CSCW Staff List 2006

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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.
In 2007, we completed the first five years of the Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW). Our second five-year period began in 2008. We will continue to do what we have been doing from the start, pursuing the multidisciplinary study of why civil wars break out, how they are sustained, and what it takes to end them and to preserve a civil peace.

Civil conflict is by far the most common form of armed conflict. As reported in the 2007 annual data feature in *Journal of Peace Research on Armed Conflict, 1948–2006* by Lotta Harbom & Peter Wallensteen, 32 intrastate armed conflicts (involving at least 25 battle-related casualties) were being fought in 23 different countries in 2006. This constitutes a significant drop in the number of armed conflicts since 1992, when 51 cases were reported. The number of armed conflicts trended upward until 1991–92, when it peaked. Since then, the pattern has been a general trend of declining numbers of conflicts, although this appears to have levelled out in recent years. Indeed, since 2000, the number of armed conflicts has shifted only slightly from year to year, hovering around 32 armed intrastate conflicts. The stability in this aggregate count, however, is deceptive: Which countries are at war varies substantially from one year to the next. Moreover, the number of new conflicts, those in which there is no record of previous armed conflict, has been low throughout the last decade. In fact, no new conflicts have been reported since 2004. In other words, a larger number of conflicts simmer on without the resolution than the statistics seem to indicate. Conflicts that re-ignite or escalate after one or more years of very low intensity constitute the predominant form of warfare in the world today.

CSCW became much more active in advising policymakers in 2007. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored several projects regarding global conflict trends, post-conflict justice and power-sharing. Along with other PRIO researchers, we continue to cooperate with our partner institution in New Delhi: the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA). The World Bank also supported a number of projects on strategies for post-conflict stability, on global warming and conflict, and on migration and conflict. In a cooperative enterprise with the International Centre for Geohazards (another Centre of Excellence funded by the Research Council of Norway), CSCW researchers are working with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to map populations at risk from natural disasters (calculating the risks of earthquake, tropical storm, tsunami, landslide and flood) and manmade disasters (i.e. civil conflict) across Asia.

Among the many grants received in 2007 by the Centre, most noteworthy was the Outstanding Young Investigator (YFF) grant awarded by the Research Council of Norway to Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, who thus joins Håvard Hegre as the second CSCW researcher to receive this honour.
Climate Change and Conflict

In recent years, a number of claims about the conflict-inducing effects of climate change have surfaced in public debate, though so far such claims have rarely been substantiated with reliable evidence. In 2007, several initiatives by CSCW researchers contributed significantly to a more systematic theoretical and empirical assessment of the potential security implications of climate change. In addition, the Centre has established an important dialogue with key policy communities.

Special Issue of Political Geography

In 2007, CSCW researchers Ragnhild Nordås and Nils Petter Gleditsch edited a special issue of the journal Political Geography on Climate Change and Conflict. Here, the editors presented some of the problems and opportunities of research in this area, and discussed how the security concerns of climate change can be investigated more systematically. They called for a tighter coupling of climate change models with conflict models; more focused study of adaptation strategies; and continued efforts to disaggregate the effects of climate change into systematic conflict models, in terms of geographical variations, types of change and types of violent outcomes.

In addition to the editors’ lead article, several CSCW researchers and associates published articles in the special issue:

- CSCW researchers Clionadh Raleigh and Henrik Urdal assessed the impact of environmental on internal armed conflict by using geo-referenced (GIS) data and small geographical, rather than political, units of analysis. Their article addresses some of the most important conflict factors assumed to be strongly influenced by global warming (land degradation, freshwater availability, and population density and change). The authors find that the effects of political and economic factors are more important for explaining conflict than local level demographic/environmental factors.

- CSCW associate Cullen Hendrix and his co-author Sarah Glaser addressed the relationship between climate and the onset of civil conflict, focusing on both trends (chronic scarcity) and triggers (variability). An important contribution of their article is the use of advanced general circulation models (GCMs) to analyze simulated changes in the period 2000–99. The findings suggest that interannual variability in rainfall is a more significant determinant of conflict than our measures of climate, land degradation or freshwater resources.

- CSCW associate Patrick Meier and his co-authors Doug Bond and Joe Bond investigated environmental influences on pastoral conflict in the Horn of Africa, working with data collected by conflict monitors and local environmental data. Based on their findings, the authors recommend that conflict early warning systems integrate both response options and salient environmental indicators into their analyses to better deal with the complexity of the relationships.

