

Mona Saleh
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Research Interests: International Organizations and Global Governance | African Regionalism, Peace, and Conflict Intervention | Institutional Overlap and Inter-Organizational Relations | Africa–Gulf Relations and Transregional Security | Political Economy of African Regional Organizations

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- **06/2026 - Present:** Research and teaching fellow, Institute for Political Science, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena.
 - Research fellow at the [VARICRIS research project](#)
- **04/2022 – 06/2026:** Research Fellow, "The African Non-Military Conflict Intervention Practices (ANCIP)" project, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Duisburg-Essen University, Germany.
 - Responsible for the Political Economy of Regional Organizations sub-project.
- **10/2026 – 03/2026:** Adjunct lecturer, Political Science Institute, Friedrich Schiller University Jena | Uni Jena, Germany.
 - Methods of Political Science – MA lecture
- **04/2026 – 09/2026:** Adjunct lecturer, Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, Hamburg University, Germany.
 - Institutions and the Governance of Peace and Security– BA Seminar
- **10/2025 – 03/2026:** Adjunct lecturer, Political Science Institute, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany.
 - International Organizations in a Changing Global Order – BA Seminar
- **10/2024 – 09/2025:** Adjunct lecturer, Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, Hamburg University, Germany.
 - Introduction to International Organizations – BA Seminar
 - Research Project Seminar – BA Seminar
- **10/2024 – Present:** Associate, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany.
- **11/2018 – 06/2022:** Research Fellow, "The Authority of International Organizations and Institutional

Overlap" project, University of Lüneburg, Germany.

- **07/2016 – 08/2018:** Reporter-Researcher, Cairo Review of Global Affairs, Cairo, Egypt.
- **04/2014 – 09/2015:** Research Assistant, Global Affairs Program, Department of Public Policy and Administration, American University in Cairo, Egypt.
- **10/2013 – 02/2014:** Research Assistant, Religion and Peacemaking Program, United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington, DC, USA.

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science (magna cum laude), Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany **12/2024**

- Title: “Surviving Complexity: How International Organizations Claim Legitimacy Under Conditions of Institutional Overlap - The Case of the African Union (AU)”.
- Committee: Prof. Tobias Lenz (Leuphana University Lüneburg), Prof. Stephanie C. Hofmann (European University Institute), Prof. Christof Hartmann (Duisburg-Essen University)

M.A. in International Relations and Political Science, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland **9/2018**

- Thesis Title: “Securitization Theory outside the Western Context: Empirical Case Studies in the Egyptian Context”.
- Committee: Prof. Keith Krause (Graduate Institute Geneva)

M.A. of Global Affairs and International Security, American University in Cairo (AUC), Cairo, Egypt **06/2015**

- Thesis Title: “Constitution-making in Transition: A Comparative Study of the 2012 Egyptian and 2014 Tunisian Constitutions”
- Committee: Prof. Ibrahim Awad (AUC)

B.A. in English Language and Linguistics, Alexandria University, Egypt **10/2008**

VISITING POSITIONS AND RESEARCH STAYS

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- **10/2023 – 12/2023:** Visiting Ph.D. Researcher, Department of Political Science and Center for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.
 - **09/2022 – 12/2022:** Visiting Ph.D. Researcher, Department of Political and Social Sciences,

European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy.

- **01/2020 – 09/2024:** Doctoral Researcher, Institute of Middle East Studies, GIGA, Hamburg, Germany.
- **09/2019 – 12/2019:** Mediterranean Dialogue (MED) Fellow, NATO Defense College (NDC), Rome, Italy.
- **08/2013 – 12/2013:** Semester Abroad, School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C., USA.
- **01/2012 – 05/2012:** Graduate Course: Government and Political Theories, Harvard Extension School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.
- **10/2011 – 11/2011:** Visiting Fellow, Roger Williams University, RI, USA.

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Abuja, Nigeria – April 2023, and October 2025
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) – November 2024 and February 2025
- United Nations Headquarters (UN), New York, USA – November 2023
- African Union (AU) – 2021 and 2022
- League of Arab States Headquarters, Cairo, Egypt – November 2018, and 2020 and 2021 (online)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium – October 2019
- European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels, Belgium – October 2019

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Leuphana University Qualification Fund for Research Stays (twice in 2022 and 2023)
- ECPR Winter Method School Scholarship (2021)
- NATO Mediterranean Dialogue Fellowship (Fall 2019)
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva Scholarship (2016-2018)
- Yousef Jameel Public Leadership Fellowship (2012-2014)
- Amy Eckert Mentorship Program (2021)
- Highest Academic Achievement Honor, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, AUC (2015)
- Roger Williams University Visiting Scholar Fellowship (2011)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

- Saleh, M. (2026). IO Overlap and the Allocation of Delegation: Evidence from the African Organizational Complex. *International Interactions*, 1–31.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2026.2695006> (with T. Lenz & Y. Z. Haftel).

