

THE POWER OF DIALOGUE AND THE IMPACT OF SILENCING IN FOREIGN POLICY

07.04.-08.04.2025

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Monday

13.30h

Registration & Welcome Coffee

14.00h

Message of Greeting and Introduction

Manuel Becker, AIA NRW, Mariia Levchenko & Bernhard Stahl

Session 1: Silence in foreign policy

The session deals with theoretical and analytical implications of silencing in foreign policy. By doing so, it provides a baseline for the further discussions in the workshop. How can we research silence – how to detect it, how to assess it and how to understand it? After the input lecture by Elisabeth Schweiger a moderated discussion will engage in the depths of the topic.

Keynote Input

Dr. Elisabeth Schweiger, University of Sterling

“Silence in foreign policy – mapping the field” (working title)

15.30h

Coffee Break

16.00h

Session 2: Perspectives on silence

This session starts with short panel presentations on different current research projects on silencing. The panel’s spectrum spans of historical silence on colonial mass atrocities to the role of expectations for an (IR-)theoretical understanding of silence. As an analytical perspective, the politics of silence shall play a role demonstrating when and how ‘loud’ news on mass atrocities become silenced in society and politics. Afterwards, the panel intros are discussed.

Panelists:

Bernhard Stahl, Fellow AIA, Uni Passau

“The politics of silence – from media to politics”

Sebastian Glassner, PhD candidate, Uni Passau

“Silence, salience and expectations”

Julius Bonaventura, MA, Uni Passau

“Historical silencing - colonial crimes and the Boxer-uprising”

17.30h

Conclusions – further research avenues for studying silence

18.30h

Dinner at “Bastei”

Von-Sandt-Ufer, 53173, Bonn-Bad Godesberg

08.04.2025

Tuesday

09.00h	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09.30h	<p>Session 3: Understanding Dialogue – Concepts, Contradictions, and Real-World Tensions</p> <hr/> <p>This session critically examines dialogue as a political and transformative practice, moving beyond its treatment as a mere method of communication. It will offer a structured overview of key conceptual frameworks, necessary conditions for meaningful engagement, and the role of dialogue in conflict transformation and foreign policy.</p> <p>Keynote Input Dr. Jose Pascal da Rocha, Berghof Foundation “When Dialogue Fails, Who Steps In?”</p>
11.00h	Coffee Break
11.15h	<p>Session 4: From Design to Delivery – Practical Methodologies of Dialogue</p> <hr/> <p>Building on the previous session, this segment focuses on applied dialogue practices in polarized and post-conflict settings. Drawing from field experiences in Ukraine and Georgia, practitioners will share concrete approaches to designing and facilitating inclusive dialogue processes.</p> <p>Practitioner Contributions: Dr. Marianna Barcuk-Halyk, Center for Civilians in Conflict Civilian-military dialogue in Ukraine: Navigating power, legitimacy, and inclusion</p> <p>Izzat Khushbakov, Berghof Foundation Community dialogue in Georgia: Post-conflict reconciliation and cultural sensitivity</p>
12.45h	<p>Concluding Reflections</p> <p>Synthesis of insights and shared challenges. Participants will be invited to contribute key takeaways and identify areas for ongoing collaboration beyond the workshop.</p>
13.00h	<p>Lunch at “Rheinzeit” Rheinallee 25c, 53173, Bonn-Bad Godesberg</p>