

Highlights

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Dear Friends of the IFHV,



the institute's daily life was heavily affected by COVID-19. From one day to another, teaching went digital and our staff worked from home. We also incorporated COVID-19 into our research. We held a highly stimulating webinar series with *Verfassungsblog*, attended by around 1500 people (see below) and were also productive in many other ways - as this newsletter proves. Stay healthy,
 Pierre Thielbörger, Executive Director IFHV

Regional Human Rights Systems from a Comparative Perspective



The IFHV's **Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger** organized with his team the conference "Regional Human Rights Systems from a Comparative Perspective", held at the Law Department of Florence's European University Institute (EUI) on 12 and 13 December 2019. It brought together international experts, such as **Christian Tomuschat**, **Tim Eicke**, **Martin Scheinin**, **Frans Viljoen**, **Sabrina Ragone** and **David Kinley**, in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of regional human rights systems, the challenges they are facing and the best ways forward. The panels concerned, inter alia, the universality of human rights versus the heterogeneity of political systems, new rights and new concepts in regional human rights jurisprudence, the threat populism poses to these systems, the protection of vulnerable groups as well as the role of businesses and financial institutions in regional

human rights systems. The conference was supported by the EUI, the European Society of International Law as well as the German Ministry of Education.

The COVID-19 Crisis from a German, European and International Perspective

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented constitutional challenges to states worldwide, and to their regional and international cooperation. The **IFHV** and **Verfassungsblog** brought together internationally recognized experts in an online discussion series to reflect on these challenges and ways to address them. The three discussions focused on COVID-19 as a Crisis for German Law and Politics (including with **Christoph Möllers** and **Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger**), COVID-19 as an (existential) crisis for the European Union (including with **Kim Lane Scheppele** and **Christos Stylianides**) as well as COVID-19 as a crisis for human rights and multilateralism (including with **Marco Sassoli**, **Philip Alston**, **Eva Johais** and **Katrin Radtke**).



New Visiting International Professor (VIP) Christos Stylianides

The IFHV was awarded a Visiting International Professor (VIP) fellowship by the RUB Research School Plus and welcomes **Christos Stylianides** for the next two years. Mr. Stylianides was the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management from November 1, 2014 until November 30, 2019. In October of 2014 he was also appointed as the European Union's Ebola Coordinator by the European Council. We are very excited to welcome Mr. Stylianides to the IFHV!



Christos Stylianides

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New Researchers at the IFHV

The IFHV welcomes **Dr. Eva Johais** (Senior Researcher, Social Science), **Lorenz Rubner** (PhD candidate, Thielbörger) as well as **Marius Heimlich** (student assistant). Great to have you with us!



Dr. Eva Johais



Lorenz Rubner



Marius Heimlich

Pierre Thielbörger is new co-editor of the „Journal of International Peace and Organization“

Since January 2020 **Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger** is new co-editor of the peer-reviewed „Journal of International Peace and Organization“ („Die Friedens-Warte“). The journal, founded in 1899 by **Alfred Fried**, is the oldest journal in the German-speaking world for questions of peacekeeping and international organizations. In this position, **Pierre Thielbörger** follows **Christian Tomuschat**. The other two co-editors are **Michael Staack** (Hamburg) and **Andreas von Arnould** (Kiel). In May 2020, **Prof. Thielbörger** has also been named as the Vertrauensdozent (Liaison Professor) for Ruhr-Universität Bochum to the **Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes** (German National Academic Foundation). Its goal is to promote current and future academic excellence together with social responsibility and societal initiative amongst students.

Reviewing the Legality of Bundeswehr Missions

In January **Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger** served as an expert at a hearing in the German Bundestag. He was invited by the parliamentary committee to comment on a possible legislative change of the Federal Constitutional Court Act (BVerfGG) on the establishment of a new procedure to review decisions of the German Parliament on the deployment of the German Armed Forces abroad. His statement discussed in what form Bundeswehr missions already can be reviewed by the Federal Constitutional Court (BVerfG) and the (dis)advantages of extending this judicial control.

