CSCW Staff List 2005

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Individuals falling under more than one category are listed under their primary role.
This report, with hypertext links, is also available at www.prio.no/cscw.
From its inception, the objectives of the Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW) have been to study from a multidisciplinary approach: why civil wars break out; how they are sustained; and what it takes to end them and to sustain a civil peace. The signature of CSCW research on armed conflict is disaggregation. Typically, quantitative research on civil war has focused on attributes of the states in which it occurs. In this ‘epidemiological’ view, war is treated as if it were a disease that countries can catch, and countries are regarded as being in a state of war or of peace. In fact, civil wars are subnational events rarely waged throughout countries. Accordingly, their onset, duration and resolution ought to be studied as a function of local conditions. Physical terrain (mountains, rivers), the occurrence and type of natural resources and ethnic groups’ demographic characteristics, economic welfare and settlement patterns are some of the local conditions under study at the CSCW.

Understanding the transition from a society with various conflict potentials to a society at war – as well as the happier transition in the reverse direction – requires a disaggregated and differentiated study of the various actors, their aims, beliefs and methods. Disaggregation of events and actors over time is at least as important as spatial disaggregation. Furthermore, we ought to allow conceptually for countries/governments/rebel groups that are neither at war nor at peace. Here, our researchers are describing and modeling the strategic interactions between a government and leaders of an opposition movement, among transnational (economic) interest groups, including ethnic diasporas, or among the political groups (former combatants) invited inside postwar transitional institutions. Some of our work examines the specific choices of an individual, such as a suicide bomber (see Diego Gambetta, Making Sense of Suicide Missions, Oxford University Press, 2005), a kidnapper, a subsistence farmer or a child soldier. Such a decision-based focus is grounded in game theory, descriptive ethics and psychological studies of emotions.

CSCW researchers have also conducted a panel of surveys in the Balkans regarding values and attitudes before and after conflict. Such individual-based data provides important insights into perceptions of ‘the other’, and the panel nature of the survey allows us to assess the dynamic aspects of attitudes as shaped by civil war.

Civil war remains by far the dominant form of armed conflict in the world today. As reported in the 2005 annual data feature in Journal of Peace Research on ‘Armed Conflict and Its International Dimensions’, the number of armed intrastate conflicts involving at least 25 battle casualties in 2004 was 30, which is slightly up from 27 in both 2003 and 2002. However, this constitutes a significant drop over the longer term. Fifteen years ago, we recorded 51 active armed intrastate conflicts.

In 2005, our third year of operations, the CSCW increased its research staff and level of activity. We recruited two new post-docs on long-term contracts (Halvard Buhaug and Camilla Gjerde); held a major international policy-oriented conference on climate change and conflict; and hosted a number of guests, including Patrick Regan, who was a Fulbright Scholar at the Centre for a year. In 2006, the Research Council of Norway will be making decisions about the renewal of Centres of Excellence. As part of our efforts to obtain renewal, we have been assessing our contributions to the understanding of civil war.
Human Security and Climate Change

Resource scarcity is a frequently cited factor in conflict. This tradition goes back to Malthus, who was mainly concerned with population growth and increasing scarcity of food. Neo-Malthusians have a much wider agenda: Competition over scarce water, energy, and land is widely believed to have the potential to generate internal as well as international armed conflict. Empirical studies have found some limited support for these ideas, although predictions of impending doom have not yet come to pass. Countries that share international river basins have a higher probability of militarized disputes, although it is difficult to identify any major wars fought over water issues.

Climate change is the ultimate neo-Malthusian scenario because of the global nature of the problem and the potential for large and perhaps rapid change. If the Gulf Stream were to slow down or even reverse, the changed climate would make Northern Europe inhospitable for millions of people, who would have no choice but to try to settle further south. Extensive migration could also result from sea-level rise and the flooding of low-lying areas in countries like Bangladesh. Migration has the potential to exacerbate existing scarcities and generate conflict. Even more moderate changes in temperature and rainfall could drastically change the conditions for agriculture and food security.

