



Brandt School Newsletter:
Issue 05/2022

**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Willy Brandt School
of Public Policy

Dear Friends of the Brandt School,

This summer has been a reminder of the tremendous policy challenges we are facing. Droughts across the world are driving home the threat of climate change. Energy price swings risk throwing a lifeline to fossil fuels and slowing down the low carbon transition. And the Ukraine war highlights deep rifts between Western nations and the non-OECD world. These issues also shaped our activities at the Brandt School, our public events and our media work.

As we are gearing up for the new academic year, we are glad to welcome Dr. Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala to the School, incoming Head of our Conflict Studies and Management specialization. We look forward to her leadership in driving the school's research and teaching agenda in this field.

Moreover, the School will be home to a new research project exploring the future of work in middle-income countries, led by Professor Achim Kemmerling. Funded by the German Research Council, the project highlights the excellent position of the Brandt School in policy research on the Global South.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Professor Mariana Llanos and Tak Yan Law on the prestigious prizes they have been awarded, both of which are recognition of our work at the school.

Enjoy the Indian summer,

Professor Andreas Goldthau
Director of the Brandt School

Spotlight

Well done: Commitment Award presented to three student projects



Once again, the Brandt School and the Engagementpreis-Stiftung, celebrated the most promising social entrepreneurs when handing out this year's Commitment Award. The aim of the Commitment Award is to provide start-up funding for sustainable ideas and social projects. At the same time, former students and alumni of the Brandt School can take the initiative to show how they are applying the knowledge they have acquired during their master's programme. A total of eight projects were in the running this time, and the Commitment Awards 2022 for outstanding social and sustainable project ideas all over the world went to three empowering projects in India, Nigeria, and Ghana on July 7, 2022, at the Collegium Maius in Erfurt. [Read more...](#)

Insights

Jewell-Loewenberg Prize for Professor Mariana Llanos



For their contribution "Oversight or Representation? Public Opinion and Impeachment Resolutions in Argentina and Brazil," Mariana Llanos, Professor of Democratic Institutions in the Global South at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt, and Aníbal Pérez Liñán of the University of Notre Dame (USA) will receive the 2022 Jewell-Loewenberg Prize in the section Legislative Studies/Comparative Politics. The prestigious prize is awarded by the American Political Science Association (APSA). [Read more...](#)

PRO and CONTRA: renewals of nuclear power plant running times

Professor Gerhard Wegner from the Faculty of Economics, Law and Social Sciences and Professor Andreas Goldthau from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy kick off "PRO and CONTRA", the university's new outlet on pertinent contemporary questions in politics, society, and economics. In their statements they explain why the lifetime of nuclear power plants in Germany should be extended – and why not. [Read more...](#)

How to design EU-level contingency plans for gas shortages?

In the latest edition of DIW's policy brief series "Politikberatung kompakt", Karsten Neuhoff, Isabella Weber, Kacper Szulecki, and Andreas Goldthau outline several policy recommendations for the EU gas market, in light of the looming gas shortages due to the tensions with Russia. [Read more...](#)

How will a potential gas import disturbance affect Germany?

In several recent interviews with media news outlets, Prof. Andreas Goldthau provides comments on Germany's energy import future and the effects of interruptions in Russia's natural gas export [Read more...](#)

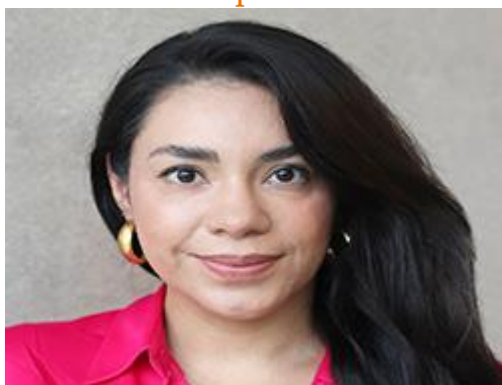
Does industry drive green politics?

In their recently published research paper titled "Does green growth foster green policies? Value chain upgrading and feedback mechanisms on renewable energy policies", Laima Eicke and Silvia Weko analyze how a country's involvement in the renewable energy industry can drive policy ambition.

[Read more...](#)

Updates

New leadership for conflict studies & management at the Brandt School



The Brandt School welcomes Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala, PhD, as new head of the Conflict Studies and Management specialization. Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala is a political scientist from Colombia and brings a lot of experience from the field of Conflict Studies & Management. She is part of the Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil Wars as a Civil War Paths Fellow, at the University of Sheffield. Member of the Centre of Global Migrations at the University of Otago, New Zealand and research affiliate in The Political Economy and Transnational Governance (PETGOV) at the University of Amsterdam. [Read more...](#)

New research project on the political consequences of digitalization on the labor market in emerging economies

Over the next three years, the German Research Foundation (DFG) will provide approximately 700,000 euros to support the research project "Politics and the Future of Work in Middle-Income Countries (PolDigWork). How Hopes and Fears about Digitalization Shape Opinions on Social and Labour Policies" at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt. It is led by Prof. Dr. Achim Kemmerling, holder of the Gerhard Haniel Professorship for Public Policy and International Development and examines the social and political impact of digitalization and automation on labor markets in the countries of Mexico, Indonesia and South Africa. [Read more...](#)

