

Academic Curriculum Vitae

M a x i m i l i a n L a k i t s c h

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Research interest

In general, my research is interested in structural and processual dynamics that foster conflicts and in ways how to transform them. In particular, that concerns post-conflict peacebuilding on the one hand, and the intersection of religion and politics on the other hand. Methodologically, I find practice theory the most convincing approach in order to overcome the deficiencies of both idealistic and realistic as well as positivist and interpretivist approaches. Empirically, my research draws from the MENA region, in particular Syria, Lebanon, and Israel-Palestine.

At present, I am working on the transnational convergences of religious conflict dynamics. While my current research focuses on the analytical dimension, it shall provide the foundation to look into respective peacebuilding strategies at some point.

Education

- October 2009 - July 2012: Karl-Franzens University Graz, Styria; American University of Beirut
PhD in **Philosophy** (passed with distinction)
Thesis on the modern state and its relationship with violence
- October 2008 - June 2010: Donau University Krems
M.A.: **International Relations** (passed with distinction)
- October 2002 - March 2009: Karl-Franzens University Graz, Styria
M.A.: **Catholic Theology** (passed with distinction)
Thesis on Political Islam and its historical foundations
- October 2002 - September 2007: Karl-Franzens University Graz, Styria
M.A.: **Philosophy** (passed with distinction)
Thesis on jihadism and counter-terrorism after 9/11

Academic Awards

- Christiane Rajewsky Award for young scholars by the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies in 2013

Academic Work Experience

- Since February 2019
Senior Researcher at the **Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution**
Research on transnational dynamics of religious conflicts

- February 2016 – January 2019
Lecturer at the **Institute of Legal Foundations: Department of Comparative Political and Legal Studies, University of Graz**
Research on and teaching in conflict theory, peacebuilding, religion and conflict, MENA region (focus on Syria); coordination of the university's research activities in peace and conflict as well as coordination of the Conflict, Peace, and Democracy Cluster for the university.
- July 2012 - January 2016
Researcher at the **Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution**
Research on OECD states and conflicts, peacebuilding, conflict theory, Political Islam as well as on the MENA region; trainer for international peacebuilding trainings; design for projects on peace and development; mediation assistance

Academic Teaching Experience (in English)

- Religion and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa (graduate level)
- Introduction to Peace and Conflict Research (graduate level)
- Inter- and Transdisciplinary Methods (graduate level)
- Theories and Methods in Political Science (Ph.D. level)
- The Ambivalence of Religion: The Dynamics of Religious Conflicts (graduate level)
- Peace and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa (graduate level)
- The International Relations of Religion in Conflict (graduate level)

Invited Presentations (most recent)

- 2018. Religion in Post-Conflict Processes. *Legal and Human Rights Academy/Policy Forum on Sustaining Political Reforms, Democratization and Human Rights in Ethiopia*, Oct. 1-6, Hawassa, Ethiopia.
- 2019. The Dynamics of Religion in Conflict and its Transnational Diffusion. Due to the lecture *Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and Peacebuilding*, May 14-15, organized by the Human Rights Centre, University of Pristina, Kosovo.

Conference Presentations (selection of most recent)

- 2017. The State of Nature and Peacebuilding. *EUPRA-AFK 2017 Conference*, March 16-18, Evangelische Akademie Villigst, Schwerte, Germany.
- 2018. Accommodating Religion and International Relations Theory: A Social Constructivist Approach. *The Impact of Religion: Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy*, April, 24-26, University of Uppsala, Sweden.
- 2018. Religion, Conflict, and International Relations. *EISA's 12th Pan-European Conference on International Relations*, September, 12-15, University of Prague, Czech Republic.

Publications (selection)

- 2018. Lessons from the State of Nature: A Hobbesian Contribution to the Critical Debate on Liberal Peacebuilding, *Journal of International and Global Studies* 10 (1). ISSN: 2158-0669.
- 2018. Islam in the Syrian War: Spotting the Various Dimensions of Religion in Conflict, *Religions* 9 (236). DOI: 10.3390/rel9080236.
- 2018. Statehood between Religious and Secular Claims in the Arab World Today: A Peace and Conflict Studies Perspective, in *Islam, Recht und Diversität*, ed. by Stephan Hinghofer-Szalkay,

Herbert Kalb, and Joseph Marko, Vienna: Verlag Österreich, 227-247.
ISBN: 978-3-7046-7973-4.

- 2017. The Sectarian Dimension of Political Legitimacy in Syria: The National Roots of Sectarian Violence in the Syrian war, *Security and Peace (S+F)* 2 (35), 91-96.
DOI: 10.5771/0175-274X-2017-2-91.
- 2017. The Exceptional Case of Refugees in Lebanon: An Argument for Rethinking the Concept of State Authority, in *Blurring Boundaries: Human Security and Forced Migration*, ed. by Stefan Salomon, Lisa Heschl, Gerd Oberleitner, and Wolfgang Benedek, Amsterdam: Brill 2017, 51-72. DOI: 10.1163/9789004326873_004.
- 2015. *Bellicose Entanglements 1914: The Great War as a Global War*, ed. together with Susanne Reitmair und Katja Seidel, Münster et al.: LIT. ISBN 978-3-643-90655-7.
- 2014. Der moderne Staat und der Staatsrand: Über die Grundlagen staatlicher Machtausübung, *Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung* 3 (1).
DOI: 10.5771/2192-1741-2014-1
- 2014. *Political Power Reconsidered: State Power and Civic Activism between Legitimacy and Violence*, Münster et a.: LIT. ISBN 978-3-643-90493-5.
- 2013. *Unbehagen im modernen Staat: Über die Grundlagen staatlicher Gewalt*, Bielefeld: Transcript. DOI: 10.14361/transcript.9783839423684.

Further education

- November 2014. "Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRI)" **Training of Trainers Workshop**, Centre for European Perspective (CEP), Ljubljana
- March 2013. International Civilian Peacekeeping and **Peacebuilding Training Programme**, Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- February 2010. **Arabic course**, Levantine Language Institute, Damascus
Deepening knowledge on Arab language (previous courses taken in Austria)
- Summer 2008. **Cross-Cultural Studies Introduction Course TICCS** (Tamale Institute of Cross-Cultural Studies), Ghana
- July 2009. **Global Politics Summer School Syria**: "New Challenges in Global Politics: European and Arab Responses", organized by FU Berlin and AIU Damascus, Damascus

Foreign language skills

- Greek (mother tongue)
- English (fluent)
- French (fluent)
- Arabic (conversational)

Memberships

- Member of the Council for European Studies (CES)
- Member of the European International Studies Association (EISA)
- Member of the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK) and of its working group on religion and culture
- Board member of the Austrian-Lebanese Society