PD Dr. FRANK SAUER



Head of Research at the Metis Institute for Strategy and Foresight, University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich

Co-host of the Podcast ‘Sicherheitshalber’

PD Dr. Frank Sauer is a political scientist, publicist and podcaster. As Head of Research at the Metis Institute for Strategy and Foresight, he researches the nexus between security, technology and society and advises the Strategy Development Department of the Federal Ministry of Defence. As co-host of the award-winning podcast Sicherheitshalber, he regularly discusses current developments in German security and defence policy as well as the situation in Europe and the world.

Frank Sauer (*1980) studied political science, sociology, philosophy and law at Goethe University Frankfurt, where he also gained his doctorate (Dr phil.). He habilitated at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich and was awarded the venia legendi for political science. He has been a private lecturer (PD) since February 2023.

His research focuses in particular on the role of nuclear weapons in international politics and the use of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) in the military. With his research on the international regulation of autonomy in weapons systems, he won the ‘Bernard Brodie Prize’ in 2022 (together with Elvira Rosert). Frank Sauer is the author of the book ‘Atomic Anxiety: Deterrence, Taboo, and the Non-Use of U.S. Nuclear Weapons’ and co-editor of the ‘Handbook of International Relations’.

Frank Sauer shares his knowledge with decision-makers in companies, the public, members of the German Bundestag and the international community at the United Nations in Geneva. Thanks to his membership in numerous expert and advisory bodies, Frank Sauer has an excellent Europe-wide and international network of contacts. He is known for communicating complex and serious topics in a generally understandable way and sometimes with an appropriate pinch of humour. His many years of experience in science communication in lectures and keynotes make Frank Sauer a sought-after speaker and dialogue partner. Frank Sauer is regularly invited to talk shows, interviews, lectures and opinion pieces as well as participating in panel discussions.

Topics (Selection):

- Artificial intelligence in the military: how (not) to build a Terminator
- Artificial intelligence and geopolitics: semiconductors, military power and Europe's future
- Nuclear weapons and Europe's security: How dangerous are Putin's threats?
- Russia's war and Europe's response: just a small turning point?
- Germany's National Climate Risk Assessment: The climate crisis and security

Publications (Selection):

- Die Bombe und Du - Wie wir unseren nuklearen IQ erhöhen, 2026