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Press Release (31 August 2024)

Second International Science Prizes go to Prof. G. Thaler (USA), Oxford University and to Dr. V. Tsilonis (Greece)

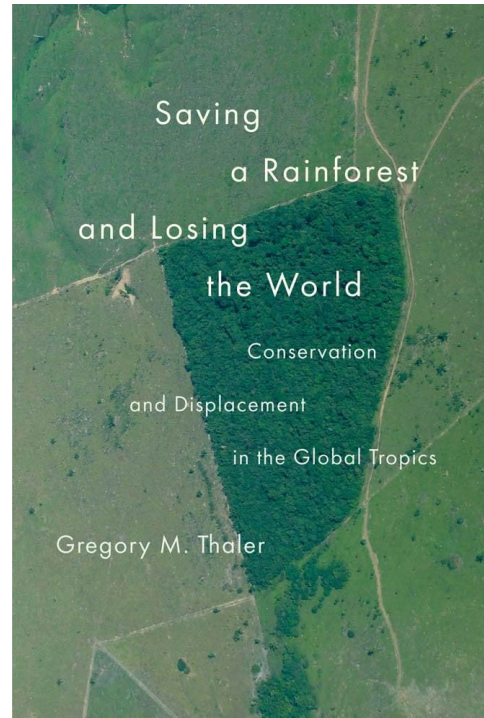
Mosbach, HGBS. *The Hans Günter Brauch Foundation (HGBS) for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene* was established on 8 May 2020, on the 75th anniversary of end of World War II and of the liberation of Germany from national socialism. Since 2022 a local prize for high school students has been awarded in the Neckar Odenwald District. During the third round on 4 July 2024 in Buchen 42 prizes were given to high school students, a tripling in the number of prizes and the prize money within three years. The first international science prize on *Climate Change and Conflicts* was awarded to the German social researcher Prof. Dr. Tobias Ide who teaches at three continents at Murdoch University in Perth (Australia) at Hiroshima University in Japan and at the Technical University in Braunschweig (Germany).

The second HGBS International Science Prize will be awarded on 10 October 2024 at the Medieval town of higher education in Mosbach in Baden-Württemberg on the theme *Ecocide: Focusing on the political and legal concept and on Impacts of Wars and/or Climate Change on Food Security since 1945* to two scholars from different scientific disciplines: to the American Social Scientist with a specialisation in geography, politics and agriculture who was an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia in Atlanta and who was just appointed to an Assoc. Professorship at Oxford University in the UK,

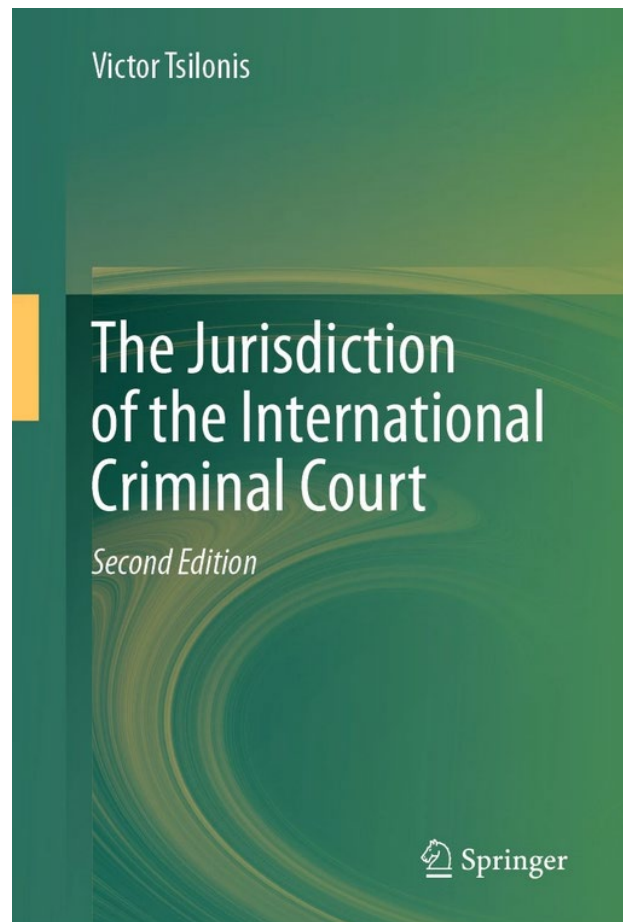
- **Gregory M. Thaler:** *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World – Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* (New Haven – London: Yale University Press, 2024) and to
- The Greek lawyer from Thessaloniki and expert in international law, **Victor Tsilonis:** *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2019;² 2024).

