

Young Scholars' Workshop

***State-Business Relations and Geoeconomics:
Theories, Methods, and Comparative Perspectives***

22nd – 24th of April 2026

University of Erfurt, Germany

In an era of geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and new forms of economic interventionism, relations between states and business actors are undergoing a profound transformation. Governments across the world increasingly rely on industrial policies, infrastructure investments, and economic statecraft to secure strategic goals. At the same time, corporate elites, individual firms, and business associations adapt their strategies to shifting political and economic environments.

How do these mutual adjustments reshape the political economy of different world regions? What conceptual and methodological tools are best suited to capture these dynamics?

We invite doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from different area backgrounds and research communities to present and discuss their work in an open setting. The event aims to bring together early-career scholars from political science, international political economy, sociology, and related disciplines to exchange theoretical and methodological approaches. We want to discuss these topics from a cross-area perspective and connect different empirical insights from a diverse set of cases.

We welcome paper proposals that explore state-business relations in times of global economic fragmentation from multiple perspectives. Contributions may be conceptual, methodological, or empirical. We particularly encourage submissions that engage with one or more of the following thematic foci:

1. (Relative) State Autonomy and the Theory of State-Business Relationships
2. Economic Statecraft and Geoeconomics
3. Industrial Policy and the Reorganization of Production
4. Infrastructures and the Material Politics of Connectivity

Format and Submission:

Participants will circulate a written paper in advance to allow for in-depth discussion and peer feedback during the workshop.

Please send your abstract (max. 250 words) and a short bio (max. 100 words) to the organizer of the workshop Jan Ickler, Jan.Ickler@uni-erfurt.de by the 10th of January, 2026.

Accepted participants will be notified by the 20th of January 2026. Travel grants and accommodation will be granted according to university and funding guidelines.

For more Information, see:

www.uni-erfurt.de/to/state-business2026

Research Group Security and Capitalism

Prof. Dr. Andreas Goldthau · Prof. Dr. Oliver Kessler · Prof. Dr. Sophia Hoffmann · Prof. Dr. Michael Riegner



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