Book Chapters:

- Saleh, M. (2026). The role of practices in shaping ECOWAS's external relationships. In A. Witt, C. Hartmann, & U. Engel (Eds.), *African Non-Military Conflict Intervention Practices* (1st ed.). Routledge.
- Saleh, M. (2025). The League of Arab States. In K. Freistein, J. Leininger, & S. Weinlich (Eds.), *Handbook of International Organizations: Theories, Concepts, and Empirical Insights* (De Gruyter). Expected publication date: March, 2026.

Under Review:

- Saleh, M. (2026). Legitimation under Institutional Overlap: Focality Threat and Comparative Authority Claims among International Organizations. Under review at International Organization (since January 2026).
- Saleh, M., & Worrall, J. Enduring Resilience in International Organizations: Exploring the Longevity of the Arab League. Manuscript in preparation for submission to a special issue of *Global Governance*.
- Saleh, Mona, Legitimation by Differentiation: How Do International Organizations Claim Legitimacy in Complexity? (June 12, 2023). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4476116> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4476116>

Work in Progress:

- Saleh, M. Surviving Complexity: How Do Regional Organizations Claim Legitimacy Under Conditions of Overlap? (Book manuscript in preparation).
- Korsche, N., & Saleh, M. Institutional Overlap and Conflict Interventions: Opportunities and Challenges for Security Organizations. Last presented at Université Laval, Quebec, 2024.
- Attia, H., & Saleh, M. Institutional Overlap and Sanctions by Regional Organizations. To be presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, September 11–14, Vancouver, Canada.
- Saleh, M., & Hartmann, C. Institutional Overlap and the Agency of African Regional Organizations.
- Saleh, M., & Birikorang, E. Exploring the Nexus of Military and Non-Military Interventions in West Africa: A Focus on ECOWAS and Civilian Protection. Manuscript in preparation.

RESEARCH OUTPUT AND POLICY WORK

- Saleh, M. (2025, February). *Why Maintaining EU–ECOWAS Partnership Is Important in Uncertain Times* (ANCIP Policy Brief No. 2). https://ancip-project.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ANCIP-Policy-Brief-2_MS.pdf
- Saleh, M., & Worrall, J. (2023). *Converging Interests, Diverging Realities: Arab League–EU Cooperation*. German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep55215>
- Attia, H., & Saleh, M. (2021). The political deadlock on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. *GIGA Focus Afrika*. Retrieved from <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/publications/28339458-political-deadlock-grand-ethiopian-renaissance/>
- Saleh, M., Finaud, M., & Robinson, T. (2021). Is there a new chance for arms control in the Middle East? *Arms Control Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2021-06/features/there-new-chance-arms-control-middle-east>
- Saleh, M., Finaud, M., & Robinson, T. (2021). The Middle East: Is there light at the end of the long corridor? *Pressenza*. Retrieved from <https://www.pressenza.com/2021/02/the-middle-east-is-there-light-at-the-end-of-the-long-corridor/>
- Saleh, M. (2018). A new Egyptian Track II approach to the WMD/DVs Free Zone in the Middle East/Gulf. *Policy Forum* issued by The Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East (APOME) and Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). Retrieved from <https://www.gcsp.ch/News-Knowledge/Publications/A-New->
- Saleh, M. (2017). Border control and migration fatalities in the Mediterranean Sea. *E-International Relations*. Retrieved from <http://www.eir.info/2017/05/10/border-control-and-migration-fatalities-in-the-mediterranean-sea/>
- Saleh, M. (2016). Hassan al-Banna: A starting point for contemporary Islamic fundamentalism. *E-International Relations Students*. Retrieved from <http://www.e-ir.info/2016/01/18/hassan-al-banna-a-starting-point-for-contemporary-islamicfundamentalism/>
- Saleh, M. (2015). Constitution-making in transition: A comparative study of the 2012 Egyptian and 2014 Tunisian constitutions. (Master's thesis, American University in Cairo). AUC Digital Archive and Research Repository. Retrieved from <http://dar.aucegypt.edu/handle/10526/4316>
- Saleh, M. (2014). Preliminary desk report on Libyan religious sector. Commissioned by USIP's Religion and Peacebuilding Program. In P. Kakar & Z. Langhi, *Libya's Religious Sector and Peacebuilding Efforts*. United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Retrieved from <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/pw124-libya-religious-sector-and-peacebuilding-efforts.pdf>
- Saleh, M. (2013). Humanitarian intervention in Libya: A success or failure? Manuscript submitted for publication. *Accepted for publication in the Cornell International Affairs Review*, 2015.
- Saleh, M. (2012). *A snapshot at the poetry of E. E. Cummings: A linguistic exploration*. *English Language & Literature Studies*, 2(3). Retrieved from <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ells/article/view/19915>. (With A. ElShiekh and A. Sadeq)
- Saleh, M. (2011). *Translation versus transliteration of religious terms in contemporary Islamic*

