

Dear Colleagues, dear Norms Researchers,

We are delighted to invite you to the following event:

**Book Talk with Flavia Lucenti (LUISS Rome), Jonas Fritzler (Univ. of Bielefeld) and Carmen Wunderlich (Univ. of Duisburg-Essen)**  
***Contestation in Prism. The Evolution of Norms and Norm Clusters in Contemporary Global Politics* (Springer, Norms Research in International Relations Series, 2025)**  
**22 January 2026 | 12:15–13:15 (online)**

Please **register** here: [https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/mSMp6AevS\\_GfvX1Fb2PMKw](https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/meeting/register/mSMp6AevS_GfvX1Fb2PMKw)

This event is open to colleagues, students, and everyone interested in norms research.

The edited volume “Contestation in Prism. The Evolution of Norms and Norm Clusters in Contemporary Global Politics” analyses the complex dynamics of international norm contestation and explores how norms adapt and withstand challenges in different settings. Examining the interplay between various types of contestation, norm robustness, and the resilience of norm clusters, it sheds light on norm contestation as a multifaceted process with far-reaching implications.

In this context, it further discusses different conceptions of contestation, ranging from reactive vs. proactive contestation and applicatory vs. validity contestation, to inadvertent, i.e. interpretive vs. deliberate contestation. It then develops a theoretical model that links contestation ‘in prism’ with studies of norm clusters, or norms that are embedded in broader normative structures and interwoven with other normative meanings. Based on a strong theoretical framing, the book presents in-depth analyses of norm contestation in areas such as regional organizations, nuclear non-proliferation, norms relating to atrocities, and international criminal law. You can find more information about the book [here](#).

**In the book talk, Carmen Wunderlich will present the book before Jonas Fritzler and Flavia Lucenti will present their respective chapters “Soft Contestation of the Responsibility to Protect? Assessing Canada and Sweden’s Norm Diplomacy” and “Conceptualising the Responsibility to Prosecute Norm as a Norm Cluster: Impunity for War Crimes in Sri Lanka”. This will be followed by a Q&A.**

The event will be held in English.

We look very much forward to welcoming you to the event’. In the meantime, we wish you all happy holidays and a good start of the New Year!

Bastian Loges, Berenike Prem, Johanna Speyer and Jan Wilkens

(speakers of the GPSA thematic group on IR Norms Research)

