

School of Global Studies (SGS)
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Date of birth: November 14, 1969

Academic positions and research visits

- 2024-present Deputy Dean (research and research education), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg.
- 2024 (8 mths) Research Director, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI), Stockholm.
- 2023-2024 Visiting Professor, European Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2021-2023 Visiting Professor, Department of Communication, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
- 2023-2025 Affiliated Researcher, Center for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), Lund University.
- 2017-present Professor, School of Global Studies (SGS), University of Gothenburg.
- 2014-2019 Deputy Head of Department (research and research education), School of Global Studies (SGS), University of Gothenburg.
- 2012-2017 Associate Professor in Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.
- 2009-2012 Director of Studies, Regional Studies, SGS, University of Gothenburg.
- 2009-present Senior Lecturer, SGS, University of Gothenburg.
- 2008-2009 Research Fellow, Nordic School of Public Health, Gothenburg
- 2007 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Politics, Stirling University, Scotland, UK.
- 2004-2007 Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.
- 2003-2004 Postdoc, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley, USA.
- 1996-1996 Visiting Ph.D. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Education

- 2007 Undergraduate Degree in Psychotherapy, Gothenburg Institute of Psychotherapy.
- 2003 Ph.D. (October 10, 2003) in Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. Dissertation: *Bakom välfärdsstatens dörrar (Behind the Doors of the Welfare State)*. Advisors: Marie Demker, Jonas Hinnfors, Department of Political Science. Opponent: Søren C. Winter, The Danish National Centre for Social Research.
- 1994 B.A. Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

Parental leave

- 2009-2011 Second child: Total 19 months.
- 2000-2002 First child: Total 23 months.

Languages

Fluent: Swedish (native), English, German. Proficient: Hebrew.

Other positions of trust (in selection)

Vice Chairman, Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI), Stockholm, January 2025-2026.

Ethics contact point at the School of Global Studies, January 2023-2024.

Board Member, Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS), March 2023 – ongoing.

Board Member, International Partnership for Education, Research and Innovation (INTPART), The Research Council of Norway (RCN), September 2022-2023.

Member of the Advisory Board for Global Engagement, SUHF, April 2022 – ongoing.

Member of the Advisory Board for Global Engagement, Karolinska Institute, August 2021-April 2022.

Member of the Steering Committee, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg, July 2021-2023.

Board Member, Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI), Stockholm, May 2019 – 2025.

Board Member, Global Development Portfolio, The Research Council of Norway (RCN), May 2019-2023.

Chair of the Steering Group, Center on Global Migration (CGM), 2017-2019.

Research Grants Received (in selection)

2025-2028

Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (RJ). "Diasporas and Foreign Policy". (Main applicant: Lisbeth Aggestam).

2022-2025

Swedish Research Council (VR). "Geopolitics at the Margins – Exploring Emerging Political Orders across the Red Sea Region." Main applicant.

2022-2025

Swedish Research Council (VR). "Transnational Civil Society and Foreign Policy: The Role of Diasporas in Comparative Perspective." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Lisbeth Aggestam).

2018-2024

Swedish Research Council (VR). "Refugee Migration and Cities: Social Institutions, Political Governance and Integration in Jordan, Turkey and Sweden." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Andrea Spehar).

2012-2017

Swedish Research Council (Uforsk/VR). "What room for whom in the transnational policy making arena in aid recipient states? A comparative study of Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zambia." Main Applicant.

2012-2016

Swedish Research Council (Uforsk/VR). "Taking it to the ground – Peacebuilding through a local government approach." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Joakim Öjendal).

2011-2016

Swedish Research Council (VR). "Mass mobilization as driving force of globalized Arab democratization." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Michael Schulz).

2010-2013

Swedish Research Council (Uforsk/VR). "Barriers to health care and the right to health for persons with mental illness in South Africa." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Lena M. Andersson).

2010-2013

Swedish Research Council (Uforsk/VR). "Traumatic experiences, mental disorders and barriers to care among young men and women in Rwanda." Co-Applicant (Main Applicant: Gunilla Krantz).

2008-2012

Swedish Research Council (VR). "The road to democracy: Exploring the impact of leadership guidance." Main Applicant.

Supervision PhD level

Completed supervision on the PhD level

- Marie Jeanne Nzayisenga, *Food (In)Security in Rural Rwanda: Women's Understanding, Experiences and Coping Strategies*. Awarded PhD October 2015, main supervisor. (School of Global Studies).
- Anna K. Forsman, *The Importance of Social Capital in Later Life*. Awarded PhD June 2012, co-supervisor. (Nordic School of Public Health).
- Carin Berg, *The Soundtrack of Politics. A Case Study of Anashid in Hamas and Hizbullah*. Awarded PhD June 2017, main supervisor. (School of Global Studies).
- Arne Wackenhut, *The Egyptian Uprising of 2012. Tracing the Role of the Cairo-Based Political Opposition*. Awarded PhD June 2017, co-supervisor. (School of Global Studies).
- Wayne S. Coetzee, *Ideals and Interest in Swedish Foreign Policy. Explaining the South African Gripen Deal*. Awarded PhD June 2018, main supervisor. (School of Global Studies).
- Meike Frotzheim, *The Implementation of Peace Operations. Executing Security Sector Reform and Stabilization in the DR Congo*. Awarded PhD June 2018, co-supervisor. (School of Global Studies).
- Alexander Jungen, *Working towards Modernity. Migration and Skills Development at the Frontiers of Racial Capitalism in Tunisia*. Awarded PhD May 2023, main supervisor. (School of Global Studies).

Current doctoral student supervision

- Emanuelle Brandström Arellano, *Migrants agents i migrationprocesser och i myndighetsprocesser* (School of Global Studies, main supervisor).

