



Dr rer. pol. Marie-Theres Sommerfeld

Scientific Advisor

Research Focus	
Subjects	Conflicts and Islamist terrorism in the Middle East and specifically the Arabian Peninsula; The rise of terrorist groups and the development of their strategies; Foreign policy, military strategy, and international law, with a special focus on the Middle East.
Actors	Israel, Palestinian territories; Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria; Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates; Iran, Yemen; Hamas, Hezbollah.

Career	
Degrees	Doctorate in Security Studies; Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies; Bachelor's in Social and Cultural Anthropology and French.
Positions	Scientific Advisor at the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College; Bundeswehr officer with assignments at the Bundeswehr Operational Communications Centre and the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College, both focusing on the Middle East; Several stays in the Middle East and Africa (involving a research project at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Addis Ababa); Research stays in the US and Israel, both concerning the topic of counterterrorism.
Languages	Fluent in English, French and Spanish; lower intermediate knowledge of Arabic.

Selected Publications
Israels Krieg gegen die Hamas: Sicherheit und deutsche Interessen im Nahen Osten (Israel's War Against Hamas. Security and German Interests in the Middle East), #GIDSstatement 5/2024, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2024.

[Das Ende der Islamischen Republik?](#) (The End of the Islamic Republic?), #GIDSstatement 2/2023, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2023.

[Frauen an der Spitze regimekritischer Protestbewegungen im Libanon und Iran](#) (Women-Led Protests Against the Lebanese and Iranian Regimes), #GIDSstatement 10/2022, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2022.

[Der Einsatz von „Foreign Fighters“ in der Ukraine](#) (Foreign Fighters in Ukraine), #GIDSstatement 2/2022, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2022.

[Ansatzpunkte für eine strategische Ausrichtung der deutschen Sicherheitspolitik im Nahen Osten](#) (Suggestions for a Strategic (Re-)Orientation of Germany's Security Policy in the Middle East), #GIDSstatement 2/2021, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2021.

Schiitische Milizen in Nahost – Iranische Machtprojektion und ihre Auswirkung (Shiite Militias in the Middle East – Iran's Power Projection and its Consequences), in: Jahrbuch Terrorismus, Vol. 9, 2019-2021, ISPK Kiel, Verlag Barbara Budrich.

[Von „Zero Problems with our Neighbours“ to „Zero Friends“: Die zunehmend herausfordernde Politik der Türkei im Nahen Osten und deutsche Handlungsoptionen](#) (From 'Zero Problems with our Neighbours' to 'Zero Friends' – Turkey's Increasingly Challenging Policy in the Middle East and Germany's Options for Action), #GIDSstatement 10/2020, German Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, Hamburg 2020.

Strategische Machtprojektion des Iran im Nahen Osten (Iran's Strategic Power Projection in the Middle East), in: Jahrbuch Terrorismus, Vol. 8, 2017-2018, ISPK Kiel, Verlag Barbara Budrich.

Der „Islamische Staat“ in der Defensive (The 'Islamic State' on the Defensive), in: Jahrbuch Terrorismus, Vol. 8, 2017-2018, ISPK Kiel, Verlag Barbara Budrich.

Der „Islamische Staat“ in Libyen – Entwicklungen und Gefahrenpotenzial (The 'Islamic State' in Libya – Developments and Potential Threats), in: Jahrbuch Terrorismus, Vol. 7, 2015-2016, ISPK Kiel, Verlag Barbara Budrich.

Die Befreiungsfront Macina (Macina Liberation Front), in: [Wegweiser zur Geschichte](#): Mali, 2nd edition, Ferdinand Schöningh, Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences, Potsdam 2016.

Außerstaatliche Konfliktakteure: Erscheinungsformen und Verflechtungen (Types of Non-Governmental Conflict Actors and Ties Between Them), in: [Wegweiser zur Geschichte](#): Zentrales Afrika, Ferdinand Schöningh, Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences, Potsdam 2015.

[The New NATO Policy Guidelines on Counterterrorism: Analysis, Assessments, and Actions](#), Santamato and Beumler, INSS Strategic Perspectives 13, National Defense University 2013.

[Why Counter-Insurgency is Far from Over](#), INSS Dynamic Dialogue, July 2012.

[Is NATO being taken seriously in Europe?](#), INSS Dynamic Dialogue, May 2012.