

Professor Dr. Michael Zürn

WZB Berlin Social Science Center
Research area International Politics and Law
Research unit Global Governance

Freie Universität Berlin (FU)
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Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Date and place of birth	*1959, Esslingen am Neckar
Family Status	Married, 1 child
Nationality	German

Current Positions

2004–2027	Professor of International Relations, Free University of Berlin
2004–2027	Director, Research unit Global Governance, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Academic Qualifications

1991	Doctoral thesis entitled “Spieltheorie, Funktionalismus und internationale Politik” (<i>Game theory, functionalism and international politics</i>) submitted to the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Tübingen (<i>summa cum laude</i>)
1987	Certificate, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection
1987	State Examination, Political Science/German Literature/Linguistics, University of Tübingen
1984	MA International Studies, University of Denver

Professional Career

2024–	Principle Investigator (PI) of the DFG-funded Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script” (SCRIPTS)
2019–2023	Spokesperson and Principle Investigator (PI) of the Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)”
2016–2020	Speaker of the DFG–Research Group “Overlapping Spheres of Authority and Interface Conflicts in the Global Order”
2008–2018	Founder and Board Member, Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (BTS), since 2015 Director
2004–2009	Founding Dean, Hertie School of Governance
2002–2004	Director, Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 597 “Transformations of the State” (TranState), University of Bremen
2001–2003	Director, Institute of Political Science, University of Bremen
2001–2003	Co-founder and Board Member, Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Bremen
1997–2000	Director, Centre for European Law and Policy (ZERP), University of Bremen
1995–2004	Director, Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS), University of Bremen
1993–1996	Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria
1993–2004	Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Bremen
1992–1993	Thyssen Research Fellow, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
1991–1993	Assistant Professor, Institute for Political Science, University of Tübingen
1991	Visiting Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, Colorado
1989–1991	Research Associate, Institute for Political Science, University of Tübingen
1986–1989	Assistant Professor for DFG funded project “Die Bedeutung von Internationalen Regimen als Institut der gewaltfreien Behandlung des Ost-West Konflikts” (<i>The significance of international regimes as an institution for the non-violent resolution of the East-West conflict</i>)

Participation in Externally Funded Research Projects

2021	Thomas Mann Fellowship, Los Angeles
2019–2025	Cluster of Excellence: “Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)” Directors: Michael Zürn, Tanja Börzel Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
2016–2020	„Overlapping Spheres of Authority and Interface Conflicts in the Global Order” Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
2012–2015	“Contested World Orders” at the Social Science Research Center Berlin, GIGA/Hamburg and HSKF/Frankfurt Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Dr. Detlef Nolte, Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Wolf Funding: Leibniz Gemeinschaft, Senate Competition Committee (SAW)
2010–2014	International organizations and the protection of fundamental rights of the individual Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Dr. Monika Heupel Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
2009–2013	The Internationalization of the Rule of Law Funding: Hague Institute for International Law
2003–2004	Initiator and Director of the CRC 597 “Transformations of the State” at the University of Bremen Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
2003–2006	Project A2 of the CRC 597 “The Juridification of Dispute Settlement in International Law” Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Dr. Bernhard Zangl
2003–2006	Project B4 of the CRC 597 “Regulation and Legitimation in the Internet” Director: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn
2001–2003	Co-initiator and founding member of the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the University of Bremen Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Dr. Walter Heinz, Prof. Dr. Stephan Leibfried, Prof. Dr. Ansgar Weymann Funding: Volkswagen Foundation
2001–2004	Project Partner for the establishment of PolitikON – an online project for political science education Director: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Leidhold Funding: Ministry of Education and Research

1997–2001	Compliance in Modern Political Systems Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Dr. Christian Joerges Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
1997–2001	Managing Editor of the Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen (German Journal of International Relations) Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
1995–2004	The Role of Culture in International Relations; Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Dr. Dieter Senghaas Funding: State of Bremen
1995–1996	Summer Institute on the Political Economy of European Integration Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Barry Eichengreen Funding: German-American Academic Council Foundation
1994–2001	Societal Responses to Globalization Director: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG)
1993–2002	International Regimes Database; Directors: Prof. Dr. Michael Zürn, Prof. Marc Levy, Prof. Oran Young Funding: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Vienna; National Science Foundation; German Research Council (DFG); German-American Academic Council Foundation

Professorship Offers

2003	Hertie School of Governance, Berlin (Academic Director)
2003	Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Bonn (Director) (declined)
2003	Free University of Berlin / WZB Berlin Social Science Center (Director)
2002	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (declined)
1997	University of Constance (declined)
1993	University of Bremen

