



Brandt School Newsletter:  
Issue 08/2023

**UNIVERSITÄT  
ERFURT**

Willy Brandt School  
of Public Policy

Dear Friends of the Brandt School,

Much has happened over the summer break. We proudly welcomed Dr Guntram Wolff, CEO of the German Council on Foreign Relations, as newly minted honorary professor at the Brandt School. Professor Wolff will enrich our community with his expertise on the political economy of climate change as of this winter term and open the new academic year with the traditional Welcome Lecture. Also, the Brandt School moved into its new home - the shiny *Weltbeziehungen* building, which we are looking forward to officially open on October 18. Make sure you'll join us for the ceremonial inauguration, where I'll sit down with colleagues Cornelia Betsch, Julia Knop, Hartmut Rosa and Jürgen Martschukat to explore what 'world relations' means during times of global polycrises. Finally, we are thrilled to meet the incoming MPP class of 2023-25, a handpicked bunch of early to mid-career professionals from all continents. I am grateful to the student government for running their Buddy Program which will enable the new batch the best possible arrival and start new friendships from day one.

Enjoy the remaining summer days and stay in touch!

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

## Spotlight

### Farewell to the Class of 2021-23



The Brandt School said farewell to 56 students of the Master of Public Policy class of 2021-2023. In the words of director Andreas Goldthau, they have shown exemplary dedication and commitment to their studies and are now poised to go for promising careers in public service and governance.

[Read more...](#)

## Insights

### Does Greener Energy Mean More Peace in the World? New Study by Andreas Goldthau and Colleagues Assesses the Geopolitics of Renewables



In a new study published in the Nature Portfolio Journal "Climate Action," Professor Andreas Goldthau, Juergen Brownstein and Konstantin Veit use global investment data to empirically test if renewables enhance international peace. [Read more...](#)

### New Study Exemplifies What African Countries Could Teach the Global North About One Health During the Pandemics

Cases of entrepreneurial and exemplary implementation of the intersectoral and bottom-up One Health policy in Africa can be a chance for the Global North to enhance pandemic preparedness under a changing climate, argue Professor Heike Grimm and colleagues in a new article published in the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis. [Read more...](#)

### A New Study Examines How Chile Can Improve Its Position in Renewable Energy Technology Value Chains

In a new study published in the journal Energy for Sustainable Development, Professor Andreas Goldthau and EIPCC researchers Laima Eicke and Silvia Weko, together with other researchers, identify key levers to transform Chile from a resource exporter to a champion in research and development.

[Read more...](#)

## Updates

### Welcome, Professor Guntram Wolff!



The University of Erfurt welcomes a new face to campus: Dr Guntram Wolff has been appointed Honorary Professor by the President on the initiative of the Faculty of Economics, Law and Social Sciences and the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. [Read more...](#)

## Ceremonial Inauguration of the “Weltbeziehungen” Building on October 18

After three years of construction, the University of Erfurt invites you to the ceremonial inauguration of its "Weltbeziehungen" building, the new home of the Brandt School, on Wednesday, October 18, from 12 noon. You may still register for the event. [Read more...](#)

## Fellowships for Innovation in Digital University Teaching Awarded to Dr. Bokhari

Brandt School lecturer Dr Hasnain Bokhari won a "Fellowships for Innovation in Digital University Teaching 2023," awarded by the Thuringian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Science, and Digital Society (TMWWDG) together with the Stifterverband. The jury recommended a total of seven applications for funding, including two from the University of Erfurt. [Read more...](#)

## Launch of Academic Partnership with INPUMA at Inaugural Event

The Brandt School and the International Institute of Public Policy and Management at the University of Malaya formally launched their academic partnership in an online inaugural event on May 3. The partnership aims to foster student, faculty, and research exchange between the two institutions.

[Read more...](#)

## Project “Everyday Practical Peacebuilding” wins grant of the European Solidarity Corps

Brandt School students from the MPP “Conflict Studies and Management” Specialization won a European Solidarity Corps grant of 9.708,00 € and will use it for local peacebuilding initiatives in Thuringia. [Read more...](#)

## The Bulletin

### To What Extent Does the New U.S. Cybersecurity Strategy Prioritize Protecting the Individual Online?



The U.S. recently rolled out its latest National Cybersecurity Strategy, a much-anticipated update to the last one published in 2018. The COVID-19 pandemic rapidly accelerated the adoption of digital technologies whilst cyberattacks increased. Within a changing threat landscape, individual users end up being those most directly affected. As governments like the U.S. publish updated national cyber

strategies, Molly Hall raises the question to what extent the individual citizen is prioritized in the policies to ensure a safe online existence. [Read more...](#)

### [Syria's Return to the Arab League: Exploring the Voluntary Safe Return and the Fate of Syrian Refugees](#)

On May 7, 2023, an extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers from the Arab League countries resulted in a unanimous decision to resume Syrian participation. With this decision, it is necessary to now discuss the challenges and prospects of voluntary safe return for Syrian refugees and shed light on the complex situation and consequences faced by displaced Syrians, writes Fouad Leboukh. [Read more...](#)