Organisational Perspectives on Human Security Standards for Refugees in Germany

The closing event of the interdisciplinary research project „Organisational Perspectives on Human Security Standards for Refugees in Germany“ took place in February. The project, which was carried out at the IFHV, serves to research the accommodation situation of refugees and was funded within the framework of a grant from the **Gerda Henkel Foundation**. Based on the legal and political framework conditions in the field of migration, refugee and asylum, the project examined how local administrations in cooperation with welfare organisations implement (inter)national standards in refugee protection and ensure compliance with them. At the event, a poster presentation was given on current developments in refugee research before the research results were discussed in a panel discussion with participants from practice and research.

Posters for Protected Persons

The IFHV’s **Mais Masadeh** and **Sonja Schäfer** took part in an art competition at the University of Leiden on the topic of ‘Posters for Protected Persons’ in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions 1949. Mais was awarded the first place for her contribution. Congratulations! Furthermore, both Mais’ (left) and Sonja’s (right) work are printed in a calendar of the best contributions. The competition’s aim was to raise awareness of international humanitarian law.



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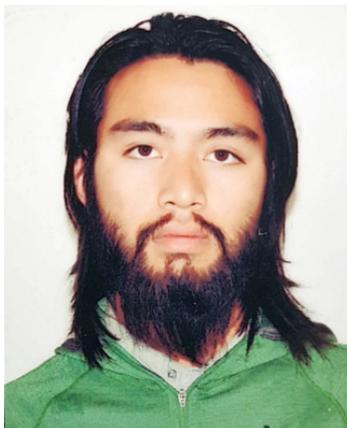
Media & Publications

NOHA during COVID-19

The COVID-19 related restrictions have abruptly ended the presence of our NOHA students at the Institute. To ensure the continuation of all courses, we have had to adapt our lectures and seminars to an online environment. Although video conference tools helped to hold lectures and live simulations, many group work activities entailed organisational challenges for students as well as lecturers. We would like to thank them all for their efforts and hard work in completing the semester despite these difficulties.

Meet our Students - Dzuy-Tâm Trần

Having spent three months in Leipzig in eastern Germany in 2012 for an internship, I was looking forward to living in a different part of Germany for the duration of the second semester of the NOHA Joint Master Degree in International Humanitarian Action. Though the first month of February after my arrival to Bochum in the Ruhrgebiet could be summarized as grey, dreary and rainy, the month of March finally offered warm tidings of spring with sunny weather, blue skies and a blooming pallet of blossoms. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus pandemic has cut the classroom experience short as course coordinators scrambled to adapt the syllabi to distance learning as well as differences in student time zones. While it seems that the precedent planned content needed to be summarized for shorter class sessions over Zoom and course formats continuously adapted based on student feedback, IFHV staff tried their best to come off with engaging lessons to satisfy the learning objectives initially set out. Though frustrating at times, it was encouraging to see that the IFHV was trying new approaches to deliver quality learning in the tough situation of remote learning.



Dzuy-Tâm Trần

New DAAD Visiting Professor

The IFHV was awarded a DAAD Guest Professorship and welcomed **Prof. Dr. Gerd Oberleitner** in the summer term of 2020. **Prof. Oberleitner** is UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, associate professor of international law, and Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz. His main research interests are in international human rights law, the law of international organisations, international humanitarian law and human security. He is co-editor of the European Yearbook of Human Rights and of the publication series Human Rights Go Local. We are very excited to welcome **Prof. Oberleitner** to the IFHV!