Both share the prize and the prize money by half. Thaler's book emerged from his PhD in Government, which he obtained from Cornell University in 2017. Tsilonis' book is based on his PhD he was awarded in International Criminal Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Their books were published by two top scientific publishers: by Yale University Press (New Haven – London) and by the legal department of Springer Nature Switzerland (Cham, Switzerland).

Gregory M. Thaler is an interdisciplinary environmental social scientist working on the political ecology and political economy of development, global environmental governance, and agrarian politics. Beginning in September 2024, he will be Associate Professor of Environmental Geography and Latin American Studies at the University of Oxford (UK). He was previously an Assistant Professor of International Affairs at the University of Georgia (USA). His book, *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World: Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* was published in February 2024 by Yale University Press.



Assoc. Prof. Gregory M. Thaler: His book: *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World – Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* (New Haven –London: Yale University Press, 2024)



© Dr Victor Tsilonis: *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2019; ²2024).

Dr Victor Tsilonis serves as the managing partner at NEWLAW, Greece’s nominee for the 2020 ICC judicial elections, highly praised by the independent Advisory Committee on the Nominations of Judges, and distinguished member of the International Criminal Court Bar Association, serving twice as vice-president and chair of the Professional Standards Advisory Committee. He has co-drafted 27% of ICC Disciplinary Organs’ published decisions and has been an adjunct lecturer at the Hellenic Open University. His groundbreaking work, *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Springer, 2nd edition, 2024), addresses some of the most pressing legal challenges of our time, including the regulation of lethal autonomous weapon systems, AI, cyber warfare, and the newly emerging crime of ecocide.

Both books address the call for the second International Science Prize 2024 from different perspectives with new innovative insights for scholars in peace and ecology. These books offer bridges in research on ecocide. In an Epilogue, Thaler discussed “Alibis of Ecocide (pp. 213-224) and Tsilonis asked in chapter 10 whether Ecocide is “the Emergence of a New Crime within the Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court”. Tsilonis offers a “novel definition on Ecocide for a New International Criminal Court for the Protection of the Environment (ICCPE) and suggests moving “towards a New International Criminal Court for the Protection of the Environment.”

Both International Science Prizes on the *Ecocide: Focusing on the political and legal concept* and on *Impacts of Wars and/or Climate Change on Food Security since 1945* will be awarded by *The Hans Günter Brauch Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene* co-organised with the town of Mosbach on Thursday, 10 October 2024 in the Meeting Hall of the Rathaus under the auspices of a town engaged in the activities of the “Mayors for Peace”. Lord Mayor Julian Stipp will give a reception and welcome the prize recipients, the speakers and citizens and high school students of the participating schools. The founder and chair of the HGBS Dr. Hans Günter Brauch will briefly outline the theme of the second call: *Ecocide: Impact of Wars and Global Environmental and Climate Change on Food Security*.

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, em., Hamburg University, a member of the HGBS Jury, will present the work of the first prize recipient Prof. Dr. Gregory M. Thaler (USA/UK), Assoc. Prof., Oxford University, for his book: *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World – Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* (New Haven – London: Yale University Press, 2024) while PD Dr Hans Günter Brauch, ret., HGB board chair on HGBS will present the second prize winner Dr. Victor Tsilonis, for his book: *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2024), which endorses the potential recognition of ‘Ecocide’ as a new crime within the scope of international environmental law through the foundation of a new International Criminal Court for the Protection of the Environment (ICCPE). Finally, Dr. Hans Happes and PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch of the HGBS Board will read the certificates and transfer the award money of 1500 € each. This will be followed by two acceptance speeches of the prize recipients Prof. Dr. Gregory M. Thaler (USA/UK) and Dr Victor Tsilonis (Greece).

Dr. Ursula Oswald, a former minister of ecological development (1994-1998) from Cuernavaca in Mexico and Deputy Board Chair of HGBS and its Jury, will present the three recipients of an international recognition from Uganda, Peru and Nigeria (from Sydney, Australia).

