Staff List
As of 31 December 2003
(Staff who left in 2003 are listed in grey italics)

Director
Scott Gates
Nils Petter Gleditsch – Acting Director until June 2003

Working Group Leaders
Pavel Baev
Jon Elster
Nils Petter Gleditsch
Ola Listhaug
Karl Ove Moene
Kaare Strom

Research Staff
Helge Brunborg
Halvard Buhaug
Sabine Carey
Jeffrey Checkel
Paul Collier
Indra de Soysa
Tanja Ellingsen
Joan Esteban
James Fearon
Diego Gambetta
Kristian Skrede Gleditsch
Kristian Berg Harpviken
Wenche Hauge
Håvard Hegre
Anke Hoeffler
Stephen Holmes
Statth Kalyvas
David Lake
David Lektzian
Päivi Lujala
Halvor Mehlem
Erik Melander
Eric Neumayer
Magnus Öberg
Roger D. Peterson
Arvid Raknerud
Sabinia P. Ramet
Bjørn Erik Rasch
Debraj Ray
Gregory Reichberg
Kristen Ringdal
James Robinson
Jan Ketil Red

Todd Sander
Anita Schjølset
Albert Simkus
Sven Gunnar Simonsen
Stergios Skaperdas
Håvard Strand
Zan Strbac
Henrik Syse
Pinar Tank
Stein Tannesson
Ragnar Torvik
Henrik Urdal
Hilde Henriksen Waage
Barbara Walter
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Project and Research Assistants
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Naima Mouhleb
Christin Marup Ormhaug
Taylor Owen
Chris Shiroma
Nadia Thieme
Stine Thomassen

MA Students
Kristin Hegvold Andersen
Tunid Beitland
Lene Stjælholm Christiansen
Rachel Gjetelsvik Haug
Ragnhild Nordås
Gudrun Østby

Administration
Dortiee Bakk
Glenn Martin
Martha Snodgrass
Mayam E. Sari
Lars Wilhelmson

* PhD Candidates
** PhD completed 2003

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www.prio.no/cscw
Civil war is now the dominant form of war. In 2002, of the 31 armed conflicts worldwide that incurred 25 or more casualties, only one was a conflict between states. The rest were internal conflicts, and only four of them attracted international military intervention. Civil war inflicts tremendous human suffering, in terms of casualties and refugees, as well as severe damage to societies, economies and the environment. Civil war is more frequent in poor countries and further weakens their prospects for economic development. Yet civil war remains less studied than interstate war.

The Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW) is a long-term, multidisciplinary initiative that aims to understand why civil wars break out, how they are sustained, and what it takes to build a durable civil peace.

At the centre’s official opening on 6 January 2003, Norwegian Minister of International Development Hilde Frafjord Johnson delivered the keynote speech. She stressed the need of policymakers for more cohesive and theoretically grounded understanding of the complexities of conflict and peacebuilding processes, and challenged the academic community to make its research relevant for those engaged in operational work. The CSCW leadership is cognizant of this challenge, while remaining committed to scholarly excellence as a first principle.

The centre is organized into seven working groups. CSCW staff and associates have a primary assignment in one group but are encouraged to participate in several, enhancing cross-fertilization. The centre has recruited PRIO researchers and eminent scholars from other institutions, both in Norway and abroad, in addition to selected master’s degree students and doctoral candidates. Together, they bring the insights and complementary strengths of economics, history, political science, philosophy and sociology to bear on a set of interrelated research questions. The CSCW cooperates closely with the Department of Sociology and Political Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU); Trondheim; the departments of Political Science and Economics at the University of Oslo; and the Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

The year 2003 was a formative one for the CSCW. Until Scott Gates returned to Norway in late June to take over the reins of the directorship full-time, Nils Petter Gleditsch served as interim deputy director. The working groups are now constituted and actively engaged in research. The seven working group leaders have met several times in Oslo, discussing key conceptual issues in the study of civil war and potential themes for cross-group collaboration.

