

My DAAD postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins SAIS was a unique experience. Previously, the focus of my studies was on the Cold War. The fellowship helped me to expand the scope of my work and provided new avenues for policy-relevant research beyond the end of the Cold War. I greatly benefitted from a workshop on NATO enlargement that our cohort of fellows was convening under the guidance of Prof. Daniel Hamilton and Prof. Kristina Spohr.

We discussed NATO's opening with a variety of former U.S. and European policymakers and diplomats and published a joint book within a couple of months. My current work on the post-Cold War period has its origins at Johns Hopkins SAIS. As a DAAD fellow, I had a chance to expand my network in Washington and to meet Strobe Talbott, the protagonist of my current book project on the Clinton Administration's NATO-Russia policy, as well as many of his former colleagues.

Our weekly seminars in the fellow group were another highlight. We discussed foreign policy issues both with academics as well as with former foreign policy practitioners in an informal setting and a relaxed atmosphere. The social aspect was an important factor in our program. Our cohort went to foreign policy events at SAIS, Brookings and Carnegie. We had regular lunches and plenty of exchanges over our current research projects. Last but not least, I benefitted from the interdisciplinary mix in our cohort of fellows.

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