

# Claas Mertens

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## Academic Positions

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**University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government**, United Kingdom 09/2025 – present  
*Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship*

- Grant for a three-year independent research project on *Geoeconomics*
- Developing a book on geoeconomic power and security
- Exploring the intersection of geoeconomic conflict and climate policy
- Junior Research Fellow at Worcester College, University of Oxford

**Princeton University, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance**, United States of America 08/2024 – 07/2025

*Postdoctoral Fellow*

- Independent research on sanctions, economic interdependence, and climate change

**University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government**, United Kingdom 01/2024 – 07/2024  
*Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Net Zero Governance Systems*

- Conducted research on the international political economy of climate change
- Built a database on climate policies in 30 jurisdictions

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## Education

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**University of Oxford, University College**, United Kingdom 10/2020 – 03/2024  
*Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations*

- Title: “Three Articles on International Economic Coercion: Aid Suspensions, Retaliation, and Weaponised Interdependence”
- Research areas: international political economy, weaponised interdependence, sanctions, foreign aid, international environmental politics, causal inference
- Supervisors: Alexander Kuo, Karolina Milewicz
- Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarship

**University of Oxford**, United Kingdom 10/2016 – 06/2018  
*Master of Philosophy in Politics: European Politics and Society*

**University of St. Gallen**, Switzerland 09/2011 – 08/2015  
*Bachelor of Arts in Business*

**Harvard College**, United States of America 08/2014 – 01/2015  
*Visiting Undergraduate Student*

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## Peer-Reviewed Articles

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“[Carrots as Sticks: How Effective Are Foreign Aid Suspensions and Economic Sanctions?](#)” 2024. *International Studies Quarterly* 68(2).

“[The Power of the “Weak” and International Organizations.](#)” 2024. *The Review of International Organizations*. With Duncan Snidal, Thomas Hale, Emily Jones, and Karolina Milewicz.

- This article is the framework for a special issue publication, which I organised and edited together with my co-authors

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## Book Manuscript

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“Varieties of Chokepoints: The Rise, Weaponization, and Decline of Geoeconomic Power.” In progress.

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## Working Papers

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“When David Sanctions Goliath: Retaliation and the Interplay of Material Power and International Organisations.” Revise & Resubmit.

“A ‘conveyor belt’ from international standards to stronger domestic regulation? Evidence from the international political economy of net zero governance.” With Thomas Hale, Emma Lecavalier, and Thom Wetzer. Revise & Resubmit.

“Goeconomic Power and Vulnerability: A Typology of Chokepoints and When They Arise.” Under review.

“The Target Strikes Back: When and How China and Russia Adopt Economic (Counter)Sanctions.” Close to submission.

“Comparative analysis of national export control regimes.” With Christina Davis, Katniss Li, and Yeling Tan. Early stage.

## Data

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[Oxford Climate Policy Monitor](#). With Emma Lecavalier, Lucilla Dias, Thomas Hale, Thom Wetzer, Bhavya Gupta, Adrien Rose, and Abby Semple.

Dataset on 200 Cases of Chinese and Russian Economic Sanctions. With Linda Liu. Dataset complete; paper in progress.

## Teaching & Supervision

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**School of Geography and the Environment**, University of Oxford 04/2024 – 09/2024  
*Supervisor of Master’s Thesis*

- Supervised a master’s thesis examining when and why multinational firms purchase carbon offset credits to reduce their net emissions

**Department of Politics and International Relations**, University of Oxford 04/2024 – 07/2024  
*Tutor for International Relations and Quantitative Methods*

- Held weekly tutorials
- Developed course syllabus from scratch
- The first weeks gave a broad overview of international relations, while later weeks allowed students to develop their own research projects

**Department of Politics and International Relations**, University of Oxford 10/2021 – 07/2024  
*Tutor for Quantitative Research Methods*

- Provided introductory and advanced statistics training for undergraduate students in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and Politics & History
- Independently held lectures and R coding labs for approximately 20 students per group, marked assignments, updated teaching materials, and held office hours

**Oxford Internet Institute**, University of Oxford 09/2021 – 01/2022  
*Teaching Assistant for Internet Technologies and Regulation*

- 8-week core course for MSc Social Science of the Internet
- Independently ran weekly workshops (approx. 20 students per group) and developed materials from scratch
- Supported Prof Sandra Wachter with lectures

## Mentoring & Outreach

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**Academic Athletic Advising**, Princeton University 08/2024 – 07/2025  
[Athletics Fellow](#)

- Supporting rowing team members in balancing academic and athletic commitments

**Refugee Studies Centre**, University of Oxford 09/2023 – 08/2024  
[Graduate Horizons Mentor](#)

- Supporting a Kenyan refugee with his application to UK universities and the identification of funding opportunities

**Balliol College**, University of Oxford 11/2022 – 06/2023  
[International Relations Tutor for the Floreat Programme](#)

- This outreach program offers state school students the opportunity to engage with Oxford-style teaching
- Ran tutorials on International Relations and the Cold War

**Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach**, University of Oxford 07/2022  
[\*Workshop Convenor at summer school 'Your Sustainable Future'\*](#)

- Convened workshops on the international political economy of the environment for high school students from areas of low progression to higher education

**Graduate Admissions and Recruitment**, University of Oxford 07/2021 – 08/2022  
[\*UNIQ+ Mentor\*](#)

- Supported two undergraduate students from less privileged backgrounds throughout the process of applying for graduate study in the UK
- One of my mentees graduated from Oxford in the summer of 2023

### **Professional Experiences**

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**Kearney**, Berlin, Germany 01/2019 – 10/2020  
*Management Consultant*

- Kearney is a global management consulting firm with offices in over 40 countries
- Worked for public and private sector clients from Germany, Türkiye, Ukraine, and the United States

**KPMG**, Frankfurt, Germany 06/2016 – 08/2016  
*Management Consulting: Deal Advisory & Strategy*

**GIZ**, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 02/2016 – 05/2016  
*Riyadh Office*

- GIZ is a German federal enterprise for international cooperation and sustainable development

**Deutsche Bank**, Frankfurt a.M., Germany 09/2013 – 11/2013  
*Investment Banking: Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)*

### **Selected Conferences & Presentations**

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EPSA	2025, 2023
IPES	2024, 2022
Princeton IR Colloquium	2024
International Association on Regulation & Governance	2024
Oxford IR Colloquium	2024
PEIO	2022
ECPR Joint Session (nominated for Rudolf Wildenmann Prize)	2021

### **Further Skills & Activities**

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**Languages:** German (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

**Software:** STATA (expert), R (expert), MS Office (expert)

**Competitive Rowing** 09/2006 – 04/2018

12-16 training sessions per week

- World Champion 2015
- Competed in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race 2018
- German national team, 2012-2015
- Ten times German national champion

**Student Representative for DPhil in International Relations** 10/2022 – 10/2023

- Represented students from my course in Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Relations