Several CSCW projects have been financed through external grants in 2003. This report features a selection of them. Our funders include the World Bank; the Research Council of Norway (doctoral stipends and project grants); the Joint Committee of the Nordic Social Science Research Councils, the United Nations University’s World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER); the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (GECHS), the University of British Columbia’s Liu Institute for Global Issues; the International Department of the Norwegian Red Cross; the World Society Foundation; the ministries of foreign affairs of Norway and Sweden; and the US National Science Foundation. The Research Council provides core funding for the centre, designated as one of Norway’s 13 Centres of Excellence.

Scott Gates

The Working Groups
- International Dimensions of Civil War
  Leader: Pavel Baev, Senior Researcher, PRIO
- Civil Conflict and Economic Development
  Leader: Karl Ove Moene, Professor, University of Oslo
- Environmental Factors in Civil War
  Leader: Nils Petter Gleditsch, Research Professor, PRIO
- Governance and Peace
  Leader: Kaare Strom, Professor, UCSD
- Values and Violence
  Leader: Ola Listhaug, Professor, NTNU
- Microfoundations of Civil War
  Leader: Jon Elster, Professor, Columbia University
- Civil Peace
  Leader: Scott Gates, Director, CSCW

Centre Administration in 2003
Scott Gates, Director
Dorthe Bakke, Researcher and Administrative Assistant
Glenn Martin, Editor
Martha Snodgrass, Chief Administrator
Mirjam E. Sørli, Information and Administrative Assistant
Lars Wilhelmsen, Data Management Assistant
This Working Group aims to establish to what extent interstate wars are a fundamentally distinct phenomenon from wars within states by evaluating the impact of external pressure or interference on the character and trajectory of civil wars. In 2003, we began to proceed along two research avenues. The first examines new features of civil wars (in particular, new qualities acquired through their links with international terrorism) given the challenges for state-building in the globalizing world. The second focuses on the impact of international dimensions by isolating particular conflicts as case studies. A portfolio of seven research projects, which embrace multiple disciplines and methodologies (from history to international relations to security studies), was gathered with the aim to translate the in-depth analysis of particular international dimensions and case studies into wider conclusions and sharper conceptual distinctions. The countries/regions and specific relations featured in these case studies are Afghanistan/Central Asia, Georgia/Caucasus, Haiti (involvement of both the United States and the UN), Israel–Palestine (and US involvement), and Turkey (Kurdish issues and EU involvement).

At its three meetings in 2003, the group invested much energy in discussing a variety of approaches to defining the phenomenon of civil war, taking as the point of departure a broad definition suggested by Jon Elster (‘civil war is organized intrastate political violence’) and debating Greg Reichberg’s historical overview of relevant definitions and Pavel Baev’s idea of ‘grey area’ conflicts that intersect but are not the same as civil wars.

Interplay Between Civil War and Terrorism

Working Group member Stein Tønnesson focused his research on the conflict between the USA and Al-Qaeda, which has spread across the world and could be defined as ‘transnational war’. While US hegemony has approached a perilous point, he argues, the great powers are increasingly willing to intervene in civil wars in order to prevent state failure that facilitates the creation of ‘safe havens’ for terrorists. Pavel Baev evaluated the discourse and the practice of Russia’s ‘counter-terrorist operation’ in Chechnya, concluding that states can sometimes be more interested in engaging in protracted campaigns of this sort than in achieving victory, since internal mobilization against terror has helped consolidate societal support for the regime.

Working Group Members in 2003

Jeffrey Checkel
Kristian Berg Harpviken
Wenche Hauge
David Lake
Sven Gunnar Simonsen
Pinar Tank
Stein Tønnesson
Hilde Henriksen Waage
Barbara Walter

Research Assistant
Martin Halvorsen
Environmental Factors in Civil War

Working Group Leader: Nils Petter Gleditsch

This Working Group defines environment in the broad sense of physical factors that condition human affairs. For instance, physical distance plays an important role in theories of conflict. We have recently created two new measures: one for the distance between the centre of a rebellion and the country's decision-making centre; the other for the length of land boundaries. Mountainous terrain, forest cover, rivers and the availability of natural resources are other physical features that may influence the onset and duration of civil war. Work on these questions was presented at a workshop on 'Geography, Conflict, and Cooperation' at the ECPR March meeting in Edinburgh.

