A boy in Maoist territory after the war in Nepal

Photo: Kristine Kvellestad
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Darul Aman Palace in Kabul.
Photo: Sven Gunnar Simonsen

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2011 was marked most notably by the Arab Spring. Political transitions continue to play out in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, and throughout the region. Non-violent protest played a significant role in the revolts in Tunisia and Egypt. While international intervention from the West influenced the war in Libya, the violence in Syria continues to escalate.

Among the new grants awarded to the Centre during 2011, most noteworthy were those for the following projects: ‘Reassessing the Role of Democracy: Political Institutions and Armed Conflict (PIAC)’ headed by Håvard Hegre, ‘Effective Non-Violence? Resistance Strategies and Political Outcomes’ led by Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and ‘Dynamics of State Failure’ directed by Øystein Rolandsen, all awarded by the Research Council of Norway; ‘Gender-Based Violence in Armed Conflict’ received funding from the US National Science Foundation, led by Dara Cohen at the University of Minnesota and Ragnhild Nordås at CSCW.

Nils Weidmann is at PRIO with a Marie Curie fellowship from the EU. He had previously held post-doctoral positions at Princeton and Yale. Fulbright Scholar, Craig Jenkins, returned home to his position as Professor of Sociology at Ohio State University after spending the 2010-2011 academic year at CSCW. As Craig left our next Fulbright Scholar, Professor Phil Schrodt from Penn State, arrived 31 December. Next in line are Ivan Arreguin-Toft (Boston University) and Monica Toft (Harvard), who arrive this autumn. Craig was the fourth, and Phil the fifth Fulbright scholar hosted by the Centre. The others were Patrick Regan, Christian Davenport, and David and Kathleen Cunningham. Monica and Ivan will be the final Fulbright Scholars hosted by CSCW. Indeed, their time at PRIO will stretch beyond the life of the Centre. In addition, Katherine Edelen is a Fulbright student in 2011-2012, and Primus Che Chi started as a PhD student from Cameroon with a Marie Curie fellowship in 2011. These scholars, along with other Marie Curie European scholars, have enhanced the Centre’s already strong international network.
How and why do militarized refugees come to destabilize the peace process in their home country? In some refugee situations, not all those who do return necessarily reintegrate peacefully; rather, a significant share engage in militant action.

The phenomenon of exile militancy was first highlighted at the end of the 1980s and has gradually become more recognized. Stated differently, there are strong linkages between the reintegration of returnees, on the one hand, and the demobilization and reintegration of fighters on the other. As most observers can attest, the successful reintegration of fighters is a precondition for fostering the security needed for the successful reintegration of returnees. Given that a portion of the returnees are (current or former) fighters, there is a need to see refugee return and rebel demobilization as inextricably linked. Yet, existing policy and practice, related to return as well as demobilization, tend to pursue the two as separate issues. There is an understandable reluctance to see the same person as both a returning refugee and fighter—both victim and perpetrator. The literature on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), which has grown exponentially over the past decade, continues to neglect the possible threats associated with refugee return as much as the return literature neglects DDR challenges.

Likewise, the current literatures on refugee repatriation, transnationalism and civil war largely ignore the issue of returnee involvement in political violence. As part of the remedy for that oversight, CSCW researchers (Kristian Berg Harpviken, Sarah Lischer and Mark Naftalin) developed a ‘process model’ of a typical refugee crisis that included return and reintegration as integral aspects of the refugee experience. Moreover, the project team developed three mechanisms that illustrate the continued military engagement of refugees upon return. Unlike a more traditional variable-based model, this mechanism-based approach allows for an examination of the micro-foundations, processes, and interactions between relevant factors rather than providing conventional macro-analysis. The mechanisms developed were socialization, resource distribution, and security entrapment. These mechanisms were subsequently assessed within a ‘forced migration’ framework (including, for example, the interaction with the standard refugee cycle model). In the final analysis, the various mechanisms are combined to establish various pathways, from pre-flight, through exile, to return and reintegration, and where militancy may or may not be present in either part of the sequence.

