

## TIMON FORSTER

**current position**

Assistant Professor, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), Spain,  
January 2026—

**previous positions**

Postdoctoral research fellow, School of Economics and Political Science, University of St.Gallen,  
Switzerland, August 2023–January 2026.

Postdoctoral research fellow, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University,  
September 2022–July 2023.

**education**

Ph.D., International Relations, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, 2022.

- Dissertation: “Deliberation in the shadow of delegation: Evidence from IMF decision-making.”  
Supervisors: Prof. Thomas Risse, FU Berlin; Prof. Christina J. Schneider, UC San Diego.  
*summa cum laude*, awarded the “Ernst Reuter Prize” from Freie Universität Berlin for best dissertation  
in the Social Sciences.

M.Phil., Sociology, University of Cambridge, UK, 2017.

Graduate Diploma, Economics, University of Cambridge, UK, 2016.

B.Sc., Business Administration, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, 2015.

**publications**

*Journal articles*

Forster, T., 2026. “Home turf: Headquarters of international organizations and earmarked funding.” *The Review of International Organizations*.

Forster, T., Honig, D. & Kentikelenis, A., 2025. “Formal governance matters: When, how, and why states act on the IMF Executive Board.” *Review of International Political Economy* 32(3): 818–846.

Merling, L. & Forster, T., 2024. “Climate policy at the IMF: No voice for the vulnerable?” *Global Policy* 15(3): 539–553.

- Blog post. July 2024. “Boston University Global Development Policy Center.”

Forster, T., 2024. “Respected individuals: When state representatives wield outsize influence in international organizations.” *International Affairs* 100(1): 261–281.

- Awarded the 2024 “Young Scholar Award” from the Swiss Political Science Association.
- Runner-up 2025 “International Affairs Early Career Prize”.

Forster, T. & Heinzel, M., 2021. “Reacting, fast and slow: How world leaders shaped government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.” *Journal of European Public Policy* 28(8): 1299–1320.

- Blog post. February 2022. “LSE EUROPP – European Politics and Policy.”

Forster, T., Kentikelenis, A.E., Stubbs, T.H. & King, L.P., 2020. “Globalization and health equity: The impact of structural adjustment programs in developing countries.” *Social Science & Medicine* 267.

- Coverage in “The Lancet Planetary Health.”

Forster, T., Kentikelenis, A.E., Reinsberg, B., Stubbs, T.H. & King, L.P., 2019. “How structural adjustment programs affect inequality: A disaggregated analysis of IMF conditionality, 1980–2014.” *Social Science Research* 80: 83–113.

- Blog post. July 2019. “The Conversation.”

*Book chapters*

Forster, T., Stubbs, T.H. & Kentikelenis, A.E., 2024. “Neoliberalism and health in global context: The role of international organizations” in *The Routledge handbook of the political economy of health and healthcare*, edited by D. Primrose, R.D. Loepky, and R. Chang. London and New York: Routledge, 154–165.

Forster, T., Stubbs, T.H. & Kentikelenis A.E., 2022. “The politics of the International Monetary Fund” in *Handbook on the politics of international development*, edited by M. Diciancio, P. Nemiña, and D. Tussie. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 376–391.

*Select other publications*

Forster, T., 2024. “International organizations and research methods: An introduction” edited by F. Badache, L.R. Kimber, and L. Maertens, *International Affairs* 100(3): 1303–1304.

Doyle, K., Forster, T., Kentikelenis, A.E., Legido-Quigley, H. & Torrecilla, M., 2019. “Reducing health inequalities: The role of civil society.” Brussels and Dublin: Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and Think-tank for Action on Social Change (TASC).

Forster, T. & Kentikelenis, A.E., 2019. “Austerity and health in Europe: Disentangling the causal links.” *European Journal of Public Health* 29(5): 808–809.

Forster, T., Kentikelenis, A.E. & Bambra, C., 2018. “Health inequalities in Europe: Setting the stage for progressive policy action.” Brussels and Dublin: Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and Think-tank for Action on Social Change (TASC).

**select works**

*Book manuscripts*

**in progress**

Forster, T. & Kentikelenis, A., *in preparation*. “Governance and decision-making of the International Monetary Fund.”

