

DR. JULIA GUROL-HALLER

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Chinese foreign policy
- critical geopolitics
- global authoritarianism
- connectivity & the BRI
- narratives in world politics
- Global IR

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Feb 2025 - present	Research fellow, Institute for Asian Studies, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)
Sep 2023 - present	Expert, Horizons Research Consortium “Dealing with a resurgent China” Member of the Work Package on “EU-China relations”
Mar 2023 – present	Associate Fellow, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute Freiburg (ABI)
2020 – 2025	Researcher & Lecturer, Chair for International Relations, University of Freiburg
2022	Visiting Fellow, Asia Studies Programme, King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)
2018 – 2024	Associate Fellow, Centre for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient
2017 – 2020	Researcher & Lecturer, Chair for Multilevel Governance, University of Freiburg
2019	Visiting Fellow, Tongji University Shanghai (China)
2015 – 2016	Project Assistant, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies
Appellate procedures	
2024	Ranked 2 nd in appellate procedure for Head of Research Area “Politics of contemporary China”, University of Zurich
2023	Ranked 2 nd in appellate procedure for Associate Professor (W2-equivalent, tenure track) “China as a Global Actor”, University of Bergen (Norway)

EDUCATION

2017 – 2020	University of Freiburg, PhD Thesis: <i>Against all odds? EU-China Security Cooperation in the Context of Political Tensions</i> (supervised by Prof. Dr. Diana Panke, Prof. emer. Dr. Jürgen Rüländ)
2015 – 2017	University of Bonn, MA Political Science and Sociology
2011 – 2014	University of Düsseldorf, BA Social Sciences therein: Semester abroad, Universidad de Granada (Spain)

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

- 2024 | *The EU-China Security Paradox: Cooperation Against all Odds?* (Bristol: Bristol University Press → reviewed in the [Journal of Common Market Studies](#))

Peer-reviewed articles (selection)

- 2024 | 'Authoritarian power and contestation beyond the state' (co-authored with Alke Jenss, Benjamin Schütze, Fabricio Rodríguez, Cita Wetterich), *Globalizations* introduction to special issue 21(6): 1009-1022.
- 'Competing ambitions regarding the global governance of Artificial Intelligence: China, the US, and the EU' (co-authored with Sabine Mokry), *Global Policy* 15(5): 955-968.
- 2023 | 'The role of narratives for gaining domestic political legitimacy: China's image management during COVID-19' (co-authored with Elias Klenk), *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 29: 337-359.
- 'The authoritarian narrator: China's power-projection and its reception in the Gulf', *International Affairs* 99(2): 687-705.
- 2022 | 'Infrastructuring authoritarian power: Arab-Chinese transregional collaboration beyond the state' (co-authored with Benjamin Schütze), *International Quarterly of Asia Studies* 53(2): 231-249.
- 'Contingent power extension': China's Belt and Road Initiative and its implications for European (dis)integration' (co-authored with Fabricio Rodríguez), *Asia-Europe Journal* 20: 441-456.
- 'Elite networks and the transregional dimension of authoritarianism: Sino-Emirati relations in times of a global pandemic' (co-authored with Thomas Demmelhuber, Tobias Zumbärgel), *Journal of Contemporary China* 32(139): 138-151.
- 2021 | 'Beyond the duality of normativity and pragmatism: A practice-based reading of European and Chinese foreign policies' (co-authored with Andreas Grimmel), *European Review of International Studies* 8(3): 327-352.
- 'New partners for the planet? EU-China cooperation on climate governance from a role theoretical approach' (co-authored with Anna Starkmann), *Journal of Common Market Studies* 59(3): 518-534.
- 2020 | 'Beyond dichotomy? Towards conceptual and theoretical variety in EU-China research', *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 30: 667-679.
- 'Feldforschung in sensiblen Sicherheitskontexten: Einblicke aus China und dem südlichen Mittelmeerraum', (co-authored with Cita Wetterich), *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen* 27(2): 1-15.
- 'The role of the EU and China in the security architecture of the Middle East', *Chinese Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies* 14(1): 18-34.

