

Master Thesis Supervision Plan Academic Year 2020-2021 MIA/MPP

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Professor of	(Lecturer replacing the Professorship for) International Political
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Advisor Information

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Office Hours	On appointment (on site or virtual)

Research & Advising Profile:

General Academic Field: What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

My focus over the past years have been international organizations (IOs), in particular the role of the international bureaucrats and international officials therein. This includes the complex relations between IO bureaucracies and state politicians, diplomats and bureaucrats. I have done field research on UN organizations in Geneva, New York, Brussels, Paris, and Amman/Jerusalem. In 2020, I am co-chairing the section "21st Century International Organizations" at ECPR General Conference, so my interest in this domain is very broad:

https://ecpr.eu/Events/SectionDetails.aspx?SectionID=1004&EventID=156

Before focusing on IOs more broadly, my main focus was on EU lobbying and EU secrecy/transparency, so I'm comfortable with a broad range of EU-related topics including for example theses focused on particular EU institutions and agencies. I have worked for the EU Office of Transparency International in Brussels for multiple years, so am familiar with Brussels and Luxembourg institutional and lobbying/advocacy dynamics also "on the ground".

Specific Expertise: What is your specific area of expertise, and what topics are you supervising?

General Global Governance

International Bureaucracy (i.e. the administrations of international organizations)

Financing and Resourcing of International Organizations, including in history (League of Nations, pre-WWI international unions)

Global Refugee Policy, including Palestine Refugees

European Union

EU Lobbying & Interest Groups

EU Secrecy & Transparency

United Nations System

Different UN system agencies (e.g. UN Secretariat, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM, UN Women) as well as inter-agency dynamics

Methodology: What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

Qualitative research

- expert interviews (e.g. in international organizations)
- archival/document research

Quantitative reesarch

Text-as-data, in particular sentiment analysis (very interested to supervise quantitative text analysis in general but other Hertie colleagues are specialized methods experts in this domain)

Network analysis (methods used for my PhD thesis)

Basic statistics (happy to supervise more complex statistics but am no expert)

Open for mixed methods

Supervision Style: Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

Combination of colloquium and individual/team meetings & retreat

Happy to supervise teams (especially on topics proposed below)

Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics: (if applicable)

- various MA and BA theses on EU lobbying
- various BA theses on EU and UNHCR funding or the emergence of the role of ICAN

Recommended General Readings: (if applicable)

The following texts are general readings material relevant for all advisees:

Panke, Diana (2018). Research design & method selection: making good choices in the social sciences. Sage.

Proposed Projects: (if applicable)

Project Title (only suggestions to show potential directions, projects can be qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods)	Practice Partner (happy to discuss how to connect with academic, IO or NGO partners for these topics)
Women, Peace and Security in UN Security Council Speeches (working qualitatively or quantitatively with this dataset: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/KGVSYH)	

The SDGs and the Emergence of a New Language of Sustainable Development in the United Nations System (e.g. text-as-data approach, focus on gender-related aspects)	
EU Financing of UN (or other International) Agencies	
The Causes/Effects/Relevance of Large-Scale Donor Conferences for UN System Financing	
COVID19 and the Financing of International Organizations	

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

Attendance:

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

Participation & Milestones:

What do you expect students to prepare for each session?

Possible assignments include (the following are just examples):

- Short research outline (1-pager)
- Extended research design (5-pager + references)
- Intermediate presentation of empirical results
- Group presentation
- Writing retreat

Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
Meeting times	Session 1: 6 Nov 2020	Designing Research: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method Approaches
	Session 2: 27 Nov 2020	Defending Your Research Design (group meeting)
	Session 3: 1-5 February 2021	Individual consultations (progress support)
	Session 4: 22-26 February	Individual consultations (progress report)
	Session 5: 26 March 2021	Thesis presentation
	Session 6: Mid-April 2021	4-day writing retreat

Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: 06 Nov 2020 Designing Research: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method Approaches (group meeting)	
Aim	Find a research question and possible approach to address that question
Assignment	1-page research design outline, including research questions, summary of key recent literature (minimum: 1 monograph/edited volume and 4 academic papers published in the last 5 years), required data/information and ways to access these; choice of qual/quant methods for the analysis (or options for methods if undecided)
Readings (if applicable)	Panke (2018) - see above [or other recent textbook on research design]

Session 2: 27 Nov 2020 Defending Your Research Design (group meeting)	
Aim	Develop your research design to a realistic stage, defend in the group, and revise it to a pre-final version
Assignment	6-page research design, including a more advanced literature review, an operationalization of the research strategy, and a description of available data/information (or the strategy and timeline to collect it)
Readings (if applicable)	-

Session 3: 1-5 February 2021 (on appointment)

Individual consultations (individual progress support)	
Aim	Discuss the progress of your empirical research and potential solutions for challenges
Assignment	Revise your data collection plan in line with challenges faced; send questions in advance
Readings (if applicable)	-

Session 4: 22-26 February 2021 (on appointment) Individual consultations (individual progress report)	
Aim	Present and discuss your preliminary findings
Assignment (e.g. first chapter)	Present a first version of your empirical analysis on 3-4 pages, including the most interesting findings so far
Readings (if applicable)	-

Session 5: 26 March 2021 Thesis presentation (group meeting)	
Thesis presentation (group meeting)	
Aim	Present your thesis to the group.
Assignment	Prepare a 10-15 minute pre-recorded presentation and discuss one follow student's presentation during the joint group meeting
Readings (if applicable)	-

Session 6: Around mid-April 2021 (date to be agreed) Four-day writing retreat (COVID19 permitting in real life, otherwise virtual/both)	
Aim	Joint retreat (real, virtual or both) including Ronny & all supervisees to shift motivate each other to get things done.
Assignment	Be as far with your thesis as possible and get as far to finalization as possible during those days, including joint support sessions.
Readings (if applicable)	-