Population pressure plays an important role in neomalthusian theories of scarcity. Demographic factors in internal conflict are studied in Henrik Urdal's doctoral project. In November, the CSCW co-sponsored with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population an international workshop on the demography of conflict. Papers from that meeting are currently being edited for special issues of *Journal of Peace Research* and *European Journal of Population*.

The neomalthusian perspective contrasts with the argument that technological progress, human innovation and market pricing can overcome scarcity. Several ongoing projects also contrast the resource scarcity approach with the perspective that resource abundance may be more important in accounting for conflict.

The Working Group members and associates meet in regular workshops at PRIO and NTNU.

Governance and Peace

Working Group Leader: Kaare Strøm

Governance structures play a particularly significant role in determining the outbreak of armed conflict and civil war. Coherent democracies and harshly authoritarian states have few civil wars, and intermediate regimes (semi-democracies) that exhibit inconsistent institutions are less stable than institutionally consistent autocracies and democracies. Such semi-democracies or anocracies are also the most conflict-prone. Constitutional and institutional choices also matter significantly for conflict resolution, in that some institutions provide much more suitable incentives for cooperation, trust and political accountability than others. This Working Group will explore the mechanisms through which democratic institutions engender peace either by preventing conflict in the first place or by facilitating its resolution. To address these questions, we draw on an extensive body of research, from analyses of rebellion and revolt to studies of democratization and political stability. We employ a variety of methods, including case studies, game theory and quantitative statistical analysis.

In its first year of operation, the Working Group launched a series of initiatives. The group met at PRIO in February and August for discussions of research in progress, including papers on regional diffusion of democratization, the UN's state-building agenda, definitions and coding of electoral systems for statistical analysis, and the relationship between a state's human rights practice and the gender balance in its parliament. In August, several Working Group members presented papers at an international conference in Oslo on human security data, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and organized by Andrew Mack of the University of British Columbia. This conference will be followed by one in Bellagio, Italy, on governance and civil conflict, co-organized by Kaare Strøm, CSCW Director Scott Gates and Andrew Mack. Tanja Ellingsen and other Working Group members developed successful proposals for double panels on Democracy: Prospects, Prerequisites and Consequences at the 2004 annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Montreal.

Resources, Governance Structures and Civil War

Kaare Strøm and Magnus Öberg developed a successful workshop proposal on this theme for the Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), in Uppsala, Sweden, in April 2004. The workshop will be attended by about 20 conflict researchers from Europe and the United States, including 9 from the CSCW.

Working Group Members in 2003

- Helge Brunborg
- Halvard Buhaug
- Indra de Soysa
- James Fearon
- Håvard Hegre
- Päivi Lujala
- Eric Neumayer
- Jan Ketil Red
- Håvard Strand
- Henrik Urdal

Research Assistants and Interns

- Bethany Lacina
- Elisabeth Gilmore
- Nadia Thieme
- Taylor Owen

Working Group Members in 2003

- Sabine Carey
- Indra de Soysa
- Tanja Ellingsen
- Håvard Hegre
- Erik Melander
- Magnus Öberg
- Arvid Raknerud
- Bjørn Erik Rasch
- Anita Schjølset
- Håvard Strand

MA Students and Research Assistants

- Lene Sliethoven Christiansen
- Chris Shioya
Values and Violence

This Working Group will undertake a comparative study of values, attitudes and public opinion, studying generally peaceful societies as well as countries undergoing a transition away from violence. In some countries, such as in Scandinavia, prevalent values all but rule out the use of violence as a method of political action and affect governments’ ability to intervene militarily in ongoing conflicts. Data collected by rigorous comparative social surveys (World Values Survey, the European Social Survey and others) are well suited for understanding several themes relevant for the study of civil unrest, such as attitudes toward immigration, social and political trust, nationalism and prejudice.

In 2003, members of the Working Group have collected new data in a major study, the South-East European Social Survey, on conflict and cooperation in the countries of former Yugoslavia. Data from this survey will be compared with data from previous surveys to explain change, and with data from countries across Europe to study ways in which the Balkan countries are unique. The Working Group has also initiated a series of country studies by MA students, the first focusing on religion and values in contemporary India.

