



# IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs  
and International Relations e.V.

## Annual Report 2019

### IFAIR 2019

#### A Year of Reflection and New Orientation

Berlin, 29.02.2020

**Young Initiative on  
Foreign Affairs and  
International Relations  
(IFAIR) e.V.**

Amtsgericht Berlin  
Charlottenburg  
Registernr.: VR 30447 B

Executive Board:  
Jessica Kininger  
Anne Laible  
Katharina Lange  
Dr. Steffen Murau  
Florian Schöler

[www.IFAIR.eu](http://www.IFAIR.eu)  
[Wikipedia-Artikel](#)

Anne Laible  
Florian Schöler

Dear IFAIR members, supporters, partners and friends,

The last year has seen the steady rise of political polarisation around the world. The second Turkish offensive in Syria, the swelling conflict between the USA and Iran, spiking animosities between the EU and the United Kingdom due to Brexit, an increasingly dire state of affairs in Brazil or Poland and the AfD's gains in local German elections. This is just a small excerpt of the political events that shaped 2019 – and they are enough to think about the future with gloom and a heavy heart. Nevertheless, 2019 also saw the rise of the activism of Greta Thunberg, Fridays for Future and the creation of a societal consensus to act on the climate emergency, before it is too late. If a change of course is possible in relation to the environment, positive political change must also be possible elsewhere – a conviction that is shared by everyone of us and has shaped our organisation for the past ten years.

We celebrate our tenth anniversary in 2020. But before we will commemorate ten years of IFAIR, we would like to reflect on our achievements of 2019 and highlight our plans for the coming year. All of our activities and success stories would not have been possible without the support of different institutions and individuals. Therefore, we want to seize this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us on our journey so far!



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### **Our highlights in 2019:**

- *We are happy to report that for the second year in a row, we have accepted more international new members than German nationals.*
- We elected a new executive board during our General Meeting in September.
- Our core team met twice to discuss current developments and the future path of IFAIR.
- We organized a Foreign Policy Talk in cooperation with the Young Transatlantic Initiative where IFAIR members had the opportunity to meet with Geoff Garts-hore, Counsellor for Political Affairs, and Jean Ducharme, Counsellor for Cultural Diplomacy at the Embassy of Canada.
- Our regional director for the Sub Saharan Africa region held a presentation on the areas of conflict as part of the seminar “War and Peace” at the Akademie Frankenwarte in Würzburg, Germany.
- IFAIR members also had the unique opportunity to discuss German-US relations with US Ambassador Richard Grenell during a foreign policy breakfast we organized together with the Young Transatlantic Initiative.



### Looking back on 2019:

#### *Impact Group: Foreign Policy Talks*

#### *Cooperation Partner: Canadian Embassy in Berlin*

We are proud to have organized a next edition of our Foreign Policy Talks in cooperation with our friends from the Young Transatlantic Initiative. In September, IFAIR members had the opportunity to meet with Geoff Gartshore, Counsellor for Political Affairs, and Jean Ducharme, Counsellor for Cultural Diplomacy at the Embassy of Canada to Germany. Besides discussing current challenges of Canadian politics, Mr. Gartshore and Mr. Ducharme shared insights into the current state of US-Canada relations and the cornerstones of bilateral relations between Canada and Germany. The topics discussed in depth included migration and integration policy, the use of renewable energies and the energy transition, the CETA trade agreement and its perception in Germany and Canada, as well as the role of women in politics. We would like to thank Mr. Gartshore and Mr. Ducharme for the interesting and inspiring exchange and look forward to future cooperation with the Canadian Embassy in Berlin.

#### *Cooperation Partner: Russian Embassy in Berlin*

*We were able to visit the Russian embassy in Berlin this year. Open only for IFAIR-members we were offered a walking-tour through the impressive building.*

*Afterwards, we sat down with three young Russian diplomats in the beautiful concert hall. Being able to talk to officials who just graduated and started their first station enabled us to get a glimpse on ways to enter the diplomatic world in Russia.*





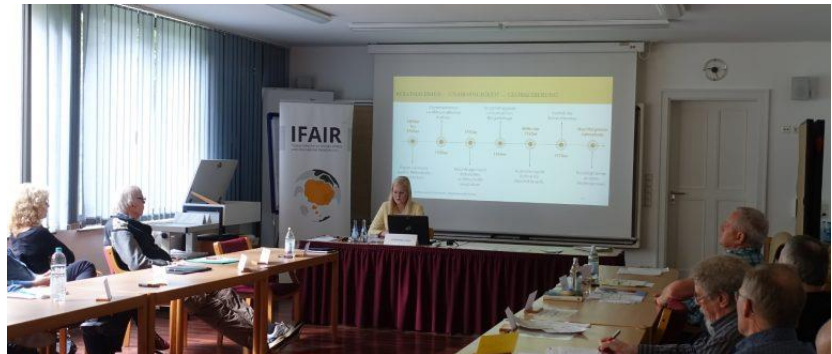
### *North America Region*

The transatlantic relationship remained under pressure in 2019 in areas such as security, trade or multilateral cooperation. We are happy to have received several contributions to our think tank which highlighted some of these tensions! In April, IFAIR members also had the unique opportunity to discuss German-US relations with US Ambassador Richard Grenell during a foreign policy breakfast we organized together with the Young Transatlantic Initiative – we thank the U.S. Embassy in Berlin for hosting us for this special event! With upcoming elections and the repercussions of a draining impeachment trial, we will continue to provide a platform for discussion and have exciting plans for a transatlantic impact group which will bring together students and young professionals from both sides of the Atlantic. Stay tuned!