Education (in selection)

Lecturer and course convener of a broad range of courses at the BA, MA and PhD level at the School of Global Studies, for instance courses in research design and methods, thesis writing and Middle Eastern Studies (2009-2024).

Course development at the BA, MA and PhD level (2009-2024).

Director of Studies, Regional Studies, School of Global Studies (2009-2012).

Thesis supervising and examiner at the BA and MA level (2009-2024).

I have been teaching in other departments at the University of Gothenburg, such as Department of Political Science and the Department of Social Work, and at Chalmers (single lectures).

I have been teaching a semester at Stirling University, Scotland, UK (2007).

I have been teaching research ethics and safety at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (2021-23).

Outreach (in selection)

I am a frequent expert commentator on Israeli and Middle Eastern politics on Swedish and international TV, radio and social media.

I frequently participate in open lectures, panel debates etc. outside of academia.

Please have a look at LinkedIn for my public profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isabell-schierenbeck-152a0039/>

Publications (in selection)

See homepage for full list:

<https://www.gu.se/en/about/find-staff/isabellschierenbeck#accordion=undefined>

Schierenbeck, I. & F. Söderbaum (2026, accepted) "The Rise of the Red Sea Region in a Multiplex World", *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*.

Schierenbeck, I., Aggestam, L. & A. F. Wackenhut (2026) "Identity, homeland and transformative events: diaspora mobilisation among Jews and Israelis in Sweden", *Israel Affairs* 32(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13537121.2025.2512412>

Schierenbeck, I. (2026, accepted) "The judicial reforms and the protest movement in Israel – what now?" in Aggestam, K. (ed.) *Israel. Democratic Backsliding and Elusive Peace*. Berlin, New York: Springer.

Bachmann, J., Ashagrie, B., & I. Schierenbeck (2025) "Geocultural Power in the Red Sea Region", *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21(2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/orae039>

Schierenbeck, I. (2025) *Vändpunkt Tel Aviv. Det tyska arvet, kärleken och politiken*. Stockholm: Ordfront Förlag. (in Swedish)

Aggestam, L., Schierenbeck, I. & A. F. Wackenhut (2023) "Sweden, NATO and the role of diasporas in foreign policy", *International Affairs* 99 (6), 2367-2385.

Jung, A., Irgil, E., Schierenbeck, I. & A. Spehar (2023) "Navigating through Depoliticisation: International Stakeholders and Refugee Reception in Jordan and Turkey", *Third World Quarterly* 44 (5), 1021-1038.

Grimm, Jannis J., Lust, E., Koehler, K., Parkinson, S. E., Schierenbeck, I. & D. Zayed (2022) "Back to the Field: Uncertainty and Risk in Field Research", *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR)* 20 (2), 21-24.

Froitzheim, M., Söderbaum, F. & I. Schierenbeck (2022) "Peace research meets implementation studies: the role of implementing actors", *International Relations* 36 (2), 285-306.

Schierenbeck, I. & A. Spehar (2021). *Migration i välfärdsstaten*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (in Swedish)

Grimm, J., Koehler, K., Lust, E., Saliba, I. & I. Schierenbeck (2020) *Safer Field Research in the Social Sciences: A Guide to Human and Digital Security in Hostile Environments*. London: Sage.

Schierenbeck, I. (2019). *Låst läge i splittrat Israel*. Stockholm: Utrikespolitiska institutet. (in Swedish)

Schierenbeck, I., Johansson, P., Andersson, L., Krantz, G. & Joseph Ntaganira (2018) "Collaboration or reunification? The role of traditional medicine in mental health care in Rwanda and Eastern Cape Province, South Africa", *Global Public Health* 13 (2), 159-172.

Schierenbeck, I. & G. Rudd, G. (2018) 'Defected Civilian Civil Servants: Perceptions of regime strength in Syria', *Journal of Balkan & Near Eastern Studies* 18 (1), 1-14.

Hasselskog, M. & I. Schierenbeck (2017) 'The Ownership Paradox: Continuity and Change', *Forum for Development Studies* 44 (3), 323-333.

Hasselskog, M., Mugume, P. J., Ndushabandi, E. & I. Schierenbeck (2017) 'National ownership and extensive donor involvement. An aid paradox illustrated by the case of Rwanda', *Third World Quarterly* 38 (8), 1816-1830.

Nziasenga, M-J., Orjuela, C. & I. Schierenbeck (2016) 'Food (in)security, human (in)security, women's (in)security: State policies and local experiences in rural Rwanda', *African Security* 9 (4), 278-298.

Schierenbeck, I. (2015) 'Beyond the local turn divide: lessons learnt, relearnt and unlearnt', *Third World Quarterly* 36 (5), 1023-1032.

Hasselskog, M. & I. Schierenbeck (2015) 'National policy in local practice: the case of Rwanda', *Third World Quarterly* 36 (5), 950-966.

Möller, U. & I. Schierenbeck (2015) "Political Leadership and Quality of Government: Restraining Elites at Nascent Statehood" in Dahlström, C. & L. Wägnerud (eds.) *Elites, Institutions and the Quality of Government*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hughes, C., Öjendal, J. & I. Schierenbeck (2015) 'The struggle versus the song: the local turn in peacebuilding', *Third World Quarterly* 36 (5), 817-824.

Möller, U. & I. Schierenbeck (2014) *Political Leadership, Nascent Statehood and Democracy: A Comparative Study*. London: Routledge.

Strumpher, J., von Rooyen, R. M., Topper, K., Andersson, L., Morton, D. & I. Schierenbeck (2014) "Barriers to accessing mental health care in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa", *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery* 16 (1), 45-59.

Schierenbeck, I. (2008). *Det splittrade Israel – politiska och sociala skiljelinjer*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (in Swedish)