In-depth case studies from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Darfur (Sudan), Liberia and Rwanda have been carried out in the study, highlighting the advantages of a mechanism-based approach. The resource distribution and socialization mechanisms in particular helped elucidate the conditions under which previously militarized refugees engage in violence upon return in both Afghanistan and Rwanda. Process tracing revealed the different patterns of interaction between the mechanisms in each case.

In the case of Afghan refugees in Pakistan in the 1980s, a rich resource supply from states and aid agencies was placed at the disposal of political parties handpicked by the host state. The parties used the resources effectively to draw refugees into their institutions of socialization. Radical parties, such as Hezb-e Islami, ran a streamlined organization where effective monitoring and reward for merit replaced clientelism, and bred attitudes that proved surprisingly robust in the face of regime change and return home.

For the Rwandan exiles in Uganda, socialization into a militarized exile organization was paramount for success. The resource distribution mechanism could not have operated without the strong socialization put into place by the leaders of the exile organizations. A similar interaction process occurred upon return. The current government, a former exiled refugee militant group, clearly prioritizes coercive socialization programs – countering the militant socialization of potential contenders who have returned home – as a means to consolidate power.

There is a pressing need to determine how militarized individuals and groups affect security on return home, and if and how they can reintegrate peacefully into their home communities. This is especially pertinent now given the importance that protracted exile – at its highest level since 2001 – may have on current and future militarization.

The project has resulted in several articles, a book manuscript currently under review, and will also present some of the findings in policy briefs relevant in various policy processes.
The majority of civil wars are local phenomena, confined to limited parts of a country’s territory. Yet, studies of civil war have generally relied on national statistics to explain the causes of such conflicts.

As spatial methods and subnational data evolve, this opens up for local studies of conflict. But, how might we combine and provide spatial data related to civil war for scrutiny?

To address this issue, PRIO-GRID was developed by CSCW researcher Andreas Forø Tollefsen, in association with Research Professor Halvard Buhaug and Senior Researcher Håvard Strand. PRIO-GRID is a spatiotemporal grid structure that has been designed to assist in the collection, combination, distribution and management of spatial data, as well as data on trends that vary over time. PRIO-GRID consists of a grid of cells that covers the entire globe, and includes data on armed conflict, physical and climatic conditions, relative location, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, land cover, and more. The tool will enable researchers to combine data from a range of different sources, including their own data.

Previous research on civil war has generally treated civil war as a national phenomenon, to be investigated using national statistics. However, as civil wars rarely, if ever, cover the full area of a given country, using national statistics to explain a local phenomenon such as civil war may lead to erroneous conclusions. The conflict in Chechnya provides a frequently used example of the discrepancies between national- and local-level statistics: Less causes of the local conflict in Chechnya seems clearly inappropriate. Another example turns on estimates of the numbers of people living in conflict-affected areas. Using national population estimates, for example, we find that on average over 31% of Africa’s population were affected by conflict during the period 1990–2008. If we instead use local population estimates, however, we find that on average only 20% of Africa’s population was affected by conflict in this period.

New Trends Recently, there has been a shift in the study of civil war away from the use of national-level statistics towards more local-level statistics and local analysis. The studies concerned utilize local-level statistics in the form of geo-referenced conflict information and geographic data on the determinants of civil war. Data today are therefore increasingly being focused on the local level, using conflict zones, conflict events and conflict onset locations. Also, use of the country as the unit of analysis is increasingly being superseded by the use of subnational administrative units, geographical ethnic groups and artificial grid cells. The use of subnational units of observation is helping researchers to capture local variation within countries. Geographic data have also become increasingly available in the recent years. Available data for local factors include details of population estimates, settlement areas of politically ethnic groups, economic activity, natural resources, and physical and climatic conditions. In general, geographic information is stored in either vector or raster format. There exist also a multitude of various subformats. Up until PRIO-GRID, no coordinated data-collection effort has sought to combine subnational data from various formats, which would require high-level skills in geographic information systems (GIS), a requirement that may make any such effort both costly and time-consuming.

