

# Anna Leander

Professor of International Relations at The Geneva Graduate Institute

## 1. Research Focus

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My research focusses on four, interrelated, themes at the core of contemporary international relations and political science: the politics of commercial security, of commercial aesthetics, of expertise, and of academic research in International Relations. Pursuing these interests, I just concluded the project *Infrastructuring Democracy: The Regulatory Politics of Digital Code, Content, and Circulation* (ICT Bilateral Grant Facility: SNF - Brazilian CNPQ). I am currently exploring them in *The Future of Humanitarian Design* (SNF Sinergia).

## 2. Education

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1997	<b>PhD Political and Social Sciences</b> European University Institute (EUI)
1988	<b>MSc (Econ) Politics of the World Economy</b> London School of Economics and Political Science
1987	<b>Diplôme de l'IEP (Relations Internationales)</b> Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris

## 3. Professional and Academic Positions (excluding visiting positions)

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2018 – 2021-2024	<b>Professor of International Relations and Politics</b> Head of Department Geneva Graduate Institute
2013 – 2023	<b>Professor of International Relations</b> Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Institute of International Relations)
2005/10 – 2021	<b>Associate Professor / Professor of International Political Economy</b> Copenhagen Business School
2004 – 2005	<b>Associate Professor of International Relations</b> University of Southern Denmark
2000 – 2003	<b>Senior Researcher</b> Copenhagen Peace Research Institute
1995/97 – 2000	<b>Assistant Professor / Associate Professor of Political Science</b> Central European University

## 4. Research Projects as Leading Investigator (Selected)

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2023 – 2027	Principal Investigator, <i>The Future of Humanitarian Design</i> , project CRSII5_213546 of the Swiss National Science Foundation.
2020 – 2023	Principal Investigator, <i>Infrastructuring Democracy: The Regulatory Politics of Digital Code, Content, and Circulation</i> project IZBRZ1 186301 of the Swiss National Science Foundation.
2017 – 2021	Principal Investigator, <i>VIPRE: (Towards a Material-Semiotic Approach to the Prevention of Violent Human Rights Abuses)</i> ; project CRSII5_170986 of the Swiss National Science Foundation.
2015 – 2020	Project participant responsible for the subproject: <i>ICT and Democratic Security Politics</i> . NordSteva (Nordic Centre of Excellence for Security Technologies and Societal values), Nordic Centre of Excellence, project no. 67741.
2013 – 2016	Research Partner of the Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts, CRIC (located at the University of Copenhagen) (Sept 2013-Sept 2016), <a href="http://cric.ku.dk/">http://cric.ku.dk/</a> .

## 5. Teaching and Supervision (detailed information available on request)

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- Participation in 65 PhD committees, currently main supervisor of 8 PhD candidates.
- Supervisor of an average of 5 MA/MSc students each academic year through my career.
- Teaching and development of some 80 courses at all levels — Bachelors, Masters, PhD and Executive Education — and in a range of contexts (continental Europe, US, Latin America, and South Africa).
- Development and management of the *International Business and Politics* program of the Copenhagen Business School
- Evaluation of educational programs and university departments.

## 6. Prizes, fellowships, and distinguished memberships (recent, selected)

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- ICOCA (International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers Association) Advisory Board Member. (since 2020)
- Swiss Political Science Association Board Member (since 2021), chair of the working group on *International Political Sociology*

(2018-2021)

- European International Studies Association Board member (June 2017- 2021). Chair of Publications Committee, Chair of Joint Management Committee for the European Journal of International Relations.

## 7. Editorial Activities (current only)

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- Co-editor of *Voices in International Relations*, Oxford University Press (since June 2023).
- Editorial board member of *Cooperation and Conflict*; *Interseções*, *International Political Sociology*; *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, *Security Dialogue*.

