



Conference Organizers

Anja Opitz
Akademie für Politische Bildung

M. Rodwan Abouharb
University College London

Tim Heinkelmann-Wild
European University Institute &
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Bernhard Reinsberg
University of Glasgow & University of
Cambridge

Berthold Rittberger

Amelie Schrenk

Bernhard Zangl
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Registration

Iryna Bielefeld
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We ask for your binding registration via the online form on the Academy's website by April 8, 2026 at the latest.

Conference Fee

Including room and board: 105 €.
Including meals without accommodation: 80 €.

The conference fee will be covered by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

Cancellation Policies

If you are registered but unable to attend, please inform Iryna Bielefeld no later than April 13. Cancellations made up to four days before the conference are free of charge. Cancellations or no-shows on the last three days before the event will be subject to the full conference fee.

Meals

The Academy provides vegan, vegetarian, and non-vegetarian meal options. Please inform us in advance of your meal preference. If you have any food intolerances or allergies, we will be happy to accommodate your needs for 10 € per conference.

Friends of the Academy

Our Friends of the Academy association supports projects and acquisitions that cannot be funded through public resources. The annual membership fee is 50 €.

Members under the age of 30 benefit from a reduced membership fee of just 20 €. Additionally, the Friends of the Academy cover the participation fee for three Academy conferences per year for members under 30. This offer is available exclusively to private individuals and does not apply to events for closed groups.



Tutzing is situated approximately 35 km southwest of Munich on the shores of Lake Starnberg (Starnberger See). From Munich Central Station (Hauptbahnhof): Take the S-Bahn line S-6 or a regional train (RB) to Tutzing. Upon arrival at Tutzing station, take Bus 958/978 to "Klenzestrasse." Taxis are also available at the station's main entrance. Please check our website under "[How to Find Us](#)" for special conference ticket offers via Deutsche Bahn (DB).



From the airport: Take the S-Bahn line S-1 or S-8 to Munich Central Station, then follow the instructions above.



The Academy is also accessible on foot from Tutzing train station, with a walking time of approximately 20 to 30 minutes.



For those arriving by car, take freeway A95 from Munich via A952 to Starnberg, then continue on the federal highway. After passing through the town of Traubing, turn left. At the end of the road, turn right toward Tutzing. The Academy will be on your left shortly after you pass the town sign for Tutzing.



Our guests are welcome to use the Academy's complimentary charging points for electric vehicles, including cars, scooters, and bicycles.



TITELABB.: ISTOCK/BOBBOZ

Akademie für Politische Bildung

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Scapegoating International Organizations

Blame-Games and the Erosion of the Liberal International Order



17 – 18 April 2026

In cooperation with



INVITATION

How and why are international organizations turned into scapegoats—and with what consequences for legitimacy, accountability, and global cooperation? This workshop offers cutting-edge insights into political blame games shaping today's international order. It brings together diverse analytical perspectives and methods to better understand patterns of blame attribution and avoidance. Participants will engage with comparative findings across institutions and political contexts. The workshop also opens space to reflect on how accountability can be strengthened under conditions of growing politicization. We warmly welcome you to the Akademie für Politische Bildung and invite you to join us at lake Starnberg for this timely exchange.

[Anja Opitz](#)

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[Bernhard Zangl](#)

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FRIDAY, 17 APRIL 2026

2.00 pm [Welcome & Introduction](#)

Panel 1: IO Scapegoating across Actors and IOs

2.30 pm **Blame Shifting Toward IOs: Evidence from National Parliamentary Debates**

Sujeong Shim
New York University Abu Dhabi

Blame-Games in the United Nations: A Longitudinal Analysis of Temporal and Directional Relationships

Martin Senn
University of Innsbruck

Government-Opposition Dynamics of IO Scapegoating: Evidence from European National Parliamentary Debates, 1997-2020

Michal Parizek
Charles University

A Tale of Two Responsibilities: State and Business Blame-Games within Multilateral Institutions

Marieke Louis
Sciences Po Lille
Chair: *Bernhard Zangl*

4.10 pm [Coffee Break](#)

Panel 2: Which Strategies do Political Actors Employ to Scapegoat IOs?

4.40 pm **Blaming an IO – but Why? An Inductive Analysis of IO Communication of G7 and BRICS Governments**

Bernd Schlipphak
University of Münster

Credit Claiming and Blame Shifting through Omission

Tom Hunter
Sciences Po Paris & University of Zurich

Do Shoot the Messenger: Why Blame Avoidance Failed in the Brexit Referendum Campaign

Anette Stimmer
University of St. Andrews

IMF Programs and the Distributional Politics of Human Rights Repression

M. Rodwan Abouharb
Chair: *Tim Heinkelmann-Wild*

6.30 pm [Dinner](#)

SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2026

8.00 am [Breakfast \(Check-out by 8.45 am\)](#)

Panel 3: How do IOs Respond to Scapegoating?

9.00 am **Torn between power and purpose: How international bureaucracies respond to contestation by powerful member states**

Tim Heinkelmann-Wild

When IOs Play the Blame-Game: The Politics of IO Scapegoating Practices

Lucile Maertens
Geneva Graduate Institute

When the Punch Bag Punches Back: How International Organizations React to Blame Attributions from their Member States

Bernhard Zangl
Chair: *Berthold Rittberger*

10.15 am [Coffee Break](#)

Panel 4: Is IO Scapegoating Effective?

10.45 am **How Populist Elite Cues Scapegoating International Organizations Shape Foreign Policy Attitudes**

Alexander Wais
Stockholm University

US against the World? American Public Opinion and the Power of a Global Majority

Mirko Heinzel
Maastricht University

Right on Target: Public Blame Attributions for IO Policy Failures

Berthold Rittberger

When Does Defending Compliance Work? The Credibility of Responsibility- and Responsiveness-Based Justifications in EU Policy Implementation

Asya Zhelyazkova
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Chair: *M. Rodwan Abouharb*

12.30 pm [Lunch](#)

Panel 5: How Does IO Scapegoating Impact Legitimacy and Accountability?

1.30 pm **IO Blame-Games on Social Media**

Amelie Schrenk

Peacekeeping Affectedness, Responsibility Attribution, and the Legitimacy of the United Nations

Martin Binder
Forward College

The Fox in the Henhouse: How Autocratic Participation in Human Rights IOs Shapes Perceptions of Legitimacy

Jonas Tallberg
Stockholm University

Challenges and Opportunities of Institutional Complexity: Blame Games and Accountability

Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni
University of Cambridge
Chair: *Bernhard Reinsberg*

Panel 6: Advancing the Research Agenda on IO Scapegoating

3.10 pm **Scapegoating International Organizations**

Bernhard Reinsberg
Chair: *Co-Organizers*

3.40 pm [End of the Conference](#)