

Dear friends of the Brandt School,

The holiday season and the upcoming winter break offer a welcome moment to pause, and reflect on the academic, professional, and personal milestones that have shaped life at the Brandt School over the past year. In this edition, we would like to share selected highlights from 2025 and offer a glimpse of what lies ahead.

The governance of digital transformation and artificial intelligence is one of the defining policy challenges of our time. The Brandt School is, therefore, strengthening its profile in digital policy and artificial intelligence in both research and teaching, also thanks to a new grant. Despite a challenging global environment, our students, faculty, alumni, and partners have continued to engage with some of the most pressing policy questions of our time with curiosity, rigor, and a strong sense of responsibility. Our new Social Innovation Lab, award-winning student activities and the sustained growth of the interdisciplinary Security and Capitalism Research Group testify to that.

This year marked a particularly meaningful moment for our community: with the arrival of our newest cohort, the Brandt School welcomed its **1000th student** since the School's founding. This milestone is both a reason for pride and a reminder of the diverse, global community of policy professionals, alumni, and partners that has grown around the Brandt School over the years.

Lastly: the **application period for the 2026 intake of our Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme will open on January 01, 2026**. We would be grateful if you would share this information within your networks and encourage prospective applicants to learn more about the programme.

On behalf of the entire Brandt School team, I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support. I wish you a peaceful holiday season, a restorative winter break, and a wonderful start into 2026.

Warm regards,

Professor Andreas C. Goldthau
Director
Willy Brandt School of Public Policy

Spotlight

Advancing AI governance and digital policy in teaching and research



The Brandt School is fully embracing the digital transformation and artificial intelligence agenda in research and teaching. A new specialization on **[Digital Policy and Artificial Intelligence](#)** will equip Master of Public Policy students with key skills surrounding AI governance, data regulation, platform oversight, digital inclusion, and the societal implications of emerging technologies.

Underpinning this agenda, the new **[KI-TuProL](#)** project, funded by the eTeach Network Thuringia and implemented by Dr Hasnain Bokhari, head of the new specialization, focuses on responsible AI use in project-based learning and aims to strengthen students' AI literacy through an adaptive digital tutor. This way, the Brandt School is combining cutting-edge research, programme development, and innovative teaching to prepare future policy professionals for the governance challenges of the digital age.

Insights



New study investigates AI's impact on labor

International organizations subscribe to a tech-entrepreneur view of new technology and how it influences the future of work, Professor Achim Kemmerling and Dr. Gift Mwonzora find in a new article published in *Global Social Policy*. The study sheds light on how dominant narratives influence policy choices around regulation, jobs and worker support.

[Read more...](#)

Article advocates 'Nexus Thinking' for sustainable fertilizer and supply chain resilience

Fertilisers are critical to the intersection of energy, environment, and food systems, suggests a new study published in *One Earth*. As argued by Professor Andreas C. Goldthau, Professor Margarita M. Balmaceda (Harvard) and Professor Rainer Quitzow (Research Institute for Sustainability), decarbonising fertiliser production by using renewable energy-based methods such as green ammonia could reduce dependency on fossil fuels but have greater short-term costs.

[Read more...](#)

Jakarta expert workshop reveals socio-economic consequences of new technology in the Indonesian work sector

A new working paper from the PolDigWork project by Prof. Dr. Achim Kemmerling and Viddy Ranawijaya explores socio-economic and policy perspectives on work transformation in Indonesia. Based on a 2024 expert workshop, the paper discusses digitalisation, stakeholder views, and policy implications for the future of work.

[Read more...](#)

The Brandt School updates its MPP curriculum starting October 2026

The MPP programme will have an updated curriculum starting October 2026. The revised structure strengthens methodological training, deepens thematic specializations, and further integrates practice-oriented learning, ensuring that graduates are well equipped to address complex policy challenges in a rapidly changing global environment.



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Brandt School in Action

Social Innovation Lab provides collaborative space for SDG stakeholder dialogue and co-creation



The latest edition of the Brandt School Social Innovation Lab provided a collaborative space where diverse stakeholders—from academia, business, government, and civil society—came together to assess students' social impact projects and co-create solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Led by Prof. Dr. Heike Grimm, head of the [Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management specialization](#), the lab serves as an incubator for social ventures, fostering collaboration, mentorship, and exposure to funding opportunities. The event showcased the power of social innovation in addressing critical societal challenges and highlighted the potential of young innovators to drive meaningful change.