Book chapters

- 2025 | 'Chinese authoritarianism and the Arab Gulf monarchies: changing global order?', *Handbook on Arab Authoritarianism* (ed. Dana el Kurd), Bloomsbury Politics.
- 'From "being there is everything" to "go big or go home"? Comparing the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing', *The hard edge of soft power: Mega-events, geopolitics, and making nations great again* (ed. Daniel Wolfe), Palgrave.
- 'China-Golf Beziehungen: Eine Partnerschaft auf Augenhöhe?', *Arabische Halbinsel – Geografie und Politik* (eds. Nadine Scharfenort, Thomas Demmelhuber), Springer.
- 2024 | 'Eine neue Supermacht in der Region? Chinas zunehmender Einfluss in Nahost' (co-authored with Stefan Lukas), *Der Nahe Osten in einer globalisierten Welt* (eds. Bastian Matteo-Scianna & Stefan Lukas), Campus: 273-291.
- 'China's Growing Presence in the Middle East: From Economic Partnerships to Diplomatic Engagement?', *Routledge Middle East and North Africa Yearbook 2024*.

- 2023 'Spatial reconfigurations and the promise of 'connectivity' in the Global South: Re-imagining development through infrastructure in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative' (co-authored with Fabricio Rodríguez), *Handbook on International Development and Environment*, (ed. Benedicte Bull), Edward Elgar Publishing: 200-215.
- 'China-Maghreb relations: South-South cooperation or authoritarian advancement?', *Handbook on China-MENA Relations* (ed. Yahia Zoubir), Routledge.
- 2022 'South-South cooperation: Between cooperation on eye-level and accusations of neo-colonialism' (co-authored with Sandra Destradi) *Regionalism and Global Governance*, (eds. Jürgen Rüländ, Astrid Carrapatoso), Edward Elgar Publishing: 160-170.
- 'Autoritäre Modelle der Internetregulierung: Chinas Digitaloffensive', *Demokratie und Öffentlichkeit im 21. Jahrhundert – zur Macht des Digitalen* (eds. Michael Westland, Indra Spiecker, Ricardo Campos), Nomos.
- 'The Corona temptation? Autocratic linkages in times of a global pandemic' (co-authored with Thomas Demmelhuber, Tobias Zumbärgel), *The MENA Region and COVID-19: Impact, Implications and Prospect*, Zeina Hobaika, Lena-Maria Möller, Jan Völkel (eds.). Routledge: 19-35.
- 2020 'Desintegration statt Konnektivität: Die Belt and Road Initiative als außenpolitische Herausforderung für die EU' (co-authored with Fabricio Rodríguez), *Die neue Europäische Union – Zwischen Integration und Desintegration*, (ed. Andreas Grimmel), Nomos.

Other publications and policy briefs (selection)

- 2023 ["Kolonialität des Wissens" und Asymmetrien der globalen Wissenproduktion: Reflektion aus der Perspektive der Internationalen Beziehungen](#). *A/Symmetrie — Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven*, Junge Akademie.
- [Germany's Role in the East Asian Security Architecture](#). Policy Brief, *Asia-Pacific Leadership Network*.
- 2020 [Perspectives on Fieldwork in Security-Sensitive spaces – Insights from China and the Southern Mediterranean Area](#). *ABI Working Paper*, No. 14 (co-authored with Cita Wetterich).
- [China's Balancing Act in the Gulf Relies on Ties to Iran and Arab States](#). *The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington* (co-authored with Jacopo Scita).
- [China's Persian Gulf strategy: Keep Tehran and Riyadh content](#). *Atlantic Council* (co-authored with Jacopo Scita).
- 2019 [Projecting power westwards: China's maritime strategy in the Arabian Sea and its ramifications for the Middle East](#). *Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient* (co-authored with Parisa Shahmohammadi).
- [Turning interdependence into complementary action. EU-China relations in the quest to save the Nuclear Agreement](#). *Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient* (co-authored with Parisa Shahmohammadi).
- [Rivals or Partners? Interdependencies between the EU and China in the Middle East](#). *Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient*.

