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SUMMARY

Trained political scientist with a PhD in international relations and 7 years of international research, publication and teaching experience. Interested in the international dimension of authoritarianism, regional & international organizations and their institutional design, and regionalism in the Global South. Prefers working with quantitative methods and mixed designs.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| 2024 - today | Professor , Chair for International Relations, Zeppelin University Maternity Leave (March-Aug 2024) |
| 2021 - 2023 | Lecturer , Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Chair for International Organizations, Potsdam University Guest Researcher, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University (Sep-Oct 2022) |
| 2019 - 2020 | Post-doctoral Researcher , Department of Political Science, Maastricht University ERC Project: 'Who gets to live forever?' Toward an Institutional Theory on the Decline and Death of International Organizations |
| 2017 - 2018 | Fox International Fellow (pre-doctoral researcher) , Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University |

EDUCATION

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| 2014 - 2018 | PhD , Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies, Free University Berlin Thesis: Autocracy from the Outside-In? The Role of Regional Organizations in Boosting Authoritarian Resilience (<i>summa cum laude</i>) |
| 2011 - 2014 | M.A. , Political Science, Universität Potsdam |
| 2008 - 2011 | B.A. , Governance and Public Policy, Universität Passau |

BOOK

Maria Debre (2025). *The Dictator's Club. How Regional Organizations Sustain Authoritarian Rule.* Oxford University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Daniëlle Flonk & **Maria Debre** (2025): Hollow multilateralism: How autocracies contest norms and procedures of international organizations. *International Affairs*, forthcoming.

Stephen Hall & **Maria Debre** (2025). Developing best Practices 'against Terrorists who Protest': Regional Organisations as learning clubs for Autocracies. *Contemporary Security Studies*, forthcoming.

Maria Debre & Thomas Sommerer (2023): Weathering the Storm? The Third Wave of Autocratization and International Organizations, *University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Working Paper*, November 17, 2023, available at: <https://ucigcc.org/publication/the-third-wave-of-autocratization-and-international-organization-membership/>

Hylke Dijkstra, **Maria Debre** & Tim Heinkelmann-Wild (2023): Governance abhors a Vacuum: The Afterlives of Major International Organizations. *The British Journal for Politics and International Relations*, 26(3), 759-778.

Maria Debre & Hylke Dijkstra (2022): Are International Organizations in Decline? An Absolute and Relative Perspective on Institutional Change. *Global Policy*, 14(1), 16-30.

Hylke Dijkstra & **Maria Debre** (2022): The Death of Major International Organizations: When Institutional Stickiness is not Enough. *Global Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 2, Issue 4, 1-13.

Maria Debre (2022). Clubs of Autocrats: Regional Organizations and Autocratic Regime Survival, *Review of International Organizations*, 17(3), 485-511.

Maria Debre & Hylke Dijkstra (2021). COVID-19 and Policy Responses by International Organizations: Crisis of Liberal International Order or Window of Opportunity? *Global Policy*, 12(4), 443-454.

Maria Debre & Hylke Dijkstra (2021). Institutional Design for a Post-Liberal Order: Why some International Organizations Live Longer than Others, *European Journal of International Relations*, 27(1), 311-339.

Maria Debre (2021). The 'Dark Side' of Regional Integration: How Authoritarian Regimes Exploit Regional Organizations to Boost Resilience, *Democratization* 28(2), 394-413.

Maria Debre (2021). Legitimation, Regime Survival, and Shifting Alliances in the Arab League: Explaining Sanction Politics during the Arab Spring, *International Political Science Review*, 42(4), 516-530.

Sebastian Knecht & **Maria Debre** (2018). Die „digitale IO“: Chancen und Risiken von Online-Daten für die Forschung zu Internationalen Organisationen. *ZIB Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen*, 25(1).

Maria Debre & Lee Morgenbesser (2017). Out of the Shadows: Authoritarian Regimes, Flawed Elections and International Legitimation, *Contemporary Politics*, 23(3), 328-247.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Maria Debre** & Thomas Sommerer: Are Non-Democracies Taking Over? Autocratization and International Organization Membership. *R&R Cooperation and Conflict*.
- Maria Debre** & Daniëlle Flonk. Authoritarian Norm Entrepreneurs: How Autocratic Coalitions Undermine Liberal International Norms. *Under review*.
- Maria Debre** & Nina Reiners: Autocracies as International Lawmakers. *Working Paper presented at the OiU workshop 'Autocracies as International Lawmakers', Oslo University 2025*.
- Maria Debre** & Faradj Koliev: Critical, coopted, coerced? Union responses to autocratization in the International Labor Organization. *Working Paper*.
- Carl Vikberg, Karin Sundström, **Maria Debre**, Thomas Sommerer: Autocratization and (In)formality in IOs. *Working Paper*

