

Claas Mertens

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government 09/2025 – present

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

- Three-year independent research project on geoeconomic power, cooperation, and climate change

University of Oxford, Worcester College

09/2025 – present

Junior Research Fellow in the Social Sciences

Princeton University, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance

08/2024 – 07/2025

Postdoctoral Fellow

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

University of Oxford, Blavatnik School of Government

01/2024 – 07/2024

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Net Zero Governance Systems

- Research on the international political economy of climate change

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, University College

10/2020 – 03/2024

Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations

- Thesis: “Three Articles on International Economic Coercion: Aid Suspensions, Retaliation, and Weaponised Interdependence”
- Supervisors: Alexander Kuo and Karolina Milewicz

University of Oxford

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

08/2014 – 01/2015

Visiting Undergraduate Student

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[Sanctions, Countersanctions, and Power: When and How International Organizations De-Escalate Geoeconomic Conflict](#). 2026. *International Interactions*.

[A ‘conveyor belt’ from international standards to stronger domestic regulation? Evidence from the international political economy of net zero governance](#). 2026. *Regulation & Governance*. With Thomas Hale, Emma Lecavalier, Bhavya Gupta, and Thom Wetzer.

[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* 19(3): 385–409. With Duncan Snidal, Thomas Hale, Emily Jones, and Karolina Milewicz.

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Varieties of Chokepoints: The Sources of Geoeconomic Power. Full manuscript drafted.

The book asks which economic ties can be used as instruments of coercion, and which cannot. It distinguishes four varieties of chokepoints (platform, know-how, fixed capital, and market access) and

traces each through a lifecycle of emergence, activation, and adjustment, showing how states can govern chokepoints without undermining the openness on which prosperity depends. Book workshops: Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford (May 2026); Niehaus Center, Princeton (planned for September 2026).

WORKING PAPERS

“The Cocooning Effect of US Dependence: How Can Europe Renew Its Partnerships?” With Ngaire Woods. Under review.

“The Target Strikes Back: When and How China and Russia Adopt Economic (Counter)Sanctions.” With Linda Liu.

“Comparative Analysis of National Export Control Regimes.” With Christina Davis, Katniss Li, and Yeling Tan.

DATASETS

Oxford Climate Policy Monitor (climatepolicymonitor.ox.ac.uk). With Bhavya Gupta, Thomas Hale, Emma Lecavalier, and Thom Wetzer. Public database of net-zero regulations across 37 jurisdictions.

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

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship (three years, 2025–2028): independent research project on geoeconomic power
- Carnegie Corporation of New York (\$750,000, 2026–2029): co-developed grant for the Research on Economic Security and Peace (RESP) project, a collaboration between Oxford and Harvard
- Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Scholarship (2020–2024): full funding for DPhil

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford 04/2026 – 06/2026

Co-Convenor, Policy Challenge II (Master of Public Policy)

- Capstone simulation on weaponised interdependence and multilateral economic security, in which each of 50 students represented a government or a business negotiating access to markets, semiconductors, energy, and critical minerals
- Co-developed the course from scratch, co-taught all sessions, and assessed the students

School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford 04/2024 – 09/2024

Supervisor of an MSc thesis in Environmental Change and Management

- Guided the student from research design to final submission

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford 10/2021 – 07/2024

Tutor for Quantitative Research Methods (Q-Step 1 and Q-Step 2)

- Introductory and advanced statistics for PPE and History & Politics undergraduates (~60 students per year)
- Delivered lectures and R coding labs, and marked assessments

Stanford Undergraduate Exchange Programme, University of Oxford 04/2024 – 07/2024

Tutor for International Relations and Quantitative Methods

- Designed the course syllabus and held weekly tutorials

Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford 09/2021 – 01/2022

Teaching Assistant, Internet Technologies and Regulation

- Core course for the MSc in Social Science of the Internet; independently ran workshops (~20 students)

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

TU Munich	2026
Blavatnik School of Government Research Seminar	2026
PEIO	2022, 2026
EPSA	2023, 2025
University of Pennsylvania	2025
IPES	2022, 2024
Princeton IR Colloquium	2024
International Association on Regulation & Governance	2024
Oxford IR Colloquium	2024
ECPR Joint Sessions	2021

MENTORING AND OUTREACH

Graduate Horizons Mentor , Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford	09/2023 – 08/2024
• Mentored a refugee student through university applications and funding	
IR Tutor, Floreat Programme , Balliol College, Oxford	11/2022 – 06/2023
• Outreach tutorials on International Relations for state school students	
Workshop Convenor , ‘Your Sustainable Future’ summer school, Oxford	07/2022
UNIQ+ Mentor , Graduate Admissions, Oxford	07/2021 – 08/2022
• Mentored two prospective graduate applicants from underrepresented backgrounds	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kearney , Berlin	01/2019 – 10/2020
<i>Management Consultant</i>	
KPMG , Frankfurt – Deal Advisory & Strategy	06/2016 – 08/2016
GIZ , Riyadh – International Cooperation	02/2016 – 05/2016
Deutsche Bank , Frankfurt – Investment Banking (ETFs)	09/2013 – 11/2013

SERVICE AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

- Guest Editor, special issue on geoeconomics for the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* (invited by the editor, in preparation)
- Student Representative for the DPhil in International Relations, DPIR (2022–2023)
- Organizer, PEIO conference at Oxford (2022), with 100+ international participants
- Reviewer for *Global Governance*, *International Interactions*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Review of International Organizations*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Competitive Rowing (2006–2018): World Champion (2015), Oxford–Cambridge Boat Race (2018), German national team (2012–2015), ten-time German national champion.