discourse in Western communities. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 1(2). Retrieved from <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ijel/article/view/12056>. (With A. ElShiekh)

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

- **GIGA Berlin Talk** | a panelist at event on [Contested Conflicts: Diverse Perspectives on Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, and Beyond](#) | November 12, 2025 | Berlin, Germany
- **Leuphana University Opening Week** | Invited keynote speaker on Cooperation between States and the Role of International Organisations | October 6, 2025 | Lüneburg, Germany
- **GIGA Berlin Talk** | Co-organizer and a panelist at event [on New Alliances in the Horn of Africa: Navigating Global and Regional Competition](#) | October 9, 2025 | Berlin, Germany
- **Webinar Co-Organizer and Panelist** | ECOWAS at 50: Rethinking Regional Governance and Democracy in West Africa | July 18, 2025 | Online (in cooperation with the ECOWAS Commission and KAPTIC)
- **Policy Transfer Workshop II** | Panelist, African Non-Military Conflict Intervention Practices: Insights for Policy-Making | February 11, 2025 | Brussels, Belgium
- **Policy Transfer Workshop I** | Panelist, African Non-Military Conflict Intervention Practices: Insights for Policy-Making | February 6, 2025 | Berlin, Germany
- **GIGA Berlin Talk** | Invited speaker at event on BRICS+ implications for foreign policy | September 4, 2024 | Berlin, Germany
- **Options for Missile Talks with Iran** | Invited speaker at closed workshop organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) | February 7, 2022 | Berlin, Germany
- **Missiles Programs and Strategic Stability in the Middle East** | Invited speaker at the Tenth Consultative Meeting of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium | September 16–17, 2021 | Online, Brussels
- **UN General Assembly First Committee Side Event** | Invited speaker at side event hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN | 2021 | Online
- **EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consultative Meeting** | Invited speaker at the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consultative Meeting | September 2021 | Brussels, Belgium
- **Virtual Round Table: “The Abraham Accords and the WMD-free Zone in the Middle East”** | Organizer and co-host of virtual round table in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Middle East Treaty Organization (METO) | 2020 | Online
- **Annual EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference (EUNPDC)** | Selected contributor at the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference | 2019 | Brussels, Belgium
- **MED – Mediterranean Dialogues Forum** | Invited to attend the Mediterranean Dialogues Forum organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ISPI (Italian Institute for International Political Studies) | 2019 | Rome, Italy
- **Middle East WMD Free Zone** | Speaker at event on the Middle East WMD Free Zone during the Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts, organized by the Geneva Disarmament Platform and BASIC | 2018 | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

- **Side Event during the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) session** | Invited to present | 2018 | Geneva, Switzerland

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PANELS (SELECTED EVENTS)

2026

- **The European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS) (İzmir, Turkey, 2026)**
 - Co-organizer workshop “Fractured Solidarities with Gaza: Regionalism, Diplomacy, and the Limits of Global Cooperation”.
- **Workshop “Obstructionism in International Organizations” (Bologna, Italy, May 20–22, 2026)**
 - Participant and Presenter: Exploring Cross-Institutional Obstructionism: ECOWAS, the African Union, and Anti-Coup Responses in West Africa
- **Conference “International Studies Association Annual Convention” (Columbus, U.S., 2026)**
 - Paper: No Need to Justify: The African Union’s Focal Role and the Absence of Differentiation in Sudan
 - Paper: Enduring Resilience in International Organizations: Exploring the Longevity of the Arab League
 - Chair and Discussant: Regional International Organizations as Agents of Global Political Change