BOOK CHAPTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS

- Alternative zum Krieg? Sanktionen als Instrument der internationalen Politik. *APuZ* 50-51/2024.
- Community Norms and Crisis: Changing Roles of Regional Organizations during the COVID-19 Pandemic, in: Diana Panke and Gordon Friedrichs (Eds.), *International Organizations Amid Global Crises*, 2024: Bristol University Press (with Laura von Allwörden).
- Regional Organizations, in: Anne Wolf (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Authoritarian Politics*, 2024: *Oxford University Press*.
- „The Closure of the International System: How Institutions Create Political Equalities and Hierarchies, by Lora Anne Viola.“ 2020. *H-Diplo Roundtable XXIII*-49

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMENTARY

- Panel Debate on Geopolitical Challenges for German Business. *Bodensee Business Forum* (October 22, 2024).
- [Interview](#) on Election Monitoring. *Forbidden Stories*, (February 20, 2024).
- [Interview](#). *E-International Relations*, (December 16, 2022).
- [Diagnosing Threats to Democracy](#). *University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Forum* (June 18, 2022).
- [Immune to COVID? The Striking Resilience of International Organisations](#). *LSE COVID-19 Blog*, (July 13, 2021) (with Hylke Dijkstra)
- [Trump's 'America First' Approach has Targeted International Institutions - But they've proved to be resilient](#). *The Loop*, (November 25, 2020) (with Hylke Dijkstra)
- [How Global Efforts to Promote Regional Organizations Can Strengthen Authoritarian Regimes](#). *Scholars Strategy Network*, (June 4, 2018).
- [Fatma gegen Goliath. Frauen erlangen das Wahlrecht in Saudi-Arabien](#). *Mediterranes* 1/2016, 40-41.
- [Omans ungewisse Zukunft – dem Sultanat droht eine Nachfolgekrise](#). *Alsharq Blog*, (November 11, 2014).

FELLOWSHIPS AND THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

Project grant ‘Bad Neighbors, Good Company? Hybrid Regional Organizations, Autocratization, and Digital Sovereignty Diffusion’, Thyssen Foundation (2025-2027) (collaborator: Hitoshubashi University Japan) *[175,000 Euro]*

UiO Democracy Grant ‘Autocracies as International Lawmakers’, University of Oslo (2023) *[210,660 NOK]*

Research Grant ‘Autocracies in International Organizations’ (Kooperationsförderung KoUP), Potsdam University (2022) *[1,800 EUR]*

Research Grant ‘Pilot Study’, Potsdam Graduate School (2021-2022) *[5,000 EUR]*

PhD Fellowship, Research College (KFG) ‘The Transformative Power of Europe’, Freie Universität Berlin (2014-2017) *[50,000 EUR]*

Fox Fellowship, Yale University (2017-2018) *[22,500 USD]*

Deutscher Studienpreis, Körber Foundation, Finalist (Section Social Sciences) (2019) *[final 9/470 applications]*

PROFESSIONAL DIDACTIC TRAINING

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| 2021 - 2022 | Senior Teaching Program , Potsdam University (12 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Didactic Training (6 workshops) • Independent Teaching • Mentoring by Experienced University Lecturers • Peer Mentoring and Exchange |
| 2019 | Introduction to Problem-based Learning , Maastricht University (2-day workshop) |
| 2015 | University Teaching and Learning , Free University Berlin (3-day workshop) |

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

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| 2024 - today | Zeppelin University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to International Relations (undergraduate lecture) • Global Governance (undergraduate seminar) • Global Governance (graduate lecture) • Sanctions in International Politics (graduate seminar) • Regime Type in International Relations (graduate seminar) • Advanced Statistical Analysis (undergraduate methods course) • Interdisciplinary Modul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disciplinary Perspectives (undergraduate lecture) - Zeppelin Project supervision (undergraduate research project) • BA (1), MA (3) & PhD supervision (1 ongoing) |
| 2021 - 2023 | Potsdam University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctions in International Politics (graduate seminar) • Global Public Policy (graduate seminar) • Global Governance in Crisis (graduate seminar) • International Organizations and Democratization (undergraduate seminar) • Comparative Regionalism (undergraduate seminar) • Introduction to Research Design (undergraduate seminar) • BA (18) & MA (15) Thesis Supervision (Field: Regional & International Organizations, Democratization, Global South) |

- 2019 - 2020 **Maastricht University**
- International Relations: Contemporary Issues and Actors (undergraduate seminar)
 - Analyzing Research Design (undergraduate seminar)
 - Regional Integration & Multi-Level Governance' (graduate workshop), United Nations University (UNU-MERIT)
 - Introduction to Quantitative Methods (undergraduate seminar)
 - Introduction to PBL and Higher Education (undergraduate mentoring program, 15 students)
 - BA (11) & MA (3) Thesis Supervision (Field: Regional & International Organizations, Middle East, Democratization)
- 2018 **Yale University**
- Sex, Markets, and Power (undergraduate lecture), Teaching Assistant for Professor Frances McCall Rosenbluth
- 2016 - 2017 **Free University Berlin**
- Introduction to Research Design in Political Science' (graduate seminar & colloquium)
 - EU Foreign Policy in the Middle East' (undergraduate seminar)

