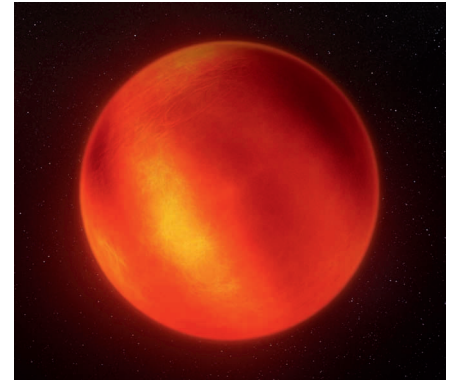




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18 SOCIAL SCIENCES

Conflicts

18 The Difficult Birth of a State

States don't emerge from a void, but are always the result of political decision-making processes among not only the people who live in them, but also a complex array of external players. These processes are seldom free of conflict, as the example of South Sudan, the newest member of the international community of sovereign states, shows. Researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology are studying the emergence and development of this African country.

24 God's Law on the Path to Modernity

Dynamic family law reform, recognition of adoption and consideration of a child's best interests: researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law demonstrate in their studies how complex and mutable law in Muslim countries is. And that it absolutely does allow for different interpretations.

32 The Anatomy of the Shooting Spree

Shooting sprees shock us and spark bewilderment and fear. At the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, a Minerva project is examining the link between possession of firearms, violence and emotions, based on the example of shooting sprees. The controversial topic "youth and weapons" has already been studied previously at the institute from a historical perspective.

ON THE COVER Conflicts divide and cause injury. They are omnipresent, in our personal environment and in society alike, at the national level no less than in the international context. At the same time, conflicts are a fertile field of study for researchers from various disciplines, such as social anthropologists or researchers of law or human development. They consider the issue in all of its facets and from different perspectives.

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The name isn’t exactly sensational: brown dwarfs. But researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy have gained fascinating insights.

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Newts possess the almost magical ability to regenerate damaged tissue. Scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research want to learn from these amphibians how an organism can regrow entire organs.

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Car bodies, aircraft wings or turbine blades – alloys today are customized for any purpose. Experts at the Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung are also developing new varieties, and in their search for innovative materials, they even apply the laws of the quantum world.

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