

Hans-Günter-Brauch Foundation Science Award 2025

Laudatory speech by Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran

for Dr. Bárbara Magalhães Teixeira, Dr. Anselm Vogler, Dr. ASM Mostafizur Rahman

Mosbach, October 9, 2025

Dear guests, dear Hans-Günter, dear award winners

I am delighted to be able to deliver the laudatory speech for three postdoctoral researchers at the 3rd Science Award of the Hans-Günter-Brauch Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene. They are being honored for the high quality of their doctoral theses on topics related to peace and ecology and will receive a publishing contract with Springer Verlag with a book fee:

Dr. Bárbara Magalhães Teixeira (Brazil) from Lund University (Sweden) is being honored for her doctoral thesis: *“The Nature of Peace and Persistent Violence in Environmental Conflicts.”* This excellent work contributes to understanding complex interrelationships and unjust conditions that promote violent conflict and hinder peace in times of environmental destruction and climate change. Embedded in feminist and decolonial approaches, mixed methods are used to obtain empirical evidence that underpins a redesign of resource use and power distribution. This is illustrated by the land issue in Guatemala, where international peace and development efforts have exacerbated the marginalization, displacement, and food insecurity of the rural population. Transformative approaches and mechanisms for promoting environmental peace support the conditions for positive and sustainable peace.

Dr. Anselm Vogler (Germany) addresses the topic *“Navigating between external and existential threats. Political responses at the national level for climate security”* in his outstanding dissertation at the University of Hamburg. The work examines in individual articles the interplay of biophysical and social processes of climate change with their manifold risks for human (in)security. Specifically analyzed are a taxonomy and evaluation of climate security policy measures, case studies of selected armed forces and their contributions to climate impacts, emissions, and disaster control in geopolitical conflicts, such as in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war. Highlights include a literature-based typology of ecologically relevant military activities, local manifestations of economic inequalities and (post-)colonial dependencies, and case studies on the island nation of Vanuatu and Guam.

Dr. ASM Mostafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) from Heidelberg University is being honored for his dissertation: *“Clothing and Growth – State, Ideas, Political Learning, and Globalization in Bangladesh.”* This original work offers an empirically grounded analysis of Bangladesh's economic transformation using the example of the competitive clothing export industry. This served as a catalyst for socio-economic change and the economic participation of women, increasing household income and economic growth. The work shows that external influences, such as those from international financial institutions, had less of an impact on the country's development path than internal ideas and political learning by state institutions and strategic decisions.