

# Berenike Firestone

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CV last updated: June 2024

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### **Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)**

Research Fellow, Transformations of Democracy Research Department 2024 –

### **Hertie School Berlin**

Research Associate (Predoctoral Fellow) 2021 – 2024

## EDUCATION

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### **Columbia University**, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY

Ph.D., Sociology 2024 (expected)

M.Phil., Sociology 2020

M.A., Sociology 2019

### **Georgetown University**, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC

M.A., Conflict Resolution 2014

Certificate, Arab Studies 2014

### **Maastricht University**, University College Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands

B.A. *summa cum laude*, Liberal Arts and Sciences 2011

### **University of California at Berkeley**, College of Letters and Science, Berkeley, CA

Study Abroad, Peace and Conflict Studies 2010

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Turkoglu, Oguzhan, Ruth Ditzmann, and **Berenike Firestone**. 2023. “Commemorating Local Victims of Past Atrocities and Far-Right Support over Time”, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120(28), <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2221158120>.

- Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) [Policy Brief](#) about the article

Dembinski, Matthias, and **Berenike Schott**. 2014. “Regional security arrangements as a filter for norm diffusion: the African Union, the European Union and the responsibility to protect”, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 27(2): 362-380, DOI: 10.1080/09557571.2013.868406

Dembinski, Matthias, and **Berenike Schott**. 2013. “Converging around global norms? Protection of civilians in African Union and European Union peacekeeping in Africa”, *African Security* 6(3-4): 276-296, DOI: 10.1080/19392206.2013.854085

## Book Review

Firestone, Berenike. 2020. Review of *Between Heimat and Hatred: Jews and the Right in Germany, 1871–1935*, by Philipp Nielsen, *Nationalities Papers* 1-2, <https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2020.74>

## Research Papers and Reports

Beyerle, Shaaska, Daniel Bulman, Marco Larizza, and **Berenike Schott**. 2017. “Citizens as Drivers of Change: How citizens practice human rights to engage with the state and promote transparency and accountability”, *Working Paper*, Washington, DC: World Bank Group, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27653>

Schott, Berenike. 2013. “An analysis of the arguments for the 2010 salary increase for Indian Members of Parliament”. In: *Lifting the Fog – Exercises in Analytical Discourse Analysis*, Marble Research Papers, Maastricht University, 5:23-44, <https://doi.org/10.26481/marble.2013.v5.170>

Dembinski, Matthias, Jörg Krempel, and **Berenike Schott**. 2012. “Towards effective security governance in Africa – African and European actors in peacekeeping and peace-building: Partners or competitors?” *PRIF Report* No. 115. Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. <https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/handle/document/32584>

Schott, Berenike. 2011. ““City on the Hill” or “Crusader Nation”: The influence of religion on American foreign policy through the period of ‘born-again’ presidency”, *The Maastricht Journal of Liberal Arts*, 3:3-15, <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/sites/default/files/mjla-2011-2012.pdf>

## Policy Notes and Commentaries (selected)

Firestone, Berenike. 2021. “LSBTIQ: Nach wie vor ein weiter Weg zur Gleichberechtigung”, *ad hoc international*, March 2021. [interview with trans rights advocate Julia Ehrt on the global fight for equality; in German]

Firestone, Berenike. 2021. “Mehr Mut!”, *ad hoc international*, January 2021. [analysis of original survey on sexism, racism, and discrimination in international affairs; in German]

Jespersen, Ann-Sophie, Marco Larizza, M. and **Berenike Schott**. 2019. “Fostering Impactful Citizen Engagement”, *Governance Note*, No 17, June 2019, Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

Schott, Berenike. 2016. “Money alone is not the answer – More sensible support for the democratic transition in Tunisia is possible”, *Internationale Politik*, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, Special Edition Mercator Kolleg.

Schott, Berenike. 2015. “After the Revolution: Why we need a better understanding of the role civil resistance movements play in political transitions”, *The Governance Post*, November 2015.

Schott, Berenike. 2015. “Resetting European Policy toward the South: Why the European Neighborhood Policy review under Commissioner Hahn needs to address the essential questions”, *ad hoc international*, March 2015.

Schott, Berenike. 2014. “Moderation in the Context of Revolution? Thoughts on the Moderation Theory in Light of Post-Revolutionary Egypt”, In: Ethics Fellows for the Future 2014 Essay Collection, Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, pp. 38-41

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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“Building the Big Tent: How the Local Political Incorporation of Displaced Germans into the Center-Right Curbed Far-Right Support in Post-WWII Germany”

- Elise Boulding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, PWSC Section, ASA (2022)
- Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Finalist, CHS Section, ASA (2024)
- Political Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, Finalist, Political Sociology, ASA (2024)

From the “German Fatherland” to the “Christian Occident”: (Re-)Education and the Shadow of White Supremacist Ideology in Post-WWII Germany

Participating in a digital history project mobilizes people for symbolic justice and liberal democracy.  
(with Ruth Ditlmann and Oguzhan Turkoglu)

