



The Resilience of Democracy

Dear Readers,

Democracies are resilient. In spite of the global setbacks and challenges that democracies are facing, their resilience has been remarkable. Scholars debate the extent to which the recent wave of autocratization is a phenomenon of authoritarian resurgence, its characteristics, and seek to understand its drivers. While it is important to understand the causes and drivers of authoritarian developments, recent contributions on the resilience of democracies offer a promising picture. To be sure, research on the resilience of democracies is still evolving. On the positive side, more research is to be expected. And it is needed.

Recently, there have been exciting professional developments for members of the network: Sonja Grimm has been appointed Professor at the University of Würzburg, Inken von Borzyskowski has been appointed Professor at Oxford University, and Johannes Gerschewski has been recognized as an influential scholar in Berlin and awarded the prestigious Thomas Mann Fellowship for his research. These developments are promising, as they

signal continued high-quality scholarship on the multifaceted issues of international democracy promotion, the causes and consequences of democratic erosion, and the resilience of democracies and autocracies.

As this is my last EDP Interaction, I would also like to thank the EDP network (and scholars in this field) for the extremely enriching experience and thought-provoking discussions over the past few years. My special thanks also go to Vivien for her support of the EDP network over the past year.

We are pleased to present you the 15th EDP Newsletter! Happy holidays!

Rebecca for the EDP Network



News

14. December 2023

[Inken von Borzyskowski Joins Oxford University as Professor of International Relations](#)

20. November 2023 | News

[Julia Leininger Is Member of the Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding](#)

20. November 2023 | News

[Johannes Gerschewski Named One of the Most Influential Researchers of Berlin](#)

2. November 2023 | News

[Johannes Gerschewski Receives the 2024 Thomas Mann Fellowship](#)

26. October 2023 | News

[PRIF Annual Conference on Dealing with Autocracies in a Fragmented World](#)

23. October 2023 | News

[Sonja Grimm Chair of International Relations and European Studies at the University of Würzburg](#)

Read all **News** [here](#).

EDP Wire

December 4, 2023 | EDP Wire | Julia Leininger

[No Sellout of Democracy](#)

September 22, 2023 | EDP Wire | Pascal Abb, Hanna Pfeifer, Irene Weipert-Fenner| Jonas Wolff

[An Audible Silence: The Role of Autocracy and Democracy in Germany's National Security Strategy](#)

See all **EDP Wires** [here](#).





In the Spotlight



Sonja Grimm, who specialized in International Relations, European Integration, and Comparative Politics, serves as the Chair of International Relations and European Studies at the Institute of Political Science and Sociology in Würzburg. Prior to her current role, Sonja

was an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz (Germany), where she successfully defended her habilitation thesis in 2018. In her extensive research career, Sonja focuses on crisis management, democratization, and state-building in diverse contexts. Her work delves into the causes and consequences of violent conflict, state fragility, and the intricacies of international state-building and externally supervised democratization. Sonja is also currently the Scientific Lead and Co-Coordinator of EMBRACE, a collaborative research consortium funded by the European Commission. Sonja is a founding member of the EDP network.

You can find more on Sonja [here](#) and [here](#).

Special Issue

Since the 1990s, external democracy promotion has become crucial for safeguarding democracy in recipient countries. However, a global shift challenges democracy advocates, as de-democratization trends emerge worldwide. While democracy promotion traditionally facilitates democratization, it now faces the imperative of actively defending against the opposing trend. The international conference “Promoting and Protecting Democracy in Times of De-Democratization” aimed to contribute to scholarly discourse on external democracy promotion during de-democratization, exploring how donors adapt to democratic backsliding in both donor and beneficiary countries. The conference brought together scholars from diverse academic backgrounds, spanning four continents, to deepen the understanding of this pressing issue. The conference results are planned to be published in a journal special issue in 2024.

Find more on the **Special Issue** [here](#).

Publications (selected)

Sarah von Billerbeck, Birte Julia Gippert, Kseniya Oksamytna, Oisín Tansey | 2023

[Theorizing Decision-Making in International Bureaucracies: UN Peacekeeping Operations and Responses to Norm Violations](#)

In: *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 67, Issue 4.

Anita Breuer, Julia Leininger, Daniele Malerba, Jale Tosun | 2023

[Integrated Policymaking: Institutional Designs for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

In: *World Development*, Volume 170, Issue 3.

Hassam Hussein, Benjamin Schütze | 2023

[The Geopolitical Economy of an Undermined Energy Transition: The Case of Jordan](#)

In: *Energy Policy*, Volume 180.

Benjamin Schütze | 2023

[Follow the Grid, Follow the Violence: The Project for a Transregional Mediterranean Electricity Ring](#)

In: *Middle East Critique* 2023.

Milton Carlos Bragatti, Brigitte Weiffen | 2023

[The Deterioration of South America’s Security Architecture: from Cooperation to Coexistence?](#)

In: *International Relations*.

Sonja Grimm | 2023

[Investigating the Root Causes of Fragility](#)

In: David Carment / Yiagadeesen Samy, (eds.) *Handbook of Fragile States*, Ottawa: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Jan Matti Dollbaum, Véronique Dudouet, Sonja Grimm, Sebastian Hellmeier | 2023

[Pro-Democracy Movements in a Comparative Perspective](#)

In: *Frontiers in Political Science*, Volume 5.

See all **Publications** [here](#).