

## **Prof. Dr. Thomas Demmelhuber**

Date of birth: 13.05.1980 in Passau (Germany)

Institute of Political Science | Chair of Middle East Politics and Society

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## **ACADEMIC CAREER AND DEGREES**

2015 –	Visiting Professor at College of Europe, Natolin Campus
2015 –	Professor and Chairholder of Middle East Politics and Society at FAU, Institute of Political Science
2015	Interim evaluation (equivalent to “Habilitation”)
2012 – 2015	Assistant Professor of Political Science at Hildesheim University
2011	Visiting Professor at Cairo University
2008	Dr. phil. at FAU
2008 – 2012	Research Associate at FAU
2005 – 2008	PhD student at FAU
2005	Diploma/Master in Political Science and Middle East Studies at FAU
2000 – 2005	University Studies at FAU and University of California, Berkeley

## **MAIN RESEARCH AREAS**

- Autocratization (e.g. transnational repression, authoritarian practices, non-material sources: affect and emotion studies) in MENA region and beyond
- Legitimacy/legitimation in autocratic regimes: policy fields sports, climate, culture et al.
- Technological transformation (digitalization, AI et al.) in MENA region and beyond
- International Actors in MENA and transregional entanglements (e.g. China’s BRI formats)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ACADEMIA AND FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY**

2024 –	Fellow of Bavarian Scientific Alliance for Peace, Conflict, and Security Research
2022 –	Member of Scientific Advisory Board of German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP)
2020 –	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Orient Institute Beirut (OIB)
2020 –	Member of Scientific Advisory Board of the Yemen Policy Center (YPC)
2020 –	Liaison lecturer of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation at FAU
2018 – 2025	Board member and Hon. Secretary of the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO)
2015 –	External reviewer in Tenure-Track Promotions at various universities in Germany and the MENA region
2012 –	Member in numerous selection committees (e.g. DAAD)
2009 –	Consultant for federal ministries (e.g. BMZ, AA)

- 2009 – Reviewer for numerous international journals (e.g. Comparative Politics, Democratization) & funding bodies (e.g. DFG, SNF, AvH, DAAD, Leibniz)
- 2009 – 2018 Cash auditor for German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO)

### AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 (planned) Visiting Fellow at German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg
- 2016 Visiting Fellow at GIGA Hamburg
- 2011 DAAD grant for visiting professorship at Cairo University
- 2009 Visiting Fellow at Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai (UAE)
- 2009 Dissertation Prize awarded by German Middle East Studies Association
- 2006 – 2008 PhD scholarship awarded by Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation
- 2005 – 2008 Junior Fellow at Centre for European Integration Studies in Bonn

### THIRD-PARTY RESEARCH FUNDING

Duration	Funding agency	Type of funding	Project title	Position within the project
2026 – 2032	DFG	Cluster of Excellence	Transforming Human Rights (3039)	Principal Investigator (among 24 PIs)
2022 – 2026	DFG	Research Grant ≈ 4,5 Mio.	RTG 2726 “The Sentimental in Literature, Culture and Politics”	Principal Investigator (among 7 PIs; speaker: Heike Paul, FAU)
2021 – 2023	Volkswagen Foundation	Research Grant ≈ EUR 119.000	Global autocratic collaboration in times of COVID19	Principal Investigator (together with Tobias Zumbrägel, CARPO Bonn and Julia Gurol, University of Freiburg)
2017 – 2021	DFG	Research grant ≈ EUR 450.000	Decentralization in the Arab World	Principal Investigator (together with Prof. Dr. Roland Sturm, FAU)
2015 – 2018	DFG	Research grant ≈ EUR 350.000	Gravity Centres of Authoritarian Rule	Principal Investigator (together with Prof. Dr. Marianne Kneuer, University of Hildesheim)
2012 – 2014	Fritz Thyssen	Conference grant ≈ EUR 10.000	Rethinking the Republic-Monarchy Gap in the Middle East	Principal Investigator (together with Prof. Dr. Claudia Derichs and Prof. Dr. Russell Lucas, Berlin/Michigan)
2009 – 2012	Gerda Henkel	Research grant ≈ EUR 55.000	State, religion and political normativity	Principal Investigator (together with Prof. Dr. Christoph Schumann)

### PUBLICATIONS

[https://www.pol.phil.fau.de/files/2025/06/Publications\\_Demmelhuber.pdf](https://www.pol.phil.fau.de/files/2025/06/Publications_Demmelhuber.pdf)