## 8. Conference / workshop organization and invited talks (recent only)

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I organize and participate in workshops and public events related to my research projects. I also travel regularly to participate in workshops, conferences, sometimes as a keynote speaker. On average I participate in two events per month over the year. The below are recent, selective, illustrations:

- Workshop and Conference Organization
  - 13- 14 May 2024 *What's the Future of Humanitarian Design?* Opening Symposium of the Futures of Humanitarian Design Project (HEAD and IHEID Geneva, co-organizer)
  - 13 December 2024: *War and Infrastructures*. Chair of the panel: Governing the Ruins: Legal, Financial, and Political Infrastructures European University Institute, Florence.
  - 25 February 2025: *AI and Global Governance* Public Lecture at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia.
  - 26 June 2025 *A Dialogue on White Privilege in Research Collaborations*. Performed with Miguel Ariza at *Co-laborating for Change? The Future of Peace and Security in an Age of Crisis*. Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy in Hamburg (IFSH)

## 9. Selected publications

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### Monographs and edited books

- (2019) Leander, Anna, and Wæver, Ole. Eds, *Assembling Exclusive Expertise: Knowledge, Ignorance and Conflict Resolution in the Global South*. London et al.: Routledge (Series: Worlding Beyond the West).
- (2016) Rita Abrahamsen and Anna Leander eds, *Handbook of Private Military-Security Companies*. New York Routledge (pbk: 2017).
- (2013) ed. *The Commercialization of Security in Europe: Consequences for Peace and Reconciliation*. New York: Routledge.
- (2010) (and Morten Ougaard) eds, *Business and Global Governance*. London and New York: Routledge.
- (2006) *Eroding State Authority? Private Military Companies and the Legitimate Use of Force*, Rome: Centro Militare di Studi Strategici.
- (2006) (and Stefano Guzzini) eds, *Constructivism and International Relations: Alexander Wendt and his critics*, London and New York: Routledge.

### Main articles in peer reviewed journals (recent, selected)

- (2025) Leander, Anna, and Luisa Lobato. 'Affective politics. The 'Vulgar Vibes' of Brazilian far-right anti-feminism'. *Journal of International Relations and Development* (Open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41268-025-00349-6>).
- (2024) Leander, Anna in Eva Johais, Julia Leser, Katarina Kušić et al. 'Doubly Destabilizing Definitions by Doing Ethnographic "Concept Work"'. *Public Anthropologist* 6 (1): 125-99 (at 189-99, open access at: <https://open.cmi.no/cmi-xmliui/handle/11250/3133405>).
- (2024) (as a member of PARISS Collective) 'Biographical Reflections on Academic Freedom—Part One', *Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences (PARISS)* 5 (1): 5-37. (Open access at: [https://brill.com/view/journals/pari/5/1/article-p5\\_002.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/pari/5/1/article-p5_002.xml)).
- (2024) 'Militarização importa: ressonâncias retóricas e mercado do militarismo', *Ponto Urbe* 32 (1), e226665. (Open access at: <https://revistas.usp.br/pontourbe/article/view/226665/205505>).
- (2024) 'Militarization matters: rhetorical resonances and market militarism', *Critical Military Studies* 10 (2): 147-70. (Open access at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/23337486.2022.2081300?needAccess=true>).
- (2024) 'Objects at Work: Cybersecurity Certificates and Emergent Expertise', *Global Studies Quarterly* 3 (4), ksae064. (Open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksae064>).
- (2023) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'Making International Things: Designing World Politics Differently'. *Global Studies Quarterly* 3 (4), ksad068. (Open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksad068>).
- (2023) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'What If We Were There? A Counter-Factual Call for IR to Engage with Material-Technological Making'. *Global Studies Quarterly* 3 (4), ksad063. (Open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksad063>).
- (2023) Leander, Anna, with Cristiana Gonzales, Luisa Lobato, and Pedro dos Santos Maia. 'Ripples and their returns: tracing the regulatory security state from the EU to Brazil, back and beyond', *Journal of European Public Policy* 30 (7): 1379-405. (Open access at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/13501763.2023.2174583?needAccess=true>).
- (2023) Monsees, Linda, Tobias Liebetrau, Jonathan Luke Austin, Anna Leander, and Swati Srivastava. 'Transversal Politics of Big Tech'. *International Political Sociology* 17 (1): 1-23 (Open access at: <https://academic.oup.com/ips/article/17/1/olac020/6969127>).