A Unified Data Framework The first stable version of PRIO-GRID was released in 2011 and received attention from both researchers of civil war and researchers from other disciplines. While PRIO-GRID has been developed with research on armed conflict in mind, it is possible for other disciplines to make use of the data. It is our hope that PRIO-GRID will establish a standard for users of spatial data in the study of civil wars, and we believe its release is timely considering the current demand for spatial data. Furthermore, by providing open-source access to our data, we have made it possible for users to apply any spatial data to our grid, thereby hopefully enhancing its usefulness. Future developments may also see users of spatial data sharing their data through the PRIO-GRID framework.

Work on PRIO-GRID has been conducted as part of the ‘Advanced Conflict Data Catalogue’ (ACDC) project, which has received special funding from the Research Council of Norway in relation to the development and strengthening of Norwegian research infrastructure. While the data from PRIO-GRID have now been publicly released, the project remains ongoing – which means that we will continue to update the dataset with additional data to meet our own and end-users’ requests. The journal article describing the PRIO-GRID dataset was published in Journal of Peace Research, vol. 49, issue no. 2. Further documentation and the data themselves can also be found at the project’s website.

www.prio.no/CSCW/Datasets/PRIO-Grid/
Grid cells: 259,200.
Terrestrial grid cells: 64,818
Variables: 67.
Time span: 1946 to 2008
Two workshops were organized by CSCW to examine the evolving nature of counterinsurgency dynamics: ‘Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism’, held at MIT in Boston and organized by Roger Petersen on behalf of the Microfoundations of Civil Conflict Working Group; and ‘COIN in Afghanistan: From the Mughals to the Americans’, held at PRIO headquarters and organized by Kaushik Roy and Scott Gates as part of a grant they had received from the Norwegian Ministry of Defense.

The workshop arranged at MIT brought together a diverse array of scholars and military practitioners, addressing topics ranging from the role of technology, networks, and local security forces to the importance of territory, institutions, and economic development to assess and compare counterinsurgency and counterterrorism strategies. The counterinsurgency model (COIN) assumes that popular grievances cause radicalized groups to take up arms against the government, and thus that the restoration of government legitimacy should redress these grievances. In contrast, a counterterrorism strategy that relies heavily on special operations forces (SOF) targets insurgent organizations directly by enhancing the acuity and coverage of surveillance and the speed and precision of strike forces. Participants analyzed the costs and benefits of adopting a counterterrorism versus a counterinsurgency strategy in the fight against Al Qaeda and other militant groups. In addition, they examined whether counterinsurgency and counterterrorism strategies complement or undercut one another.

Taking a long historical perspective from 1650 to today, the Gates and Roy conference examined the Mughal, British, Soviet and NATO military efforts in Afghanistan. They begin their analysis in 1650 when Afghanistan served a pawn in the Great Game between Mughal India, Safavid Persia and the Uzbek Khanate of Central Asia. They end their analysis today, paying witness to the ongoing operations by the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. Drawing on new archives and a synthesis of previous counter-insurgency experiences, they address the current debate on Afghanistan. Special emphasis is given to ecology, terrain and logistics to explain sub-conventional operations and state building in Afghanistan.

Many volumes have been written on particular aspects of Afghanistan’s military history, such as the British in Afghanistan (19th and early 20th centuries), the Russians in Afghanistan, and American and NATO military activities in Afghanistan. In contrast, the Gates-Roy project provides an overall synthesis, which directly links past experiences to the current challenges. Indeed, intervening powers in Afghanistan have historically tended to repeat the same mistakes. This conference was therefore particularly relevant today given the heated debate amongst NATO forces on what direction to take in Afghanistan.
The Future of Civil War

CSCW researchers have documented a strong decline in the number of ongoing armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War and a major decline in the number of battle-related deaths since World War II. Steven Pinker’s latest book shows that the CSCW findings coincide with declining trends documented for other forms of human violence. But, is it likely that the recent positive trends will continue in the future?

