

CV

Dr. Sonja Thielges

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CURRENT POSITION AND PROJECTS

My work as a senior research associate in the research group “Pathways to Sustainable Energy” at IASS focuses on the global energy transition. My research interests include the foreign policy implications of energy transitions in Germany and beyond, the G20 energy and climate agenda as well as U.S. energy and climate policy. Two of my current paper projects study climate and energy policy making under the Obama and Trump administrations. One analyzes domestic and foreign policy inconsistencies of Obama’s clean energy and climate agenda. The other project studies the re-framing of energy policy under the Trump administration from a multilevel perspective, looking at the subnational, national and international level. Moreover, along with my colleagues at IASS, I am currently working on an empirical study of Germany’s international energy transition policy. We are studying Germany’s policy approach as well as how its vision for a sustainable energy future competes with alternative guiding visions in China and the U.S.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 03/2019-05/2019 **American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) at Johns Hopkins University**, Washington, DC
- *DAAD/AICGS Fellow*
 - Research Project on “The foreign policy implications of (sustainable) energy transitions: Exploring the transatlantic dimension of different energy futures”
- Since 08/2016 **Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)**, Potsdam
- *Research Associate* in the work area Global Energy Transition
 - Research on international energy transition policy, G20 energy and climate agenda, U.S. energy and climate policy
- 05/2011-12/2015 **Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)**, Berlin
- *Fellow* (05/2014-12/2015); *Research Assistant* (05/2011-04/2014) in the Americas Division
 - Research and policy consultancy on U.S. and international climate and energy policy
- 09/2014-11/2014 **Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- *Visiting Scholar*
 - Research on U.S. climate and energy policy and policy stakeholders
- 07/2011-12/2011 **Environmental Policy Center (FFU)**, Freie Universität (FU) Berlin
- *Project Assistant* “Transatlantic Urban Climate Dialogue”
 - Organization of an international workshop, co-authorship of

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workshop proceedings

04/2010-04/2011

Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), Berlin

- *Program Coordinator* (02/2011-04/2011); *Project Assistant* (04/2010-01/2011) Master's program "Advanced European and International Studies"
- Organization and design of master-level seminars and extra-curricular activities, management of project budget

EDUCATION

2019

Freie Universität Berlin, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies

- *PhD* (Dr. rer. pol) in Political Science
- Dissertation: "Constructing Climate Change in the U.S. Rust Belt. Discourse, the Media and Climate Policy Frames in Michigan and Indiana"
- Supervisors: Professor Christian Lammert, Professor Frank Fischer

08/2006-07/2007

Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana

- Graduate Exchange Fellow, Department of Political Science

10/2003-06/2011

Freie Universität Berlin

- *M.A.* (Magistra Artium) North American Studies, Political Science, Modern History
- Thesis: "Climate Leaders or Climate Laggards—What Makes the Difference in Climate Policy Developments at the U.S. State Level?"
- Supervisors: Professor Christian Lammert, Professor Miranda Schreurs

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

Thielges, Sonja. 2019. [Germany's New "Climate Package": Too Little Too Late?](#), Washington, DC: American Institute for Contemporary German Studies.

Thielges, Sonja and Charlotte Unger. 2019. [Großer Bremser USA](#), in: IP - Internationale Politik September/Oktober, pp. 20-24.

Thielges, Sonja. 2019. [U.S. and German Energy Policy at a Crossroads? The Transatlantic Partners and the Future of Energy Cooperation](#), Washington, DC: American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Transatlantic Perspectives webessay.

Thielges, Sonja and Charlotte Unger. 2019. *Energy Dominance: Das Schicksal von Klimaschutz und nachhaltiger Energie in der Außenpolitik Donald Trumps*, in: Lukas D. Herr, Marcus Müller, Anja Opitz, Jürgen Wilzewski (eds.): [Weltmacht im Abseits: Amerikanische Außenpolitik in der Ära Donald Trump](#), pp. 267-292, Baden-Baden: Nomos.

Jahn, Joschka and Sonja Thielges. 2019. [Globale Energiewende in der G20: Nächster Versuch](#), Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Blogpost.

Jahn, Joschka and Sonja Thielges. 2019. [The G20's Renewed Attempt to Spearhead a Clean-Energy Transition](#). Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Blogpost.

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Thielges, Sonja and Rainer Quitzow. 2019. Competition and conflict between Germany, the U.S. and China: The role of guiding visions in the international sustainable energy transition, paper prepared for the CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference, Belgrade

Quitkow, Rainer, Sonja Thielges, Sebastian Helgenberger. 2019. [Deutschlands Energiepartnerschaften in der internationalen Energiewendepolitik. Bestandsaufnahme und Optionen für die Zukunft.](#) Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS Discussion Paper.

Thielges, Sonja, Rainer Quitzow and Ortwin Renn. 2019. *Elemente einer zukunftsfähigen Energiepolitik*, in: Martin Dabrowski, Judith Wolf, Karlies Abmeier (eds.): *Umweltpolitik: global und gerecht*, pp. 61-91, Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh.

Quitkow Rainer, Sonja Thielges, Andreas Goldthau, Sebastian Helgenberger and Grace Mbungu. 2019. [Strengthening International Cooperation for a Global Energy Transition.](#) Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS Policy Brief.

Quitkow Rainer, Sonja Thielges, Andreas Goldthau, Sebastian Helgenberger and Grace Mbungu. 2019. [Stärkung der internationalen Zusammenarbeit für eine globale Energiewende.](#) Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS Policy Brief.