- (2022) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'The State of the Sublime: Aesthetic Protocols and Global Security'. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 50(3): 730-759. (Open access at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/03058298221117289>).
- (2021) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'Designing-With/In World Politics. Manifestos for an International Political Design'. *Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences* (2) 1: 83-154.
- (2021) 'Parsing Pegasus: An Infrastructural Approach to the Relationship between Technology and Swiss Security Politics'. *Swiss Political Science Review* 27 (1): 205-13. (Open access at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/spsr.12441>).
- (2021) 'Locating (New) Materialist Characters and Processes in a Theory Global Governance', *International Theory* 13 (1): 157–168.
- (2020) Kaufmann, Mareile, Anna Leander, and Nanna Bonde Thylstrup. 'Beyond Cyberutopia and Digital Disenchantment: Pragmatic Engagements with and from within the Internet'. *First Monday* 25 (5). (Open access at <https://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/download/10617/9414>)
- (2020) 'Composing Collaborationist Collages About Commercial Security'. *Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences* 1 (1):73-109. (Open access at: [https://brill.com/view/journals/pari/1/1/article-p61\\_61.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/pari/1/1/article-p61_61.xml)).
- (2020) Aalberts, Tanja, Xymena Kurowska, Anna Leander, Maria Mälksoo, Charlotte Heath-Kelly, Luisa Lobato, and Ted Svensson. 'Rituals of World Politics: On (Visual) Practices Disordering Things'. *Critical Studies in Security* 8 (3): 240-64. (Open access at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/21624887.2020.1792734?>).
- (2019) 'Sticky Politics: Composing Security by Advertising Tracking Devices', *European Journal of International Security* 4 (3): 322-344.
- (2019) Krahmann, Elke and Anna Leander. 'Contracting Security: Markets in the Making of MONUSCO Peacekeeping', *International Peacekeeping*, 26 (2): 165-189. (Open access at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13533312.2018.1557051>).
- (2018) 'The Politics of Legal Arrangements: The "Duty of Care" Justifying, Extending and Perpetuating Public in the Private Forms of Protection'. *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* 25 (1): 265-290. (Open access at: <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1672&context=ijgls>).
- (2017) 'Digital/Commercial Visibility: The Politics of DAESH Recruitment Videos'. *European Journal of Social Theory* 20 (3): 348-72.
- (2016) 'Strong Objectivity in Security Studies: Ethnographic Contributions to Method Development', *International Studies Perspectives* 17 (4): 462-75. (Open access at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/26393455.pdf>).
- (2016) 'The Politics of Whitelisting in Commercial Security: Regulatory Work and Topologies in Commercial Security', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 34 (1): 48-66.
- (2015-2016) 'Mercados transgresores de seguridad: una mercancía en disputa y sus prácticas de mercado' [Transgressive Security Markets: A Contested Commodity and its Market Practices], *Relaciones Internacionales* 30: 117-37. (Open access at: <https://www.relacionesinternacionales.info/ojs/article/download/666/456.pdf>).
- (2015) 'Theorising International Monetary Relations: Three Questions about the Significance of Materiality', *Contexto Internacional*, 37 (3): 945-73 (Open access at: <https://www.scielo.br/j/cint/a/WJtGRLHRXGb3qxeNvcBqGRD/?lang=en&format=pdf>).
- (2014) 'Essential and Embattled Expertise: The Knowledge—Expert—Policy Nexus around the Sarin Gas Attack in Syria'. *Politik* 17: 26-37. (Open access at: <https://tidsskrift.dk/politik/article/view/27576/24299>).
- (2013) Leander, Anna and Tanja Aalberts. 'Introduction to the Symposium: The Co-constitution of Legal Expertise and International Security', *Leiden Journal of International Law* 26 (4): 738-792.
- (2013) 'Technological Agency in the Co-Constitution of Legal Expertise and the US Drone Program', *Leiden Journal of International Law* 26 (4): 811-831.
- (2012) 'What Do Codes of Conduct Do? Hybrid Constitutionalization and Militarization in Military Markets', *Global Constitutionalism* 1 (1): 91-119.
- (2011) 'The Promises, Problems and Potentials of a Bourdieu Inspired Approach to International Relations', *International Political Sociology* 5 (3): 294-313.
- (2010) 'The Paradoxical Impunity of Private Military Companies: Authority and the Limits to Legal Accountability', *Security Dialogue* 41 (5): 467-90.
- (2007) Leander, Anna and Rens van Munster, 'Private Security Contractors in Darfur: Reflecting and Reinforcing Neo-Liberal Governmentality', *International Relations* 21 (2): 201-216.
- (2005) 'The Power to Construct International Security: On the Significance of Private Military Companies', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 33 (3): 803-26.
- (2005) 'The Market for Force and Public Security: The Destabilizing Consequences of Private Military Companies', *Journal of Peace Research* 42 (5): 605-22.

