

Preface

This monograph developed in parallel to several research projects, through which I was funded over the last years. Writing a monograph as a side activity allowed me to be completely free in terms of its content. I was able to develop a deeper interest in and understanding of the issues at stake. While I started with the idea of studying ways to address blood consumption, I became more and more aware of new tricky types of regulation that allow the EU and the United States to govern outside their own territory. At the same time, I have increasingly scrutinized conventional understandings of power in international relations (IR), and I wanted to contribute to developing the concepts *power to* (empowerment and resistance) and *power with* (cooperation and learning). If we want to understand change, it is not enough to study gridlock. Rather, we need to look for and learn from the possibly rare but existing transitions to greater social justice and environmental sustainability in IR.

I am especially grateful to Beth Clevenger, Frank Biermann, and Oran Young, the editors of the MIT Press book series. They asked the right questions and very much encouraged me to find my own voice.

Moreover, I would like to thank all my Freiburg colleagues. Warm thanks for research assistance to Miriam Beulting, Laura Kemper, Frank Neto, Hannah Robinson, and Haley Wilhelm. Hannah Robinson proofread the entire manuscript, and I am especially grateful to her. When I was drawn into my intellectual work, my colleagues constantly reminded me to take care of my physical and emotional needs too. One of the most frequent phrases I heard over the last years was: “Like in an airplane, put on your own oxygen mask first before trying to help others—or save the world.”

I cooperated with a range of colleagues all over the world for this book and I am very grateful to Abebe Beyene, Atakilte Beyene, Basil Bornemann,

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In addition, I would like to thank my students in Freiburg, Leipzig, and Münster, who participated in courses that I developed in parallel to the research on this book. I felt very privileged to be able to work closely in Freiburg's Master of Environmental Governance program with students from all over the world, including from the case study countries. Our exchange nourished the empirical chapters of this book. In this context, I also would like to thank all interviewees and people who helped with my field work for their time and trust. Universities can provide unique spaces of mutual exchange, and I hope that present and future generations are able to defend these spaces against corporatization.

Last but not least, warm thanks to my family and friends for sharing my enthusiasm about this project. I am very fortunate in so many ways (including having access to an "oxygen mask" whenever I need it), and I hope to be able to help others and contribute to protecting the earth with what you hold in your hands.

Lena Partzsch

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New Forms of Social and Environmental Governance

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