

DR. LAURA MAHRENBACH

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<https://www.mahrenbach.com/Publications/>

CURRENT POSITION

Adjunct professor

since 2022

School of Social Sciences and Technology | Technical University of Munich

Senior advisor

since 2024

Cascade Advisory, a D.C.-based consulting firm working on digital technologies and clean energy

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project leader and lecturer

2017 - 2023

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY | TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

- Led 2 multi-year, international projects (“Digital Transformations and Global Power Shifts” and “Conceptualizing Emerging Powers”) to completion, resulting in 18 peer-reviewed publications, 2 additional publications and numerous invited talks, conference presentations and interviews
- Contributed to high-profile policy debates discussing economic development, technology (big data, AI) and the Global South (Brazil, India, China), including the 2024 Raisina Dialogue and the 2022 GPPi/New America Transatlantic Digital Debates
- Secured a € 278.000 (\$315,000) grant from the German Research Foundation
- Completed several professional certifications, including the *Venia Legendi* in Political Science, the Google Professional Data Analytics Certificate, and the Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education of the Bavarian Universities
- Developed and taught courses in international political economy, international relations, technology, and social science research methods
- Supervised 3 MA- and BA-theses, one Ph.D. candidate and one intern
- Completed professional service tasks, incl. chairing committees, organizing events and participating in administrative interviews

Researcher and lecturer

2013 - 2016

CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS | TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DRESDEN

- Co-directed sub-project 2 (“Explaining the Origins and Shifts in States’ Preferences”) of the European Research Council Project “Delegation of Power to International Organizations”
- Completed research projects on states (Brazil, India, UK, USA) in global economic governance (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, United Nations, G20), resulting in 5 peer-reviewed publications and 6 conference talks
- Organized an interdepartmental campaign securing the Nexis database for the Saxon State Library
- Developed and taught courses in international political economy and international relations
- Supervised 8 MA- and BA-theses

Assistant professor

2012 - 2013

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND HISTORY | CURRY COLLEGE (USA)

- Completed research on trade and development governance in the Global South, resulting in 1 monograph, 1 peer-reviewed publication and 3 conference talks
- Introduced online office hours to make academic advising more inclusive for students facing mobility and financial challenges
- Evaluated and improved the college library’s social science resources and integrated these improvements into curriculum via course-mapping for the Department of Politics & History
- Developed and taught courses in political science and modern history
- Served as primary academic advisor for 6 undergraduate students

Lecturer and Ph.D. student

2007-2012

CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS | RUHR-UNIVERSITY BOCHUM

- Completed dissertation research (“The Trade Policy Strategies of Emerging Power States”), receiving the grade of *summa cum laude*

- Developed and taught courses in international political economy and international relations, receiving 2 e-learning awards for exceptional use of technology in the classroom
- Secured US\$7,300 in scholarship and grant funding, enabling field research and talks on 3 continents

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

12th Sino-German Forum/ Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Tongji University and the University of Bonn (Shanghai)	09/2024
<i>Presentation on the roles of China, the BRICS and Europe in today's polarized world</i>	
Can BRICS Lead in International AI Governance? / World Politics Review	03/2024
<i>Document analysis of leadership criteria in AI governance; collaboration with Mihaela Papa Raisina Dialogue</i> / Indian Ministry of External Affairs & Observer Research Foundation (New Delhi)	
Moderated high-level AI panel at India's premier geopolitical and geoeconomic dialogue	02/2024
Whose AI Is It Anyway? Moving Global Debates from 'Mine' to 'Ours' / Raisina Edit	02/2024
<i>Analysis of AI power and ownership debates to improve AI regulation and development</i>	
Governing Artificial Intelligence / Global Policy Journal at Smashwords	2023
<i>Edited volume exploring societal challenges and opportunities afforded by AI</i>	
Measuring Political Legitimacy with Twitter / New Media & Society 25(2)	2023
<i>Network and qualitative text analysis using Python and R to collect/analyze social media data; collaboration with Jürgen Pfeffer</i>	
Digital Diplomacy and Statecraft Roundtable / GIGA Hamburg (virtual)	03/2023
<i>Presentation on how AI and global power shifts are transforming global governance</i>	
Transatlantic Digital Debates / Global Public Policy Institute (Berlin)	11/2022
<i>Presentation on the geopolitics of AI regulation and governance</i>	
Interrogating Technology-Led Experiments in Sustainability Governance / Global Policy 11(4)	2020
<i>Collaboration with 9 scholars to set research/policy agenda maximizing technology's positive impact in sustainable governance and development</i>	
Digital Fracturing Conference / Friederich Ebert Stiftung & University of Nottingham in Ningbo (China)	11/2019
<i>Presentation on how digital polarization is facilitating internet fragmentation</i>	
Policy Visions of Big Data / Third World Quarterly 39(10)	2018
<i>Qualitative text and primary/secondary source analysis estimating the feasibility of emerging power leadership in the field of big data; collaboration with Jürgen Pfeffer and Katja Mayer</i>	

SKILLS

Languages	English (native), German (fluent)
IT skills	Adobe Acrobat, Confluence, Jira, Latex, MaxQDA, R, MS Office, Python, SQL, Tableau
Research methods	Quantitative and qualitative content analysis, Interviewing, Network analysis, Process tracing, Spreadsheet analysis

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

US\$321,000 in research funding	2007-2023
<i>Funders: German Research Foundation (DFG), International Studies Association, Technical University of Dresden, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Curry College, Ruhr-University Bochum</i>	
John Wiley and Sons Top Downloaded Paper	2019
<i>Heldt and Mahrenbach (2019) in Global Policy</i>	
e-Learning Awards at the Ruhr-University Bochum	2011
<i>For exceptional use of technology in the classroom</i>	
Fulbright Commission Teaching Assistantship in Hanover, Germany	2005-2006

University Medal at Louisiana State University	2004
<i>Final grade point average of 4.0 (Top 2% of graduating class)</i>	
US Presidential Scholar	2000
<i>Awarded to the USA's top high school graduates (Top 0,005% of US graduates)</i>	
National Merit Scholar	2000
<i>Awarded to the USA's top high school graduates (Top 0,2% of US graduates)</i>	
US\$85,000 in scholarships	2000-2008
<i>Incl. Chancellor's Alumni Scholarship (Louisiana State University, full scholarship), Graduate Assistantship (Florida State University, tuition and fees), Study Abroad Scholarship (Florida State University), and Summer School Scholarship (European Consortium for Political Research)</i>	

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

2023	Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate / Google
2022	Habilitation in Political Science / Technical University of Munich <i>Focus: Big data, artificial intelligence and global power shifts</i>
2021	Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education of the Bavarian Universities / Technical University of Munich
2011	Ph.D. in Social Sciences / Ruhr-University Bochum / <i>Summa cum laude</i> <i>Focus: International political economy</i>
2007	M.A. in International Affairs / Florida State University
2004	B.A. in Political Science / Louisiana State University / <i>Summa cum laude</i>