### *Sub-Saharan Africa Region*

*Cooperation Partner: Frankenwarte in Würzburg, Germany*

The regional director of Sub-Saharan Africa was newly appointed at the end of 2018 and the re-



gional area has made a steady development over the past year. Katharina Lange as regional director held a presentation on the areas of conflict which take place in the region as part of the seminar “War and Peace”. Once again, we would like to thank the Akademie Frankenwarte in Würzburg for the invitation and the confidence placed in IFAIR. The talk was followed by contributions to the Think Tank on the current conflicts in Cameroon and Zimbabwe. Following a successfully distributed Call for Articles, the first submitted article has already been published – and many more are to follow in 2020.



### *Two Semi-Annual Strategy Meetings and the General Assembly*

In February and September, IFAIR's second semi-annual strategy meetings took place in Ber-



lin. During both, the members of the executive board, the regional directors and other members of the core team got together with interested members to discuss previous projects, exchange their views and experiences as well as formulate new strategies for going forward. In line with 2019 being a year of reflection, we looked back at our experiences at IFAIR and brainstormed ways to improve internal structures as well as ideas for future projects and cooperations. Especially during the meeting in September, where IFAIR' General Assembly took place, several people who had not previously engaged with IFAIR took part in the discussion and brought interest and new impulses for the evaluation process – which was particularly joyous. One big task of the forum was the relief of the executive board and the election of new members to the executive board for the next three years. Further information can be found in the Team section.



### Finances

#### *Annual Financial Statement 2019*

Once again, IFAIR has continued its professional and steady development as a non-profit organization with a financially healthy balance in the past year. We especially thank all of our members for supporting our work. Furthermore, we would also like to thank the EU-LAC Foundation for their generous funding of our successful LACalytics project in 2018.

Earnings in Euro		Expenses in Euro	
Members' Contributions	1.378,07	Administration	918,48
Donations	0,00	IG „Memory as a Tool for Change“	516,36
Project Funding for the IG „LACalytics 2018“	5.000,00	IG „LACalytics“	6.427,90
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.378,07</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.862,74</b>

### Members

2019 saw a steady increase in regular members, with IFAIR now having 219 regular and 21 honorary members. We are especially proud that we are continuing the trend of 2018, in that we have accepted more international new members (11) than German nationals (10).



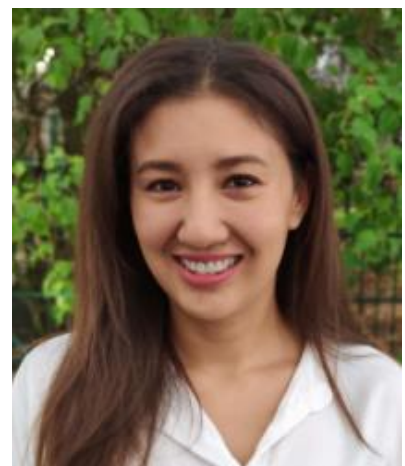
### Our core team

We are happy to welcome Patricia Jaworek as new Co-Regional Director for the North America region. Patricia is currently pursuing her master's degree in Transatlantic Affairs at the College of Europe in Natolin and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She especially focuses on the EU's external relations and the security and defense dimension of transatlantic relations. Her academic interests further include human rights and migration policies as well as the future of European democracy. Patricia studied law at the University of Hamburg and the Lund University in Sweden, specializing in EU and public international law. She has gained practical experience working as a legal consultant in EU competition law in Brussels and interned in the German Embassy in Warsaw. Patricia speaks German, Polish, English, French and has basic knowledge in Spanish and Russian.



Additionally, two new faces joined our core team and were elected members of the Executive Board:

After her involvement in IFAIR's Impact Group EU-ASEAN Perspectives, Jessica Kininger is now an executive board member and responsible for Website and Social Media. Jessica studied Regional Studies Asia/Africa and Economics at the Humboldt University in Berlin and Kasetsart University in Bangkok. Her focus was on society and transformation in Southeast Asia. She conducted fieldwork in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. She has worked in various foundations and NGOs in the field of communication and has experiences in project and event management as







well as in public relations and online communication. She is currently studying Language and Communication at TU Berlin. Jessica speaks German, English, Thai, Lao and Spanish.