On the other hand, global warming could also lead to improved living conditions in other areas. It seems unlikely that the precise temperature range that the world has experienced in the last few decades is optimal all over the world. However, those who suffer from deterioration in one region will not necessarily benefit from improvements elsewhere. And even where the net effect is positive, change itself may be costly.

In a first effort to study the relationship between climate change and human security in a broad sense, the CSCW co-sponsored with CICERO (the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research at the University of Oslo) an international workshop in Oslo in June 2005.

The workshop attracted a wide audience, with 70 participants from Australia, India, the USA, the UK, Mexico, Argentina, Sweden, Canada, Thailand, Spain, Nigeria, South Africa, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Belgium, Chile, Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, Germany, Uganda and Ghana. In addition to participants from universities and research institutes, there were representatives from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, the Research Council of Norway, Health Canada – Climate Change and Health Office, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UK Met Office (meteorological service).

The workshop was organized for the Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GEO-HS) programme, which is a scientific project of the UN’s International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change (IHDP). Two scholars associated with the CSCW have served on the GEO-HS Scientific Steering Committee: Nils Petter Gleditsch (1999–2005) and Indra de Soysa (2005– ).

Over 40 papers were presented at the workshop. All the submitted papers are available in full text on the website (http://www.cicero.uio.no/humsec/). Several papers have been revised and submitted for special issues of journals such as Political Geography, Die Erde and International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics. Papers were also sent to New Zealand Journal for Environmental Law. We are very hopeful that these collections of papers will stimulate further research and debate on the issues raised at the conference and gain wide exposure.

PIN at PRIO

In October, the CSCW hosted four prominent experts on international negotiations, and their visit included several stimulating workshop sessions open to the public. The visitors have collaborated since 2000 in the network Project on International Negotiation (PIN), which is sponsored by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Victor Kremenyuk (Institute for USA and Canada Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences), Paul Meerts (Clingendael), Gunnar Sjöstedt (Swedish Institute of International Affairs) and I-William Zartman (Johns Hopkins University) led four topical workshop sessions and then rejoined for a plenary session in which spokespersons from each workshop presented findings for a general discussion. This is the formula for the annual PIN ‘Roadshow’, held at a succession of major research centres on different continents.

In the workshop session Negotiating the Middle East: The Entrapment Phenomenon, Meerts discussed the important question of how to initiate negotiations as well as issues related to the level of experience of individual negotiators. Ripeness of Negotiations, the session led by Zartman, explored such terms as ‘hurting stalemate’ and ‘ripeness’ (relating both to the situation and to actors), as well as the distinction between facilitator and mediator roles.

Problems of Negotiating Ecological Conflicts, the session led by Sjöstedt, looked at how to involve weaker states in the negotiation process. Participants also discussed the role of different actors in ongoing climate talks, with special attention paid to the United States. In The Three Dimensions of Negotiation, Kremenyuk focused on Russia’s current role as negotiator and its relationships with China and the United States. This group also discussed differences in US and European negotiation styles.

The PIN workshops attracted more than 60 students, researchers and journalists, and contributions from the floor were lively throughout. The CSCW’s Marit Moe and IIASA’s Tanja Huber organized the event.

(IIASA is a nongovernmental research organization that conducts interdisciplinary scientific studies on environmental, economic, technological and social issues in the context of human dimensions of global change. IIASA provides exchange opportunities and funding through the Research Council of Norway.)
The Devil in the Demographics

Large youth cohorts, often coined ‘youth bulges’, have been blamed for the political violence in events as diverse as the English Revolution, the rise of Nazism in Germany in the 1930s and resource conflicts in West Africa, and more recently for increasing recruitment to radical Islamic organizations. Young males are undoubtedly the main protagonists of criminal as well as political violence, a fact that some attribute to aggression caused by high male sex hormone levels. But does the risk of political violence increase with the relative number of possible perpetrators?

A recent study by Henrik Urdal, ‘A Clash of Generations: Youth Bulges and Political Violence’ (International Studies Quarterly; forthcoming), draws on two prominent theoretical frameworks in the study of civil war. Youth bulges may increase opportunities for conflict through providing cheap rebel labour to potential rebel organizations. This is particularly the case in poor countries with high unemployment, where joining a rebel organization may be the best, if not the only, way for young people to generate income. Youth bulges may also provide motives for violence caused by institutional crowding, if an increasing number of youths are excluded from education, politics and the labour market.