Confronting the Past in a Polarized Present: The Effect of Holocaust Representations on Mobilization for Symbolic Justice and Against Antisemitism.  
(with Ruth Ditlmann and Oguzhan Turkoglu)

Beyond the Dyad: Perspectives on Holocaust Memory and Education in Post-Migrant Germany (with Ruth Ditlmann and Oguzhan Turkoglu)

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2022	<b>Elise Boulding Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention</b> , Peace War and Social Conflict Section, ASA
2021	<b>Department Research Grant</b> , Columbia University, Department of Sociology
2021	<b>Small Research Grant</b> , Columbia University, GSC Workshop
2021 & 2023	<b>GSAS Matching Travel Fund</b> , Columbia University
2020	<b>Department Research Grant</b> , Columbia University, Department of Sociology
2019	<b>Tilly Award in Sociology</b> in recognition of outstanding teaching and service, Columbia University, Department of Sociology
2018	<b>Small Research Grant</b> , Columbia University, Department of Sociology
2018	<b>Spivack Travel Grant</b> , Columbia University, Department of Sociology
2018	<b>Institute on Qualitative and Multimethod Research</b> , Syracuse University (full travel and tuition stipend)
2017-2022	<b>Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellowship</b> , Columbia University
2017	<b>President’s Award for Excellence</b> , The World Bank (for work on behalf of LGBTQ+ employees)
2014-2015	<b>Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs</b> , Mercator Foundation and German National Academic Foundation, Project Title: Supporting Democratic Change in a Region in Transition – Citizen Engagement and Civil Society in Development Interventions in North Africa
2013-2014	<b>Ethics Fellow for the Future</b> , Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, Theme: Democracy and its Challengers

- 2012-2014     **ERP Fellowship**, German National Academic Foundation and German Ministry of Economy (full academic scholarship)
- 2009-2012     **Full Academic Scholarship**, Ev. Studienwerk Villigst
- 2010-2011 & 2008-2009     **Top 3% Award**, Maastricht University (award and tuition reimbursement for top GPA)

## PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024     “Confronting the Past in a Polarized Present: The Effect of Holocaust Representations on Mobilization for Symbolic Justice and Against Antisemitism.” TD workshop, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Berlin, May
- 2024     “Confronting the Past in a Polarized Present: The Effect of Holocaust Representations on Mobilization for Symbolic Justice and Against Antisemitism.” Statistics Lab, Columbia University, New York City, May
- 2023     “From the “German Fatherland” to the “Christian Occident”: (Re-)Education and the Shadow of White Supremacist Ideology in Post-WWII Germany” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Washington D.C., November
- 2023     “Does Participatory Memory Work about Past Injustice Mobilize Participants Against Prejudice and Injustice Today?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August
- 2023     “Commemorating Local Victims of Past Atrocities, and Far-Right Support over Time.” General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology, Krakow, July
- 2022     “Does Participatory Memory Work about Past Injustice Mobilize Participants Against Prejudice and Injustice Today?” Experimental Design Workshop, Columbia University, October
- 2022     “Building the Big Tent: How Mainstream Conservative Politics in Post-WWII Germany Shaped Regional Trajectories in Far-Right Success.” Comparative Historical Sociology Mini-Conference, Los Angeles, August
- 2021     “Building the Big Tent: Christian Democrats and the Political Integration of the Right in Post-WWII Germany.” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, November
- 2021     “Building the Big Tent: Christian Democrats and the Political Integration of the Right in Post-WWII Germany.” 8th Annual Graduate Workshop on Comparative Historical Research on Europe, June
- 2021     “Forced Migration and the Persistence of Far-Right Support in Germany from Weimar to Today.” 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Europeanists, June
- 2021     “Political Socialization during Historical Turning Points: Education, Democracy, and the “Fatherland” in Post-WWII Germany.” Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, Columbia University, April
- 2021     “Political Socialization during Historical Turning Points: Perceptions of the “German Fatherland” by School Students in Post-WWII Germany.” Problem-Solving Sociology Virtual Coffee Hour, Northwestern University, April
- 2020     "Forced Migration as a Driver of Spatial Heterogeneity in the Intergenerational Persistence of Far-Right Support: Evidence from Germany." Conference on Right-Wing Studies, UC Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies, August
- 2020     "Spatial Heterogeneity in the Intergenerational Persistence of Political Behavior: The

- Case of Far-Right Support in Germany." Accepted for the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August \*canceled due to COVID-19
- 2020 "Spatial Heterogeneity in the Intergenerational Persistence of Far-Right Support in Germany: Migration and Displacement as Drivers of Change?" Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, Columbia University, New York City, May
- 2019 "Support for the Far Right: Why Local History Matters for Understanding a Global Phenomenon." Presented at the ISERP Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar, Columbia University, New York City, December
- 2019 "Electoral Support for the Far Right in Germany: Spatio-Temporal Patterns from Weimar to Today." Presented at the Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention, New York City, May
- 2018 "The Rise of the Far Right in Germany: Is Conservative Christian Thought a Piece of the Puzzle?" Presented at Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, February
- 2017 "Citizens as Drivers of Change: Practicing Human Rights to Engage with the State and Promote Transparency and Accountability." World Bank Global Partnership for Social Accountability Forum 2017, Washington DC, October