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Brandt School hosts dialogue on transatlantic relations and media landscapes with the RIAS Berlin commission

The Brandt School of Public Policy welcomed the RIAS Berlin Commission for an engaging exchange on transatlantic relations and the evolving media landscape. Students from the U.S. and the Brandt School discussed challenges such as political polarization, media trust, and the future of international cooperation. While concerns remain, participants agreed on one key message: strong, local journalism and open dialogue are essential for democratic resilience.

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MPP Students win Melton Foundation's Global Solvers Accelerator award

MPP students Idowu Adeyemi and Waseem Chandio are campaigning for greater justice and sustainable prosperity in countries of the Global South. At a project presentation as part of the "Global Solvers Accelerator" programme, they were selected as one of the top three by the Melton Foundation. Winning the award means additional funding and advisory support for their projects.

[Read more...](#)

Brandt School hosts dialogue on peace education and the prevention of violent conflicts

The Brandt School welcomed students and guests for an exciting discussion on peace education and the prevention of violent conflicts. The session was organized as part of an open lecture series led by Dr. Alejandra del Pilar Ortiz-Ayala with experts from the field. The event brought together two complementary perspectives: Prof. Markus Schultze-Kraft, who brought an academic lens from his work in political science at the Berlin School of Economics and Law, and Tessa Schindler, who shared practical insights from her experience as a Project Officer at the Berghof Foundation. Their presentations invited the audience to explore how memory, education, and digital resilience intersect in conflict and post-conflict societies from Colombia to Germany.

[Read more...](#)

Brandt School students contribute to Thuringia's Open Government Data Strategy through policy capstone

The student-led pro bono consultancy on "Open Government Data," mentored by Dr. Hasnain Bokhari, is currently preparing policy recommendations for Digitalagentur GmbH Thüringen, with a focus on the regulatory, technical, and strategic dimensions essential to shaping a robust, future-oriented open data framework for the state.

[Read more...](#)

The Bulletin



From protection to paralysis: Rethinking the WHO Safeguards List

In this interview, Brand School alumna explores how the World Health Organization Safeguards List, designed to protect fragile health systems, can leave skilled health professionals underemployed in Ghana, wasting talent that could address global health shortages.

[Read more...](#)

Making memory move: Filmmaking, justice & Bosnia

MPP student Nour Alwan reflects on the Brandt School field course in Bosnia. She showcases how documentary filmmaking can help students engage with memory, justice, and reconciliation, highlighting storytelling as a tool for social reflection.

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Germany's hydrogen future & industrial decarbonization

In this blog, MPP students Jenna Fabris, Aboli Ghodekar, and Aygul Djumanazarova report on the Brandt School's Berlin study trip. They explain how hydrogen and international collaboration are shaping Germany's industrial decarbonization, offering lessons for sustainable energy transitions.

[Read more...](#)

[Meet the Brandt School](#)



Geoeconomics research: Madeleine Böhm & Jan Ickler

The Brandt School and the Faculty of Economics, Law, and Social Sciences at the University of Erfurt are pleased to welcome Madeleine Böhm and Jan Ickler to two important new research initiatives exploring the future of the global economic order as part of the [research group on Security and Capitalism](#).

[Read more...](#)

Welcome Dr. Thiago Pezzuto!

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Thiago Pezzuto to the Brandt School! He joins us on the "Academic Freedom Fellowship" - a new programme to support international early-stage researchers whose academic freedom has been threatened or violated.

[Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

Brandt Lecture 2026 with Jennifer Morgan

The Brandt School warmly invites you to join for the Brandt Lecture 2026 on **22 January 2026** featuring Jennifer Morgan, Senior Fellow at the Fletcher School and former State Secretary for International Climate Action. Our guest lecturer will share insights from her decades of leadership in climate diplomacy and global policy and discuss lessons and ways forward for climate foreign policy in times of geopolitical disruption.

[Read more...](#)

State-business relations in comparative perspective workshop

From 22–24 April 2026, the Erfurt Research Center for Geoeconomics and Doctoral programme "De-Globalisation and Global Decoupling" (DeGlobE) will host a workshop on State-Business Relations, bringing together early-career scholars to discuss how geopolitical tensions, economic interventionism, and shifting markets are reshaping the political economy. Participants will explore theories, methods, and empirical insights into how states and business actors interact in today's fragmented global landscape.

Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from different area backgrounds and research communities are invited to present and discuss their work on state-business relations in times of global economic fragmentation.

[Read more...](#)



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