [Commitment Award](#) ceremonies bear testimony to the inventiveness and creativity of Brandt School students. Even the pandemics could not stop us, although the last two ceremonies took place virtually. The two events were inspiring, funny and occasionally moving. They illustrate the many ways that the Brandt School reaches out to a larger audience and how Brandt School students develop and test new ideas to make the world a better place. I thoroughly recommend the video recordings of these [events on YouTube](#). Other noticeable events were our big alumni conference and, of course, our farewell parties with the students.



Always a highlight: Throwing hats during the farewell ceremony. July 2021.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the students, my colleagues, the university and faculty, and above all, a formidable team and Brandt School family. In truth, my own contribution was marginal compared to all of their efforts. As a director, I was lucky to cooperate with such a reliable, competent and highly skilled group of people. It is because of them that I look very optimistically into the future. Now it is my pleasure to hand over the Directorship in April to [Prof. Andreas Goldthau](#). He will bring his own ideas, creativity and contagious energy to the Directorate. I know the Brandt School will be in a safe pair of hands. I wish him all the best and a lot of fun as the new director.

Kind regards,
Professor Achim Kemmerling
Director of the Brandt School

Spotlight

Shakuntala Banerjee joins Brandt School as Senior Brandt Fellow



The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy is proud to announce Senior Brandt Fellow Shakuntala Banerjee. Besides Carmen Niethammer and Achim von Heynitz, Shakuntala Banerjee is the third among the new Senior Brandt Fellows.

[Read more...](#)

Insights

How the Hambach Forest Movement shaped the German coal phase-out



In her Energy Research & Social Science journal publication, early career researcher Almut Mohr closely analyzes the role of social movements in energy transitions. The article focuses on the German coal-phase-out plan and the influence of the Hambach Forest Movement.

[Read more...](#)

New study on sustainability initiatives of Latin American companies

The current study by Karina Marzano, doctoral student at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy of the University of Erfurt, focuses on the sustainability reports of multinational companies with headquarters in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. The results of the research she conducted together with Leonardo Paz Neves and Jade Constantino de Vasconcellos have now been published in "The Latin American Atlas of Corporate Sustainability Initiatives".

[Read more...](#)

The energy transition in ASEAN states – How to move forward?

Prof. Andreas Goldthau joined Regina Mayor (KPMG) and Datu Haji Sharbini Suhali (Sarawak Energy) to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition in ASEAN countries at the Asia School of Business 2021 Leadership for Enterprise Sustainability Asia flagship conference.

[Read more...](#)

New Blog Post on Complexity of Tax Systems in Industrialized Nations

In a new blog post, Prof. Achim Kemmerling explains why tax systems are notoriously difficult to understand. The blog post and the original article on which it is based reveal the political roots of this complexity and highlight some of the political ways how to reform cumbersome tax codes.

[Read more...](#)

Updates

Application Process for the Master of Public Policy has started



Do you want to change the world you live in? Do you want to be an agenda-setter? An entrepreneur for a good cause?

[Read more...](#)

Brandt School welcomes Dr. Hasnain Bokhari as a new research fellow

Dr. Hasnain Bokhari is the Brandt School's new research fellow for Internationalization and Digitalization of Teaching. He has been teaching at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy on topics such as Political Communication, ICT4D and eGovernment.

[Read more...](#)

The Bulletin

Will your next burger be grown in a lab? The promising but questionable future of lab grown meat



Global meat consumption is contributing to climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Does this mean we need to say goodbye to meat, or can we just switch to growing meat in factories? The Bulletin looks at the possibilities and potential pitfalls of cell-grown meat.

[Read more...](#)

Election showdown in Chile: a new president for a new constitution

A critical election in Chile puts the country on a new path. The Bulletin looks at this complex, dramatic election to understand what happened and judge what it means for the Chilean people.

[Read more...](#)

Opening the green box: how useful are the green investment expectations we have?

Following COP 26, the Bulletin looks at green investment strategies. What are they? Are they effective? Are they enough? This article explores green investment strategies and what blind spots they have.

[Read more...](#)

The Bulletin Podcast #15: The German Supply Chain Due Diligence Law

In episode 15 of the Bulletin Podcast, Karina Marzano, a PhD. Candidate at the Willy Brandt School sits down with our hosts to discuss the Supply Chain Due Diligence Law enacted by the German Bundestag in June, 2021. She discusses the ramifications of this major new law for human rights and environmental obligations and the controversy surrounding it.

[Read more...](#)

Brandt School in Action

EIPCC graduate centre meets for two-day retreat in Weimar



PhD candidates, Postdocs and professors from the EIPCC graduate centre met in Weimar at the end of October for the first annual EIPCC Retreat – two days spent getting to know each other, sharing individual PhD experiences and success strategies, discussing academic writing, work-life balance and the way forward for our graduate centre.

[Read more...](#)

Joint Course of Brandt School and Leipzig University

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy and Leipzig University kick off a joint course on Informal Politics in Fragile States: Between Corruption and Stability as part of the Conflict Studies and Management Programme. To discuss the theories and case studies on Informal Politics, the introductory session took place on 13th November 2021 at Leipzig University.

[Read more...](#)

Alumni Stories

Alumna Florencia Aguirre (MPP 2016-2018) on digital governance



In this interview, Florencia shares how studying at the Brandt School impacted her, the trajectory her professional life has taken and her views on the challenges and possibilities of digital governance. She also offers some insights for MPP students interested in pursuing a career in digital governance.

[Read more...](#)

Meet the Brandt School

Meet Fritz Thyssen Postdoctoral Fellow Bret McEvoy



In this interview from October, the Bulletin spoke to Bret McEvoy a Fritz Thyssen Postdoctoral Fellow at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. He speaks candidly about how he ended up in the fields of gender, race, international law and international relations and how he sees these fields intersecting. He also shares why he thought the ‘where local meets global’ worldview of the Willy Brandt School would help him further develop his worldview.

[Read more...](#)

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