All three recipients will be awarded book contracts from Springer Nature: Dr. Annet Adong (Kampala, Uganda) for her first book based on her PhD dissertation: *Armed Conflicts and Forced Displacements: Incentives and Consequences on Consumption and Social Preferences* 2020); Dr. Melissa Roxana Quispe-Zuniga (Trujillo, Peru; Bonn, Germany) for her book on the theme: *Mining and Small-Scale Farming in the Andes: Socio-Environmental*

Roots of Land-Use Conflict (2020) and Dr. Christo Idowu Odeyemi (Nigeria/Australia) for a book on *Climate Security: A Perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa in the Anthropocene*.

Finally Dr. Hans Günter Brauch will award four prizes on Peace Music for the musicians at the Nicolaus-Kistner High School in Mosbach. The ceremony will end with a speech of Landrat Dr. Achim Brötzel: On Local Action and implementation. This award ceremony does not require an invitation and access is open to everybody locally and globally.

**The Hans Günter Brauch Foundation for Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene
First International Science Prize, Mosbach, 14 July 2023**



HGBS First International Science Prize Award Ceremony, Mosbach 14 July 2023

Hans Günter Brauch (HGBS founder), Tobias Ide (International Science Prize Recipient), Julian Stipp (Lord Mayor of Mosbach), and Hans Happes (HGBS Board member). Photos: Christina Bock (Hassmersheim; Frank Heuß (Mosbach, Germany). © HGB Foundation 2023.



74821 Mosbach, Market Place, Town Hall, Lower Meeting Hall, 10 October 2024, 17:00-19:30

HGBS Second International Science Prize Award Ceremony, Mosbach 10 October 2024

17:00-19:30 (5-7:30 pm)

- 17:00-17:30 Reception
- 17:30-17:35 First Piece of Music on War and Peace, Nicolaus-Kistner high school, Mosbach
- 17:35-17:40 Lord Mayor, Julian Stipp, Welcome Greetings
- 17:40-17:45 Hans Günter Brauch, HGBS Board Chairman, 2nd International Science Prize,
Theme: Ecocide: *Impact of Wars and Global Environmental and Climate Change on Food Security*
- 17:45-18:00: First Laudatio by Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, Em., Hamburg University, HGBS Jury on second HGBS International Science Prize Winner 2024 on Prof. Dr. Gregory M. Thaler (USA/UK), Assoc. Prof., Oxford University, for his book: *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World – Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* (New Haven – London: Yale University Press, 2024).
- 18:00-18:15: Second Laudatio by PD Dr Hans Günter Brauch, ret., HGB board on HGBS international science prize winner 2024 for Dr Victor Tsilonis: *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2024) on 'Ecocide' as a 'New Crime' for International Jurisdiction Against the Environment during the Wars in Ukraine (since 2022) and in the Middle East (since 2023)
- 18:15-18:20: Dr. Hans Happes, OSD, ret., Deputy Board chair of HGBS, Prize Award to Prof. Dr. Gregory M. Thaler (USA/UK): Reading of the certificate and transfer of the award money of 1500 €
- 18:20-18:25: PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch, ret., HGBS Board, Prize Award to Dr. Victor Tsilonis (Greece): Reading of the certificate and transfer of the award money of 1500 €
- 18:25-18:30 Second Piece of Music on War and Peace, Nicolaus-Kistner High School, Mosbach
- 18:30-18:45 First Acceptance Speech: Prof. Dr. Gregory M. Thaler (USA/UK): *Saving a Rainforest and Losing the World – Conservation and Displacement in the Global Tropics* (New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 2024)
- 18:45-19:00 Second Acceptance Speech: Dr Victor Tsilonis (Greece, International Law): *The Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court* (Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2019, 2024)
- 19:00-19:10 Prof. Dr. Ursula Oswald, Deputy Board Chair of HGBS, Award of International Recognitions – Their Scientific Achievements for post-doctoral scholars from Uganda, Peru and Nigeria (Australia)
- 19:10-19:15 PD Dr. Hans Günter Brauch: Award of four prizes on Peace Music at high schools.
- 19:15-19:20 Third piece of music on war and peace, Nicolaus-Kistner High School, Mosbach
- 19:20-19:30 Final Reflection: District Chair Dr. Achim Brötel: Thinking and Researching Globally -- Acting and Implementing Locally: A Task and a Challenge