Contributions to World Bank Initiative on Social Dimensions of Climate Change

CSCW researchers have developed two review papers on climate change, funded by the World Bank. The first, by Halvard Buhaug, Nils Petter Gleditsch and Ole Magnus Theisen, offers an assessment of theories and evidence for a relationship between climate change and armed conflict. The paper identifies three processes through which climate change could cause social instability and conflict: intensification of natural disasters; increasing resource scarcity and rising sea levels. The authors highlight two paradoxes that have not been acknowledged in the current debate. First, the many processes associated with global warming, which have become truly evident only in the last 15 years, have occurred during a time when we have witnessed a dramatic reduction in the frequency and severity of armed conflict (see Figure 1). Second, the empirical foundation for a general relationship between resource scarcity and armed conflict is indicative at best, and numerous questions about the proposed causal connection remain to be answered. Hence, the authors recommend further investments in rigorous research. The second paper, authored by CSCW associates Clionadh Raleigh, Lisa Jordan and Idean Salehyan, examines evidence for a connection between climate change and migration, roundly concluding that large-scale community relocation, whether in response to chronic or to sudden hazards, is unlikely. Both papers were presented at a World Bank workshop on Social Dimensions of Climate Change in March 2008.

Major Conference on Climate Change and Security in 2010

CSCW researcher Nils Petter Gleditsch, together with CSCW associates Ola Listhaug and Ragnar Torvik, has been awarded funding from the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters (Det Kongelige Norske Videnskabers Selskab, DRNVS) to organize on behalf of the Society a major conference on Climate Change and Security to mark its 250th anniversary. The conference is to be held in Trondheim in June 2010.

Comparing the trends in global warming and armed conflict

Source: conflict data: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset; temperature data: NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), Columbia University.
Assessing DDR at the Micro Level

The international community is calling for improved accountability in the delivery of aid programmes, including in the post-conflict environment. However, transparent and unbiased decision-making requires a better evidence base, especially at the micro level. To date, post-conflict disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes have suffered from a lack of clear concepts and measures for assessing efficacy. Currently, there is only one consensus-based measure for determining the success of DDR – whether or not a state relapses into conflict – and this is of limited help for interim impact assessment or course correction.

Seeking to complement the only country-wide micro-level investigation of its kind, a study conducted in Sierra Leone (Humphreys & Weinstein, 2004), CSCW research associate James Pugel published in April 2007 a comprehensive report for the United Nations Development Programme: What the Fighters Say: A Survey of Ex-Combatants in Liberia. Pugel’s study draws on a randomized, nationwide sample of 590 adult former fighters in Liberia. Surveys and interviews were conducted in February and March 2006, not quite three years after the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the end of formal hostilities. The collected data cover socio-economic demographics, the ex-combatants’ geographic locations during the 14-year civil war, their actions as fighters, and their knowledge of and participation in international intervention programmes. The data also capture degrees of social integration and political expression.

The initial findings identify many correlations with the Sierra Leone study and illuminate both strengths and weaknesses in Liberia’s national Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) programme, which can be used to improve ongoing intervention efforts. Significantly, the study confirms that ex-combatants who registered with the programme and completed a course of reintegration training have reintegrated more successfully than ex-combatants who chose not to formally disarm and reoriented on their own. On nearly every integration measure and submeasure used in the study (across social, economic and political dimensions), those who completed the DDRR programme were decisively more advanced.

This is not a wholly positive finding; however. There is a very vulnerable group of DDRR-registered ex-combatants—those who have disarmed and demobilized but have yet to receive training—who are at risk of being left behind. These former fighters are the least educated, the most agriculturally oriented and the poorest of the four categories under investigation. Most important, they have been shown to be the least reintegrated of all categories of former fighters.

The study introduces a coding system for employment status that provides much-needed nuance regarding the economic landscape of post-conflict Liberia. The nationally reported unemployment rate in Liberia is around 80%. However, by providing a choice among seven different categories of employment status (e.g., self-employed, home duties, student), the study found that only 25% of the sample of ex-combatants were truly unemployed (see Figure 1). The coding construct is also useful in multivariate analysis, as it reinforces the importance of income-earning employment in post-conflict reintegration and amplifies the troubles that face the sick and disabled in Liberian society. Respondents who were categorized as sick/disabled were almost 20% worse off than those former combatants who were unemployed.