### [Regaining Our Wasted Time - Policy Solution to the Notorious Bangkok Traffic](#)

What can you do with 8 days in a year? Go on a vacation, spend time with your family, and complete all seasons of a TV series? As a person from Bangkok, that is the amount of time one would spend being stuck in traffic in a year on average. Time loss is just one of the aspects of the troubles created by traffic congestion. The problem extends to health implications and environmental issues due to the emissions cars produce, argues Neha Singh. [Read more...](#)

### [Indonesian Ultra Micro Funding Program Addresses Gender Finance Inequalities](#)

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a vital role in driving economic growth and stability in numerous countries, and Indonesia is no exception. As of 2021, not only do MSMEs contribute 60.5% to Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but also 97% of Indonesian employment was covered under this sector. Yet, as Novita Andari analyses, when we delve deeper into the composition of MSMEs in Indonesia, the sector is far from perfect.

[Read more...](#)

### [Five Talks, Two Cities, and Abounding Rain: 'Politics of the Global Energy Transition' Class Goes on Tour](#)

The 'Politics of the Global Energy Transition' class ventured to Potsdam and Berlin for a study tour. The intense rain combined with the exceptional June heat that week consolidated the urgency of the work in decarbonisation that we Brandt School students were to learn about. So, we huddled under umbrellas to meet Professor Goldthau, who introduced us to the policy experts at the Research Institute for Sustainability and at Agora Industry who would share their findings with us on the energy transition. [Read more...](#)

## Let's Talk About Sex: Prioritising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Education Among Adolescent Girls in Kenya

Early childhood pregnancy and increased rates of sexual infection among adolescent girls continues to be a major public health concern in Kenya. The low uptake of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services has been one of the dominant causes. Compounding issues such as negative attitudes and stigma directed towards adolescent girls perceived to be engaging in sexual activities also deter them from seeking any help for fear of social ostracization and isolation. Tracy Shimoli calls on the Ministry of Health (MoH) to tackle the info-/misinformation gap among adolescent girls and subsequently mitigate the risks brought about by risky sexual behaviours.

[Read more...](#)

## Brandt School in Action

### Brandt School's Welcome Lecture 2023



The traditional Welcome Lecture will start the new academic year at the Brandt School and welcome the new cohort of Master of Public Policy students. This year's speaker is the Brandt School's new Honorary Professor Dr Guntram Wolff.

[Read more...](#)

### Commitment Award 2023: "And the Winner Is..."

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt and the "Engagementpreis Stiftung" once again presented the Commitment Award. Five projects were nominated – now the winners have been awarded.

[Read more...](#)

### Brandt School Welcomes Asian Delegates From Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians

On June 8, 2023, Dr Hasnain Bokhari, the project lead on Internationalization and Digitalization at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, and Ms Lena Kiesewetter, Managing Director of Brandt School, warmly welcomed a delegation of young political leaders from Asia to the University of Erfurt's campus. They discussed the crucial role of evidence-based policy making and explored ways of bridging the gap between the scientific community and the policy sector.

[Read more...](#)

### From NGO to Social Business - The Case of Kiron Open Higher Education

Dr Tobias Ernst, managing director of Kiron Open Higher Education, took the Social Entrepreneurship students on a journey through the various development phases of Kiron, from an NGO to a self-sustaining social business,

and explained why updates to one's theory of change and regular impact analyses are so important for social entrepreneurs. [Read more...](#)

### Does ChatGPT Change Academic Practices and Assignments?

In a half-day workshop, Brandt School staff and colleagues discussed ChatGPT and its impacts on higher education and academic practices. The workshop facilitated the development of a baseline policy on the use of ChatGPT and AI in teaching and written assignments. [Read more...](#)

## Alumni Stories

### The Bulletin Interviews: Raphael Robiatti, MPP Graduate of 2015



Raphael Robiatti is a 2015 graduate of the Brandt School, working as a Senior Consultant at Deloitte in Frankfurt. His previous experience is mostly in the public sector in Germany and Brazil, and in Multilateral Organizations.

In this interview with The Bulletin, he shares details about his job and his insights on how the Brandt School influenced his career, as well as some inspirational advice for current MPP students. [Read more...](#)

## Meet the Brandt School

### From Kharkiv to Erfurt: The Story of an Impressive Young Woman



War in Europe? Right on her doorstep? Second year MPP student Valeriia Ziziukina could not have imagined that before. "Sure, there was always a certain threat from Russia, which did not want to recognise Ukraine as a sovereign state, but I never believed that Putin would go that far," says the now 23-year-old. And then they came: the bombs, the destruction, the hatred, the violence. The "front" was suddenly only 80 kilometres away from her bedroom. What all this has to do with the University of Erfurt will be told here... [Read more...](#)



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