

Fabian Hofmann

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Education

ETH Zürich

Zürich, Switzerland

P.h.D in Political Science

2024-2028

- Dissertation Project: “Securing Urban Peace: A Multi-Sited Ethnography of Smart City Infrastructures in Post-Conflict Societies”
- Funded with a Doc.CH Grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation
- Includes Extended Fieldwork Stays in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Sri Lanka
- Main Research Interests: International Peacebuilding, Urban Violence, Critical Security Studies, Smart Cities, Ethics, Social Movements, and Qualitative and Participatory Methods

Geneva Graduate Institute

Geneva, Switzerland; Singapore

Master of Arts in International Relations/Political Science

2021-2023

- GPA: 5.8/6
- Dissertation: “Sousveillance the Smart City: Everyday Queer Resistance to Urban Surveillance in Singapore” supervised by Anna Leander
- Exchange Semester Fall 2022: Attended the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore

University of Basel

Basel, Geneva, Switzerland

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology

2018-2021

- GPA: 5.9/6
- Student Research Project: “The Transformation of the German Protectorate of Southwest Africa from the Vantage Point of the German Settlers”
- Studies at the University of Geneva in 2017/18: Studied the bases of IR for two terms; all courses were taught entirely in French

Current Positions

Doctoral Researcher

09/2024 – 08/2028

Technology and Governance, D-GESS, ETH Zürich

Zürich, Switzerland

- Principle Investigator of the “Securing Urban Peace” project, which explores how smart city initiatives aimed at securing urban spaces in post-conflict contexts impact conflict transformation and peacebuilding dynamics
- Collaboration with researchers, technology designers, urban officials, and civil society activists in Belfast, Durban, and Colombo to explore these dynamics through qualitative and participatory methods
- Dissemination of research outputs through academic research, including conference papers and journal articles, as well as broader outreach, including public lectures, blog posts, and open exhibitions

Junior Researcher

04/2024 – 01/2025

Tech Hub, Geneva Graduate Institute

Geneva, Switzerland

- Supports the development of a PeaceTech application through desk research, empirical research such as expert interviews and focus group discussions, including through the production of notes, meeting minutes, and qualitative data analysis
- Participates in the development of strategy and policy-relevant outputs, including white papers, reports, and briefings, including through desk research as well as the drafting and editing of documents
- Contributes to academic research, including conference papers and journal articles, documenting the design and use of PeaceTech applications

Previous Positions

Junior Researcher

09/2023 – 08/2024

Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP)

Geneva, Switzerland

- Supported data collection through independent research, including remotely and in Sri Lanka, using surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and participatory observation
- Contributed to the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, such as online media, documents, interviews, and surveys, with the help of analytical software such as Atlas.ti and R-Studio

- Co-produced academic publications and spoke at academic conferences and public-facing events in the United States and Germany

Student Researcher

09/2022 – 08/2023

Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP)

Geneva, Switzerland

- Conducted desk research on digital conflict drivers and peacebuilding initiatives in various country contexts
- Contributed to the communication of research outputs through workshop preparations, conference paper editing, and social media outreach
- Co-developed an analytical and methodological framework for a research article on the ethics of digital peacebuilding

Research Associate

01/2022 – 08/2022

Edgeland Institute, Research Team

Geneva, Switzerland

- Conducted desk research on the increasing adoption of digital security technologies in Geneva and their impact on the city's urban social contract
- Led, transcribed, and analyzed 22 semi-structured interviews with experts and relevant stakeholders on digital security and surveillance in Geneva
- Contributed to the framing, design, and trial of an AI-driven opinion crowdsourcing tool to better understand the concerns of residents in Geneva regarding the digitalization of security

Civilian Servant

02/2021 – 07/2021

swisspeace, Communication

Basel, Switzerland

- Responsible for managing the organization's website and social media presence
- Assisted in the organization of events and conferences, such as the Basel Peace Forum 2021, on the topic of cities in times of COVID-19
- Co-authored a policy brief on the implications of the energy transformation for fragile states and co-edited the organization's annual report on the opportunities and limits of digitalization

Teaching Assistant

08/2019 – 01/2021

University of Basel, Department of Sociology

Basel, Switzerland

- Autonomously prepared and taught three classes with 15-20 undergraduate students each
- Oversaw in-class student presentations and graded 45 term papers under professorial supervision
- Introduced students to sociological theories, social research methods, and academic writing

Scholarships and Prizes

Fondation Arditì: I received the Prix Arditì 2024 for the best master's thesis in International Relations for my thesis "Sousveillance the Smart City," submitted at the Graduate Institute in 2023.