A few perspectives on gender also surfaced in the study. Not surprisingly, females reported a rate of abduction into fighting factions that was lower than that for their male comrades (see Figure 2). Female combatants also showed a rate of participation in cross-border conflicts that was equivalent to that of males. Notably, males appear to be progressing through the DDRR programme ahead of the females. Indicative of this are the training completion rates (10% for females versus 18% for males) and the percentage of DDRR registrants who were enrolled in a reintegration training course (42% for females versus 51% for males).

Education levels were also examined to analyse post-conflict reintegration. In the aggregate, only 18% of the sample reported that they had never received any formal education. Those ex-combatants who had registered but had not enrolled in a reintegration training programme appear to be the least educated, with more than 60% of the subsample claiming only an elementary education or less. Strikingly, females reported a complete lack of formal education at a rate twice that of the males.

Pugel points to one important lesson for the international community on the relationship between DDR and development aid more generally. The national DDRR programme in Liberia is not a job-creation scheme and was not designed to increase the country’s economic capacity per se. The programme’s reinsertion benefits and training and education have enabled former fighters to reintegrate, but it is important to counteract the perception that the DDRR is a ‘jobs’ programme when in fact the capacity of the Liberian economy to absorb its graduates into formal-sector employment remains quite limited.

This report by James Pugel can be found at http://www.lr.undp.org/UNDPwhatFighters-SayLiberia-2006.pdf
Islam’s Bloody Innards?

In an article published in International Studies Quarterly, CSCW authors Indra de Soysa and Ragnhild Nordås refute those who view Muslim societies as containing uniquely ‘bloody innards’ relative to other religions. Muslim societies are not associated with greater levels of state repression, and religious affiliation is not a strong predictor of political terror. In fact, majority-Catholic countries are more frequently associated with such challenges compared to those who are majority-Muslim.

In both academic and popular debate, there is considerable focus on religion as a determinant of political outcomes. Public discussion often views Islamic culture as the source of radical politics and violent dissent. The massive media attention to suicide terrorism and other forms of political violence, along with references to the socially sanctioned right of jihad among Muslims and the strong cultural preference for social order within Islam, add to perceptions of Islam as ‘bloody’. Discussion in the West on questions of tolerance and human rights are often reduced to contrasting a progressive liberal West with a ‘backward’ Islamic world that is mired in tradition. But, do Muslim societies have particularly ‘bloody innards’, as so-called culturalists such as Huntington have claimed?

The authors assess whether Muslim societies suffer higher levels of political terror (political imprisonment, disappearances, torture and political murder) than societies dominated by other religions. Governments faced with violent dissent usually resort to repression. Thus, if Muslims were prone to violent dissent, this should show up in the data. Also, Islamic countries might suffer higher levels of political terror because Islam places a premium on stability. The results show that, compared with societies dominated by Catholicism, Protestantism and ‘other’ religions, Islam is not associated with greater levels of repression.

Another significant finding is that religious affiliation is not a strong predictor of political terror. Indeed, political and economic factors matter a whole lot more than religion. Public and scholarly discussions seem to be wrong about the uniqueness of Islam for predicting problematic governance, and they may have overemphasized religion over other more important factors based on political economy.

For policy, these findings are good news. If religion is a major driver of repression, then there is little room for intervention from a policy perspective, and the process of change, if it ever gets in motion, could span generations. Fortunately, our estimates show that there is a lot of room for policy that could have more immediate effects, through a focus on factors such as democratization, economic development and conflict prevention. The results of this study provide cause for optimism about the future of good governance and progress among majority-Muslim societies, and the idea of a ‘clash of civilizations’ between Western and Islamic values might be less deeply rooted than its portrayal in the popular media suggests.

“It’s the Institutions, Stupid!”

In 2007, Thomson Scientific’s website accorded distinction to CSCW researchers Halvor Mehlum, Kalle Moene and Ragnar Torvik and their ‘fast breaking paper’ on ‘Institutions and the Resource Curse’, published in The Economic Journal in 2006. So-called fast breaking papers comprise the top 1% – by citation frequency – in each of the 22 broad research fields defined by Thomson Scientific.

This article is part of an expanding literature on the consequences of rich natural resource wealth for a country’s economic growth. It addresses the resource-curse puzzle, which refers to the phenomenon whereby countries rich in resources tend to have poor growth performance. The relationship between resources and economic growth is related to several topics that have recently received considerable attention, including civil wars in diamond-rich countries and the management of resource income in so-called sovereign wealth funds.