Thielges, Sonja and Rainer Quitzow. 2019. *Soft Power for a Global Energy Transition: Germany's Bilateral Energy Partnerships*. Paper prepared for the annual meeting of the International Studies Association (ISA), Toronto.

Bauknecht Dierk, Sophia Becker ,Joß Bracker, Christoph Heinemann, Tilman Hesse, Peter Kasten, Sven Kühnel, Rebecca Kutzner, Moritz Mottschall, Irene Müller, Sonja Thielges ,Moritz Vogel. 2018. *Visionen und Pfadentscheidungen der Energiewende. Ein Bericht im Rahmen des Kopernikus-Projekts ENavi.*

Unger, Charlotte, Sonja Thielges and Christine Bindal. 2018. *Club Governance for Climate Protection: Policy Approaches in the G20, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Under2 Coalition*. Paper prepared for the conference "The G20 @ 10. Assessing the benefits, limitations and the future of global club governance in turbulent times. German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn.

Thielges, Sonja and Kirsten Verclas. 2018. [Changing Resource Needs for a Clean Energy Future: Transatlantic Implications – Part I & II.](#) Washington, DC: American Institute for Contemporary German Studies - A German-American Dialogue of the Next Generation, Blogpost.

Röhrkasten, Sybille, Sonja Thielges, Christian Hübner and Sebastian Helgenberger. 2018. [Germany–Latin America: Fostering Strategic Alliances for a Global Energy Transition.](#) Berlin/Potsdam: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung/Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Policy Paper.

Thielges, Sonja. 2018. *Clean Energy at Home and Fossil Fuels Abroad? The Foreign Policy Dimensions of Barack Obama's Energy Policy Strategy*. Paper prepared for the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

Jahn, Joschka and Sonja Thielges. 2017. [Die Rolle Deutschlands in der Zukunft der erneuerbaren Energien.](#) technewable.

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- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. *Konkurrenz um die Führung? Die transatlantische Gemeinschaft und die internationale Klimaschutzpolitik*, in: Florian Böller, Steffen Hagemann, Anja Opitz, Jürgen Wilzewski (eds.): [Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft Externe und interne Herausforderungen](#), pp. 265-292. Baden-Baden, Nomos.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [The Transatlantic Mobility Challenge](#). Washington, DC: American Institute for Contemporary German Studies - A German-American Dialogue of the Next Generation, Blogpost.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [Building Transatlantic Common Ground in Combating Global Warming](#). Washington, DC: Atlantic Council, New Atlanticist.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [Der America First Energy Plan: Ein Blick auf die neue Energiepolitik Donald Trumps](#). München: Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Argumentation Kompakt 7/2017.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [100 Tage Donald Trump: Was wird aus Amerikas Energiewende?](#). Kaiserslautern: Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, Atlantische Themen 01/2017.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [Climate Protection under Trump: Implications for the G20](#). T20 Germany Blog.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2017. [Donald Trump and the Future of Climate Protection](#). Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Blogpost.
- Röhrkasten, Sybille, R. Andreas Kraemer, Ortwin Renn, Rainer Quitzow and Sonja Thielges. 2017. *Werben für die Wende*, in: IP - Internationale Politik 72(1), pp. 111-115.
- Röhrkasten, Sybille, R. Andreas Kraemer, Rainer Quitzow, Ortwin Renn, and Sonja Thielges. 2016. [Eine starke Energie-Agenda für die G20](#). Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS Policy Brief.
- Röhrkasten, Sybille, Sonja Thielges, and Rainer Quitzow (Eds.). 2016. [Sustainable Energy in the G20. Prospects for a Global Energy Transition](#). Potsdam: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS Study.
- Dröge, Susanne, and Sonja Thielges. 2014. *New Climate Leadership. Yes We Can...After All—The U.S. Is Caught Between International Ambitions and Domestic Challenges*. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP Comments 2014/34.
- Dröge, Susanne, and Sonja Thielges. 2014. *Neue Führung in der Klimapolitik. Yes, We Can—After All: Die USA zwischen internationalem Anspruch und nationalen Herausforderungen*. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik. SWP-Aktuell 2013/A44.
- Thielges, Sonja. 2013. *Präsident Obamas neuer Klimavorstoß. Die US-Klimapolitik zwischen Blockade und Fortschritt*. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik. SWP-Aktuell 2013/A60.
- Mildner, Stormy-Annika, Henriette Rytz, and Sonja Thielges. 2012. *Ein neues Mandat für Präsident Obama. Herausforderungen für die zweite Amtszeit*. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik. SWP-Aktuell 2012/A 66.
- Medearis, Dale, Sonja Thielges, and Stephen Walz. 2012. *Urban Redevelopment in the Ruhr Region and Integrated Local Energy Planning*. Transatlantic Urban Climate Dialogue—Workshop # 1. Workshop Proceedings.

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Thielges, Sonja, and Stormy-Annika Mildner. 2012. *USA: Risiko Naturkatastrophen. Hohe Kosten stellen die Regierung in Washington vor enorme Herausforderungen*. Berlin: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik. SWP-Aktuell 2012/A 02.

Petersen, Hannah, and Sonja Thielges. 2011. *The 2011 GIBSA Conference on the United Nations Security Council. Positions, Demands, Shared Interests*. GIBSA Policy Report.