Working Group Members in 2003
Tanja Ellingsen
Sabrina P. Ramet
Kristen Ringdal
Albert Simkus
Zan Strbac

MA Students
Turid Beitland
Rachel Gjelsvik-Haug
Ragnhild Nordås

Losers’ Consent
Political conflict and, in extreme cases, civil war are related to citizen support for the political system. In the forthcoming book Losers’ Consent (Oxford University Press), Working Group Leader Ola Listhaug and co-authors Christopher J. Anderson, André Blais, Shaun Bowler and Todd Donovan analyse how support for the democratic system varies among winners and losers of elections in new and old democracies. Using data from the 1999–2000 European Values Study, the authors compare 18 ‘old’ democracies and 15 post-communist countries. Across all dimensions of political support, including beliefs in core principles of democracy, losers of elections show lower levels of support than winners.

The authors develop the idea that losing has stronger negative effects in new democracies, since losers have not yet ‘learned to lose’ in these systems. Voters for the hegemonic communist parties of the past show weaker support for the democratic system than voters for other parties. This is not unexpected the supporters of these parties are the big losers, in the sense that democracy has replaced a system where winning was guaranteed. In a refinement to these results, however, data show that voters for communist parties are at least as confident in parliament as other voters. The reason may be that communist parties in some new democracies have been able to use parliament as a basis for a continued fight for their lost cause.

Microfoundations of Civil War

In January 2003, all members of the Working Group, except Stephen Holmes, met in Oslo to organize a five-year plan for its activities. They decided to have five annual workshops, organize two or more field trips to countries currently undergoing civil war, and have regular visits to Oslo by foreign associates. These activities have started up in 2004.

Several members of the group (Jon Elster, Diego Gambetta, Stephen Holmes, Stathis Kalyvas) have continued their collaboration on a book about suicide missions, to be submitted for publication by Oxford University Press in early 2004. In addition to chapters on suicide missions in Sri Lanka and Israel, the book will include general discussions about the motivations and beliefs of suicide attackers and of the reasons why some insurgency groups abstain from using this particular technique.

Other members (Elster, Kalyvas, Roger Petersen) have undertaken trips to Bogota, to participate in a conference, build links with the administration and prepare a field trip to Colombia in 2004. Elster’s research assistant Pablo Kalmanovitz, a graduate student of political science at Columbia University, spent the fall of 2003 working for the mayor of Bogota, Antanas Mockus. The Office of the Mayor has prepared a book, Rationality, Collective Action and Precommitment: An Approach from Elster’s Ideas to Colombian Reality, for which Elster will write an Afterword. The strong ties that are developing between the Working Group and the Colombian administration can be expected to facilitate in-depth understanding of the dynamics of civil war.

Working Group Members in 2003
James Fearon
Diego Gambetta
Stephen Holmes
Stathis Kalyvas
Karl Ove Moene
Roger D. Peterson
Gregory Reichberg
Hennik Syse

Research Assistant
Pablo Kalmanovitz
Civil Peace

Working Group Leader:
Scott Gates

This Working Group is scheduled to begin in early 2004. The designation ‘Civil Peace’ reflects the aim to study both the processes of conflict resolution and the conditions for enduring social, economic and political stability.

To better understand long-term peacebuilding, we will focus on the development of institutions that can serve to mitigate or supplant the conditions that cause and sustain armed civil conflict. Peace depends essentially on the laying down of arms. But neglect of the economic, social and political conditions that led to a conflict makes it likely to erupt again and again.