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Berlin, Germany**

Research Fellow, June 2024 – ongoing

Affiliated with Transformations of Democracy research department (Director: Prof. Daniel Ziblatt)

### **Hertie School, Berlin, Germany**

Research Associate, May 2021 – May 2024

Affiliated with research project on democracy, inclusion, and participatory memory work in pluralistic societies (PI: Prof. Ruth Dittmann)

### **Columbia University, New York City, NY**

Research Assistant, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Supporting the research of Prof. Debbie Becher for the book project "A Fractured Nation"

### **Columbia University, New York City, NY**

Research Assistant, Summer 2019

Data gathering and coding (using GIS) for project on regional histories and the European Social Survey under the leadership of Prof. Andreas Wimmer (resulting publication in *Sociological Science*: "Layered Legacies. How Multiple Histories Shaped the Attitudes of Contemporary Europeans.")

### **Phineo, Berlin, Germany**

Contractor, Winter 2018/2019

Synthesized empirical literature on effect of civic engagement on social cohesion, wrote report, and presented recommendations for donors funding civil society organizations and initiatives

### **Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Berlin, Germany**

Visiting Researcher, July – Aug. 2018

Affiliated with research unit Institutions and Political Inequality (Director: Prof. Macartan Humphreys)

### **The World Bank, Washington, DC**

Consultant / Operations Analyst, 2015 – 2017

Co-authored research report on citizen participation and human rights; co-authored note on fostering

citizen participation in World Bank operations; co-authored case study on citizen service centers in Kenya and note on design and implementation of citizen service centers; authored/co-authored six case notes on citizen engagement in projects in MENA; performed monitoring and evaluation of citizen engagement in World Bank projects

**Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs),**  
Brussels, Belgium

Visiting Fellow, Oct. – Dec. 2014

Conducted research on the European Neighborhood Policy reform and EU democracy support in the MENA region through interviews with decision-makers in Brussels; participated in German Marshall Fund Mediterranean Strategy Group

**Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany**

Research Assistant / Intern, Jan. – July 2012

Co-authored report with research fellows on peacebuilding by UN, AU and EU; co-authored two journal articles with senior research fellow on regional security cultures and R2P; gathered, coded and catalogued data on decision-making modes in 120 IGOs; translated data from Spanish and French into English

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2021 Spring     **MA Thesis Seminar II**, Columbia University, with Professor Denise Milstein; no evaluations due to COVID-19
- 2020 Fall        **MA Thesis Seminar I**, Columbia University, with Professor Denise Milstein; no evaluations due to COVID-19
- 2020 Spring     **Social Theory**, Columbia University, with Professor Debbie Becher; taught own section (27 students); no evaluations due to COVID-19
- 2019 Spring     **Social Theory**, Columbia University, with Professor Debbie Becher; student evaluation mean: 4.2/5 and median: 4.5/5
- 2018 Fall        **The Social World**, Columbia University, with Professor Teresa Sharpe, taught own section (30 students); student evaluation mean: 4.2/5 and median: 5/5

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)**

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**Oxfam**, Tunis, Tunisia

Program and Advocacy Assistant, Feb. – May 2015

Mapped youth programs, analyzing needs and best practices; conducted outreach among civil society for advocacy on enabling environment (work language: French)

**IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)**, Monrovia, Liberia & Washington, DC

Intern, June – Dec. 2013

Co-facilitated three weeklong trainings on gender mainstreaming and conflict analysis in Liberia; designed and facilitated one-day training on conflict resolution with women grassroots activists; developed 20-page training manual for 4-day training on conflict resolution skills for community peacebuilding and reconciliation with Liberian civil society groups

**Friedrich Ebert Foundation**, Abuja, Nigeria

Intern, Oct. – Dec. 2011

Wrote and edited internal and external publications (English and French); wrote conference report about three-day international conference on democratizing security sector reform

## LANGUAGES

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- German (native)
- English (full professional proficiency)
- French (professional proficiency)
- Spanish (intermediate proficiency)
- Dutch, Finnish, Modern Standard Arabic, Portuguese (basic proficiency)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

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| 2022      | Advising member, dissertation defense committee of Jonas Bergmann, Humboldt University, Berlin |
| 2021      | Reviewer, <i>Columbia Undergraduate Research Journal</i>                                       |
| 2019-     | Ad Hoc Reviewer, <i>Social Problems</i>  |
| 2018-2019 | Graduate Student Coordinator, Networks & Time Workshop, Columbia University                    |
| 2018      | Graduate Student Representative, Department of Sociology, Columbia University                  |

Member of American Sociological Association (2018- ), Council for European Studies (2020- ), and Social Science History Association (2017- )