The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on patrol in Gbarnga in central Liberia. Photo: Mark Naftalin, PRIo.

Independent • International • Interdisciplinary

ANNUAL REPORT 2012
Rusting Soviet tanks in the Ukraine
Photo: Pavel Itkin/paul_itk.livejournal.com
2012 was the tenth and final year of Centre of Excellence funding from the Research Council of Norway. Over these ten years we have engaged in 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. This Annual Report summarizes the year’s events and presents highlights of ten years of CSCW research on civil war.

Among the most noteworthy new grants awarded during 2012, were the following projects (which will outlive the Centre): ‘Strategic Justice During Civil Conflict’ led by Helga Malmin Binningsbø and Cyanne Loyle (West Virginia), funded by the US National Science Foundation and the US Institute of Peace; ‘Conflict Strategies and Violence’ led by Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, funded by the European Research Council (ERC); ‘Sexual Violence in Civil Conflict (SVAC)’ led by Inger Skjelsbæk, funded by the Research Council of Norway; ‘Urbanization, Exclusion, and Climate Change’ led by Halvard Buhaug, funded by the Research Council of Norway’s INDNOR project for research in India; and ‘Future of Warfare’ headed by Scott Gates, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Defence.

During 2012, the CSCW continued to host globally renowned scholars. Nils Weidmann was at PRIO until October with a Marie Curie fellowship from the EU. Senior Fulbright Scholar, Phil Schrodt (Penn State) spent the first half of the year at the Centre. Kathrine Edelen visited on a junior Fulbright scholarship. Next in line with Fulbright scholarships are Ivan Arreguin-Toft (Boston University and Oxford) and Monica Toft (Oxford), who will be in residence in 2013. The Senior Fulbright scholars associated with CSCW were Patrick Regan, Christian Davenport, David Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, Craig Jenkins, and Phil Schrodt. Two graduate students, Matthew Wilson (Penn State) and Blake McMahon (University of California, San Diego) spent substantial time at PRIO. Matt and Blake, along with several other American scholars (one senior scholar and five graduate students) received Leiv Eiriksson mobility program grants to support their visits. These scholars have enhanced the Centre’s already strong international network and contributed substantially to the intellectual life at CSCW.

We are extremely grateful to the Research Council of Norway for their support of this Centre of Excellence. CSCW is no longer, but the ideas and networks developed over the past ten years remain an integral part of PRIO.
In the following, we present an attempt to summarize ten years of research at the Centre for the Study of Civil War. Various highlights have been grouped into several broad themes, which are then exemplified by a selection of key articles:

Global trends in conflict since World War II
- Declining severity of civil conflict (peak in early 1950s).
- Remarkable waning of interstate conflict after the Cold War.

Global warming and armed conflict
- Little evidence that climate variability and extreme events increase risk or severity of civil war (i.e. between a state and a non-state group).
- More evidence suggesting that climate variability may affect non-state conflicts.

The demographics of civil conflict
- Youth bulges (societies with disproportionate shares of youth and young adults) are often associated with higher risks of conflict; however, if such societies can avoid armed conflict, they can harness high economic growth rates.

Economic development and civil war
- Extensive poverty is the most robustly significant factor associated with civil conflict.
- Economic growth significantly decreases the risk of civil conflict.
- Inequality between groups, not between individuals, drives conflict.

Development consequences of civil war
- Civil war unambiguously harms economic development.
- Children suffer most from civil war, as safe drinking water is threatened, infant and under-five mortality rates go up, maternal health deteriorates, education and poverty levels disproportionately affect children.

Shifting political attitudes and conflict
- Religious differences are not inherently conflictive.
- States’ repressive policies are significantly associated with turning social cleavages violent – elites drive hostility between groups.
- Democratic values carry the same meaning across cultures and societies: a survey of 35 countries supports the notion that concepts of human rights and democracy are shared – they are not just culturally universal.

Sexual violence in armed conflict

• Not all conflict actors engage in sexual violence.
• Most sexual violence is caused by regular uniformed military forces – not rebels and not pro-government militias.
• Sexual violence patterns do not correspond to death patterns in war. Sexual violence also continues after ceasefire agreements, constituting a ‘missing peace’ in many post-conflict environments.


Political institutions and civil conflict

• The combination of abundant natural resources and weak political institutions leads to conflict.
• Political stability is strongly related to the configuration of institutions.