Brandt School starts Erasmus partnership with the Central European University in Vienna

The Brandt School is proud to announce an Erasmus exchange programme with the Department of Public Policy (DPP) at the Central European University (CEU) in Vienna, Austria. The Erasmus partnership with the CEU aims to take the Brandt School's internationalisation efforts further to cultivate a long-term strategic partnership with the DPP. [Read more...](#)

DAAD Prize for Tak Yan Law

Tak Yan Law was awarded the DAAD Prize for Outstanding Foreign Students this year. The 37-year-old has been studying for a Master of Public Policy at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt since 2020 and impressed the jury not only with her academic achievements in her studies, but also with her social commitment. [Read more...](#)

The Bulletin

Countering the stray dog crisis in Pakistan



Using the Pakistani province of Sindh as a jumping off point Fatima Farooq Murawat explores how local and provincial governments can reign in a stray dog crisis. How does a crisis of too many stray dogs harm humans and the dogs themselves? What methods offer the most cost-effective solution to reducing stray dog populations? [Read more...](#)

The Bulletin Podcast #21: Safeguarding rights and democracy through the EU Digital Service Act

This month we had a discussion with **Dr. Hasnain Bokhari** on the new EU Digital Service Act. We discuss the implications of the Act for tech companies and users in an international context, including taking policy steps for preserving the rights of the user regarding data protection as well as seeing the Act as a tool to safeguard democracies. [Read more...](#)

Integrating animal welfare in the sustainable development agenda

In this piece, rising second year student Fatima Farooq Murawat explores how sustainable development goals have failed to integrate animal welfare concerns and explores the opportunities of incorporating animal welfare into the sustainable development agenda. [Read more...](#)

The Bulletin Podcast #20: The global north and south responses to the Ukraine war

In this episode, we talk with guest, **Dr. Siddharth Tripathi**, about the Ukraine war while focusing on the reactions and responses of the Global North and South, and the privilege of choices. [Read more...](#)

Brandt School in Action

Guest Talk: “Rulers of their own governments” – the evolution of big tech firms



On June 22, 2022, Dr. Cecilia Rikap, permanent lecturer in International Political Economy (IPE) at City, University of London joined the University of Erfurt for her lecture “The co-evolution of corporate and political power under intellectual monopoly capitalism: Exploring the interplay between Big Tech, the US and the Chinese states.” [Read more...](#)

Brandt School welcomes delegates from Cambodian ministries in Erfurt

On June 23, 2022, Prof. Dr. Andreas Goldthau, Director of the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, and Dr. Hasnain Bokhari, project lead for Internationalisation and Digitalisation at the Brandt School, met the high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Cambodia at the Konrad Adenauer office in Erfurt. The agenda of this meeting was to share and discuss the experiences in the field of digitalization and eGovernment. [Read more...](#)

Only for "boys?" No way!

"In five years, we want to have built a brand that makes us the leading gender equality and STEM company in Europe," they say confidently. "We want to reach as many children as possible and be trusted by companies and governments to have a positive impact on society." Listening to Sonia Gonzales and Nicole Oubre you get the feeling: they can do it. Because they are convinced of their idea, because they are incredibly committed and focused. Because they succeed in convincing others of their idea. And because they themselves are "on fire" for the idea of making a contribution to making the world a little better. This is the story of the MINTy Girls, who are now MINTy Education GmbH.

[Read more...](#)

Leadership for the future - Brandt School and partners launch "Transformational Certificate"

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt has just launched the "Transformational Certificate" together with the Hertie School of Governance (Berlin) and the Intersectoral School of Governance (ISoG BW). The program aims to equip professionals in leadership positions with the right tools to successfully master current challenges and to actively shape the future for the better. The first one of three workshops took place in Stuttgart on May 19 and 20, 2022.

[Read more...](#)

Brandt Lecture 2022: The "golden age of multilateralism" has come to an end

On June 14, 2022, Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi, Executive Director of the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), joined the University of Erfurt to give the Brandt Lecture 2022: "After Afghanistan and Ukraine – What About Multilateralism?".

[Read more...](#)

Willy Brandt on the frontlines of the Cold War

Historian Scott Krause shed light on an oft-forgotten aspect of Willy Brandt's life – his time in post-war West Berlin and during the Berlin blockade. One should not reduce Brandt to pacifism and his "New Eastern Policy" only, but also remember him as a fierce advocate for freedom.

[Read more...](#)

Alumni Stories

Stefan Volkman (MPP 2020)



We recently caught up with Stefan Volkman to see what he's been up to since he graduated in 2020, and to have him reflect on his time at the school. He is currently working with KPMG Deutschland as a Public Sector Consultant.

[Read more...](#)

Meet the Brandt School

Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala



Dr. Alejandra Ortiz-Ayala is the newest member of the faculty at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. She will be heading the conflict and conflict management specialization, while continuing her own research. The Bulletin, wanting to get to know the newest addition to our school, sat down with her for an interview.

[Read more...](#)

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Universität Erfurt

Nordhäuser Straße 63

99089 Erfurt