#### Peer reviewed book chapters

- (2025) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'The Future of Academic Expertise: Speculative European Bureaucratic Fabulations', in Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, Andrea Warnecke, Birgit Poopuu, Xymena Kurowska and Katarzyna Kaczmarek, eds, *Handbook of Knowledge and Expertise in International Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, in press.
- (2025) 'International Political Sociology', *Elgar Encyclopedia of International Relations*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 206-07.
- (2023) Austin, Jonathan Luke and Anna Leander. 'Escape, Erase, Entangle: Three Aesthetic Regimes Re-Composing the Californian Ideology', in Jan-Peter Voß, Nora Rigamonti, Marcela Suárez and Jacob Watson, eds, *Sensing collectives: Aesthetic and political practices intertwined*. Bielefeld: transcript publishing.
- (2022), 'Composing collages: Working at the Edge of Disciplinary Boundaries', in Fanny Badache, Leah R. Kimber and Lucile Maertens (eds.) *Introduction to International Organization Research Methods* (Michigan University Press), pp. 345-352.
- (2022) Austin, Jonathan Luke, and Leander, Anna. 'Visibility: Practices of Seeing and Overlooking', in Christian Büger, Alina Drieschova and Ted Hopf, eds, *Mapping International Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 213-34.

- (2020) 'The Politics of Neo-Liberal Rituals: Performing the Institutionalization of Liminality at Trade Fairs', in Shirin Rai, Milija Gluhovic, Silvija Jestrovic and Michael Saward, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Politics and Performance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp 307-25.
- (2019), 'Le Souci de Soi: The Duty of Care and the Humanitarian Politics of Life', in Nina Græger and Halvard Leira, eds, *The Duty of Care in International Relations: Protecting citizens beyond the border*. Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 18-34.
- (2019), 'Making Markets Responsible: Revisiting the State Monopoly on the Legitimate Use of Force', in Tom Crosbie and Ori Swed, eds, *Sociology, Privatization, Global Conflicts*. London: Palgrave, pp. 137-71.
- (2019) Leander, Anna and Donatella della Ratta, 'Art as Expertise? Creative Expression in Syrian Conflict Resolution', in Anna Leander and Ole Wæver, eds, *Assembling Exclusive Expertise*. London et al.: Routledge, pp. 190-212.
- (2018), 'International relations expertise at the interstices of fields and assemblages', in Andreas Gofas, Innana Hamati-Ataya and Nicholas Onuf, eds, *The SAGE Handbook on the History, Philosophy and Sociology of International Relations*. London et al.: Sage, pp. 386-98.
- (2017) 'From Cookbooks to Dictionaries in the Making: Methodological Perspectives for Research of Non-State Actors and Processes', in Andreas Kruck & Andrea Schneiker, eds, *Methodological Approaches for Studying Non-state Actors in International Security. Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge, pp. 233-245.
- (2016) 'Whitelisting and the Rule of Law: Accountability in Contemporary Commercial Security', in Monika Heupel and Theresa Reinold, eds, *Global Governance*. London: Palgrave, pp. 205-236.
- (2016) Afterword: The Commercial in /for International Political Sociology, in Pinar Bilgin and Xavier Guillaume, eds, *Routledge Handbook of International Political Sociology*. London and New York. Routledge, pp. 376-386.
- (2016) 'Interviewing Bourdieu about Bourdieu and International Relations', in Richard Ned Lebow, Hidemi Suganami and Peer Schouten, eds, *The Return of the Theorists*. London: Palgrave, pp. 335-341.
- (2014) 'Understanding US National Intelligence: Analyzing Practices to Capture the Chimera', in Jacqueline Best and Alexandra Gheciu, eds, *The Return of the Public in Global Governance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 197-220.