

Dr. Dr. ALEXANDER GÖRLACH



Visiting Scholar at Harvard University (2016-2017)
Senior Advisor for the Berggruen Institute
Thought Leader on Democracy, Values and Change

Alexander Görlach is a senior advisor for the Berggruen Institute and an op-ed contributor to the New York Times. Alexander is also the founder of the magazine outlet www.saveliberaldemocracy.com. Previously, Alexander was the publisher and editor-in-chief of the debate-magazine The European, which he founded in 2009. From 2016 to 2017 he was a visiting scholar at Harvard University.

Alexander received a university scholarship from the German Konrad-Adenauer Foundation. His studies have brought him to the Pontifical Gregorian University Rome, the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, and the Faculty of Theology in Ankara. He has completed PhDs in both theology and linguistics, and has held fellowships and lectureships at both Harvard University and the Freie Universität Berlin. During the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, Alexander is a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's Center for European Studies and the Harvard Divinity School. He is currently developing work on pluralism and secularism in the 21st century, and thereby looking into the role of identity and the narratives that inform them.

Alexander began his journalistic career at age 20 at the local newspaper in Mainz. He then moved to the public television station ZDF, where he served as the newsroom's youngest editor, completing stints in studios in New York and London. Alexander worked as a freelance writer for Die Welt, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, and the Süddeutsche Zeitung. As an intern at Radio Vatican, he anchored the German news program before moving from journalism into politics. In 2006, he was appointed deputy spokesman for the conservative CDU caucus in the German Bundestag. In 2007 he was hired by the car manufacturer BMW as editor in chief for its online magazine. In 2008, Alexander returned to journalism as the online editor for the political magazine Cicero and founded the debate magazine The European in 2009. In 2012 and 2013, Alexander authored Newconomy, a regular column on the start-up industry. His op-eds have appeared in German and international media outlets, including Mediapart in France, Linkiesta in Italy, Der Standard in Austria, and The Huffington Post in the USA. The European was acquired by the Weimer Media Group in August 2015. In 2016 Alexander founded Save Liberal Democracy, a media outlet dedicated to the reflection of humanist values and liberal societies.

Alexander is an astute observer of social change and cultural transformations. He is a Young Leader of Atlantik Brücke, the Westerville Foundation, and of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt. He is the representative of the German Start-Up Association to the United States and Mexico. Alexander is a Senior Advisor to the Berggruen Institute, a think tank based in Los Angeles where The World Post is published. There, he studies governance in the digital age and societal transformations through Artificial Intelligence .

Alexander is also a columnist for the German business magazine Wirtschaftswoche, author of two books, and a frequent commentator on TV and radio (ARD Presseclub, ZDF-Morgenmagazin, N24, n-tv, Deutsche Welle).

Topics (Selection):

- Shaping change – Artificial Intelligence and why the future will be brighter than expected
- The world in 2022 – Challenges for the liberal democracy and how we can cope
- The search for identity – How we all become world citizens