Urdal tests empirically the claim that the risk of political violence is increased by youth bulges (which he defines as large cohorts in the age group 15–24 relative to the total adult population, defined as 15 years and above). He uses a global model, covering all states over the 1950–2000 period, to examine three different forms of political violence, from internal armed conflict to terrorism and rioting. He finds robust support suggesting that youth bulges increase the risk of all three forms of political violence. For example, countries where youths constitute 35% or more of the adult population run two and a half times the risk of armed conflict than countries with 17%, the median for developed countries. Forty-four developing countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, were at or above this level in the year 2000. The figures below show the risk of conflict outbreak associated with youth bulges relative to the risks associated with regime type and level of development respectively, two of the major explanations for civil war.

Under some conditions, youth bulges may be particularly volatile. Youth bulges seem to increase the risk of armed conflict more in starkly autocratic and highly democratic regimes, all other factors being equal, while there seems to be an increasing risk of terrorism where youth bulges coincide with economic decline and expansion in higher education. There is also some indication that the effect of youth bulges on political violence may decline along with reduced fertility, a finding complementing studies of economic growth in Asian ‘Tiger’ economies.

The global youth share peaked in 1985 and has been declining since. But for the states that will experience high youth shares for years to come, especially in the Middle East and Africa, age composition may still significantly affect the risk of conflict. This is particularly the case in countries facing economic stagnation, high dependency rates and autocracy. Additionally, if migration opportunities are substantially restricted, developing countries that previously relied on exporting surplus youth may experience increased pressures from youth bulges accompanied by a higher risk of political violence.

This study, which was published in an earlier version as a World Bank Social Development Paper, has been cited in a report by the International Crisis Group and a number of UN publications.

The Human Security Report 2005 and CSCW Data

One of the central missions of the CSCW is to collect and archive data on civil war relevant to the academic and policymaking communities. Our data-collection efforts and collaboration with Uppsala University on armed conflict data were featured prominently in the 2005 inaugural issue of the Human Security Report. According to the Report, ‘the Uppsala/PRIO dataset is the most comprehensive single source of information on contemporary global political violence’ (p. 20).

The UN system has a range of indices for human development and welfare upon which policy recommendations are based. There is no comparable collection of data regarding human security. The Human Security Report aims to fill this lacuna. The 2005 Report highlights a number of statistical trends that we have identified previously: the number of civil conflicts peaked in 1991 and 1992 and has been following a general downward trend since; more civil wars are being peacefully terminated than are breaking out; and the number of battle-deaths associated with these conflicts has dropped precipitously over the last five decades. Despite these trends, the most common form of armed conflict, by a wide margin, is civil conflict.

The author of the Human Security Report is Andrew Mack, Director of the Human Security Centre at the University of British Columbia’s Liu Institute for Global Issues. Through the years, Mack has worked closely with researchers at the CSCW at PRIO. The Human Security Centre funded the expansion of the Uppsala/PRIO dataset to include additional forms of social violence, such as intracommunal conflict and human rights abuse. Over a three-year period, Centre researchers played a key role in helping to organize, host and participate in background workshops for the report. These workshops included dialogue with policymakers and discussion of data needed to underpin a better conceptualization of human security. We intend to sustain this collaboration with Andrew Mack and to contribute to future issues of the Human Security Report.

CSCW data also appear prominently in the Report of the UN Secretary General’s High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility. In addition, a growing number of scholars are adopting the Uppsala/PRIO armed conflict data as the standard for quantitative research on civil war.

Open Access to Data and Quality Control

The sharing of research data and openness to the replication of one’s work by other researchers are important elements of scholarly communication and quality control. This is increasingly the case for peace and conflict studies. Although data repositories have existed for decades, the Internet has made it much easier to post data and to download them. The norms of the profession have also changed so that the burden of evidence is now largely on those who want to withhold their data.