By comparing the growth performance of a large number of countries over the past 40 years, Mehlum, Moene & Torvik find that rich resources only hampered growth in countries with weak legal and political institutions. They conclude that the combination of rich natural resources and weak institutions makes it profitable for a large part of the country’s other productive resources to be directed – via corruption, crime or lobbying – towards attempts to grab natural resources. This causes serious harm to the remainder of the economy.
*MA Projects*

**Completed MA Projects**

**Poverty, State Weakness and Civil War**
Helge Holtermann  
Supervisor: Håvard Hegre (PRIO)

**Ending Ethnic Conflict: Can Institutional Power Contribute to Sustaining Peace in Burundi?**
Elisabeth Lothe  
Supervisors: Morten Bøås (Fafo) & Scott Gates (CSCW)

**Greed and Grievance in the Civil War in the Balkans**
Elin Solem  
Supervisor: Ola Listhaug (NTNU & CSCW)

**Ongoing MA Project**

**Deaths Out Of Scope: Why Do Some Massacres Make It Into the News and Others Not?**
Florian Roth  
Supervisor: Håvard Strand (UiO & PRIO)
Microfoundations of Civil War
Leader: Jon Elster, Columbia University

Focusing on the individual decisions that lead to the initiation, continuation or cessation of civil war, this working group seeks to identify how root causes of civil war shape the motivations and constraints of individual action. Centrally important is what one might call the 'hermeneutic problem' of identifying motivations of leaders and followers in insurgency movements. How to impute motivations when statements about motivation may themselves be motivated? The group will look at what role religion plays in civil war, and it will study belief formation more generally in a civil war setting.

Environmental Factors in Civil War
Leader: Nils Petter Gleditsch, PRIO

This group defines the environment in the broad sense of physical factors that condition human affairs, such as distance, mountains, rivers, forest cover and availability of natural resources. Environmental factors play an important role in assessing neomalthusian vs. 'cornucopian' theories of conflict. What are the effects of resource scarcity and abundance? Is climate change associated with conflict? What role does cooperation play vs. conflict in a situation of scarcity? We also consider the demographic aspect of neomalthusian concerns, as well as ethnic distinctions as potential causes of conflict and as convenient ways of organizing conflicts.

Transnational and International Facets of Civil War
Leader: Kristian Berg Harpviken, PRIO

Important dynamics of civil wars transgress national boundaries. External factors can be international, such as engagement of one state in another’s conflicts, or they can be transnational, as when armed groups mobilize across borders or when new norms, ideas and practices spread from one conflict location to another. This working group is committed to theoretical development, addressing insights and limitations in both the transnational and international relations literatures. Our methods include case studies, small-n comparative studies and large-n quantitative studies. The group draws on a rich variety of empirical sources, from ethnographic work and elite interviews to historical archives to datasets. Ultimately, we aim to understand how external forces and actors shape internal armed conflict.

Civil Peace
Leader: Kaare Strøm, University of California, San Diego

The main aim of this group is to explore the conditions that constitute and promote civil peace. This entails analyzing the processes of conflict resolution as well as the social, economic and political conditions that lead to civil peace. To better understand long-term peacebuilding, we focus on the development of institutions that can serve to mitigate or supplant the conditions that cause and sustain armed civil conflict, for instance transitional governance, transitional justice and various forms of power-sharing.

Conflict and Economic Performance
Leader: Karl Ove Moene, UiO

This working group aims at integrating the role of conflicts for economic performance and the role of economic conditions for the onset of conflicts within formal economic models. This is an important challenge. It implies a widening of the scope of economics to integrate social issues and things that really matter. The group’s research agenda is built on an implicit criticism of technocratic mainstream economics for its lack of a coherent treatment of conflicts and neglect of social mechanisms. In contrast, the group tries to make a case for analysis that combines social and economic factors while acknowledging their interdependence. The working group is a joint venture of CSCW and of the Centre of Excellence at the University of Oslo on Equality, Social Organization, and Performance (ESOP).

