

Award of the First International Science Prize 2023 of the



Theme: Climate Change and Conflicts

The Foundation Board has chosen **Tobias Ide** from Murdoch University, Perth (Australia) as the first **International Science Prize** [http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Science_Prize.html] winner of 2023 for his book: **Catastrophes, Confrontations and Constraints – How Disasters Shape the Dynamics of Armed Conflict** published by MIT Press, 6 June 2023 [<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262545556/catastrophes-confrontations-and-constraints/>]. The award ceremony will take place on **Friday, 14 July 2023**, in the **Alte Mälzerei in Mosbach (Germany)**. The Prize consists of a certificate and a prize money of 3.000 Euros. The prize will be awarded annually in Mosbach (Germany).

The Prize Recipient of the first International Science Prize



Dr. Tobias Ide

[https://researchportal.murdoch.edu.au/esploro/profile/tobias_ide]

(born in 1985) is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Murdoch University (Perth, Australia). He also holds appointments as a Specially Appointed Professor for Peace and Sustainability at Hiroshima University and as Adjunct Associate Professor for International Relations at Braunschweig University (Germany). He received his BA and MA from Leipzig University, his PhD from Hamburg University (2015), his advanced PhD (Habilitation) from Braunschweig University [<https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/en/ib/mitarbeiter/tobiaside>] (2019).

From 09/2019 – 01/2021 he was a Fellow at the School of Geography, University of Melbourne and from 05/2015 – 08/2019 Coordinator of the Research Field Peace and Conflict at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media in Braunschweig.

His PhD thesis was on *Towards Methodological Pluralism: An Empirical Evaluation of Research Methods for Assessing the Link between Climate Change and Violent Conflict* and his habilitation focused on *Ecological Cooperation as a Way to Avoid Conflict: Environmental Peacemaking and Environmental Peacebuilding in International Politics*.

He received research grants from the German Federal Foreign Office, the Australian Department of Defence, the German Research Foundation, the Albert Shimmins Fund, the Australian Research Council, the Global Challenges Foundation, the Foundation for German-American Academic Relations, a Fellowship by the German-Israeli Cooperation in Water Technology Research Program, a scholarship by the German Federal Environmental Foundation and by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

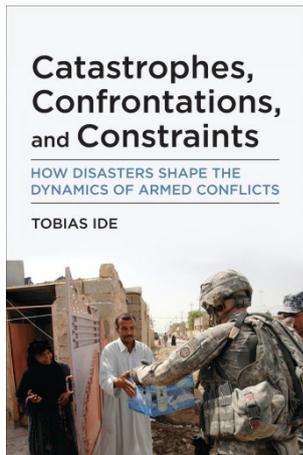
In 2022 he was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Research Award (Murdoch University), the Emerging Peace Scholars Awards of the International Studies Association and the Enhancing the Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Base Award. *Tobias Ide* has taught at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia, at Braunschweig University, University of Melbourne, and the University of Hamburg, among others.

He has widely published in world-leading peer-reviewed journals and he reviewed for major social science journals (in peace research, security studies and on environmental and conflict issues and is founding editorial team member of the new SAGE-Journal on *Environment and Security*).

He has been widely engaged in the academic community as an elected member of the Board of

Directors, Environmental Peacebuilding Association (2020-2023), as a member of various scientific advisory boards and of the scholarship selection committee of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. He served as a consultant for international (United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services, GEF, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, NATO's Technical Team Climate Security and Defence Activities, for the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission) and national governmental (German Federal Foreign Office, German Parliament, of the US Department of State in Berlin, of USAID, and of the Governor of Western Australia) and of nongovernmental organisations (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change and *EcoPeace*).

The Book



A ground-breaking study on how natural disasters can escalate or defuse wars, insurgencies, and other strife.