Working Group Members (recruited for 2004)
Steven J. Brams
Christopher K. Butler
Gretchen Casper
Han Dorussen
Kristian Berg Harpviken
Anke Hoeffler
S. Mansoor Murshed
Inger Skjelsbæk
Hilde Henriksen Waage
Barbara Walter
Elisabeth Wood

Selected CSCW Events 2003
(held in Oslo unless otherwise indicated)

6 January
CSCW Launch
Moderator: Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Norwegian Minister of International Development

28 March–2 April
European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions of Workshops (Edinburgh) Political Geography Workshop
Organized by Halvard Buhaug and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch

18–19 August
Economic Analyses of Civil War: Addressing the Problem of Contested Datasets and Findings
Co-organized by the CSCW and the Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia

26 August
Can Sanctions Be Designed To Be Smarter and More Effective?
Co-sponsored with the Norwegian Red Cross

12–14 September
Conference on Natural Resources and Conflict (Montreal)
Co-sponsored with the McGill Research Group in Conflict and Human Rights

19 September
Film Seminar on Civil War: Screening of Rachida, panel discussion and open debate (Forskningsdagene)

8–12 November
Demography of Conflict and Violence
Co-sponsored with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSPP) and Statistics Norway. Financial support from the Research Council of Norway

14–15 November
Workshop on Autonomy Arrangements and Internal Territorial Conflicts
Co-organized with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and PRIO

24–25 November
Regional Governance of Oil Revenues in the Central African Rift Region
Co-sponsored with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Embassy in Norway. Organized by NTNU and Ecole des Mines de Paris under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Sciences

Photo: Jorunn Tønnesen
The CSCW’s cross-cutting activities encourage the integration of a variety of disciplines and methods. This includes application of state-of-the-art statistical methods from economics and political science to conflict and other social phenomena. Important theoretical developments outside conflict research per se – in international relations, gender studies, or international law and ethics – are linked to the study of civil war. Further, scholarship in related policy areas (sanctions, development, public health, migration/refugees) is linked to the study of peacemaking and peacebuilding. Research staff grouped here contribute to the disciplinary and methodological pluralism of all of the centre’s working groups.

Cross-Cutting Research Staff, 2003
Paul Collier
Scott Gates
Elisabeth Gilmore
Kristian Skrede Gleditsch
Nils Petter Gleditsch
Martin Halvorsen
Håvard Hegre
Anke Hoefler
Bethany Lacina
David Lektzian
S. Mansoob Murshed
Eric Neumayer
Gregory Reichberg
Håvard Strand
Lars Wilhelmsen

Conflict Database & Datasets
Project Leader: Nils Petter Gleditsch
Researchers: Elisabeth Gilmore, Martin Halvorsen, Bethany Lacina, Håvard Strand, Lars Wilhelmsen

Data collection and management are important cross-cutting activities. The CSCW and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research (PCR) at Uppsala University, Sweden, have collaborated in the production of a dataset of armed conflicts, both internal and external, covering the period from 1946 to the present. This dataset is primarily intended for academic use in statistical and macro-level research. It complements the annual compendium of ongoing armed conflicts published in *Journal of Peace Research*, as well as a forthcoming PCR online database, which provides qualitative overviews of recent conflicts worldwide.

The Centre for Human Security at the Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia, has also funded an analytical project, *The Humanitarian Consequences of Economic Sanctions (2003)*; Project Leader: David Lektzian

The logic underlying most cases of sanctions views the imposition of high economic costs as the means necessary for achieving political success. This project challenges conventional wisdom by presenting ethical and practical problems with the traditional model of sanctions.

In August 2003, the project leader presented his report, ‘Making Sanctions Smarter: Are Humanitarian Costs an Essential Element in the Success of Sanctions?’, to scholars, political leaders and practitioners at a public forum co-organized by PRIO/CSCW and the International Department of the Norwegian Red Cross. The report combines a quantitative analysis of 104 pre-1990 sanctions cases with a summary of case studies of 12 UN sanctions regimes, primarily drawn from the post-1990 period. Its major conclusion is that economic sanctions are not about economics, but about politics. Not only does the imposition of high degrees of economic hardship – and the humanitarian costs that follow – introduce serious ethical concerns; high-cost sanctions are also no more likely to be successful than sanctions that impose lower costs on a target.

The project was funded by the Norwegian Red Cross.

