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Polar and Ocean Politics Conference 2026
25 & 26 February | Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

This is a draft programme but please note important information about your journey to Frankfurt at the end!

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt | Darmstädter Landstraße 110-114

Wednesday 25 Feb

13:30 Arrival

14:00 Welcome

14:15-15:45 Panel 1 – Making sense of polar regions and oceans

Mathias Albert	What is ‘polarity’: the polar regions and the international system in between?
Gabriela Gricius	The Meaning of Hybrid Threats in the European Arctic
Anna Meine	Blue Politics. Or: Why political scientists should take ocean politics more seriously in its own right
Anja Menzel & Charlotte Gehrke	Ocean Pop: Marine Imaginaries in the Age of Global Polycrisis

15:45 Break

16:15-17:30 Panel 2 – Governing ocean and polar spaces

Patrick Flamm	To Break, Or To Re-make, That Is The Question: Anticipating Antarctic geoengineering and the Treaty System
Lina Röschel	A framework for equitable governance of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR)
Arne Langlet, Rakhyun Kim & Alice Vadrot	“Towards Operationalizing the Emergency Measures Art. 24 under the BBNJ Agreement: A perspective from the negotiations”

17:30-18:30 DVPW Thematic Group General Meeting (open to all)

19:30 Dinner (NB: *There are no fees to attend the conference. Hot beverages and snacks will (likely) be available during breaks, but attendees are responsible for their own lunch and dinner expenses.*)

Thursday 26 Feb

9:15-10:30 Panel 3 – Deepsea mining and its discontents

Alexandra Ehresmann-Dylus	International Organizations, Global Commons, and Environmental Stewardship: The Case of the Runaway International Seabed Authority (ISA)
Petra Gümplová	(In)Justice on the Seafloor: A Critical Appraisal of the Extension of Sovereign Rights to Natural Resources on the Continental Shelf
Tim-Frederik Hahn	Between Cooperation and Confrontation - The European Union’s Role in the Emerging Governance of the Deep Seabed.

10:30 Break

11:00-12:30 Panel 4 – Environmental governance and the challenge of representation

Annegret Kuhn & Justus Hamm	Non-state Actors in International Negotiations: the Case of the ICC in the Global Plastic Treaty Negotiations
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Anna Lauenburger	Rights of Nature in Antarctic Governance? Possible Advancements for Representation and Protection of Antarctic Nature
Anja Menzel & Lisa Otto	The Perils of Plastic: Ocean Pollution and the Governance of Marine Plastic Debris
Felix Nütz	Selectivity in Global Environmental Agreement-Making: Toward a New Framework for Multilateral Negotiations

12:30 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Panel 5 – Power in polar and ocean politics

Carolin Hirt, Alice Vadrot & Felix Nütz	Where is the Power? Conceptualizing Digital Twins in International Environmental Politics
Brett Lewis	Reconnected Normativity: The Role of a Contesting World Society in Arctic Science Diplomacy
Thorsten Van der Kooij	Human-water Relations in the Bothnian Bay: Ontological Politics of Finnish Marine Spatial Planning
Dorothea Wehrmann & Annegret Kuhn	Marine Knowledge Integration and Political Participation of Non-State Actors in the Face of Global Challenges

15:30 Closing remarks

16:00 – The End

Accommodation and Getting Around in Frankfurt

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
 Leibniz-Institut für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung
 Darmstädter Landstraße 110-114
 60598 Frankfurt/Main

By train or from Frankfurt Airport by public transport

From the airport, please take the regional train towards Laufach or Hanau Hauptbahnhof (the main station) and get off at “Frankfurt Süd”. Leave the station building towards Mörfelder Landstraße and turn left onto the street. After about 350 meters, turn right onto Darmstädter Landstraße. After about 700 meters, the institute building will be on your right.

From Downtown Frankfurt by public transport

The “Darmstädter Landstraße Mitte” bus stop, which serves bus lines 30, 652, 653, M36, and N71, is located directly in front of the institute building. The Südbahnhof S-Bahn station is approximately 0.7 kilometers away. The Südbahnhof station is 1.1 kilometers away and within walking distance.

Hotels nearby are: Leonardo Hotel Royal <https://www.leonardo-hotels.de/frankfurt/leonardo-royal-hotel-frankfurt> and the (funky) Hotel am Berg <https://www.hotelamberg.com/>. Any Hotel in Sachsenhausen or along the main subway lines 1,2,3,8, ending at Südbahnhof are fine, however. Frankfurt is not that big and public transport is rather decent. **Please do not book accommodation near the main train station.**