Honors and Awards

2021	Science Award of the Governing Mayor of Berlin
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2020	Book symposium on Michael Zürn, 2018, <i>A Theory of Global Governance. Authority, Legitimacy, and Contestation. International Theory</i> (2021).
2020	Special issue on the works of Michael Zürn. <i>Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen</i> , 27:1.
2020	Thomas Mann Fellowship
2014	Member of the Academia Europaea
2012–2017	Visiting Professor of Central European University, Budapest
2010–2018	Permanent Visiting Senior Fellow London School of Economics
2010	First Honorary Fellow as Faculty Dean, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
2008	Member of Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
2007	Honorary Member of the CRC 597, University of Bremen
2003	Sparkasse Bremen Award for Innovative Cooperation Projects among the Bremen Universities
1999	Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Studies, Norwegian Academy of Social Sciences, Oslo
1995–1996	Summer Institute on the Political Economy of European Integration Co-Directorship (together with Prof. Barry Eichengreen), awarded by the German-American Academic Council Foundation

Memberships in Academic and Professional Associations

2026–	Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Institute for European Politics (iep), Berlin
2026–	COST-Expert (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)
2026–2029	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), PRIF – Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (Frankfurt a. Main)
2026–2028	Member of the Leibnitz Research Network “China”
2025–	Member of the ALLEA Science-Policy Standing Committee
2025–	Member of Academic Advisory Board at Queen's University Belfast
2023–	Board Member, Political Research Exchange Journal, Essex (UK)
2021–	Member of the Dahrendorf program “Europe in a Changing World”, University of Oxford, UK

2019–2021	Member of the IAG Digital Democracy, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
2018–	Member of the University Council of the University of Konstanz
2017–2021	Member of the Supervisory Board of the Heinrich Böll Foundation
2017–2023	Member of the Berlin Board, Einstein Foundation Berlin (ESB)
2016–2024	Member of the Foundation Board German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF)
2014–2016	Chair of the Advisory Board of the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)
2014–2016	Member of the European Research Council (ERC), Panel SH 2, Consolidator Grant
2014–2017	Chair of the Advisory Board of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Center for Global Cooperation Research
2012–2016	Member of the Foundation Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg)
2012–2022	Membership Board of the Heinrich Böll Foundation
2012–2016	Chair of the Advisory Board of the Excellence Cluster “Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main (Member of the Advisory Board since 2009)
2012–	Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (SEF) (Member of the Executive Committee since 2005)
2009–2015	Member of Executive Committee of the German Protestant Church Congress
2005–2006	Member of the DFG Commission and Research Council of the Excellence Initiative
2005–	Member of the International Academic Council (IAC) of Barcelona Institute for International Studies (IBEI)
2005–2018	Member of the Scientific Board of Directors of the German Council of Foreign Relations (DGAP)
2004–2010	Member of the Senate and the Executive Committee and of the Grants Committee on General Research Support of the German Research Foundation (DFG)
2003–2016	Advisory Board Member of the Center for Global Change and Governance, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Newark

2000–	Board Member of the Institute for European Politics (IEP)
1999–2002	Board Member of Copenhagen Peace Research Institute
1998–2003	Board Member of ECPR Standing Group on International Relations
1997–2000	Board Member of the Working Committee on European Integration, German Political Science Association (DVPW)

Regular Editorial Activities

2023–	Board Member, Political Research Exchange Journal
2018–	Co-Editor, <i>Politics and Governance</i>
2013–	Member of the Advisory Board, <i>Regulation & Governance</i>
2010–	Co-Editor, <i>Leviathan</i>
2009–	Co-Editor, <i>Global Policy</i>
2005–2010	Member of Advisory Board, <i>Leviathan</i>
2004–2008	Co-Editor, <i>European Journal of International Relations</i>
2003–	Member of the Advisory Board, <i>Journal of International Relations and Development</i>
2003–2010	Member of Advisory Board, <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>
2002–	Co-Editor, <i>Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen</i>
2001–2007	Member of Advisory Board, <i>International Organization</i>
1999–2004	Member of Advisory Board, <i>European Journal of International Relations</i>
1999–2014	Member of Advisory Board, <i>Swiss Political Science Review</i>
1999–2004	Co-Editor (representing the German Political Science Association), <i>Nomos, Weltpolitik im 21. Jahrhundert</i>
1998–2008	Member of Advisory Board, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Series: New Millennium Books in International Studies

Advisory activities

Expertise Work for (among others)

European Science Foundation • German Foundation for Peace Research • Duke University • German Research Foundation (DFG) • European Science Foundation • European University Institute • Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung • Harvard University • Hans Böckler Foundation • Heinrich Böll Foundation • National Science Foundation • Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research • Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ) • Swiss National Foundation • Volkswagen Foundation • ZEIT Foundation

Reviews for (among others)

British Journal of Political Science • Cambridge University Press • Cornell University Press • Cooperation and Conflict • Government and Opposition • European Journal of International Relations • European Journal of Political Research • European Journal of International Relations • Journal of European Public Policy • International Studies Quarterly • International Organization • International Studies Quarterly • Journal of Common Market • European Political Science Review • International Studies Review • Oxford University Press • Politische Vierteljahresschrift • Swiss Political Science Review • West European Politics • World of Human Rights • World Politics • Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen • Zeitschrift für Politik • Democracy and the Rule of Law, etc.