MEDIA, COMMENTARY & INVITED TALKS

I am regularly featured as an expert on Chinese foreign policy, EU-China relations and China's role in the Middle East in national and international media such as The New York Times, Telegraph, DW Global News, voice of America or Al-Jazeera. For instance, I am quoted as an expert in the following outlets (selection):

- 2023 ["How Xi Jinping is challenging dollar dominance with landmark Saudi deal"](#) (The Telegraph)
- ["Syria's Leader Visits China in Search of Friends and Funds"](#) (The New York Times)
- ["China's renewed influence in the Gulf"](#), (Chatham House).
- ["沙特称与美中的关系非零和 专家：需警惕中国扩大中东军事存在"](#) (Voice of America)
- Radio interview on BRICS Summit 2023, ["Kampfansage an den Westen? Die neue Macht der"](#)

[ehemaligen Schwellenländer](#)' (Hessischer Rundfunk, hr-info)

["Can China replace the US in the Middle East?"](#) (Al-Jazeera)

Moreover, I am a regular guest in webinars and do public talks on Chinese foreign policy, EU-China relations and China's role in the Middle East, such as the following (exemplary):

2023	Lecture: 'China's rise and its implications for global politics and global order', Seminar on 'New Geopolitics' Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Freiburg-Himmelreich Public lecture: 'Why the BRI is not a Chinese Marshall Plan', University of Freiburg. Webinar: "What to make of the Iranian-Saudi rapprochement and China's role in it" , Arab Gulf States Institute Washington. Middle East Politics and Society Lecture Series (MELS): 'A Reconfiguration of Power and China's Emerging Role in the Middle East', Universität of Erlangen-Nuremberg.
2022	Public online lecture: "EU-China relations at a crossroads: Recent developments and future prospects" , King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.
2021	'Elite Networks and the Transregional Dimension of Authoritarianism: Sino-Emirati Relations in Times of a Global Pandemic', ALMA Lecture Series, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute
2019	Policy Briefing: 'EU-China relations in the quest to save the Nuclear Agreement', Stimson Center, Brussels
2019	Roundtable: 'The Iran-EU-China triangle and the JCPOA: Viewpoints from China and Iran', FES, Berlin

FIELDWORK

I have extensive field research experience in China and the Arab Gulf monarchies (Qatar and Saudi Arabia) and regularly travel to Brussels for background talks and interviews on EU-China relations with European stakeholders.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Since 10/2017 I have been teaching in the field of International Relations, foreign policy analysis and comparative area studies. At the **University of Freiburg**, I have taught the following BA and MA courses:

- Authoritarianism in China's foreign policy (2020/21)
- EU-China relations in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative (2019/20)
- Introduction to International Relations (2021, 2018, 2023)
- Research design & qualitative research methods (2020-today)
- 'Democratic backsliding, populism and global autocratization', in: Introduction to Political Science (2020/21, 2018/19, 2022/23)
- Studying the so-called Global South in International Relations (2022/23)
- The Russian Ukrainian war: Root causes, dynamics and approaches to conflict management (2022)
- Data collection research methods and research ethics in security-sensitive settings (2021/22)
- Introduction to conflict analysis (2019, 2020, 2021 with varying case studies)
- International and Regional Organizations in current conflicts (2017/18)

Theses supervision:

Since 10/2020, I have supervised more than 25 BA and MA theses in the above-mentioned fields.

