

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024



10-11 OCT
FRANKFURT/
MAIN

FAR AWAY, YET SO CLOSE: ARMED CONFLICTS IN THE TRANSNATIONAL CONSTELLATION

PROGRAM



Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
Leibniz-Institut für
Friedens- und Konfliktforschung



Modern armed conflicts are no longer confined to specific regions; they ripple through global politics and society. The current war in Gaza illustrates this trend, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas sparks hostilities across neighboring states and beyond. Hybrid actors like Hamas operate transnationally, influencing global narratives and fueling divisions. These conflicts not only ignite violence but also deepen polarization and radicalization in distant societies, as seen in the surge of antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiments across Europe. Even expert communities are not immune, as the discourse becomes increasingly politicized and antagonistic. On social media, the conflict is debated in highly polemic and hostile ways, with various platforms also serving as tools for state and non-state propaganda.

The PRIF Annual Conference 2024 **"Far Away, Yet So Close: Armed Conflicts in the Transnational Constellation"** aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the transnational dimensions of modern armed conflicts. While the ongoing war in Gaza serves as a striking example, these phenomena are characteristic of contemporary conflicts worldwide. The conference will analyze how these conflicts extend beyond borders, influencing global politics, media, and society. Through a comparative perspective, the discussions will explore the roles of hybrid actors, the spread of violence, and the deepening polarization within and across societies, offering insights into the broader implications of these transnational dynamics.

The PRIF Annual Conference 2024 is sponsored by the **German Research Foundation (DFG)**.

Thursday, 10 October 2024

1.30–2 p.m.

Welcome & Introductory Remarks

Nicole Deitelhoff, PRIF
Claudia Baumgart-Ochse, PRIF

2–3.45 p.m.

Panel 1: Transnational Actors in Armed Conflicts

chair: Claudia Baumgart-Ochse, PRIF

Élise Féron, Tampere Peace Research Institute
Transnational Support: Diasporas in Conflict

Imad Alsoos, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
Transnational Armed Actors: Mobilization and Discourse of Hamas

Jo Jakobsen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Transnational Private Actors: Multinational Companies in Zones of Conflict

Regine Schwab, PRIF / Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl, Leiden University
A Pact with the Devil? Cooperation between Rebels and Jihadists

Discussant: León Castellanos-Jankiewicz, Asser Institute

Armed non-state actors, diasporas, multinational companies, and rebel groups: Many different types of transnational actors are involved in or affected by violent conflicts. They operate across national borders, maintain transnational networks, or address a global audience. In this panel, experts explore the ways in which these actors organize themselves, secure support structures, build networks and seek to influence discourses. What kind of strategies do transnational actors employ in order to reach their goals? How do they connect, cooperate, and communicate?

3.45–4.15 p.m.

Coffee Break

4.15–6 p.m.

Panel 2: Transnational Effects of Armed Conflicts

Chair: Regine Schwab, PRIF

Neta Crawford, University of Oxford

Transnational Damages: Climate Costs of Armed Conflict

Felix Bethke / Julian Junk, PRIF

How Terrorist Attacks Abroad Can Impact Domestic Threat Perceptions - Evidence from the German Response to the 2023 Hamas Attack on Israel

Clemens Arzt, Berlin School of Economics and Law

Taming Transnational Solidarity: Gaza and Protest Bans in Germany

Max Schaub, University of Hamburg

Transnational Violent Conflict and the Demand for Healthcare: How Armed Conflict reduces Trust, instills Fear, and increases Child Mortality

Discussant: Irene Weipert-Fenner, PRIF

Armed conflicts cause a variety of effects which do not stop at national or regional borders. This panel looks at such severe repercussions which may reach well beyond the original location of violent confrontations.

Among these effects are the environmental damages caused by war which have negative consequences for the fight against global warming. In addition, violent conflicts such as the Gaza war may be instrumentalized by groups abroad in order to fuel radicalization; and transnational solidarity protest needs to be dealt with by local authorities. Last but not least, armed conflicts affect healthcare in a profound way as increased child mortality demonstrates - even after hostilities have ended.

6–7 p.m.

Roundtable: Transnationale Effekte des Krieges in Gaza in Frankfurt und Deutschland (in German)

// Transnational Effects of the War in Gaza in Frankfurt and Germany

Chair: Stefan Kroll, PRIF

Deborah Schnabel, Bildungsstätte Anne Frank

Sabena Donath, Bildungsabteilung des Zentralrats der Juden

Philip Wallmeier, Ziehenschule Frankfurt

Der Roundtable bringt Expert*innen aus der politischen Bildung, Schulen und Vertreter*innen religiöser und ethnischer Gemeinschaften zusammen, um über die Auswirkungen des Gaza-Krieges in einer Stadt wie Frankfurt und in Deutschland im Allgemeinen zu diskutieren. Welche Erfahrungen gibt es im alltäglichen Umgang mit der Debatte in Deutschland? Und wie kann die Zivilgesellschaft der Polarisierung, der Feindseligkeit und dem Hass begegnen?

// The roundtable brings together practitioners of civic education, schools, and representatives of religious and ethnic communities to discuss the repercussions of the Gaza war in a city like Frankfurt, as well as in Germany in general. What are the experiences in dealing with the debate in Germany on a day-to-day basis? And how can civil society confront polarization, animosity, and hate?

Friday, 11 October 2024

9–10.45 a.m.

Panel 3: Armed Conflicts in Transnational Discourses

Chair: Hanna Pfeifer, PRIF

Nahed Samour, Radboud University
The ICJ and the Laws of Genocide in Gaza

Laliv Melamed, University of Groningen
Transnational Media Discourse and the Mediation of Human Vulnerability

Maria Hartmann, University of Marburg
Dealing with Political Violence as Post-Migration Society? Transnationalizing Experiences from Syria and GDR through Activist Exchange

Discussant: Thilo Marauhn, University of Gießen / PRIF / Asser Institute

Discourses on armed conflict are increasingly global in reach and often reflect the antagonism of the conflict parties. Neither media nor academic debates are exempt from this observation. This panel sheds light on different transnational discourses such as the legal debate on the Gaza war, the mediation of human vulnerability in transnational media, as well as the discursive exchange between migrant and non-migrant communities regarding experiences of political violence. How do different segments of society speak about war and violence? How do interlocutors use language in order to shape discourses? And what drives polarization - or may foster understanding?

10.45–11.15 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Panel 4: Transnational Practices in Armed Conflicts

Chair: Hendrik Simon, PRIF

Alex Dukalskis, University College Dublin

Transnational Reach of States: Authoritarian State Practices

Allison Koh, University of Birmingham

Authoritarian Politics and Transnational Digital Repression

Mona Kanwal Sheikh, Danish Institute for International Studies

Transnational Spread of Violence: Jihadi Mobilization

Hanna Pfeifer, PRIF

Transnational Governance by Armed Groups: The Case of ISIS

Discussant: Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl, Leiden University

States and non-state actors employ transnational practices in order to influence the actual course of violent conflict as well as impact global public opinion. Such practices include the repression of (former) citizens abroad, cyber threats, public diplomacy, the intentional spread of violence across borders, financing, provision of weapons, and building transnational governance. This panel will examine transnational practices of different actors such as authoritarian states and Jihadi groups.

1–2 p.m.

Light Lunch

2–3 p.m.

Closing Discussion: Armed Conflicts in the Transnational Constellation

Chair: Claudia Baumgart-Ochse, PRIF

León Castellanos-Jankiewicz, Asser Institute

Neta Crawford, University of Oxford

Nahed Samour, Radboud University

Mona Kanwal Sheikh, Danish Institute for International Studies



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