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND INVITED TALKS

- Academics in Spotlight**, 'A New Global Order?', Zeppelin University (2025)
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting** (2021, 2023)
- Author's Workshop** 'Regional Democracy Protection and Sanctions', Stockholm University (2019)
- Authoritarianism in a Global Age Project Meeting**, University of Amsterdam (2017)
- Authoritarian Politics and International Relations (APIR) Seminar**, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB) (2019)
- Debate Café**, Studium Generale, 'Can Trade Promote Democracy?', Maastricht University (2020)
- ECPR General Conference** (2016, 2019, 2020, 2022)
- ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops** (2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- ERC Workshop** 'Democracy, Autocracy and International Cooperation', Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien, Stockholm (2025)
- ECR Workshop** 'The Contestation of Liberal Democracy', Scripts Cluster & Instituto de Ciencia Política Chile, virtual (2021)
- EISA Pec Pan European Conference on International Relations** (2023)
- ERC Workshop** 'Decline and Death of International Organizations', Brussels Campus, Maastricht University (2020)
- ERC Workshop** 'International Institutions: Backlash & Resilients', University of Zurich (2021)
- EUI Conference** 'Decrypting Digital Authoritarianism', European University Institute Florence (2024)

Fox International Fellowship Conference, Yale University (2018)

German Association for American Studies Political Science Section Annual Meeting, Heidelberg (2019)

German Association for the Middle East (DAVO) Annual Congress, University of Bochum (2015)

German Political Science Association (DVPW) Comparative Political Science Section Conference, GIGA Hamburg (2015)

German Political Science Association (DVPW) International Relations Section Conference, (2020, 2023)

German Political Science Association (DVPW) 3-Länder Tagung, University of Heidelberg (2016)

German Political Science Association (DVPW) 28th Congress, (2021, virtual 2024)

GIGA Conference 'From Erosion to Breakdown?', GIGA Hamburg (2025)

Global Transformations and Governance Challenges Workshop 'Authoritarian States and International Organizations', Leiden University, The Hague (2023)

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conventions (2017-2022) [2020 Convention canceled due to Covid-19]

International Studies Association (ISA) Venture Research Workshop 'International Organization Dissolution', University of Zurich (2019)

LMU Workshop 'International Organizations in Turbulent Times: Internal and External Challenges for IOs', LMU Munich (2024)

Maastricht-York Workshop, 'Europe and the future of global rules and multilateralism', Maastricht University (2019)

OiU Democracy Workshop 'Autocracies as International Lawmakers', Oslo University/Nobel Peace Institute Oslo (2025)

Public Lecture 'Internationale Kooperation in Zeiten von Autokratie und Populismus', Lecture Series, Populismus, Rechtsextremismus und Demokratie' Zeppelin Universität, (2024)

Sicherheitspolitischer Jahresrückblick 'Der Ukrainekrieg und die Sicherheitslage in Europa nach der USA-Wahl', Akademie für politische Bildung Tutzing (2024)

Training Course for German Teachers 'Der Wandel Internationaler Organisationen angesichts autoritärer Herausforderungen', Akademie für politische Bildung Tutzing (2025)

UC Institute on Global Conflict Workshop 'The Authoritarian Turn in International Relations: The Institutional Dimension', University of California San Diego (2022)

5th Joint Nordic Conference on Development Research, Copenhagen Business School (2019)

7th International Joint Ph.D. Workshop of the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (BTS) and the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem (2017)

PROFESSIONAL & DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Chairwoman, Ethics Committee Zeppelin University (since 2025)

Faculty Member, Zeppelin University Senate (since 2025)

Reviewer, *International Studies Quarterly*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *The Review of International Organizations*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *International Political Science Review*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Review of International Studies*, *Oxford University Press*, *European Research Council*

Representative, PhD Faculty Hiring Committee 2019, Maastricht University; Steering Committee Master of International Relations (MAIB), Potsdam University

Equal Opportunity Officer (Dezentrale Gleichstellungsbeauftragte), Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät, Potsdam University (2021-2023)

Member, American Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaften

Workshop (Co-)Organizer, 'Autocracies as International Lawmakers', OIU Democracy Workshop Oslo University 2025; 'Autocracies in Global Governance' ECPR Research Network; 'Autocracies in Global Governance' ECPR General Conference Section 2025; '21st Century IO Bureaucracy' Section, ECPR General Conference 2022; 'Authoritarian Regimes in Regional and Global Governance Institutions, ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop, 2022; 'Global Order in Crisis?', Politicologenetmaal, Nijmegen, 2020
[canceled due to Covid-19]; 'Decline and Death of International Organizations', Brussels 2020