

Ilyas Saliba

Work Experience

GPPi – Global Public Policy Institute – since May 2019

Research Fellow working on Human Rights and Democracy (research leave since Sep 2021)

- Contributing to the GPPi's project to measure academic freedom and presenting the research results at international conferences and at the task force of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Responsible for a project on democracy promotion with the German Federal Foreign Office
- Responsible for a project with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation on regional security cooperation of young professionals from think tanks, NGOs and research in the MENA-Region
- Op-eds and interviews on developments related to academic freedom, human rights and democracy

WZB – Berlin Social Science Center – Jan 2013–Mar 2022

Research Fellow in the research unit Democracy and Democratization

- Presenting research results at international conferences in English, German and French
- Managing research assistants coding and compiling the protest event dataset
- Commenting on current political developments in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Syria in policy briefs, radio interviews, blogs and newspapers in German and English
- Organized workshops on alternative Foreign Policy approaches towards the Arab World in Berlin
- Editor in chief at the WZB Democracy Blog
- Hosting and producing the WZB Democracy Podcast
- Creating and managing social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook

Amnesty International Germany – Jan 2018–May 2019

Middle East and North Africa Coordinator

- Monitoring and analyzing the ongoing political developments and Human Rights situations in close collaboration with Human Rights Defenders across the MENA Region
- Drafting and implementing AI's MENA Advocacy and Campaigning efforts in Germany
- Managing and guiding interns on Human Rights advocacy issues
- Communicating and sharing Amnesty's findings and recommendations with various stakeholders in Berlin (Bundestag, Federal Ministries and NGOs)

CSS - Center for Security Studies, Zuerich, Jul–Oct 2012 + Nov–Dec 2016

Research Assistant in project: Securitization of the Public Sphere

- Conducted and analyzed expert and stakeholder interviews with security services, administration, civil society and elected officials in Switzerland and in Morocco (in French, German and English)

SWP - German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Mar–Jun 2011

Intern at the research division for international security

- Analyzing EU crisis management institutions and compiling a dataset on EU military cooperation

Research and Education

Humboldt University, Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences, Berlin, since 2013

Ph.D. Candidate, Supervisors: Wolfgang Merkel (HU Berlin and WZB) and Donatella Della Porta (EUI)

Thesis: Impact of sequence and elite perceptions on authoritarian learning during the Arab Uprisings.
 Fieldwork-based qualitative data collection through actor-interviews in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia
 Managing local research assistants in the field during missions to Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco
 Collecting original quantitative protest event and repression data from coding Arab newspapers

Research and Fieldwork stays:

Oxford University, Nuffield College, Oct-Dec 2016

EGE – Ecole de Gouvernance et d’Economie de Rabat, Aug-Dec 2015 and Apr-Jun 2016

NVIC – Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo, Jan-Apr 2016

AUC – American University in Cairo, Department for Political Science, Feb-Jul 2015

EUI – European University Institute in Florence, Department for Political Science, Aug-Dec 2014

M.A. Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zuerich and University of Zuerich, 2011–2013

Thesis: Authoritarian Resilience in Moments of Contestation: Morocco during the Uprising.
 Co-teaching seminar on contemporary conflicts to Swiss army officers

B.A. Political Science, University of Hamburg, 2007–2011

Thesis: EU Foreign Policy towards Libya.

Semester abroad at University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies, Aug 2009–Jan 2010

Skills, Scholarships and Languages

Strategic communication, public relations and outreach through Podcasts, Blogs and Social Media

Info-graphics, visualization and story telling, photography and post production

Statistical analysis with Excel, STATA and SPSS

Qualitative interview and text analysis with MaxQDA

Moderation of discussions, workshop design and teaching didactics

Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, scholarship Oct 2010– Oct 2013 and Jul 2016– Jul 2019

Studienkolleg zu Berlin, Fellow Sep 2012– Oct 2013

German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Arabic (basic), Dutch (basic), Spanish (basic)

Involvement and Engagement

Member of Scholars At Risk’s European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy Short-term election observer for the OSCE during the Belarussian parliamentary elections 2019 Chairperson of Netzwerk Europa, an initiative aimed to enhance European dialogue on political issues Mentor at Academics in Solidarity – a peer-to-peer mentoring program supporting refugee scholars Doctoral representative at the Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences at Humboldt University Member of selection committee at the German academic council (Studienstiftung)

Waterpolo as a competitive sport since 2010 with SV Poseidon Hamburg, SC Winterthur, SC Wedding

Selected Publications

University Autonomy Decline: Causes, Responses, and Implications for Academic Freedom, with Kirsten L. Roberts and Janika Spannagel Summer 2022, Routledge.

Global data on the freedom indispensable for scientific research: towards a reconciliation of academic reputation and academic freedom, with Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel, in: *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 2021.

Safer Field research in the Social Sciences. A Guide to Human and Digital Security in Hostile Environments, with Jannis Grimm; Kevin Koehler; Ellen Lust and Isabell Schierenbeck, 2020, Sage.

The Academic Freedom Index and Other New Indicators Relating to Academic Space: An Introduction, with Katrin Kinzelbach and Janika Spannagel, in: *V-Dem Users Working Paper Series*, 2020, number 26.

COVID-19: field research needs to find a way back fast after the pandemic, *The Conversation* (11.05.2021)

Academic Freedom in Egypt. 2020, in: *Researching Academic Freedom. Guidelines and Sample Case Studies*, edited by Katrin Kinzelbach, FAU University Press.

Deutschland sollte Tunesien unterstützen, with Mariam Salehi in *FR* (28.10.2019) – German only

No Rivals to the King. Limits to Political Reform in Morocco's 'Enlightened Authoritarianism' with Isabelle Werenfels *SWP–Aktuell*, no 25, May 2017

Brandbeschleuniger Grossmachtspolitik, with Jan Wilkens in *FAZ* (22.04.2017) – German only

Change or charade? Morocco's constitutional reform process in 2011, in: *ORIENT German Journal for Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East*, 2016, vol. 3, pp. 50–55.

False solidarity. Military adventures in Syria are no solution, with Jannis Grimm in *IPG* (18.12.2015)

Germany is the perfect mediator in Syria in *die Zeit* (16.01.2014) – German only

Last updated: March 23, 2022