Prof. Dr. Gerd Oberleitner

The Functioning of NGO Networks in Humanitarian Crises

As part of their research project “The Functioning of NGO Networks in Humanitarian Crises” **Prof. Bill DeMars** of Wofford College and the IFHV’s **Prof. Dennis Dijkzeul** held a two day workshop in Bochum. Together with the participants, they discussed the kinds of sources and evidence that have been used to establish the complex coexistence of conflict and cooperation in NGOs and networks. They provided an intellectual history of network theory in International Relations. In addition, **Carolin Funke**, **Darina Pellowska**, and **Sergio Grandados Chahin** discussed the role of networks and network theory in their dissertations.



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Benedikt Behlert, A significant opening: On the HRC's groundbreaking first ruling in the case of a "climate refugee", in: *Völkerrechtsblog*, 30.01.2020.

Christian Gudehus, Action Action Action, in: *Journal of Perpetrator Research* 3 (1), 188-195.

Dennis Dijkzeul & Margit Fauser (Eds.), *Diaspora Organizations in International Affairs*. Routledge: Global Institutions Series.

Mais Masadeh, A Lost Phone Brings a Female ISIS Returnee to Trial for Crimes Against Humanity, 22.05.2020. Available at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/70280/a-lost-phone-brings-a-female-isis-returnee-to-trial-for-crimes-against-humanity/>.

Mareike Meis, The Ambivalent Aesthetics and Perception of Mobile Phone Videos: A (De-)Escalating Factor for the Syrian Conflict, in: Budka, Philipp / Bräuchler, Birgit (Eds.), *Theorising Media and Conflict*. New York / Oxford: Berghahn, S. 76-98.

Pierre Thielbörger & Benedikt Behlert, COVID-19 und das Grundgesetz: Zur (Un)tauglichkeit des verfassungsrechtlichen Immunsystems, in: *Verfassungsblog*, 19.03.2020.

Pierre Thielbörger & Timeela Manandhar, (Blood) Diamonds are a Company's Best Friend? Zu besonderen menschenrechtlichen Sorgfaltspflichten von Unternehmen in Konflikt- und Hochrisikogebieten, in: *Verfassungsblog*, 12.06.2020.

Stephan Kološa, Facebook and the Rule of Law, in: *ZaöRV* 80 (1), 1-23.

Timeela Manandhar & Rouven Diekjobst, Follow the money and see where it goes – Unmasking the EU's Libya programme On the EU's involvement in human rights violations committed by Libyan actors against migrants, in: *Völkerrechtsblog*, 25.05.2020

Özgen Özdemir, Deutschland als Amicus Curiae, in: *Völkerrechtsblog*, 24.02.2020.

Humanitäres Völkerrecht / Journal of International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (HuV / JILPAC)

JILPAC is the new academic journal published by the IFHV in cooperation with the Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag (BWV). It publishes papers on international humanitarian law, human rights, refugee law, and peacekeeping law. We are currently welcoming submissions for our next issue.

You can find the latest call for papers at: http://ifhv.de/documents/huv/JILPAC_cfp_2020_en.pdf

WorldRiskReport

From 2018 onwards, the IFHV jointly with Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft publishes the WorldRiskReport. As an essential part of the WorldRiskReport, the WorldRiskIndex indicates the risk of disaster in consequence of extreme natural events for 172 countries. You can find further information at: <https://weltrisikobericht.de/>

Journal of International Humanitarian Action (JIHA)

This open access academic journal is meant for academics, policy makers, and practitioners. It is multidisciplinary, accepting articles so far to range from refugees' healthcare access to insights on the Milosovic trial. To read more or learn how to contribute to JIHA, visit: <http://bit.ly/JIHAH>

Bofaxe / Völkerrechtsblog

Bofaxe - that is the scientific snapshot of up-to-date news in international law. Since 2019, they also appear on *Völkerrechtsblog*, see at <https://voelkerrechtsblog.org> or subscribe to ifhv-publications@rub.de

Genocide Studies and Prevention. An International Journal (GSP)

GSP is the official journal of The International Association of Genocide Scholars, with the IFHV's Christian Gudehus as editor-in-chief- and Fiza Lee Winter as managing editor, see at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/gsp/>

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