A team of CSCW researchers led by Håvard Hegre is seeking to answer this question for civil wars by combining what the research community knows about factors influencing the risk of internal armed conflict with authoritative forecasts for these variables. We know that internal armed conflicts occur most frequently in poor countries with high infant-mortality rates, extensive illiteracy and poor schooling, with large populations of young people relative to the total population, and with large total populations, and we also know that such conflicts tend to breed new conflicts within the same country or in the neighbourhood. The UN and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria have generated forecasts for the demographic and educational variables.

The figure shows the implications of the UN/IIASA forecasts for the percentage of the world’s countries that will experience internal armed conflict. The left side of the figure shows the proportion that had an internal armed conflict over the 1970–2009 period.

The blue line shows all conflicts that led to at least 25 battle-related deaths per year. The black line shows all conflicts with at least 1,000 deaths per year. The right side shows the forecasts for the proportion of countries in internal armed conflict up to 2050. These forecasts indicate a steady decline in the number of conflicts. In 2050, the world will have half as many conflicts as today – if our forecasts are correct.

These conflict forecasts make use of a simulation procedure developed at CSCW, which predicts the risk that a given country will experience conflict in a given year based on the UN/IIASA forecasts, the conflict history of the country and its neighbourhood, and a statistical model of the relationships between these factors and the probability of conflict. The simulation is run several thousand times to take the uncertainty of the model into account.

Accuracy Are forecasts possible? Research on the causes of civil war has disclosed a set of strong regular patterns that we can employ in our forecasts with good effect. In out-of-sample evaluations of our forecasts, we correctly predict much better than a random guess. Out-of-sample validation of the model indicates a true positive rate of 0.63 with probability threshold p>0.5, and 0.79 with p>0.3, 7–9 years into the future. The corresponding false positive rates were 0.030 and 0.085.

The predictions are obviously dependent on the UN/IIASA forecasts being accurate. For the first couple of decades, this is likely to be the case: fertility rates are fairly stable, and the current demographic composition of the various countries of the world is known and largely determines their future composition. Most young people today will get a better education than their parents did, and this will gradually increase average education levels within the total population. The decline in conflict continues to be indicated, however, even when scenarios considerably more pessimistic than those of the original sources are specified.

The decline in the prevalence of conflict is not uniform, however, and it will be stronger in Asia than in Africa. Over the past 50 years, an increasing proportion of the world’s internal armed conflict has taken place in sub-Saharan Africa. This trend is projected to continue. The West Asia (the Middle East) and North Africa region, on the other hand, is forecast to have the largest relative decline in conflict.

The methodology developed for this project has also enabled the investigation of other interesting research questions: the team is currently using the methodology to evaluate the long-term effects of peacekeeping operations on the successful prevention of a conflict outbreak, and to assess the impact of democratization on conflict in the long run.

The Project Work on this project was financed by the Research Council of Norway as part of the ‘Political Institutions, Development, and a Domestic Civil Peace’ project, by Håvard Mokleiv Nygård’s doctoral fellowship at the University of Oslo, with further contributions from Østfold University College and the Swedish National Defence College. Contributors include Håvard Hegre, Ranveig D. Flaten, Lisa Hultman, Joakim Karlsen, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, Håvard Strand and Henrik Urdal. A major article from the project will be published in International Studies Quarterly.
These countries enter peacebuilding with an advantage that distinguishes them from other war-torn societies: access to natural resources that can yield substantial revenues that may be used to alleviate poverty, compensate victims, create jobs, and rebuild the country and its economy. Evidence shows, however, that this opportunity is often wasted. Resource-rich countries do not have a better record than other countries when it comes to sustaining peace. In fact, resource-related conflicts are more likely to relapse. The relationship between natural resources and conflict has received a considerable degree of attention during the last decade, both from researchers and within the policy community. However, the role of natural resources in post-conflict societies and peacebuilding has received much less consideration.

The book *High-Value Natural Resources and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, edited by PRIO/CSCW researchers Päivi Lujala and Siri Aas Rustad, represents one of the largest efforts within the field of natural resources and peacebuilding, combining insights from both academics and policymakers. It assesses practices from around the world in using high-value natural resources such as oil, diamonds, gold and timber in consolidating peace.