Careful reading of a research paper or article manuscript allows a colleague or anonymous reviewer to check whether the author’s theoretical argument is innovative, the literature review complete, and the methods adequate. However, it is much more difficult to ascertain whether or not the quantitative analysis does what the author promises. Cheating with quantitative data is comparatively rare, but human error is not. Making data available for replication increases the likelihood that such errors will be discovered early on. It also facilitates improvement on published analyses as methods improve.

Authors are likely to be more alert when they know that other scholars will be hard on their heels, analysing their own data.

Since 1998, PRIO’s Journal of Peace Research has required that authors with quantitative data post their data on the Internet, recognizing that replication also enhances the quality of peer-review. And since the establishment of the CSCW, the Centre and the journal have devoted significant attention and resources to the development of a joint dataset repository and portal on the PRIO/CSCW webpages. Both the CSCW and JPR require the posting of ‘do files’, codebooks and other information necessary to replicate the analysis.

The CSCW data collection today includes 11 new or updated datasets grouped thematically into four categories:

- Data on Armed Conflict
- Governance Data
- Geographical and Resource Data
- Socio-Demographic Data

Among the armed conflict data are important recent extensions to the Uppsala/PRIO dataset which record battle-related deaths and conflict locations. (Produced in collaboration with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden, and updated annually, the Uppsala/PRIO dataset covers both internal and external conflicts in the period 1946 to the present.)

Over 25 additional datasets and log files developed by CSCW staff or associates for articles that have appeared in peer-reviewed journals are also accessible through the portal. Finally, the portal contains over 170 links to datasets or authors’ homepages in connection with articles published in JPR. Since such links to external pages are not always stable or reliable, all authors are now asked to make the data directly available on our own pages.
Transnational Ethnic Dimensions of Third-Party Interventions in Civil Conflicts
Martin Austvoll
Adviser: Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UiO)

Lethal Religions: Communal Violence in India – The Case of Gujarat
Turid Beitland
Adviser: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW)

Conflict and Cooperation in International River Basins: An Empirical Analysis of the Impact of Sharing a River Basin on Conflict and Cooperation
Marit Brochmann
Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)

Political Violence and Conflict Resolution in Belgium: A Success Story?
Rachel Gjelsvik Haug
Adviser: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW)

Attitudes Towards Political Violence: The Case of Northern Ireland
Christine Fjeldstad Johannesen
Adviser: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW)

Constructed Identities and Violence in the Basque Conflict
Anna Vibeke Lorentzen
Adviser: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW)

Language and Conflict: Kabylia and the Algerian State
Naima Mouhleb
Advisers: Gunvor Mejdell (UiO) & Åshild Kolås (PRIO)

Forest Resources and Conflict: How Forest Resources Influence Internal Armed Conflicts
Siri Camilla Aas Rustad
Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Håvard Strand (UiO & PRIO)

Analyzing Geographical Factors in Internal Armed Conflicts: Deriving Factor Weights Using GIS
Terje Brevik
Adviser: Jan Ketil Rød (NTNU & CSCW)

The Duration of Peace Following Civil War: A Study of the Importance of Security Guarantees and Institutional Arrangements
Åshild Falch
Advisers: Michael Alvarez (UiB) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

Ethno-Political Exclusion and Regime Stability
Kathrine Holden
Adviser: Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UiO)

Does Scarcity of Renewable Resources Lead to an Increased Risk of Civil Conflict?
Ole Magnus Theisen
Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)

A Democratic Peace – Revisited
Lars Wilhelmsen
Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Håvard Strand (UiO & PRIO)
International Dimensions of Civil War
Leader: Pavel Baev, PRIO
Keeping the research focus on the question of fundamental differences between civil war and other forms of organized violence, the Working Group gave particular attention to the inter-penetration of terrorism and civil war. The dynamics of networking between terrorist groups that have grown in particular conflict areas from Afghanistan to the Philippines and from Chechnya to Palestine were examined in several projects aimed at investigating the phenomenon of modern international terrorism. We analysed international dimensions of secessionist conflicts from the perspective of the ‘security dilemma’, which was re-examined at its very foundation, the classical work of Thucydides. The weakening of states’ control over their territory and the erosion of their ability to perform key functions under the impact of external forces were identified as key problems for further analysis. The successful application to the Research Council of Norway for a joint Strategic Institute Programme (with NUPI) on the regional and international conditions contributing to state failure will constitute an important dimension of the Working Group’s activity in the next couple of years.