Additionally, we welcomed Florian Schöler, executive board member and responsible for IFAIR's member management. He currently works as a legal clerk in the diplomatic protocol division of the German parliament in Berlin. He has finished an LL.M. in international criminal law at the University of Amsterdam and Columbia Law School in New York. He spent most of his time studying for the German law diploma at Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz, from where he also worked for an international law firm in Frankfurt. He has previously spent a year studying in Glasgow and interned with both the German Foreign Office in Saigon as well as with a small law firm in Lima. He has been active in various NGOs for over a decade, providing manpower and later legal advice to political integration projects, legal counselling for refugees and private sea rescue. He spent some time teaching English in Colombia before he started studying. Florian speaks German, English, French and Spanish.



The new executive board has been elected for the upcoming three years. Its members are: Katharina Lange, Anne Laible, Florian Schöler, Dr. Steffen Murau and Jessica Kininger. Katharina Lange joined IFAIR in 2018 and is Regional Director of our Sub-Saharan Africa region. In the Executive Board, she is responsible for finances. Anne Laible joined IFAIR in 2017 as Regional Director of the Latin America & Caribbean region and coordinated the second edition of our Impact Group LACalytics in 2018. In the executive board, she is responsible for human resources. Florian Schöler joined our core team in 2019 and is responsible for IFAIR's member management. Dr. Steffen Murau was re-elected as member of the executive board and continues his work as Head of Impact Groups. Jessica Kininger joined IFAIR in 2018 for the organization of the Impact Group EU-ASEAN Perspectives. In the executive board, she is responsible for the website and social media.





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We want to thank the previous IFAIR Executive Board members Theresa Lieb, Johannes Klein, Dr. Kilian Spandler, and Florian Winkler for their great work and are happy to count with their continuing support as Alumni. We wish them all the best for their future!



### **Outlook for 2020**

#### *MENA Region*

Some activities are planned for 2020 for the MENA region. On the one hand, we are working at securing funding for a new Impact Group on youth unemployment in the Mediterranean region. On the other hand, we are planning some Policy Talks with Young Professionals from the MENA Region or working on the MENA region. As always, we will inform about the progress of the planning on our homepage and via social media.

#### *North America*

With upcoming elections and the repercussions of a draining impeachment trial, we will continue to provide a platform for discussion and have exciting plans for a transatlantic impact group which will bring together students and young professionals from both sides of the Atlantic.

#### *Latin America & Caribbean / EU & Europe*

For our regional areas Latin America & Caribbean, as well as EU & Europe, we are currently searching for new regional directors. We expect to welcome new faces into our core team very soon and are excited to learn about the new ideas that come along with them.

#### *WeltTrends*

We are pleased that starting in 2020 the WeltTrends Journal will be our new media partner. WeltTrends is a monthly journal for international politics and comparative studies, founded in 1993 and based in Potsdam. As an independent foreign policy medium, WeltTrends discusses the challenges facing German foreign policy in the 21st century. Through cooperation with renowned media partners, we can further promote our basic idea of giving young people a voice in international relations and offer IFAIR members an additional attractive perspective on the publication of their contributions.



### *Glass Doors*

Our newly founded Impact Group “Diplomacy and Democracy” aims at discussing the relationship between diplomacy, transparency and democracy. The Impact Group’s first initiative is hosting an international academic essay competition: “Glass Doors into the Backroom”. The project intends to motivate young people interested in international politics to think about questions outside their curriculum as they need to be part of the discussions surrounding the concept of global democracy. By organizing an essay competition, a respective workshop and publishing their results we want to stress the importance of the link of diplomacy and democracy. In this context we want to make young and diverse voices heard. In the first round of our competition undergraduate and Master students of the participating universities will collect short essays on the topic of international diplomacy and choose the best essay submitted. In the second round the winners meet at Humboldt-University in Berlin where they will participate in a workshop on the issue of democracy and diplomacy and hold a final discussion determining the winner of the essay competition. The finalist will win the chance to compete in an international academic challenge and participation in a three-day workshop in Berlin. The winner is additionally awarded a cash-price and publication of his winning idea.

To participate please check our website for regular updates.

### *Call for Articles*

Our Think Tank is one of the main pillars of IFAIR’s work and presents a great platform for students and young professionals to express their thoughts and increase their impact on policymakers. We are currently searching for contributions for all regional areas. More information can be found [here](#).

We wish you all a successful 2020 and hope to see you again soon!

IFAIR’s executive board

**Katharina Lange, Florian Schöler, Dr. Steffen Murau,**

**Jessica Kininger and Anne Laible**



### **A special thanks to our donors and partners**

Our work has only been possible in cooperation with our project partners and through the support of our donors and members. Our partners are mentioned in detail on the project pages on our website. On this occasion, IFAIR would like to particularly thank the following individuals and organizations that – among several others – made our work in 2019 possible:

- Federal Foreign Office
- Diplomatic Magazine
- Russian embassy in Berlin
- Young Transatlantic Initiative
- Canadian embassy in Berlin
- Geoff Gartshore
- Jean Ducharme
- US embassy in Berlin
- Akademie Frankenwarte in Würzburg, Germany
- The North-South Bridges Foundation
- Michael Knoll
- Agnieszka Walter-Drop
- WeltTrend
- Humboldt-University Berlin