Focusing on the relationship between high-value natural resources and peacebuilding in post-conflict settings, the book identifies opportunities and strategies for converting resource revenues into a peaceful future. Its 30 chapters draw on the experiences of 41 researchers and practitioners – in addition to the broader literature – and cover a range of key issues, including resource extraction, commodity tracking, revenue sharing and allocation, and institution building. The book provides a concise theoretical and practical framework that policymakers, researchers, practitioners and students can use in their efforts to understand and address the complex interplay between the management of high-value resources and peace.

This landmark publication includes a foreword by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of Liberia and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate who inherited the task of guiding her country through the transition from war to peace. Sirleaf states that peace brings promise and with it high expectations, especially in a country with abundant natural resources. ‘We had to turn this natural resource “curse” into a blessing,’ she notes. ‘But where to start?’

The book offers insight into a variety of natural resource management strategies, addressing the different steps of the natural resource value chain – from extraction to distribution and spending revenues. Instead of attempting to provide a single recipe for the management of high-value natural resources, the book’s contributions highlight a range of policy options and management tools. There are four specific areas where international support is found to be particularly fruitful. These are: (1) helping post-conflict countries secure better contracts with companies extracting natural resources; (2) increasing the transparency of contracts, payments and decisionmaking; (3) supporting the monitoring of companies that are extracting natural resources; and (4) encouraging strategic planning for and accountability in using the revenues from natural resources to provide immediate peace dividends to war-torn populations and invest in infrastructure, health, education and economic diversification.

The book is the first of a series of publications planned as part of a four-year research project on ‘Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Natural Resource Management’, established by the Environmental Law Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme in 2008. This series of publications will document and analyse post-conflict natural resource management successes and failures, along with ongoing efforts in more than 55 conflict-affected countries.
CSCW
Working Groups

Social Dynamics of Civil War
Jeffrey Checkel, Simon Fraser University

Utilizing various theoretical, methodological and disciplinary perspectives, our task is to explore the social dynamics of civil war, including norms, emotions, discourses, identity, social networks, narratives and gender. Can we shed new light on enduring questions related to civil conflict – agency and motives, group mobilization, post-conflict peacebuilding – by thinking of the social in new and different ways? Are there research programmes, bodies of theory or methodological tools on social dynamics in other contexts that can teach us something new about civil wars?

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 the 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: Halvard Buhaug, 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.

Civil Conflict and Economic Performance
Leader: Karl Ove Moene, University of Oslo

This working group aims at integrating the effect of conflicts on 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, this 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.

Civil Peace
Leader: Kaare Strøm, UCSD

The main aim of this group is to explore the conditions that constitute and promote civil peace. This entails analysing 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, transnational justice and various forms of power-sharing.

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

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 shown by governments for the human rights of their citizens and influence the dynamics of conflict. This working group aims to disentangle the triangular relationship between human rights, governance and conflict. 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. Our research pays particular attention to the interaction between the agents of violence, the harm civilians incur during conflict and the mediating role of political institutions.

Dynamics of Institutional Change and Conflict
Leader: Havard 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’.

Editorial Boards with CSCW Participation in 2011

American Journal of Political Science
British Journal of Political Science
Civil Wars
Cooperation and Conflict
European Journal of International Relations
European Journal of Philosophy
European Journal of Sociology

European Political Science
Foreign Policy Analysis
Forum for Development Studies
French Politics
Globalizations
Government and Opposition
Inquiry
Internasjonal Politikk
International Area Studies Review
International Interactions
International Organization
International Studies Perspectives
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy

Journal of Military Ethics
Journal of Peace Research
Journal of Philosophy
Journal of Politics
Nordic Journal of Political Economy
Norsk statsvitenskapelig tidsskrift
Pacific Focus
Peace Review
Philosophy of the Social Sciences
Political Analysis
Political Geography
Scandinavian Political Studies
Social Justice Research
Social Science Information
How do political institutions affect different economic outcomes, but also investigated the interrelation between different mechanisms through construction of formal models. The empirical work consisted mainly of statistical analysis, but also included structured comparative studies of selected countries. In addition, the project discussed the conceptualization and measurement of democracy.