Globalization, the State and Conflict (2002–04)
Project Leader: Scott Gates
Researchers: Håvard Hegre, David Lektzian, Håvard Strand

Trade, foreign investment and other forms of international economic interaction have grown since World War II. In the absence of any opposing world system, an extensive debate on the consequences of globalization has arisen. The problem is that globalization is not uniform. Its nature and extent vary considerably across regions of the world, as well as within individual countries. First, the project will map out the patterns of globalization between and within countries, developing a dataset of indicators of globalization (trade, foreign direct investment, migration, etc.). Then it will study the effects of globalization of violent conflict, through intervening factors such as economic development, income distribution, political transformation, ethnic fractionalization and environmental change.

The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway as a strategic institute project.
**The Geography of Armed Civil Conflict**

*Halvard Buhaug*

**Dissertation Adviser:** Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO and NTNU)

This doctoral project aims to improve the study of armed conflict by treating a number of geographic factors in a systematic, quantitative fashion. While the project covers both international and civil wars, the primary focus is on civil wars — the most frequent kind of armed conflict and the type most likely to be affected by geography. The project seeks to uncover the extent to which geographic factors like topography, natural resources and climate affect the risk and duration of internal conflict, and whether these factors may explain the relative location of conflict zones. Combined analysis of such factors is also relevant to understanding the success (or failure) of international and third-party interventions. A central ambition has been to generate quantitative, geo-referenced data on the location of all armed conflicts since 1946. The project continues the fruitful cooperation between the CSCW and the departments of Geography and Geomatics at NTNU.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2005.

**Prospects for the Future: Towards Civilizational Clashes?**

*Tanja Ellingsen*

**Dissertation Advisers:** Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO) & Øyvind Østerud (UiO)

Samuel Huntington’s controversial ‘clash of civilizations’ thesis suggests a new post-Cold War pattern of conflict, shaped by cultural dissimilarities. In his view, nation-states are fading as sources of identity and are being replaced by religion. Economic and political cooperation follow the fault-lines of civilizations, and hence sharpen them. This project tests the validity of Huntington’s claims by asking: (1) Is there such a thing as a civilization? and (2) Are we seeing a clash of civilizations?

To answer the first question, the project investigates to what extent people identify themselves in terms of civilizations, and to what extent trade and political alliances can be explained by cultural similarities. The data used are drawn from the World Value Survey, the Penn World Tables and the United Nations General Assembly (voting data). To answer the second question, the project investigates the relationship between civilizational belonging and both interstate and intrastate conflict. Are factors other than ‘civilizational’ better at explaining these conflicts? For example, is conflict intervention based on kinship? This analysis is based on the Correlates of War’s Militarized Interstate Dispute data and the PRIO–Uppsala conflict dataset.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2004.

**The Limits of the Liberal Peace**

*Håvard Hegre*

**Dissertation Advisers:** Jon Hovi & Arvid Raknerud (both UiO)

The dissertation studies the empirical evidence for the liberal peace hypothesis — do democracy and free trade reduce the risk of interstate and domestic war? While largely supporting the hypothesis, the dissertation points out its limits: the evidence for the interstate liberal peace is clearly strongest in relations between developed countries, and trade reduces conflict mainly in symmetrical dyads. Domestically, democracies are no less prone to civil war than non-democracies. However, political systems that are consistently democratic along several dimensions or have had time to consolidate have fewer conflicts than newly established or inconsistent
Natural Resources, Conflicts and Economic Growth
Päivi Lujala
Dissertation Advisers: Ragnar Torvik (NTNU) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

This doctoral project examines how the type and availability of natural resources affect the risk, duration, type and location of internal conflict. For the moment, there are no clear guidelines for a precise assessment of how the economic incentives and opportunities for violent conflict and rent-seeking differ for various natural resources. Moreover, conflicts and resources are unevenly distributed geographically, and rebel groups can finance warfare from natural resources only if they are able to gain access to them. Statistical research on conflict risk, type and duration has been impeded by inadequate disaggregation of natural resources to different types and the lack of spatial data on resource location. This project aims to identify natural-resource types relevant to conflict research, collect spatial data on their distribution and analyse how different resource types affect the risk, duration, type and location of conflict. In particular, it will produce new datasets on the worldwide location of diamond and gemstone deposits, petroleum reserves and drug cultivation. The assessment of natural resource effects on conflict patterns and the financing of rebel groups will use the PRIO–Uppsala conflict dataset.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2006.

