Abstracts

Global commons are common-pool resources in spaces beyond national jurisdiction: the oceans and the seabed, the atmosphere, outer space, and the polar regions. Whereas previous research on global commons governance has focused on the effectiveness of regulatory instruments governing sustainable resource use, less is known about their (non-)emergence and their dynamics. In this article we argue that the territorialization of the global commons, i.e. their parcelization and control by states, has changed over time. It used to be commonplace that states could make sovereign claims over parts of a commons, but since the mid-20th century, we see an evolution in international norms that has limited territorialization to merely granting functional, not sovereign rights. Comparing 13 cases across the five domains of the global commons, we find that processes of deterritorialization and reterritorialization are driven by technological innovation and the resource and security rivalries that this generates.

Keywords: Global Commons, territory, oceans, outer space, (ant)arctic

Despite the successful implementation of the 1.5-degree climate target in Paris 2015, the failure of international climate regimes to implement concrete mitigation measures becomes increasingly apparent. The severe effects of a changing climate on the ecosystem and people's livelihood make it a growing concern – amongst others – for the military. Consequently, armed forces perceive climate change as a risk to national and international security. The linked management strategies aim at the two dimensions of such (climate) risk: On the one hand, preventive measures are taken by "greening" the military to mitigate the greenhouse effect. On the other hand, in precautionary risk management, armed forces enhance the capabilities of societies to cope with climate impacts. Nevertheless, due to the global scope of such climate effects, managing these risks on a national level is limited. Therefore,

armed forces must incorporate civil-military cooperation on a transnational level to generate a resilient strategic approach.

Benjamin Daßler/Bernhard Zangl/Hilde van Meegdenburg
Compassion and aid fatigue in humanitarian crises: About the effect of excessive media consumption

Drawing on social psychological theories of compassion fatigue, this paper develops a new research perspective that looks at the connection between excessive consumption of political media content on the one hand and compassion and aid fatigue on the other. The thesis is that media consumption that goes hand in hand with excessive confrontation with human suffering of others can lead to emotional deadening. Therefore, a less intensive but at the same time frequent media consumption contributes to the fact that citizens only feel limited compassion for and readiness to help the victims in humanitarian crises, among other things. They support their state's humanitarian aid and intervention measures to alleviate human suffering much less than citizens whose media consumption is less frequent or more intensive. This thesis of media-induced compassion and aid fatigue in humanitarian crises is developed theoretically in this article and empirically plausibilised based on data from a survey. This opens a new research perspective for the analysis of humanitarian aid policies of modern democracies (as well as their foreign policy in general).

Sebastian Harnisch/Gordon M. Friedrichs
The Polarized States of America and the Politics of International Order

Not only since Donald Trump's presidency and foreign policy have there been good reasons to suspect that the contestation of domestic order in the U.S. can vary over time to such an extent that its (temporary) illiberality can undermine the stability of a liberal international order. The works discussed in this literature review point to a shift in formal and informal institutions and their interaction in the U.S. (foreign) policy process. Monographs and edited volumes that address the domestic politics of U.S. foreign policy are targeted, and which examine U.S. policy to determine the extent to which the Trump administration's partisan polarization and populist foreign policy are changing relations with key partners and adversaries in two key world regions (Europe and Asia). The literature review offers initial building blocks

for a research program that systematically links domestic policy changes in the U.S. to the role of the U.S. vis-à-vis other states and non-state actors.

Daniel Lambach
Social Media and the Digital Transformation of Statehood

Digitalization is transforming the state and social media is an important aspect of this. First, in representational terms, imageries and narratives of statehood are intersubjectively negotiated there. Second, social media are a field of action for state agents, although the organizational heterogeneity of the state imposes constraints on its capability to communicate coherently in online spaces. Nevertheless, social media offer opportunities to adapt and expand state repertoires of action. This article illustrates this proposition with two examples: digital diplomacy and information warfare. In both cases, traditional state practices are evolving and changing without being revolutionized. In this vein, the article argues that we need to pay close attention to social media when analyzing the digital transformation of the state.