Training Certificate on Teaching Methodology (Baden-Württemberg) (completion in 2020)

Awards Teaching Award of Baden-Württemberg (2019) **50.000 EUR**
Teaching Award of the University of Freiburg (2019) **5.000 EUR**

WORKSHOPS, PANELS AND LECTURES ORGANIZED (Selection)

2023	'How Authoritarian Narratives Travel: Exploring Senders and Audiences and Audiences at Home and Abroad' (with Maria Josua), DVPW Congress 'Special Issue Launch: Authoritarian Power and Contestation beyond the State', SI online discussion
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	launch with Natalie Koch, Rafeef Ziadah and Marlies Glasius
2022	'Authoritarianism across space, time and scale' (with Natalie Koch), ECPR Joint Session
2021	'Authoritarianism and Democracy: Transnational and Multiscalar Perspectives on Power and Spaces of Contestation'. FRIAS Early Career Researcher Conference. Freiburg (online)
	'Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium: Feldforschung in sensiblen Sicherheitskontexten', Universität Freiburg
2020	'EU-China relations' (with Andreas Grimmel), DVPW IB-Sektionstagung, Freiburg
	'China's Belt and Road Initiative' (with Andreas Grimmel), DVPW IB-Sektionstagung, Freiburg
	'Nachhaltige Karrierewege in der deutschen Politikwissenschaft' (with Michael Giesen, Maria Ketzmerick), DVPW-Perspektivtagung

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selection)

2023	'Authoritarian middle powers and their narrative power-plays', DVPW Congress
2022	'China's narrative power-play and the transregional diffusion of narratives to the Gulf', Netherland Institute for Advanced Sciences (NIAS), workshop on 'authoritarian soft power'
2021	'Elite Networks and the transregional dimension of authoritarianism: Sino-Emirati relations in times of a global pandemic', IPSA Annual Conference
	'The COVID-19 temptation? Sino-Gulf relations and autocratic linkages in times of a global pandemic', with Thomas Demmelhuber and Tobias Zumbrägel, DAVO Congress
	'Words matter! Reproduction and contestation of narratives of supremacy in Sino-Gulf relations', DAVO Congress

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2022	Ministry of Science, Research and Art Baden-Württemberg, funding for lecture series 'Data collection, research methods & ethics in security-sensitive settings'	15.700 EUR
	Travel grant, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Freiburg	1.500 EUR
2021	VW-Foundation grant for research project 'Global Autocratic Collaboration in Times of COVID-19: Game-changer or business as usual in Sino-Gulf relations'	119.000 EUR
	Grant for the digitalization of teaching and research, University of Freiburg	10.000 EUR
	Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies; Conference funding, 'Authoritarianism & Democracy: Transnational and Multiscalar Perspectives on Power and Spaces of Contestation'	9.999 EUR
2020	German Association for Political Science (DVPW), Conference funding, 'Sustainable career development in Political Science'	5.000 EUR
2019	Travel grant, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Freiburg	1.150 EUR
	Travel grant, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	2.652 EUR
	Travel grant, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Freiburg	489 EUR
2018	Travel grant, International Graduate Academy Freiburg	389 EUR

SERVICES TO THE PROFESSION & COMMITTEE WORK

I have acted as a peer reviewer for International Affairs, Globalizations, Journal of Common Market Studies, American Political Science Review, Mediterranean Politics, Chinese Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Journal of European Integration, Democratization, Bristol University Press.

2024 – 2025	Elected speaker of Die Junge Akademie (German Young Academy)
2022 – 2027	Member of the Young Academy of the Leopoldina
2023 – 2025	Participation in the University Freiburg working group 'Graduate School Freiburg'

2022 – 2025	Participation in the University Freiburg working group 'Gender, diversity and career development'
2020 – 2023	Representative for digitalization in teaching and learning, University of Freiburg
2021 – 2022	Early Career Advisor, Advisory Board EPICUR Alliance, University of Freiburg
2019 – 2020	Doctoral Representative in the Senate, University of Freiburg
2018 – 2020	Speaker of the early career group 'International Relations' of the German Association for Political Science (DVPW)

LANGUAGES

German (native speaker)
 English (fluent)
 Spanish (fluent)
 Chinesisch (working proficiency)
 French (working proficiency)

Freiburg, February 2025

Julia Gurol-Haller