Microfoundations of Civil War
Leader: Jon Elster, Columbia University
The most important contribution by the Working Group in 2005 was a volume edited by Diego Gambetta, Making Sense of Suicide Missions, with chapters by WG members Elster, Gambetta, Holmes and Kalyvas. A Financial Times reviewer (2 July 2005) wrote that ‘This is an important book, and the best treatment of the subject I’ve read’. The Working Group also organized three conferences. We held a workshop in New York City (Columbia University) on ‘Thucydides and Civil War’ on 25–26 February, organized by Stephen Holmes and Greg Reichberg. Selected contributions to the workshop will be published as a special issue of Journal of Military Ethics. The other two conferences took place in Bogota in October. The topic of the first (co-organized with the Vice- Presidency of Colombia) was ‘Transitional Justice in Civil War Settlements’, thus bringing together two topics that have usually been studied separately. The topic of the second (co-organized with Antanas Mockus and the National University of Colombia) was ‘Arguing and Bargaining in Civil War Settlements’. We plan to publish the most important contributions of the two conferences in an edited volume. Cambridge University Press has expressed interest.

Environmental Factors in Civil War
Leader: Nils Petter Gleditsch, PRIO
We define environment as physical factors that condition human conflict, such as physical distance, mountainous terrain, caves, forest cover, rivers and the availability of natural resources. Resource scarcity plays an important role in neo-Malthusian theories of conflict, and in 2005 the CSCW co-sponsored a conference on how climate change may exacerbate such scarcities (see highlight on p. II). The ‘resource curse’ argument focuses on negative effects of resource abundance. New datasets on lootable natural resources have been generated, and two articles were published on diamonds and conflict. Special issues on the demography of conflict and violence were published in European Journal of Population and Journal of Peace Research based on papers from a 2003 workshop in Oslo co-sponsored by the CSCW. The Working Group is increasingly moving towards the study of conflict with data disaggregated to the subnational level. Work has continued on how water scarcity stimulates international conflict as well as cooperation, based on a new dataset on shared river basins. A doctoral dissertation on the geography of civil war was completed, and three more doctoral dissertations are under way.

Values and Violence
Leader: Ola Listhaug, NTNU
The work of the Group in 2005 produced significant publications across all its main research activities: large-N studies, regional studies in the Balkans and case studies. In an article in the journal Terrorism and Political Violence, Tanja Ellingsen argues that religious differences in populations seem to contribute to armed conflict within states. In Losers’ Consent (Oxford University Press), Chris Anderson, Andre Blais, Shaun Bowler, Todd Donovan and Ola Listhaug study how political legitimacy varies across 33 new and old democracies. Albert Simkus has collected interviews with more than 1,800 individuals in Macedonia who were first interviewed in 2003. The new panel survey, which is funded by NTNU, promises to be a unique source to aid understanding of the evolution of peace in Macedonia. Sabrina Ramet has synthesized the controversy about Yugoslavia in Thinking About Yugoslavia: Scholarly Debates About the Yugoslav Breakup and the Wars in Bosnia and Kosovo (Cambridge University Press). Four MA theses in political science at NTNU were completed in 2005. They focused on the conflicts in the Gujarat province in India (Turid Beitland), Belgium (Rachel Gjelsvik Haug), the Basque country (Anna Vibeke Lorentzen) and Northern Ireland (Christine Fjeldstad Johannesen).
Governance and Peace

Leader: Kaare Strøm, University of California, San Diego

This Working Group explores the mechanisms through which democratic institutions engender peace either by preventing conflict in the first place or by facilitating its resolution. The Group’s members draw on an extensive body of research – from the analysis of rebellion and revolt to studies of democratization and political stability – and employ a variety of methods, including case studies, game theory and quantitative statistical analysis. Kaare Strøm and Magnus Öberg worked on an edited volume of selected papers from a workshop on ‘Resources, Governance Structures and Civil Conflict’, which they co-directed at the 2004 Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). A second major research agenda within the Group has been institutions of power-sharing in post-conflict situations. In May 2005, several WG members participated in a PRIO conference on this topic organized by Kaare Strøm and Scott Gates, who are developing plans for further research.

