



Christian Thuselt, PhD

Associated researcher

Institute for Political Science

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Academic profile

2021 – 2025	Research Associate at the German Orient-Institute at Beirut/Lebanon, head of the institute's publication department, editor of the in-house production of the "Beiruter Texte und Studien"
2021 –	Annual political economy reports on Lebanon for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
2013 – 2021	Lecturer and (after 2015) Assistant Professor at Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Department of Political Science, Chair of Middle East Politics and Society
2017	Scientific advisor to the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award; the award was given to the "Caesar Group" from Syria
11 – 12/2013	Research Assistant at the Erlangen Centre for Islam & Law in Europe
2009 – 2012	Lecturer at the Chair for Contemporary History and Politics of the Middle East, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany)

Research Interests

- Politics and Religion, secularity
- Nation, nationalism and statehood
- History of Ideas in a transnational perspective
- Political parties
- Modern history of Western Asia

Publications

- 2025 And it is Still About the State: Centralist and Federalist Normative Orders in Syria and Lebanon, *Ethnopolitics*, online first 12.03.2025 (with Benjamin Heidrich):
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17449057.2025.2471664> . (peer-reviewed).
- 2024 Digital populism in Iraq: the case of Muqtada al-Sadr, *Politics, Religion & Ideology*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (2024), pp. 605-630:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21567689.2024.2352443> (peer-reviewed).
- 2023 Lebanese Phalangism and fascism: history of a symbolic appropriation, *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 59, No. 2 (2023), pp. 281-297:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00263206.2022.2065263> (peer-reviewed).
- 2023 Revolutionary Utopia in the Middle East as Steely Romanticism: the Case of the al-Ba’th Party, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (2023), pp. 50-66:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13530194.2021.1919992> (peer-reviewed).
- 2021 *Lebanese Political Parties: Dream of a Republic* (Abingdon: Routledge):
<https://www.routledge.com/Lebanese-Political-Parties-Dream-of-a-Republic/Thuselt/p/book/9780367647773?srsId=AfmBOoolqg82iEVkfpMxFTBfOko1dYD-HP2sy1QvI5xwDtc-qVG402aJ> (peer reviewed)
- 2019 Sois belle et vote – Wahlwerbung einer libanesischen Partei, in Christian Schicha (ed.), *Wahlwerbespots zur Bundestagswahl 2017. Analysen und Anschlussdiskurse über parteipolitische Kurzfilme in Deutschland* (Wiesbaden: VS, 2019), pp. 529-546.
- 2017 ‘We Wander in Your Footsteps’ – Reciprocity and Contractility in Lebanese Personality-centred Parties, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (2017), pp. 194-210:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13530194.2017.1281573> (peer-reviewed); reprinted in: Siavush Randjbar-Daemi et al. (eds.), *Political Parties in the Middle East* (London etc.: Routledge, 2021), pp. 44-60.
- 2016 ‘Training in Morals’ – Zur Rolle und Verwendung religiöser Narrative im Diskurs der ‘Forces Libanaises’, in Peter Lintl, Christian Thuselt and Christian Wolff (eds.), *Religiöse Bewegungen als politische Akteure im Nahen Osten* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2016), pp. 195-225.

- 2015 Milizen als Surrogat eines dysfunktionalen Staates, *Sicherheit und Frieden*, Vol. 33, special issue (2015), pp. 193-199:
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26389255> (peer-reviewed).
- 2014 Demokratische Paradoxien in Ägypten zwischen Aufstand und Autokratie, in Georges Tamer, Hanna Röbbelen and Peter Lintl (eds.), *Arabischer Aufbruch. Interdisziplinäre Studien zur Einordnung eines zeitgeschichtlichen Phänomens* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2014), pp. 293-329. (with Peter Lintl and Christian Wolff)
- 2012 „Und wenn sich die Krankheit der Behandlung widersetzt (...), vielleicht existiert dann die Verpflichtung zur Revolution.“ – Systemantagonistische Opposition im Konkordanzsystem am Beispiel des Libanon. In: Stefan Köppl et al. (eds.), *Konkordanzdemokratie. Ein Demokratietyp der Vergangenheit?* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2012), pp. 395-417.
- Various contributions to the press, among them: zenith.de, BR alpha, ORF, Panorama, RND, Les clés du Moyen-Orient, Krautreporter, Nürnberger Nachrichten.

Education

- 2021 - 2025 Postdoctoral research project “Discourses on Statehood in Iraq: the case of Muqtada al-Sadr”
- 2015 – 2018 PhD-student at Roskilde University (Denmark), Department of Social Sciences and Business, supervisor: Prof. Sune Haugbølle, PhD, Department of Society and Globalisation, PhD in Social Sciences, thesis: “‘Dream of a Republic’: Lebanese Political Parties as ‘Real Parties’”
- 2010 - 2013 Doctoral Student at the Chair for Contemporary History and Politics of the Middle East, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), no degree obtained (Prof. Christoph Schumann † 2013).
- 2000 – 2007 Political Science and Middle East Studies (final grade: Very Good) at Eberhard-Karls-University/Tuebingen (Germany)