Lisa Kastner is a Doctoral Researcher at the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE), Cologne. Lisa is a DAAD Fellow at AICGS in February and March 2014. In her dissertation, supervised by Prof. Dr. Cornelia Woll, she examines lobbying of financial reforms in the United States and the European Union in comparative perspective. The goal of this doctoral project is to subject the claim of regulatory capture in finance, when regulation is captured by those whose actions it is supposed to control, to empirical scrutiny. The analysis developed in case studies of reforms in the U.S. and the EU intends to highlight how the crisis has significantly altered interest groups dynamics and, in particular, the capacity of weak and diffuse interests to influence public policy.

Ms. Kastner has recently published an article entitled “[Much Ado about Nothing? Transnational Civil Society, Consumer Protection and Financial Regulatory Reform](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09692290.2013.870084)” (Review of International Political Economy. Published online January 28, 2014) in which she conducts a comparative study of the impact of transnational pressures on policymakers in Europe and the U.S. in the immediate aftermath of the crisis. In particular, she examines the role of a polymorphous network of civil society organizations that was able to gain momentum after the financial crisis and to influence the financial reform process. She explores how weak and diffuse interests such as NGOs, consumer associations, and grass-roots groups successfully mobilized to place consumer issues on reform agendas in tandem with public entrepreneurs and on the back of a popular backlash against big finance.

Ms. Kastner studied Political Science at the University of Mannheim and the University of Uppsala. She received a Master’s degree in European Studies from the University of Bath, the University of Washington, and Sciences Po Paris in 2011. Her stay at the Max Planck Institute in Germany is part of the binational doctoral program (cotutelle) at the Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies (MaxPo) and the École doctorale de Sciences Po Paris. In 2013, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University.