Values and Violence
Leader: Ola Listhaug, NTNU

Our study of values, attitudes and public opinion looks at violent societies and generally peaceful societies, as well as countries undergoing a transition away from violence. The main aim is to demonstrate if and how values are related to violence in societies. One important empirical focus is the impact of religion, but we also study tolerance, trust, prejudice and respect for human rights, and how these values vary between countries and relate to conflicts between groups within societies. In postwar societies, we study values to assess the strength of latent conflict.
Conflict and human rights violations are closely intertwined. During a civil war, torture and political killings are particularly common. But, governing structures also affect the respect of governments for the human rights of their citizens. This working group aims to disentangle the triangular relationship between human rights, governance and conflict. In particular, we focus on the role of human rights and governing structures during the escalation of conflict, their contribution to the severity and duration of conflict, and their role in establishing a viable and secure peace after the cessation of warfare.

Dynamics of Institutional Change and Conflict
Leader: Håvard Hegre, PRIO

This working group studies the interplay of the processes of civil war onset and termination, changes to political institutions, and the societal changes brought about by 'modernization'. These changes have closely related explanations. Democracies fail to prevent conflict in the developing world in part because they are vulnerable to reversals to authoritarian rule – often by means of violence. Similarly, democratization is a political conflict that sometimes turns violent. Socio-economic factors affect strategies and goals of the parties to the political conflict. At the same time, political stability affects societal changes. The group brings together specialists on different aspects of this nexus, and also seeks to identify institutions that may lift countries out of the ‘conflict trap’.

During 2007, it was decided that two new Working Groups would be formed. These started work on 1 January 2008:

Human Rights, Governance and Conflict
Leader: Sabine Carey, University of Nottingham

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Young police officers, preparing to fight the Naxal insurgency in the Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh state, India. Photo: Scott Carney
Doctoral Projects

Doctoral projects Completed in 2007

Ethnic Attitudes in Contemporary European Societies
Zan Strabac
Dissertation Supervisors: Kristen Ringdøl (NTNU) & Øystein Kravdal (UIO)
The primary focus of this project concerns relationships between ethnic identities, ethnic prejudice and violence. The dissertation consists of a set of empirical articles, in which analyses are conducted using quantitative research techniques. The main sources of data are surveys from countries of former Yugoslavia and Eastern and Western Europe. Special attention is devoted to two factors: (1) the impact of religiosity on ethnic prejudice and ethnic identities; and (2) the impact of previous experiences of war-related violence on ethnic intolerance. The findings indicate that religiosity did have an impact on prejudice in former Yugoslavia. However, in the wider European context, religiosity does not seem to influence prejudice directly; religion merely serves as a marker of group identity. Previous war-related experiences are found to have surprisingly weak impact on prejudice, and the results do not support the argument that previous occurrences of ethnic violence lead to a strong increase in interethnic hatred and prejudice.

Demography and Domestic Armed Conflict
Henrik Urdal
Dissertation Supervisors: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Øystein Kravdal (UIO)
Demographic pressures have featured prominently in the debate over the new security challenges in the aftermath of the Cold War. This project addressed the relationship between demography and internal political violence, empirically analysing the security implications of population growth and density and of ‘youth bulges’. The dissertation consists of four different articles, of which two have been published in leading international journals (International Studies Quarterly and Journal of Peace Research). Two further articles are under review at international academic journals. The collection of articles includes two conventional time-series cross-national studies, a global study of demography, environment and conflict using small geographical grids, as well as a survey of regional patterns of political violence in India. The overall conclusion of the dissertation is that while youth bulges seem to increase the risk of political violence, high levels of population growth and pressure on land resources seem to be less important causes of conflict. However, where local capacity and adaptability is low, and in countries where resources are unevenly distributed, resource scarcity may be a contributing cause to political violence. The dissertation was submitted in October 2006, and defended in February 2007.

Reassessing the Civil Democratic Peace
Håvard Strand
Dissertation Supervisor: Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UIO)
The civil democratic peace hypothesis, which suggests that semi-democratic regimes are more at risk of conflict than other regimes, while newly formed regimes are more at risk than older ones, has had considerable influence in the civil war literature, but has also been criticized on a number of counts. This thesis addresses three main criticisms of the hypothesis. First, in response to doubts raised about the suitability of the conflict data used by proponents of the hypothesis, this thesis presents new data on conflict onset for the post-World War II period. Including all conflicts with more than 25 fatalities, these data are tailored to analyse the hypothesis. Second, the Polity project, which was the original source of data on political regimes, views political violence as a semi-democratic trait, which creates an endogeneity bias. This thesis provides new data that both avoid the endogeneity problem and allow a distinction among different forms of semi-democracies. Finally, another criticism that has been levelled against proponents of the civil democratic peace hypothesis is that they lack a thorough theoretical explanation for their findings. This thesis suggests a causal mechanism linking a specific type of semi-democracy to conflict: uncertainty surrounding elections in so-called illiberal democracies is what makes it likely that at least one party will rebel against an unfavourable election result.

