

Fabiola Schwarz

PHD STUDENT · GLOBAL SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University of Munich (TUM)

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Education

Technical University of Munich

Munich, Germany

PHD STUDENT AT THE PROFESSORSHIP FOR GLOBAL SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

since Mar 2023

- Working title: Destination unreachable – but for how long? The utility of Internet shutdowns as a digital repressive tactic in an increasingly digitalized world
- First supervisor: Prof. Dr. Katrin Paula, TU Munich
- Second supervisor: Prof. Margaret E. Roberts, PhD, UC San Diego

Technical University of Munich

Munich, Germany

MSC POLITICS & TECHNOLOGY

Oct 2020 - Oct 2022

- Thesis: Utilizing Machine Learning to Predict and Explore Factors of Digital Repression.
- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Katrin Paula

Technical University of Applied Sciences Regensburg

Regensburg, Germany

BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Oct 2015 - Jan 2020

- Thesis: On the Necessity of Evaluating Germany's Critical Infrastructure Protection Policy as Regulated by the IT Security Act.
- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Markus Bresinsky

Professional Experience

Since Nov 2022

Research and Teaching Associate, Professorship for Global Security & Technology, Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich, Germany

Sep - Nov 2025

Research Assistant, African Studies Department, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, Oxford University, UK

Feb 2022 - Nov 2022

Student Research Assistant, Professorship for Global Security & Technology, Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich, Germany

Jun 2021 - Mar 2022

Student Research Assistant, International Cybersecurity project, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy Hamburg, Germany

Jan 2022 - Apr 2022

Research and Content Intern, Ethical Digital Transformation Program, Data-Pop Alliance, Remote

Nov 2019 - Aug 2020

Student Research Assistant, NATO Civil-Military Cooperation Centre of Excellence, The Netherlands

Awards and Fellowships

2025 **Oxford Internet Institute – UC Berkeley Summer Doctoral Program**, School of Information, UC Berkeley

2025 **TUM Internationalization Grant**, Technical University of Munich, €1,600

2025 **ISA Travel Grant**, International Studies Association, \$600

2024-2025 **European Cybersecurity Fellow**, Virtual Routes (former European Cyber Conflict Research Initiative)

2024 **Best Paper Award**, 2024 Conference on International Cyber Security: Democracy and Cyberspace

2023 **Aquila Ascendens**, Young Scientist Award in Security Studies, DialogForum Sicherheitspolitik

2021 - 2022 **Think Digital Fellowship**, Internet Business Cluster (IBC) Munich e.V.

2016 - 2022 **Study Scholarship**, Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft (sdw)

Publications

PUBLISHED

Schwarz, F., Silomon, J., Hansel, M. 2022, May 06. Empowering Security Researchers Will improve Global Cybersecurity. Blogpost on Just Security. <https://www.justsecurity.org/81293/>

Schwarz, F. 2022, March 22. The High Cost of Internet Shutdowns. Blogpost on Data-Pop Alliance. <https://datapopalliance.org/the-high-costs-of-internet-shutdowns/>

Silomon, J., Hansel, M., **Schwarz, F.** 2022. Bug Bounties: Between New Regulations and Geopolitical Dynamics. Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security, 298–305.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Schwarz, F., Paula, K. Pulling the Rug Out from Under the Feet? How Internet Shutdowns Shape Protest in Diverse Political Regimes.

Schwarz, F. What Drives State-led Internet Shutdowns? Predicting Their Onset and Explaining Enablers.

Schwarz, F., Schumann, M. Commerce or Control? How Information Technology Adoption Shapes the Use of Internet Shutdowns.

Presentations & Outreach

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- Sep 2025 **Authoritarian Political Systems Group Workshop**, Online
- Jun 2025 **European Political Science Association Annual Conference**, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
- Mar 2025 **ISA Annual Convention 2025**, International Studies Association, Chicago, USA
- Nov 2024 **2024 Conference on International Cyber Security**, The Hague Program on International Cyber Security, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Oct 2024 **8th Workshop on Conflict Dynamics**, Technical University of Munich, Germany
- Oct 2023 **Crisis Early Warning Symposium 2023**, University of the German Armed Forces Munich, Germany
- Sep 2023 **Science Peace Security 2023**, Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany
- Sep 2023 **7th Workshop on Conflict Dynamics**, University of York, United Kingdom
- May 2023 **7th European Multidisciplinary Conference on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies**, Padova, Italy
- Oct 2021 **1st Annual Cybersecurity Law and Policy Scholars Conference**, Minneapolis, MN, University of Minnesota Law School & online

INVITED TALKS & PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Oct 2024 **PRIF Annual Conference 2024**, (*declined*), Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Germany
- Dec 2023 **Cybersecurity & Technology for Democracy, Moderation of Fireside Chat with Tim Maurer**, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Teaching Experience

COURSES & SEMINARS

Cybersecurity in Social Science Research, Seminar, MSc Politics & Technology, Technical University of Munich, Summer terms 2023, 2024, and 2025

Introduction to Empirical Methods for the Social Sciences, Exercise, BSc Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Winter terms 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26

International Cybersecurity, Seminar, MSc Politics & Technology, Technical University of Munich, Winter term 2023-24, Summer terms 2023 and 2024

Introduction to Research Design in the Social Sciences, Seminar, MSc Politics & Technology, Technical University of Munich, Winter term 2023-24

THESIS SUPERVISION

MSc Politics & Technology, *Cyber Conflict and Geopolitical Tensions – Exploring a Virtual Pandora’s Box*, submitted in August 2025

MSc Politics & Technology, *Warfare in the Digital Age – Analyzing the Impact of DDoS Attacks on Battlefield Events in the Ukraine War*, submitted in June 2025 – Awarded with the 1st place of the Aquila Ascendens Young Scientist Award in Security Studies in 2025

MSc Politics & Technology, *Frame conditions for IT security in non-profit organisations based on the example of Caritas*, submitted in March 2025 – Awarded with the Chaos Catalyst Scholarship in 2024, funded by the Chaos Communication Club

Extracurricular Activities

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer: Journal of Peace Research, Security Studies

Doctoral representative for the Department of Governance, TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, Technical University of Munich, since Oct 2025

Co-organizer 8th Workshop on Conflict Dynamics, TUM Science and Study Center Raitenhaslach, Technical University of Munich, 9-10 Oct 2024

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Since 2022 **German Live Saving Society (DLRG e.V.)**, active lifeguard, DLRG München-Mitte e.V., Munich, Germany

2018 - 2019 **CampusAsyl e.V.**, choir Member and co-organizer of the Integrative Urban Gardening Project, Regensburg, Germany

2013 - 2015 **Econtinuidad Perú**, two-year voluntary service in school gardens, Lima & Andean region, Peru

References

Prof. Dr. Katrin Paula

First PhD Supervisor

PROFESSORSHIP FOR GLOBAL SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

katrin.paula@hfp.tum.de

Prof. Dr. Yannis Theocharis

Colloquium Chair

CHAIR OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

yannis.theocharis@tum.de