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MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW



Crisis, War, Critique

**Annual Conference of the “Critical Security Studies” Working Group of the
German Political Science Association (DVPW), 5-6 November 2026, in
cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and
International Law in Heidelberg**

Programme

**Venue: Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
Im Neuenheimer Feld 535 | 69120 Heidelberg**

5 November 2026

12:45-13:15 Arrival and welcome coffee

13:15 Conference introduction

13:30-15:00 Panel 1: CSS between Wars and the (post-)Westphalian world order
Chair: Matthias Leese

- Bernhard Stahl (University of Passau): *The West's demolition of the Liberal World Order – the silencing of mass atrocity crimes*
- Stephanie Winkler (Stockholm University): *China's Cold War Discourse as Conceptual Politics*
- Faduma Abukar Mursal (University of Lucerne): *Teklehaymanot Weldemichel (University of Manchester): Nomadising warfare from above: air-warfare, imperial experimentations and worlding in the Horn of Africa*
- Sarah Then Bergh (Cornell University): *Staging German Remilitarization: On the Audio-Visual Composition of a Euro-Western Security Community*

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Panel 2: Making visible, providing nuance – CSS and marginalization
Chair: Katharina Wezel

- Leonie Jantzer (University of Siegen): *Transnational Simultaneity of (In)security: What Refugees Reveal to Critical Security Studies*
- Paula Boden (University of Copenhagen): *Seeing (In)Security: Documentary Filmmaking as Critical Method in CSS*

- Oluwasikemi A. Adeyemo (Obafemi Awolowo University): *From Victims to Suspects: Security Narratives and the Criminalisation of Vulnerable Boys*
- Jan Klaassen (Constructor University Bremen): *Speaking with Authority on (In)Security? Crisis, Necessity, and the Classification of Boko Haram*

17:00-18:30 Panel 3: Addressing ambivalences – threat perceptions and capturing crises in CSS

Chair: Eva Herschinger

- Elisa Orrù (MPI for the Study of Crime, Security & Law): *How the notion of ‘hybrid threat’ is reshaping security. The case of migration and disinformation within the EU and its implications for the rule of law and democracy*
- Matthias Helf (IFSH): *Russia s Climate Security Discourse after the Invasion of Ukraine: Discursive Micro-Struggles within Authoritarian Climate Governance*
- Hendrik Hegemann (IFSH) & Raphael Bossong (SWP): *From Permanent Crisis Management to a Crisis-Proof Union? The “Preparedness Union” and the Dynamics of European Security Integration in Times of Polycrisis*
- Christian Sigl (University of Regensburg): *‘The hostage as the state’: ontological security dynamics in the Gaza war*

18:30-20:00 Hotel check-in

20:00 Conference dinner

6 November 2026

9:00-10:30 Panel 4: Confronting its own frameworks – reflexivity in CSS

Chair: Delf Rothe

- Rawnak Miraj UI Azam (American International University-Bangladesh), Afroza Khan (Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Black & White Law House) & Kamrull Hasan (District and Sessions Judge Court, Dhaka, and Black & White Law House): *Epistemic Necropolitics and the Security Silence: How Global Climate Knowledge Infrastructure Determines Whose Vulnerability Counts*
- Yasmine Mahssoun (Hassan 1st University): *Decolonial Critique as Securitizing Speech: The Confederation of Sahel States*
- Katharina Wezel, Nicolas Gäckle (University of Groningen): *Tarrying with the planetary: between methodological innovation and hesitation*
- Luise Scheliha (IFSH): *Futurity Checkpoints and the Security Governance of Extreme Adaptation to Climate Crisis*

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Panel 5: Democratic resilience and the legitimacy of resistance

Chair: Matthias Leese

- Isabelle Stephanblome (Goethe University, PRIF): *Between Militancy and Resilience: German Concepts of Democratic Defence in Times of Uncertainty*

- Lisa Voigt (Hertie School): *Constructing the Climate Movement as a Threat – Delegitimising Frames in the United Kingdom and Germany*
- Ricardo Kelm, Patrick Nitzschner (Bielefeld University): *Democratic Security? Defenses of Democracy in Critical Security Studies*
- Michael Wyatt (KU Leuven): *When Elections Become Threats: Anti-Electoral Securitization in the United States*

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Panel 6: Transformation and governance between pasts and futures

Chair: Eva Herschinger

- Daniela Braun, Giuseppe Carteny, Djamila Jabra (Saarland University): *Europe's Overlooked Security Risk: Climate Security on the Political Agenda?*
- Darren Seiffert (Central European University): *The Constitutional Politics of Security: Lessons from Weimar Germany and the United States*
- Alina Isakova (Bielefeld University): *The Society of Security? Constructing European Society in the EU Security Discourse*
- Nina Boy (Justus-Liebig University Gießen & Warwick University): *From resilience to security guarantees? Theoretical and (trans)disciplinary implications of the return of the promise of protection*

15:00 End of Conference

Organizing team:

- Magdalena König (Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht, Heidelberg)
- Eva Herschinger (Center for Intelligence and Security Studies/Universität der Bundeswehr München)
- Matthias Leese (ETH Zürich & Universität Zürich)
- Delf Rothe (IFSH Hamburg)
- Katharina Wezel (Universität Tübingen/Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)