Conflict and Economic Performance

Leader: Karl Ove Moene, UiO

This Working Group’s research agenda is built on an implicit criticism of technocratic mainstream economics for its lack of a coherent treatment of conflicts and its neglect of social mechanisms. In contrast, we emphasize analysis that combines social and economic factors while acknowledging their interdependence. In 2005, the Group continued to focus on societies between war and peace, with an emphasis on poor countries. The questions we address include the role of resource abundance, institutions, poverty, polarization and other aspects of social and political inequalities. Paper topics presented at the December Working Group meeting included Islamic insurgence and social violence during the Indonesian financial crisis, economic inequality and the salience of ethnic conflict, and strategic interaction between terrorists and governments. Case studies under development focus on Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Researchers in this group are also well integrated with the Polarization and Conflict (PAC) network, a project supported by an EU 6th Framework Programme grant.

Civil Peace

Leader: Scott Gates, PRIO

This Working Group co-sponsored two workshops in 2005, both featuring the transitional phase of peacemaking. A workshop on transitional governance was co-organized in May 2005 with the CSCW’s Working Group on Governance and Peace. Themes addressed included post-conflict transitional governance, power-sharing, state-building, democratic transitions, constitutional commitment, international interventions and non-UN versus UN peacekeeping. In October, we held a workshop on transitional justice in Bogota, Colombia, co-sponsored by the CSCW Working Group on Microfoundations of Civil War and the Vice-Presidency of Colombia. This workshop explored transitional justice and political violence, amnesty, truth commissions, demobilization of combatants, kidnapping, the Colombian National Commission of Reparation and Reconciliation, and the introduction of a transitional justice dataset. The Working Group will continue to study both the processes of conflict resolution and the conditions for enduring social, economic and political stability.

The CSCW office staff ensured that the Centre ran smoothly and efficiently.

From left: Martha Snodgrass, Joachim Carlsen, Andrew John Feltham.
Ongoing Doctoral Projects

A Liberal Theory of Third-Party Intervention in Ongoing Wars, 1945–99
Aysegul Aydin
Dissertation Advisers: Patrick Regan (Binghamton University) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

This project draws on insights from the economic liberalism research programme to improve our understanding of conflict expansion in interstate disputes. Its analysis of the state–society dimension of economic interdependency emphasizes the role of economic interest groups in foreign policymaking in general and intervention policies in particular. States perceive the conflicts of their trading partners with third parties as threatening to their interests, it claims, and they attempt to protect important economic ties by intervention. Moreover, external actors will be less likely to intervene against trading states with extensive economic ties because these ties are informative about the states’ willingness to join conflicts involving their trading partners.

Prospects for the Future: Towards Civilizational Clashes?
Tanja Ellingsen
Dissertation Advisers: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Øyvind Østerud (UIO)

Huntington’s clash of civilizations’ thesis suggests post-Cold War conflicts are shaped by cultural dissimilarities. The nation-state is being replaced by religion as a source of identity. Testing the validity of these claims, this dissertation investigates the extent to which people identify themselves in terms of cultural and religious affinity and whether alliances can be explained by cultural similarities. It also explores the relationship between civilizational belonging and conflict, both inter- and intrastate. Data are drawn from the World Value Survey, the Penn World Tables, the UNGA (voting data) and the Correlates of War and Uppsala/PRIO conflict datasets.

Natural Resource Management and Internal Armed Conflict
Helga Malmin Binningbøe
Dissertation Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)

Previous research shows that natural resource abundance and dependence increase the risk of violent conflict. Since natural resources are located in specific areas and have to be exploited where they are, the ‘resource curse’ they may entail must be actively managed. In addition, if natural resources lead to conflict, questions of natural resource management must be addressed in conflict termination. This doctoral project aims at understanding in greater detail the institutions that constitute natural resource management throughout the world. In particular, the project will investigate the relationships between resource management institutions and internal armed conflict, including how they have been used as mechanisms to prevent further conflict.