Extending the Democratic Peace: The Role of Governmental Institutions for International Conflict
Anita Schjølset
Dissertation Advisers: Hayward Alker (USC) & Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO)

The primary goal of this project is to investigate the relationship between governmental institutions and the likelihood that states will engage in conflict internationally. As its secondary objective, the project models how this relationship between institutions and conflict changes over time and whether it differs between regions. The project covers all states that were or became independent during the period 1816–2002. The goals set out above are pursued by identifying three ways in which power is distributed institutionally, with emphasis on the first: (1) the type of electoral system for the lower house of the parliament; (2) whether the office with primary influence in the shaping of most major decisions affecting the state’s domestic and foreign policy is presidential or parliamentary; and (3) whether power is distributed vertically through a federal system or is centralized. The project applies quantitative techniques to analyse cross-sectional time-series data.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2007.

Ethnic Intolerance, Ethnic Identities and Violence in Contemporary European Societies
Zan Stibac
Dissertation Advisers: Kristen Ringdal & Ola Listhaug (both NTNU)

The main focus of this doctoral project is the relationship between ethnic identities, ethnic intolerance and violence. The dissertation will consist of a set of empirical articles, an introductory piece presenting common themes for the articles, and a summary and commentary on the results of the empirical analysis. Quantitative analyses will make use of survey data from countries of former Yugoslavia and Eastern and Western European. Special attention will be devoted to the following factors:
- Impact of religious and religious affiliation on ethnic intolerance and ethnic identities.
- Impact of previous experiences of war-related violence on ethnic intolerance.
- Differences in the level of ethnic prejudice between elites and masses.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2004.

Demography and Domestic Armed Conflict
Henrik Urdal
Dissertation Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO) & Øystein Kravdal (UiO)

The objective of this doctoral project is to address and analyse demographic characteristics as potential causes of domestic political violence, such as armed conflict, rioting and terrorism. The point of departure is the debate over the assumed relationship between population growth, natural-resource scarcity and political violence. According to neomalthusians, population pressure can, under unfavourable economic and political conditions, lead to environmental degradation and resource scarcity. It is further assumed that collective violent action may erupt over such scarcities. The project also addresses two additional demographic character-istics: the existence of ‘youth bulges’ and unequal growth rates between different ethnic groups. These are frequently argued to have important security implications. Using statistical surveys, the project examines whether these demographic factors are associated with different forms of political violence. The project includes both time-series cross-national studies and studies of interregional patterns of political violence for some countries of particular interest.

The dissertation is due to be completed in 2004.

Are Hovdenak
Resource Conflict and Oil Companies in Angola: An Economic Conflict Analysis
Kirsten Hegsvold Andersen (Economics)

Oil and diamond resources have been important in sustaining the war in Angola between the government army (the FAA) and the rebel group UNITA. The International Monetary Fund has called for more transparency of investment and revenues in the oil sector. A game-theoretic approach models the conflict as a competition for resource rent. Depending on the expectations of the FAA and UNITA, increased transparency with regard to the income of the oil companies could either increase or reduce the conflict’s severity. Advisers: Karl Ove Moene (UiO) and Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO).

The thesis was submitted to the University of Oslo in May 2003 and defended in June.

Lethal Religions: Hindu Nationalism and Communal Violence in India
Turid Beitland (Political Science)

‘Communal violence’ is often used to describe violent conflict between religious communities. This thesis takes a closer look at one such case, the February 2002 bloodshed in Gujarat, and asks how people can suddenly engage in such brutality with such apparent fervour. The proposed interpretation is rational ‘scapegoating’ on the part of high-caste Hindu nationalists, who use religious myths and symbols to ignite hatred among relatively deprived lower castes. Perpetuation of religious conflict as the main cleavage serves to suppress simmering class/caste conflict which, if unleashed, could deprive the upper castes of privileges. Adviser: Ola Listhaug, NTNU.

The thesis is to be completed in spring 2004.

Democracy and Intervention
Lene Siljeholm Christiansen (Political Science)

The democratic peace and the emerging norm of humanitarian intervention may have contributed to a normative justification for military intervention for the purpose of promoting democracy and peace, and maybe even for the purpose of regime change. This thesis is a quantitative project that studies the effects of military interventions conducted by democratic countries in the period 1960–96. Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO).