IHEID International Relations/Political Science Department: I received the IR/PS department's Special Honorable Mention for my master's thesis as a "sign of work to look out for in the future."

Association Genève Asie: I received a competitive CHF 1'500 scholarship from the Geneva Asia Society for my master's thesis research in Singapore.

Conference and Workshop Organization

November-December 2023: I organized a weekly series of five online seminars with established researchers as part of a Special Issue on "post-digital peacebuilding." Selected contributions will be published with *Peacebuilding* in 2024.

June 2023: I organized an exhibition of my dissertation's photographic output and a hybrid roundtable on the challenges of researching in/with urban surveillance at the Geneva Graduate Institute, featuring academics and civil society actors from Geneva and Singapore.

February 2022: I provided organizational and technical support to six online sessions with high-level speakers at the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding held in Geneva and online.

Conferences and Talks

"Socio-technical Orderings of the International: PeaceTech, Ethics, and the Cascading of Moral Agency" International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, 3-6 April 2024.

“Sousveillance the Smart City: Surveillance and Everyday Queer Resistance in Singapore” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, 3-6 April 2024.

“Die Risiken digitaler Friedensförderung: Oder was Konflikt-Frühwarn Apps mit Tinder gemein haben” Technologies 4 Peace Science Slam, Dresden, 20 October 2023 (invited).

“ICT4Peace: The Role of Information and Communication Technology in (Digital) Peacebuilding” Science. Peace. Security 2023, Darmstadt, 21 September 2023 (invited).

List of Publications

Hirblinger AT, Hofmann F and Lidén K (2024) Socio-technical Orderings of the International: PeaceTech, Ethics, and the Cascading of Moral Agency. In: Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Convention, San Francisco, 3-6 April 2024. International Studies Association. ([Link](#)).

Hofmann F (2024) Sousveillance the Smart City: Surveillance and Everyday Queer Resistance in Singapore. In: Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Convention, San Francisco, 3-6 April 2024. International Studies Association. ([Link](#)).

Hofmann F, Srivastava V and Maillart T (2023) Digital Sovereignty: A Comprehensive Report from the Workshop on the Economics of Information Security Conference and the first Digital Sovereignty Hackathon. November. Geneva: University of Geneva.

Hofmann F (2023) Sousveillance the Smart City: Everyday Queer Resistance to Urban Surveillance in Singapore. Master Dissertation. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. ([Link](#)).

Garcia L, Bogdani K, Deshusses P, et al. (2022) Geneva: A City of Paradoxes and Dualities. Diagnostic Report on Security, Surveillance, and Digital Technologies. Diagnostic Report. Geneva: Edgelands Institute. ([Link](#)).

Hofmann F (2022a) Switzerland Quo Vadis? The Quest for Sovereignty in the Digital Age. In: Edgelands Institute Blog. ([Link](#), accessed 6 March 2024).

Hofmann F (2022b) Bots and Pizzas: Global Trends and Local Responses to the Algorithmic Management of App-Based Delivery Workers. In: Edgelands Institute Blog. ([Link](#), accessed 6 March 2024).

Dietsche E and Hofmann F (2021) Implications of the Energy Transformation for Fragile States. Policy Brief 03. Basel: swisspeace. ([Link](#)).

Hofmann F, Jobarteh S and Vogelbacher M (2021) Innovation in the digital sphere: Annual Report 2020. Basel: swisspeace. ([Link](#)).

Languages

German: Native

English: Full proficiency, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (C2), Grade A

French: Fluent, written and spoken, studied in French for a total of three years

Additional Training

ECPR Methods School 2024: In February 2024, I attended the ECPR’s one-week intensive (4 ECTS) course in Critical Discourse Analysis with a particular focus on Discourse-Ethnographic Approaches.

Technical Skills

Community Engagement and Social Media: Hootsuite, MailChimp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Website Management: WordPress, Silverstripe

Visual Design: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Canva

Typesetting Documents: Microsoft Office, LaTeX

Data Collection, Visualisation, Analysis: R

Qualitative Data Analysis: MAXQDA, Atlas.ti