How Can Geography Contribute to Our Understanding of Civil Wars?
Clionadh Raleigh
Dissertation Supervisors: John O’Loughlin (University of Colorado), Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UIO) & Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (UCSD & University of Essex)
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 conflctual 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.

Ongoing Doctoral Projects

Conflict and Cooperation in International River Basins
Mark Brochmann
Dissertation Supervisors: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UIO)
Water is an essential resource for human survival. It is also of great importance to industrial development and trade. This project builds on earlier research on conflict and cooperation in internationally shared rivers, but extends the focus to examine the overall interaction, conflict and cooperation studied together instead of separately. More specifically, the project examines whether countries that share rivers interact more, either positively or negatively. It will also investigate the effect of signed water treaties on later water-specific interaction. Through issue-coding of claims over the use of a river raised by one state towards another, specific water disagreements and whether or not they become militarized will be examined.

Natural Resource Management and Internal Armed Conflict
Helga Malm Binningøe
Dissertation Supervisor: 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 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.
Prospects for the Future: Towards Civilizational Clashes?
Tanja Ellingsen
Dissertation Advisers: Niels Peter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU) & Øyvind Østerud (UiO)
Huntington’s ‘clash of civilizations’ thesis suggests that 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 civilizations and whether alliances can be explained by cultural similarities. It also explores the relationship between civilization, religion and conflict, both inter- and intrastate. Data are drawn from the World Value Survey, the Penn World Tables, the UN General Assembly (voting data) and the Correlates of War and Uppsala/PRIO conflict datasets.

Endogenizing Ethnicity in the International Escalation of ‘Ethnic’ Conflict
Martin Austvoll Nome
Dissertation Supervisors: Jeffrey T. Checkel (UQO) & Scott Gates (PRIO)
The prominence of ethnic identity in politics may be as much a consequence as a cause of civil war. This project is designed to endogenize ethnicity – to let it explain and be explained – while theorizing the mechanisms linking (1) organized civil violence, framed by perpetrators and victims as being ethnic, (2) the involvement of groups in such violence having putative ethnic kin in a neighboring country, and (3) the choice by actors in kin countries to escalate the civil violence by intervening in support of a conflict party.

Natural Resources and Armed Civil Conflict
Pålvi Lujala
Dissertation Supervisors: 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 identify new datasets on the worldwide location of diamond and gemstone deposits, petroleum reserves and drug cultivation.

Sins of Omission or Sins of Commission? Governance and Civil War
Hanne Fjelde
Dissertation Advisers: Erik Melander (Uppsala University) & Håvard Hegre (PRIO & UiO)
This dissertation project draws on the distinction between institutions that regulate the access to political authority and the exercise of this authority. While an extensive literature looks at how formal political institutions affect actors’ incentives to initiate armed conflict, the empirical research on how governance is related to armed conflict contains vast lacunae. This project examines how the risk of internal armed conflict is related to how governments make and implement decisions about disputed issues, such as how to redistribute wealth and provide public goods. It will rely on time-series data on political corruption, bureaucratic quality and public spending, as well as case studies of particular countries.

Civil War Society: Southern Sudan, 1955–2004
Øystein H. Rolandsen
Dissertation Supervisors: Endre Stiansen (PRIO) & Helge Pharo (UiO)
Taking the conflict-hidden southern region of Sudan as its point of departure, this project investigates recent theories on the relationship between civil war, state and society in Africa. The project utilizes rich empirical material from fieldwork and unpublished sources spanning the time from Sudan’s independence until the recently signed peace agreement. The project will be concluded with a series of articles.

Corrective Justice in War Settlements
Pablo Kalmanovitz
Dissertation Supervisors: Jon Elster (Columbia & CSCW) & Thomas Piége (Utile)
Contemporary just war theorizing has focused primarily on questions of just cause of war (jus ad bellum) and rightful conduct of war (jus in bello), and has tended to neglect the question of how wars ought to end (jus post bellum). What should be the guiding principles of justice in the aftermath of war? This project focuses on issues of corrective justice, that is, on claims of punishment and repair due after harmful actions in war. Particular consideration is given to the institutional division of labour between the national and transnational orders in the implementation of principles of corrective justice.