2025

- **Conference “International Studies Association Convention” (Chicago, U.S.)**
 - Paper: *Unpacking ECOWAS–Donor Relationships*
 - Paper: *Rebuilding Bridges: Trust, Diplomacy, and Cooperation Between the EU and Arab League in the Aftermath of the Gaza Crisis*
 - Roundtable: *Making Sense of African Regional Agency: Dis/Assembling ECOWAS*
 - Workshop: *Global South Perspectives on International Organizations*
 - Workshop: *Third Global South Caucus of International Studies (GSCIS) Author Symposium* (invited)
- **Conference “European Conference on African Studies (ECAS)” (Prague)**
 - Panel Chair: *Implementing African Peace Agreements*
 - Paper: *Unpacking ECOWAS–Donor Relationships*
- **Conference “Middle East Studies Association 59th Annual Meeting” (Washington, DC)**
 - Paper: *Rebuilding Bridges: Trust, Diplomacy and Co-operation Between the European Union and Arab League in the Aftermath of the Gaza Crisis*
 - Paper: *The Political Deadlock on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Between Regional Tension and Domestic Pressures*

2024

- Presented a paper entitled *"Reconceptualizing Resilience in International Organizations: Explaining the Survival and Growth of the Arab League"* at the ISA 2024 Annual Convention -

April 3rd - 6th, 2024.

- Participated and presented at the ISA pre-workshop: *Global South perspectives on IOs workshop* at the ISA 2024 Annual Convention - April 3rd - 6th, 2024.
- Participated in the Fourth IO Editorial Café, International Organization (IO), Virtual, May 20, 2024.
- Participated and presented at the Power Dynamics in Institutional Complexity, September 20-21, 2024, Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

2023

- Presented a paper at the *New Research on International Organization Authority* workshop at Leuphana University Lüneburg, February 9–10, 2023.
- Presented a paper at a panel entitled "*Real Struggles, High Stakes: Cooperation, Contention, and Creativity*" at the ISA Annual Conference 2023, Montreal, Canada, March 15–18, 2023.
- Presented at the SNIS Biennial Conference 2023: "*International Organization(s) in Crisis*," St. Gallen, Switzerland, June 13–14, 2023.
- Presented a paper entitled "*The Decline and Death of International Organizations*," in a workshop of The Decline and Death of International Organizations, Maastricht University, Maastricht Maastricht University, Netherlands, June 25–27, 2023.

2022

- Presented a paper entitled "*Institutional Overlap between the League of Arab States and the African Union*" at the ISA Annual Convention 2022: *A Wider Discipline for A Smaller World*, Nashville, United States, March 28–April 2, 2022.
- Presented at the 79th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, United States, April 7–10, 2022.
- Presented at the Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association (EPSA), Prague, Czech Republic, June 23–25, 2022.
- Presented at the MESA Annual Meeting 2022, Denver, Colorado, United States, December 1–4, 2022.
- Presented a paper at the *Junior IO Scholars Workshop*, December 13, 2022.

2021

- Presented a paper entitled "*Institutional Overlap between the League of Arab States and the African Union*" at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference (virtual due to global pandemic).
- Presented a paper entitled "*Institutional Overlap between the League of Arab States and the African Union in the Libyan Conflict: How Do Both Organizations Claim Legitimacy?*" at the International Political Science Association (IPSA) Annual Conference (virtual due to global pandemic).
- Presented a paper entitled "*How do International Organizations claim Legitimacy in Complexity? A Conceptual Framework*" at the Annual Midwest Political Science Conference (virtual due to global pandemic).

RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING

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- *Statistical Analysis* – University of Göttingen, 2019
 - *Case Studies, Process Tracing, and Comparative Analysis* – GIGA, 2020
 - *Interpretive Research Methods* – ECPR, 2021
 - *Qualitative Data Analysis* – ECPR, 2021
 - *Process Tracing* – GIGA, 2024
 - *Critical Discourse Analysis* – GIGA, 2024
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Studies Association (ISA), since 2021
 - International Political Science Association (IPSA), since 2021
 - Middle East Studies Association (MESA), since 2022
 - Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), since 2021
 - American Political Science Association (APSA), since 2023
 - German Political Science Association (DVPW), since 2024
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LANGUAGE AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Research Skills: NVivo and MAXQDA (content and discourse analysis), Stata (regression analysis), elite interviews, archive. archival research.

Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Fluent), German (Intermediate), French, (Beginner)

REFERENCES

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