Armed conflict and natural disasters have plagued the twenty-first century. Not since the end of World War II has the number of armed conflicts been higher. At the same time, natural disasters have increased in frequency and intensity over the past two decades, their impacts worsened by climate change, urbanisation, and persistent social and economic inequalities. Providing the first comprehensive analysis of the interplay between natural disasters and armed conflict, *Catastrophes, Confrontations, and Constraints* explores the extent to which disasters facilitate the escalation or abatement of armed conflicts—as well as the ways and contexts in which combatants exploit these catastrophes. Publisher: [MIT Press](https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262545556/catastrophes-confrontations-and-constraints/)

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Tobias Ide utilizes both qualitative insights and quantitative data to explain the link between disasters and the (de-)escalation of armed conflict and presents over thirty case studies of earthquakes, droughts, floods, and storms in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. He also examines the impact of COVID-19 on armed conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and the Philippines. *Catastrophes, Confrontations, and Constraints* is an invaluable addition to current debates on climate change, environmental stress, and security. Professionals and students will greatly appreciate the wealth of timely data it provides for their own investigations.

Endorsements



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dahlia Simangan
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability, Hiroshima University, Japan

“Tobias Ide provides a refined analysis of the relationship between disasters and armed conflicts. What sets the book apart from what is already known about this relationship is the evidence of pathways for conflict de-escalation—a policy-relevant finding for enhancing opportunities to foster peace in the aftermath of disasters.”



Prof. Dr. Simon Dalby, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University (Em.), and Senior Fellow, Center for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Canada.

“Tobias Ide's well written volume provides a comprehensive synthesis of numerous case studies of the complicated relationships between disasters, conflict and environmental change, showing just how complicated the linkages are as well as the importance of good governance in preventing both conflict and disaster casualties.”



Susan Park, Professor of Global Governance, School of Social and Political Studies, University of Sydney

“In examining the disaster-conflict link, Ide identifies not only how disasters influence armed conflict, but explores the pathways for disasters to help de-escalation. An important contribution for environmental studies, peace and conflict, and international relations.”



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jean Chrysostome Kimbuku Kiyala, Senior lecturer, Faculty of Management Sciences, Durban University of Technology, visiting Professor (University of Bandundu, DRC)

“Tobias Ide’s very insightful book is on the cutting edge of peace ecology. It is all-inclusive. It rethinks conventional peacebuilding’s relations with peace processes in Sub-Saharan Africa; more importantly, it elaborates on climate change-induced conflicts while setting forth the roadmap for environmental peacebuilding and prospects of mitigating natural disasters-generated violence”.



Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations, Director, Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh;

"Anyone interested in armed conflicts in recent times must look beyond the immediate events and see what prompted humans to engage in conflicts. One factor comes out clearly: 'disasters triggered by extreme natural events,' the contention of Tobias Ide's book. Reading his book allows us to understand the disaster-armed conflict relationships on a vast scale, stretching from Bangladesh to Russia, Afghanistan to Algeria."



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, Department of Geography, Hamburg University, Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC) at the Cluster of Excellence *CLISAP*, Hamburg University, Germany.

With great pleasure I congratulate Tobias Ide for receiving the First International Science Prize 2023 of the HGB Foundation. In our first communication of March 2011 he asked me for supervision of his PhD project in the Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC) at University of Hamburg. With remarkable ambition, skills and productivity Tobias applied a wide range of qualitative and quantitative research methods, both empirically and theoretically. He investigated highly relevant interdisciplinary issues at the science-policy interface, from the nexus of climate and conflict risks to environmental peacebuilding. Here he has become an outstanding scholar and driving force shaping this research field in which he published novel results in

numerous articles in top journals and edited volumes, in some of which we had the opportunity to collaborate. I wish Tobias all the best for his future career.