Religion and Civil Conflict
Ragnhild Nordås
Dissertation Supervisors: Ola Løseth (NTNU & CSCW) & Scott Gates (PRIO)
Given recent attention to the impact of religion on political outcomes, this project investigates how religion affects intrastate political violence, such as political terror and civil conflict. Scholars point out the mismatch between theories of intrastate 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 therefore integrates information on rebel groups and local factors into a more indigenous perspective. The project also speaks to the challenge of discerning religious factors in conflict by modelling interactions of explanatory variables with a focus on the contexts in which religion becomes important.

Resources and Peace: Power Sharing and Wealth Sharing in Post-Conflict Situations
Siri As Rustad
Dissertation Supervisors: Scott Gates (CSCW) & Håvard Hegre (UiO & CSCW)
The project seeks to understand under what conditions wealth sharing and power sharing most effectively help foster civil peace and stability. Power sharing and wealth sharing can help reduce the threat of conflict by giving all potential parties to a conflict a stake in peaceful cooperation, as well as a set of mutual guarantees of security and basic interests. However, we can find many examples, such as Cyprus and Lebanon, where such an approach has failed. It is therefore important to look into how these arrangements are negotiated and implemented, not just the institutions related to the power sharing.

Anita Schjølset
Dissertation Advisers: Patrick James (University of Southern California), Hayward R. Akers (University of Southern California), J. Ann Tickner (University of Southern California), Cheng Hsiao (University of Southern California), Scott Gates (CSCW) & Niels Peter Gleditsch (PRIO & NTNU)
This project analyses the relationships between governmental institutions and states’ engagement in conflict internationally during the period 1816–2002. Special emphasis is placed on temporal and spatial variation. The project has involved data collection and analysis of three institutional dimensions: (1) type of electoral system, (2) type of executive system and (3) type of federal system. Preliminary results suggest that there are institutional and spatial differences in states’ conflict involvement and urge caution when democratizing for peace.

Development, Horizontal Inequalities and Civil War
Gudrun Østby
Dissertation Advisers: Scott Gates (PRIO) & Anne Julie Semb (UiO)
Inequality is a grievance factor that is largely dismissed by recent statistical studies of civil war. However, such studies tend to focus exclusively on inter-individual inequality; ignoring the importance of group identity. This project will analyse systematic inequalities between ethnic/religious/regional groups (horizontal inequalities) as a potential cause of domestic armed conflict. On the basis of national household surveys in developing countries, the project develops a comprehensive dataset on horizontal inequalities along economic, social and political dimensions. The analysis involves large-scale statistical event history models as well as case studies of particular countries.

Photo: Scott Conner; Dantewara police post guards against Naxal attacks in the district of Chhattisgarh state, India
Special Issues

**Nordås, Ragnhild & Nils Petter Gleditsch.** eds. Political Geography 26(6), August; special issue on Climate Change and Conflict.

**Simkus, Albert.** ed. International Journal of Sociology 37(3), Autumn; special issue on Determinants of Social Attitudes in the Western Balkans.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


**Meier, Patrick; Doug Bond & Joe Bond.** ‘Environmental Influences on Pastoral Conflict in the Horn of Africa’, Political Geography 26(6): 716–735.


Books

Ramet, Sabrina P. *The Liberal Project and the Transformation of Democracy: The Case of East Central Europe*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press.

Edited Volumes


Book Chapters


Non-Refereed Journal Articles


Reports


Rolandsen, Øystein H. ‘The Restructuring of Sudan’s People Liberation Movement in Three Southern States’, *PRIO Paper*. Oslo: PRIO.


In addition over 40 papers – not included in the above list – were prepared by CSCW staff in 2007.

See www.prio.no/CSCW for a complete publications list.
Total turnover in 2007 was 18 784 000 NOK (Excluding in-kind funds).
The CoE counts for 52% of this, which means the chart represents the remaining 48%. Overall Research Council contribution stands at 79%.
The total person-year effort came to 16.9.
PRIO
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 an autonomous non-profit foundation which 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) is a distinction accorded to 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 total number of Centres rose to 21 in 2006 when a new round of applications was held in addition to a midway evaluation for all existing CoE’s. CSCW secured a second 5 year period of funding after the evaluation, again receiving top scores from the referees.