International Retributive Justice: Aims and Constraints
Pablo Kalmanovitz
Dissertation Advisers: Jon Elster (Columbia University & CSCW) & David Johnston (Columbia University)

Underlying the familiar dilemma between peace and justice in regime transitions is the general question of punishment. Why punish and who should punish? What are the main empirical constraints in an adequate application of punishment? This project seeks to examine these basic questions in the context of the progressive internationalization of criminal law and its increasing effects on regime transitions. Particular attention will be paid to the contrast between existing normative theories of punishment and the local dynamics of international judicialization in relevant case studies.

Natural Resources and Armed Civil Conflict
Päivi Lupala
Dissertation Advisers: Ragnar Torvik (NTNU) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

This project aims to identify natural resource types relevant to violent conflict. It collects spatial data on resource distribution and analyses how different resource types affect the risk, duration, type and location of conflict. In particular, it examines how rebels’ access to natural resources shapes the characteristics of armed civil conflict. The project will produce new datasets on the worldwide location of diamond and gemstone deposits, petroleum reserves and drug cultivation.

Religion and Civil Conflict
Ragnhild Nordås
Dissertation Advisers: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

Religion is in the glare of public attention; its role in violent conflict is under renewed scrutiny. At the same time, scholars point out the mismatch between theories of civil conflict — which emphasize interaction between governments and rebel groups — and most empirical analysis — which uses country-level indicators and pays little attention to local-level phenomena or non-state antagonists. This project addresses these criticisms by integrating information on rebel groups and local factors into a more dyadic perspective and by disaggregating the data used in quantitative analyses into geographical and regional indicators. The project speaks to the challenge of discerning religious factors in conflict by modeling interactions of explanatory variables with a focus on the contexts in which religion becomes important.
The study of civil war has recently seen an increased interest in geographic analysis. However, several key deficiencies persist as most studies rely on country-level information, rarely referring to the variation below the state level. A focus on the political geographies of conflictual places and an understanding of the dynamics between centre and local is required to move civil war theory and empirical work forward. With theories and information grounded on both the local and the state level, this project addresses why conflict erupts in particular places at particular times.

**Civil War Society: Southern Sudan, 1955–2004**
Øystein H. Rolandsen
Dissertation Advisers: Endre Stiansen, Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UiO) & Helge Pharo (UiO)

This project aims to provide a regional perspective on the history of civil conflict in Sudan since independence. It makes use of rich empirical material from fieldwork and unpublished sources to examine and elaborate existing theories on civil wars and the state. The analysis starts with two distinct conflicts: the first civil war in southern Sudan (1955–72); and the second civil war in southern Sudan (1983–2004). It traces interregional economic and political networks among elites and relates these to geographically disaggregated quantitative studies of conflicts and weak states.

**Extending the Democratic Peace: The Role of Governmental Institutions for International Conflict**
Anita Sjøsæt
Dissertation Advisers: Hayward R. Akers (University of Southern California) & Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)

This project investigates the relationships between governmental institutions and the likelihood that states engaged in conflict during the period 1816–2002. Additionally, the project identifies temporal and spatial variations of these relationships. The analysis considers three institutional dimensions along which power is distributed: (1) type of electoral system; (2) whether the state is organized by a presidential or a parliamentary system; and (3) whether power is distributed through a federal or a centralized system.

**Political Regimes and Civil War Revisited**
Håvard Strand
Dissertation Adviser: Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UiO)

The relationship between political regime type and civil war is not an unfamiliar topic of study. However, recent scholarship has failed to converge on a conclusion. This project aims to bridge that gap. It will contribute new data on both political regimes and armed conflicts, facilitating in turn more precise methods, such as duration analysis and multi-process models. Both the analyses and the data-gathering will be based on democracy theory, which will offer more valid operationalizations than those currently available in the literature.

