

## Abstracts

*Ulrich Roos/Timo Seidl*

### **The Presence of the Past in German Foreign Policy towards Namibia. An Analysis of German Foreign Policy Identity.**

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This article addresses the questions, which basic rules for action are guiding German foreign policy towards Namibia and which conclusions can be drawn from this regarding the ongoing discussions on the relevance of values and interests for German foreign policy. Against the background of the colonial past, the authors are interested in what there is to learn from the way in which the German federal government is dealing with this history and its influence on contemporary Germany's foreign policy identity. By drawing on methods of reconstructive research in global politics, following Strauss' Grounded Theory approach, the authors develop the hypothesis that German foreign policy (towards Namibia) cannot be properly understood simply by conceiving it as a civilian power's policy. Rather, the authors argue that the fundamental feature consists of a continuing prioritization of its interests, although these interests are defined multidimensionally and pursued flexibly.

**Keywords:** German foreign policy, German-Namibian relations, reconstructive global politics research, politics of memory, colonialism

*Sylvia Karl*

### **Presence in Absence. Enforced Disappearance and the *Liminality of Transitional Justice* in Mexico**

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Enforced Disappearance as a practice of state terror is implemented in many states. The social repercussions of this crime are observable, especially within the families of the disappeared who suffer the uncertainty of not knowing the whereabouts of the arbitrarily detained persons. The article deals with this crime against humanity on the basis of empirical research about the Dirty War during the 1960s and 1970s in Mexico. It examines the conditions of a potentially successful process of *transitional justice* from the victim's perspective. It intends to show the connection between the status of liminality of the families of the disappeared and the process of *transitional justice*. It will be argued that conflicts arise in these processes of

dealing with the past from the victim's perspective, which result from the appropriation of global norms in local contexts of power. These conflicts cause transitional frictions (Hinton 2010), which characterizes the *liminality of transitional justice*. Moreover, the employment of enforced disappearance in the current »War on Drugs« contributes to a continuation of the *liminality of transitional justice* in Mexico.

**Keywords:** Mexico, dirty war, transitional justice, enforced disappearance, war on drugs

*Elke Grawert*

**Lasting, Unresolved: The Darfur Conflict and the Ineffectiveness of the UN Interventions in Sudan**

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The Darfur conflict is part of a bigger lasting violent conflict that had been latent since the 1980s and erupted massively between 2003 and 2006. Characterized by national conflict constellations within Sudan and South Sudan, as well as violent conflicts crossing borders. International actors are involved through competing organizations and interests in Darfur. This paper poses the question which role the peacekeeping interventions in Darfur, in particular UNAMID, have been playing for the persistence of the violent conflict. The paper argues that UNAMID is part of a figuration, within which the government and resistance groups have been interacting interdependently since the mid-1980s. Tactical maneuvers of including and excluding actors in peace processes, as well as tensions between the United Nations and the African Union have maintained a power relationship that has favored the Sudanese government and prevented the adjustments of the UNAMID mandate to changing political realities. The paper draws the conclusion that in the case of Sudan, the international intervention, backed by the United Nations Security Council and the highest body of the African Union, has consolidated the existing power relations and the conflict-prone interdependences of violent actors.

**Keywords:** intervention, figuration, exclusion/inclusion, power relations, UNAMID

*Gerald Schneider*

**From Macro to Micro: Foundations and Perspectives of Internal War Research**

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In recent years, the empirical study of political violence within internal wars has experienced a profound change, shifting from macro designs to examinations with micro level foundations. This trend manifests itself in the increased use of surveys and data that is spatially and temporally highly disaggregated and that is helpful in overcoming the aggregation bias of traditional quantitative studies. This new empirical perspective has contributed to the proliferation of new insights on, for instance, the relationship between inequality and political instability. This active research field faces nevertheless a number of challenges, which manifest themselves for example, in a limited external validity, or by lacking convincing causal and the lack of convincing causal mechanisms for many empirically established relationships. It is only in this way that the new wave of micro-level studies will be able to incorporate these diverse finding into general theories of conflict and to affect the general debates in peace and conflict research.

**Keywords:** causes of war; GIS data; event data; endogeneity; aggregation bias