Conflict and Cooperation in International River Basins

MARIT BROCHMANN Dissertation Supervisors: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO/NTNU) & Håvard Hegre (University of Oslo/CSCW)

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 the context of internationally shared rivers, but extends the focus to examine the overall interaction process – with conflict and cooperation studied together instead of separately. More specifically, the project examines whether countries that share rivers interact more – whether positively or negatively. It also investigates the effect of signed water treaties on subsequent water-specific interaction. Through issue-coding of claims over the use of a river raised by one state towards another, it looks at specific water disagreements and whether or not they become militarized.

Prospects for the Future: Towards Civilizational Clashes?

TANJA ELLINGSEN Dissertation Advisors: Nils Petter Gleditsch (PRIO/NTNU) & Øyvind Østerud (University of Oslo)

Samuel Huntington’s ‘clash of civilizations’ thesis suggests that post-Cold War conflicts are shaped by cultural dissimilarities, and that the nation-state is being replaced by religion as a source of identity. Testing the validity of such 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 civilizational belonging and conflict, both inter- and intrastate. Data are drawn from the World Value Survey, the Penn World Tables, UN General Assembly records (voting data), and the Correlates of War and Uppsala/PRIO conflict datasets.

Explaining Foreign Interventions in Civil Wars: Mechanisms of Transnational Ethnic Affinities

MARTIN AUSTRYVOLLE NØHÉ Dissertation Supervisors: Jeffrey T. Checkel (Simon Fraser University/CSCW) & Scott Gates (PRIO)

Civil wars have a way of attracting foreign interventions. According to one count, external countries intervened in 89 of 158 civil wars during the period 1944–94. Though the correlates of intervention are manifold, this project deals with one in particular: transnational ethnic affinities. Several studies suggest that transnational ethnic affinities are associated with interventions in civil wars. When parties to civil wars have co-ethnic kin in other countries, the involvement of those countries is more likely. Although ample theoretical and comparative work supports the notion that transnational ethnic affinities are associated with interventions, it remains an empirical regularity in need of explanation. This project begins the search for such an explanation. Its central question is thus: By what mechanisms are third-party military interventions in civil wars linked with transnational ethnic affinities?

Effects of Civil War on Maternal and Child Health

CHRISTIN M. ORMHAUG Dissertation Supervisors: Espen Šåstad (Noragric), Håvard Hegre (University of Oslo/CSCW), Ingrid Nyborg (Noragric) & Henrik Urdal (PRIO)

Much conflict research has focused on why civil conflicts break out and how they are sustained, but less attention has been paid to the consequences they have for afflicted populations. Using household survey data paired with disaggregated conflict data, as well as fieldwork from South Sudan, this doctoral project investigates how civil conflict has affected maternal and child health in selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Its combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches allows for an investigation both of overall effects and of the mechanisms that are producing the poor health outcomes identified in the countries studied.

Completed in 2011

Conflict, Peace and Natural Resources: The Role of Natural-Resource Management in Building Lasting Peace

SIRI AAS RUSTAD Dissertation Supervisors: Scott Gates (PRIO) & Håvard Strand (PRIO)

This project sets out to examine under what conditions natural-resource management can most effectively help foster civil peace and stability. Earlier research has shown that there is a link between natural resources and conflict. However, there has been little research on how natural resources affect the post-conflict period. A common assumption is that if natural resources have been important during a conflict, they should also be important in subsequent peace processes. Until now, however, there has been little systematic evaluation of the effect of these strategies for securing a lasting peace. This dissertation focuses on whether and how natural-resource management can make peace stick. It argues that there are three important links in this regard: (1) how natural resources affect the onset of conflict; (2) how natural resources relate to the duration of peace and conflict recurrence; and (3) how natural-resource management affects a sustainable peace. The dissertation examines these three links both theoretically and empirically, drawing on both global statistical analyses and a case study of the Niger Delta in Nigeria. The PhD draws two main conclusions: First, natural resources do affect the post-conflict peace; peace seems to be less sustainable after natural-resource conflicts than after other conflicts, and this is particularly true for conflicts over distribution of natural resources and natural-resource revenues. Second, in order to be able to provide successful and sustainable natural-resource management, it is important for actors to be context-sensitive in relation to the situation both before, during and after a given conflict.