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

This project analyzes demographic characteristics as potential causes of domestic political violence, such as armed conflict, riots and terrorism. The project empirically addresses the security implications of population growth and density, youth bulges and unequal growth rates between ethnic groups. It employs time-series, cross-national studies as well as surveys of regional patterns of political violence for particular countries. (See CSCW highlight on p. III.)

**Doctoral projects Completed in 2005**

**The Geography of Armed Civil Conflict**
Halvard Buhaug
Dissertation Adviser: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)

In the quantitative conflict literature, civil war tends to be studied and understood at the country level. Popular explanations of why and where these conflicts occur; however, often refer to factors that vary considerably from one subnational district to the next. Previous empirical studies also fail to take account of the possibly important role of relative location, despite the prominence of periphery in theories of insurgency and guerrilla warfare. As a consequence, this doctoral project has made extensive use of geographic information systems (GIS) to develop disaggregated conflict data as well as research designs that are able to handle geo-referenced, subnational data.

The thesis presents strong and robust evidence that conflicts that concern government control are associated with significantly different causal mechanisms than self-determination conflicts. The thesis further demonstrates that the distance to the centre of state power – the capital city – is a major determinant of risk; type, duration and, indirectly, diffusion of conflict in civil wars.

Two articles written for the thesis are published in leading international journals (Journal of Peace Research and Political Geography). An additional article has been accepted for publication (Political Geography), while parts of the Introduction to the thesis appear in a chapter in Kahler & Walter (Territoriality and Conflict in an Era of Globalization, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). The doctoral project has resulted in yet another article in (Conflict Management and Peace Science) that is not included in the thesis.

**The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters** (Det kongelige norske videnskabers selskap) in March 2006 awarded Halvard Buhaug its prize for excellent research by young scholars in the humanities for his work on conflict, in particular on geographical aspects of civil war.
The CSCW’s data-collection efforts and collaboration with Uppsala University on armed conflict data were featured prominently in the 2005 inaugural issue of the Human Security Report (see feature on page IV). According to the Report, ‘the Uppsala/PRIO dataset is the most comprehensive single source of information on contemporary global political violence’.
CSCW 2005 Selected Publications

Special Issues
Mursched, S. Mansoob; Kees Biekart, Claire Manguy & Andrew Mold, eds. ‘Special Issue on Conflict’, European Journal of Development Research 17(3).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Other Articles
Baev, Pavel. ‘Russia Punishes the OSCE – and Puts Pressure on Georgia’, CACI Analyst, 9 February.
Baev, Pavel. ‘Moscow Awaits a Turn of the Revolutionary Tide’, CACI Analyst, 1 June.
Baev, Pavel. 'The North Caucasus Slips Out of Control', Eurasia Daily Monitor, 4 April.

Baev, Pavel. ‘Putin’s Agenda Prevails at the G-8 Summit: It Is Terrorism, Comrades!’, Eurasia Daily Monitor, 11 July.


Elster, Jon. 'Selvmordsaksjoner' [Suicide Missions], in Bjørn Erik Rasch, ed., Islamistisk Terrorisme. Oslo: Abstrakt (145–196).


In addition, over 50 papers – not included in the above list – were prepared by CSCW staff in 2005. See www.prio.no/cscw for a complete publication list.
PRIO

PRIO was founded in 1959. It was one of the first centres of peace research in the world, and it 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

Centre of Excellence (CoE) status is a distinction accorded the CSCW by the Research Council of Norway. The CoE scheme was introduced in Norway to support and reward the most outstanding researchers and research groups, and to raise their international profiles. In 2002, after an extensive and competitive selection process led by international experts, the Research 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.

External grants supporting the CSCW from:

- EU’s 6th Framework Programme
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)
- Nordic Academy for Advanced Study (NorFA/NordForsk)
- Norwegian Ministry of Defence
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Research Council of Norway
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Bank

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- Binghamton University
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Oslo
- Uppsala University
- US–Norway Fulbright Foundation for Educational Exchange

Burned huts in southern Sudan
Photo: Øystein H. Rolanden, PRIO