*Articles*

Forster, T., Bhandary, R.R. & Gallagher, K.P., *under review*. “Cutting trees to balance budgets: the IMF’s role in deforestation.”

Forster, T. & Heinzel, M., *under review*. “Why do civil society organizations campaign to influence intergovernmental organizations? Evidence from a global field experiment.”

Forster, T., *under review*. “Deliberative negotiation in the International Monetary Fund.”

Forster, T., Kentikelenis, A. & Seabrooke, L., *full draft available*. “Board games: How states exercise leadership in international organizations.”

Forster, T., *in preparation*. “Selective responses to the climate crisis: International financial institutions and strategic ignorance.”

- Awarded the 2024 “Rudolf Wildenmann Prize” for best paper presented at the 2024 Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

Christian, B., Forster, T., Heinzel, M. & Zimmermann, L., *in preparation*. “Specialization in the World Health Assembly: Holding its Promise?”

select

*Conferences*

presentations

International Studies Association (ISA): Montreal 2023; San Francisco, CA 2024.

Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO): Bern 2017; Oxford 2022; San Diego, CA 2023; Stockholm 2024; Cambridge, MA 2025; Segovia 2026.

European Political Science Association (EPSA): Belfast 2019; virtual 2021; Prague 2022.

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference: virtual 2020; virtual 2021; Innsbruck 2022; Prague 2023; Dublin 2024, Thessaloniki 2025.

Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA): St.Gallen 2024; Geneva 2025; Zurich 2026.

German Political Science Association (DVPW): Göttingen 2024.

Workshop on ‘Individuals in International Policy’: Austin, TX 2025.

*Invited talks*

Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (2024), Boston University (2025), University of Texas at Austin (2025), University of Konstanz (2026)

grants

& stipends

University of St.Gallen: Great Minds Postdoctoral Fellowship for project “Leadership for whom? How international financial institutions respond to the climate crisis”, 2023–2026, ca. EUR 265,000 (CHF 250,000).

Global Development Policy Center, Boston University: Funding for a global field experiment to study why non-governmental organizations lobby international organizations, 2023, ca. USD 4,500 (together with Mirko Heinzel).

Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS), Freie Universität Berlin: Various travel stipends, 2022, ca. EUR 1,500.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): Graduate studies scholarship, Freie Universität Berlin, 2018–2022, ca. EUR 60,000.

**prizes & awards** 2024 “Rudolf Wildenmann Prize”, European Consortium for Political Research, EUR 1,000.  
 2024 “Young Scholar Award”, Swiss Political Science Association, CHF 1,500.  
 2023 “Ernst-Reuter-Preis” for best dissertation in the Social Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin, EUR 10,000.

**teaching & research assistance** *Teaching*  
 Lecture (1x English, 1x German), “Quantitative methods”, BA level, University of St.Gallen, Fall 2025.  
 Weekly seminar, “The politics of international financial institutions”, BA level, University of St.Gallen, Fall 2025.  
 One-week course “International organizations in an age of disorder” (with Prof. Bernhard Reinsberg), summer academy of the German Scholarship Foundation, Saint Jorioz, France. September 2024.  
 Lecture and exercise class, “Introduction to text analysis in R”, as part of the course “Advanced methods and problem solving in international business and politics”, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. February 2021 (virtual).  
 Teaching assistance, “Advanced statistics: Statistical modeling and causal inference” (Prof. Mark Kayser), Hertie School, Germany. September–December 2019.

*Research assistance*  
 Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK. Project “Capitalism in society” (Prof. Karthik Ramanna). April 2017–December 2018.  
 Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge, UK. Project “IMF lending & socio-economic development” (Prof. Lawrence P. King). July–August 2016.

**service to the profession** Reviewer for: Journal of Politics; Review of International Organizations; International Studies Quarterly; Review of International Political Economy; Regulation & Governance; Social Science Research; Globalization & Health; Social Science & Medicine; PLOS One; World Development; Politics.  
 Organizer of Section “21st century international organizations: Between problems and policies” for the General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Dublin, August 2024 (together with Aila Trasi).  
 Co-organizer of the Junior International Organizations (IOs) Scholars workshop, virtual, Spring 2024.