Matthias Ecker-Ehrhardt
May we have your likes, please? International Organizations, Social Media and the Aporias of Digital Public Communication

International organizations (IOs) have massively increased their use of social media in recent years. This trend is associated with far-reaching hopes, ranging from enhanced transparency and more effective advocacy to public (self-)legitimization of international governance. But how do IOs actually deal with the new opportunities of social media? This article argues that social media sets a number of problematic incentives for IO public communication. These condition new aporias and reinforce old ones, thus defining a significant demand for research in International Relations (IB). The article illustrates this with regard to five aporias: the acceleration of IO public communication, the increased selectivity of public communication, a personalization of communication through the increased public presence of leadership, the problematic emotionalization in the context of advocacy campaigns, and the problem of massive fragmentation and ideological polarization of audiences.

Alexandra Goritz/Helge Jörgens/Nina Kolleck
International Negotiations on Twitter?
Opportunities and Challenges of Using Twitter Data in International Relations
zib, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 139-151

Twitter has become an important object of study and an interesting data source for many disciplines. However, researchers of transnational and International Relations (IR) have been hesitant to study the interaction on the platform and to adopt the new data source. Among the various online social networks, Twitter is used most intensively by political actors. This is mainly due to its accessibility, publicity, and fast-paced nature. Twitter creates a digital sphere for public discourse in which different actors across distinct geographies can interact directly with each other and without delay. In this paper, we show how Twitter is used by political actors in the field of international politics, with a special focus on international negotiations. We also discuss the potential opportunities and challenges that arise for IR researchers when using Twitter data.

Keywords: International negotiations, climate policy, social network analysis, Twitter, UNFCCC

Frank A. Stengel
Military Social Media and the Politics of Legitimacy
zib, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 152-166

This article discusses the social media activities of the Bundeswehr, the German Armed Forces, which so far have received only limited attention in the academic literature. The Bundeswehr has an active presence on social media sites, such as Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook, and it uses it both to inform the public and for recruitment purposes. The article argues that scholars should pay more attention to social media as a significant site where struggles over how to interpret reality play out. To that end, it provides a brief summary of research on social media in Critical Military Studies. Following that, the article provides an overview of the Bundeswehr's activities on social media and illustrates how the specific way the Bundeswehr presents itself on social media might contribute not just to its legitimacy as a governmental institution but also to the legitimacy of its activities, including military violence.

Keywords: Social media, military, Germany, antimilitarism, gender, Critical Military Studies

Hande Abay Gaspar/Manjana Sold
Social media and violent non-state actors

Social media have long since become the central environment of violent non-state actors and thus a relevant field of study in international relations (IR). In order to understand the ideas, actions, agenda, and activities of extremist and/or terrorist actors, the study of social media is unavoidable. These provide and enable researchers to gain insights that are not only urgently needed, but cannot be obtained in a comparable way elsewhere. This paper will show how violent actors use social media in various ways, such as to spread their ideologies, to recruit, to communicate, to plan attacks, or even to display them. Using examples, the paper argues why social media analysis is urgently needed to study extremist and/or terrorist actors in addition to that in the real world. Additionally, the article provides insight into possible ethical and data protection challenges and opportunities for scientists when conducting research with data from social media.

Andrea Schneiker/Matthias Ecker-Ehrhardt
The Role of Social Media for Civil Society Advocacy: Individualization, Power Shifts, Commercialization?

The discipline of International Relations has only partly dealt with advocacy organizations' use of social media as of to date. While the respective literature generally conceives of the strategies that organizations use as resulting from the particular characteristics of social media it, thus far, has neglected the role of individual users' motivations for civil society advocacy. We argue that it is, however, necessary to consider both the characteristics of social media and the motivations of users in order to get a more comprehensive picture of how advocacy organizations use social media strategically and of related challenges. The strategic use of social media for purposes of advocacy exacerbates already existing trends of individualization, power struggles and shifts, as well as commercialization.