The Economic Effects of Democracy and Dictatorship

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How do political institutions affect economic outcomes? This project focused in particular on how democracy and dictatorship affect economic growth, as well as their effects on property rights protection, physical and human capital, and technological change. The project also explored how different contextual factors affect economic policy in dictatorships. It examined specific channels through which political institutions affect different economic outcomes.
While much scholarly attention has been devoted to the causes of war, less is known about how conflict affects the individuals who live in a war-torn country, or about how these effects might develop over time. With a focus on the Yugoslav successor states, the aim of this project is to analyse the extent to which individual attitudes like tolerance and political trust are affected by conflict, and what implications this may have for society as a whole. The project is based on individual survey data as well as context variables related to both the regional and the national levels.

The vast majority of civil wars occur in economically less developed countries. Several different explanations for this have been suggested, but little has yet been done to assess them empirically. This project uses various empirical approaches to identify important causal mechanisms and their links to development-related conditions: a fieldwork-based case study of insurgent mobilization in Nepal, a mixed-methods study of the spread of insurgency in Nepal, and two global large-N studies looking at the case study of insurgent mobilization in Nepal, a development-related conditions: a fieldwork-based important causal mechanisms and their links to project uses various empirical approaches to identify them.

The cross-national conflict literature has failed to converge on robust associations that could link resource scarcities with civil war. It has been suggested that droughts increase the risk of violent conflict and that this is most pronounced with smaller-scale local conflicts. This project uses both single-case and cross-national statistical investigations to analyse the possible relationships between climatic factors, resource scarcities and violent conflict. It includes a quantitative case study of Kenya, a global analysis and a disaggregated analysis of Africa in general.

When the leaderships of Iran and Egypt were challenged in the summer of 2009 and spring of 2011, respectively, both responded forcefully by incorporating the challenger group within the ruling coalition. Similarly, Yasser Arafat co-opted every Palestinian group into the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), up until Hamas – which he tried unsuccessfully to repress. Why do non-democratic leaders repress some groups and co-opt others? What are the strategic calculations that go in to decisions on this issue, and what are the relevant determinants? In this study, I focus on four particular areas of inquiry: the effects of repression, the strategy of repression, and the respective institutions of repression and co-option.

The PhD project in Political Science explores two key questions. Firstly, what are the key causes of urban violence and insecurity in the Global South, and secondly, what effect does the quality and types of urban governance and management of cities have on conflict and security in these cities. The project will employ a mixed methods design, utilising a series of city-level and disaggregated quantitative analyses combined with in-depth case studies. A key goal is to build knowledge on the local politics of urban security, and understand how the nature of violence may change with population shifts to urban areas in the near future.
CSCW Selected Publications in 2011

For a complete list of 2011 publications, see http://www.prio.no/CSCW/Research-and-Publications/Publications/

Monographs


Peers-Reviewed Journal Articles


Carney, Scott; Jason Miklian & Kristian Hoelscher. ‘Fortress India’, Foreign Policy. July/August.


Total project income in 2011 was NOK 22,650,583. The Centre of Excellence grant accounts for 37.5% of this, and the chart depicts the breakdown of the remaining 62.5%. A total number of 35 people were employed or visiting researchers at the Centre, which resulted in 17.8 person-years (one person-year is the equivalent of one full-time position for a year).
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 an autonomous, non-profit foundation that 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 of all existing CoEs. CSCW secured a second five-year period of funding after the evaluation, again receiving top scores from the referees.
‘The Centre has become the leading international research environment in research on civil war... [the] level of quality of the research is exceptionally good’

Anonymous expert’s appraisal for the midway evaluation of CSCW as a CoE.