The thesis is to be completed in spring 2004.

Religious States and Civil War
Ragnhild Nordås (Political Science)

This thesis investigates the impact of religious heterogeneity, state policies such as restrictions on religious freedom and the combined effect of these on the risk of intrastate armed conflict. A quantitative study of a global sample of countries for the period 1990–2002 is used to test whether religious heterogeneity alone or in combination with certain state policies best predicts conflict. Advisers: Tanja Ellingsen (NTNU) and Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO).

The thesis is to be completed in spring 2004.

Horizontal Inequality and Civil War: Do Ethnic Group Inequalities Influence the Risk of Domestic Armed Conflict?
Gudrun Østby (Political Science)

Recent studies of civil war conclude that vertical inequality (inequality between individuals) does not increase the risk of internal armed conflict. This thesis examines whether countries with severe horizontal inequality (structural inequality between ethnic groups) are more prone to internal armed conflict. It compares subnational groups in 34 countries. Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO and NTNU).

The thesis was submitted to the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in August and defended in September 2003.

Resources, Regimes and Rebellion: A Critical Assessment of the Greed and Grievance Model of Civil War
Miryam E. Særl (Political Science)

This thesis assesses Collier & Hoeffler’s ‘greed or grievance’ approach to conflict. The theoretical discussion emphasizes the importance of regime type, ‘lootability’ of resources and the unique qualities of oil. The thesis proposes changes to Collier & Hoeffler’s empirical model, with alternative measurements for conflict, regime type and natural-resource dependence. It compares conflict in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East/North Africa. Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO) and Øystein Noreng (UiO).

The thesis was submitted to the University of Oslo in October 2002 and defended in January 2003.

A Democratic Peace – Revisited
Lars Wilhelmsen (Political Science)

The theory of democratic peace, as it applies to relations between pairs of states, has remained strong over quite some time. Although some disagree with the findings on methodological or theoretical grounds, others suggest that the theory might be the closest thing we have to a scientific law in the social sciences. This thesis seeks to test whether the application of different measures of democracy impact previous findings on the relationship between the two variables of democracy and peace. Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO) and Håvard Strand (UiO).

The thesis is to be completed in late 2004.
Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Other Journal Articles


Journal Issues


Monographs


Edited Volumes


Book Chapters


Doctoral Theses

Hauge, Wenche. Causes and Dynamics of Conflict Escalation: The Role of Environmental Change and Economic Development Case Studies of Bangladesh, Haiti, Madagascar, Guatemala, Senegal and Tunisia. For the degree of Dr.polit., Department of Political Science, University of Oslo.

MA Theses (Hovedoppgaver)

Andersen, Kirsten Hegsvold. Resource Conflict and Oil Companies in Angola. Department of Economics, University of Oslo.

Beitland, Turid, 2004: Lethal Religions: Communal Violence in India – The Case of Gujarat. Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.


Databases


Gilmore, Elisabeth; Päivi Lujala, Nils Petter Gleditsch & Jan K. Rød. DIADATA: A New Dataset on Diamonds. Oslo: Centre for the Study of Civil War, PRIO. [Database is not public while the article is under submission; when published, the data will be released.]


Reports


PRIO was founded in 1959. It was one of the first centres of peace research in the world, and is Norway’s only peace research institute. PRIO is independent and international in staff and perspective. Research at PRIO concentrates on the driving forces behind violent conflict and on ways in which peace can be built, maintained and spread. In addition to theoretical and empirical research, PRIO also conducts policy-oriented activities and engages in the search for solutions in cases of actual or potential violent conflict.

Centre of Excellence (CoE) is a distinction accorded to the CSCW by the Research Council of Norway. The CoE scheme was introduced in Norway with the intention of bringing more researchers and research groups up to a high international standard. In 2002, after an extensive and competitive selection process led by international experts, the council awarded CoE status to 13 of 129 applicants. PRIO’s proposal was judged to be of ‘exceptionally high scientific quality’. The CSCW is to date the only designated Centre of Excellence within the social sciences.