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Before joining the Hertie School, Marina Henke was an Associate Professor (with tenure) at Northwestern University, specialising in international relations, as well as at Princeton University where she was a Lecturer and Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She holds a PhD in Politics and Public Policy from Princeton University, a Double Master of Science in Development Studies and International Political Economy from Sciences Po Paris and the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Politics and Latin American Studies from Sciences Po Paris.

Marina Henke is a frequent commentator in German and international news media including the Washington Post, BBC, NPR, Deutsche Welle, ZDF, ARD, Bloomberg, AFP.