The Foundation (HGBS)

The **Hans Günter Brauch Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene (HGBS)** [<http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Foundation.html>] was established on 8 May 2020 on the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and of the liberation of Europe and Germany from fascism to address both research and education, globally and locally, on peace, ecology in the Anthropocene—the new epoch in Earth History that started on 16 July 1945 with the first test of a nuclear weapon in Alamogordo (USA). Each year the HGBS Board awards locally prizes to high school students at four high schools in the **Neckar Odenwald County** in Baden Wuerttemberg in South Germany and since 2023 an International Science Prize. See at:

First International Science Prize 2023 of the HGB-Foundation

The International Science Prize [http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Science_Prize.html] of the HGBS accepts innovative, high quality theoretical and empirically based studies of researcher from all continents on specific themes linking Social Sciences research on peace research, ecology and the Anthropocene. The researchers may apply themselves or be nominated by professors and heads of departments and institutes. The requested research studies may be published peer-reviewed scientific articles or single-authored books published by publishers with a high reputation or book-length manuscripts (PhD theses, advanced PhD or habilitation theses. The applications are reviewed and evaluated by members of a gender-balanced international jury representing all five continents.

The Theme of 2023: Climate Change and Conflict

[http://hgb-stiftung.org/html/Science_Prize_Climate_Change_Conflict.html]

The theme of the first international Science Prize of the HGBS has evolved since the end of the Cold War (1989) and has become a theme of the international security debate in diplomacy since 2007 and of social science discourses since 2010. Tobias Ide's work contributes both to theoretical, empirical, methodological and policy features. Ide's book on *Catastrophes, Confrontations, and Constraints* advances our knowledge and inspires future research activities.

Mosbach: A Medieval Town of Advanced Education

Mosbach [<https://www.mosbach.de/startseite>] is an old town (1250 years old) with about 25.000 inhabitants in Baden-Württemberg where in 1980 a dual university (DHBW) [<https://www.mosbach.dhbw.de/en/international-office/international/about-us/>] was established as one of nine locations in Baden-Wuerttemberg in Southwestern Germany.

More than 3.600 students are enrolled in its 33 undergraduate study degrees. In addition to their studies, the students work at one of more than 1,100 companies, which cooperate with the university as corporate partners. Its two schools of Business and Engineering have subdivisions, such as the department of Business Studies offering specialisations in International Business, Banking, and Health Care Management, amongst others. A special BA and MA on Sustainability Studies is being set up in 2024 and a focus on sustainable housing is being planned.

Neckar Odenwald County in South Germany in a Region in Peace with Nature

The **Neckar Odenwald County** [<https://www.neckar-odenwald-kreis.de/>] offers unique opportunities for sustainable tourism in an environmentally and historically rich natural environment and aims for peace with nature. Situated in the Neckar Valley between Heidelberg University and technical schools of higher education in Heilbronn. It has remnants from the Roman period (Limes

[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limes_Germanicus\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limes_Germanicus)), a residence of the emperor during the Stauffer period in the Middle Ages [\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Wimpfen\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Wimpfen). It was, a battle ground of the farmers's rebellion (1525) [\[https://www.planet-wissen.de/geschichte/neuzeit/der_bauernkrieg/index.html\]](https://www.planet-wissen.de/geschichte/neuzeit/der_bauernkrieg/index.html) and during the 30 years' war (1618-1648) [\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War).

During WWII it was a hidden place for war production (project goldfish), of a small concentration camp of forced labour [\[http://www.kz-denk-neckarelz.de/en/\]](http://www.kz-denk-neckarelz.de/en/) , where after WW II German refugees from the Balkans [\[https://ldu-online.de/erinnerungen-an-das-lager-am-hammerweg-in-mosbach\]](https://ldu-online.de/erinnerungen-an-das-lager-am-hammerweg-in-mosbach) were housed and where today two high schools exist that have pioneered international school exchanges and town partnerships.

The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declared in 1945 that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed” [\[https://en.unesco.org/70years/building_peace\]](https://en.unesco.org/70years/building_peace). Therefore, the HGBS cooperates with both high schools: The Auguste Pattberg High School [\[https://apg-mosbach.de/\]](https://apg-mosbach.de/) and the Nicolaus-Kistner High School [\[https://www.nkg-mosbach.de/\]](https://www.nkg-mosbach.de/) with annual book gifts on peace, ecology and the Anthropocene and the award of pupils prizes for innovative individual or collective work.