Advances in theory and method

• Prediction – computationally predicting long-term conflict trends.
• Social norms and emotions – to understand the microfoundations of conflict.
• Dynamic processes in organizational and social networks.

Data, disaggregation and innovation

• PRIO-GRID and ACLED – two datasets:
  • Extensive collection and use of geo-referenced conflict data.
  • Development of a unique framework of civil conflict.
  • ACLED collects real-time data for selected high-risk states in Africa.
• Advanced Conflict Data Catalogue (ACDC):
  • PRIO and Uppsala University collaboration on a global conflict database.
  • Datasets on armed conflict, governance, power-sharing institutions, post-conflict justice, pro-government militia, sexual violence, resource location (diamonds, petroleum), economic and socio-demographic data.

International visibility

CSCW has been highly international from its very conception, and has contributed significantly to placing PRIO, the host institution, at the international forefront in research on peace and conflict. The CSCW director is American, while both a Russian and a German have played prominent leadership roles. Six senior Fulbright scholars (from Binghamton University, University of Notre Dame, Ohio State University, Iowa State University [2] and Penn State University) and one junior Fulbright scholar spent extended periods of time at PRIO as CSCW associates. Indeed, the Fulbright office in Norway has noted the Centre’s high level of success in attracting top American scholars – which has been greater than that of any other institution in Norway. In turn, Leiv Eiriksson mobility programme grants have provided opportunities for several Centre scholars to visit US academic institutions, such as the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), New York University and the University of Maryland. Several US scholars (one senior scholar and a number of graduate students) also received Leiv Eiriksson mobility programme grants. In addition to Americans, scholars from the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, Russia, India, Argentina and Colombia were also hosted for long-term periods.

CSCW affiliates and collaborators have included faculty members from: (USA) Stanford, Yale, Michigan, Harvard, MIT, Minnesota, Maryland, Iowa State, Florida State, Rice, Houston, West Virginia, North Texas, Texas Tech, North Carolina, Duke, New Mexico, Penn State and Washington; (Canada) Laval, Montreal, McGill, Vancouver and Simon Fraser; (UK) York, Nottingham, London, UCL, Sussex, Essex, Oxford and LSE; (Sweden) Gothenburg and Uppsala; (Denmark) Aarhus and Copenhagen; (Switzerland) ETH (Zurich) and Geneva; (Spain) Barcelona; (Netherlands) ISS and Utrecht; (South Korea) Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS); (Japan) Hitotsubashi and Kobe; (India) JNU, Presidency and Jadavpur; and (Colombia) Colombia National University.

CSCW also hosted a number of graduate student visitors from: University of California, San Diego (UCSD), Harvard, Essex, Konstanz, Mannheim, Berlin, ETH (Zurich), Pitt, MIT, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Binghamton, Notre Dame, Maryland, North Carolina, Duke, Penn State and George Washington. UCSD in particular regularly sent graduate students (7) to PRIO over the past ten years. The Centre also hosted Marie Curie EU postdoctoral and doctoral scholars from, respectively, Germany and Cameroon. CSCW doctoral students have spent extended stays at: Harvard University, NYU, UCSD, the University of Maryland, Uppsala University, University of Konstanz, university of Oxford and University of Essex.

CSCW served as a node and work package leader on EU 6th and 7th framework agreements. The 6th framework agreement grant involved Barcelona, LSE, Toulouse, Milan, Utrecht and PRIO. The 7th framework grant included Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, the Institute for Social Studies (The Hague), Prague and PRIO. We also received an European Science Foundation grant for a project involving ETH in Zurich, University of Essex and PRIO.

PRIO scholars have been invited to provide presentations at the Institute for Defence and Strategic Analyses (New Delhi), the Juan March Institute in Madrid, the Aspen Institute, the Soros Foundation, the World Bank and the UN, among many other institutions and universities. Nils Petter Gleditsch also served as the president of the International Studies Association in 2008–09.

Innovations

As a social science-based centre, CSCW has engaged in some significant innovations. The first concerns the development of a global geographically disaggregated data structure. Most conflict data are national in scope, primarily relating national economic and political statistics. PRIO-GRID is a vector grid network with a resolution of 0.5 x 0.5 decimal degrees, covering all terrestrial areas of the world. PRIO-GRID offers a standardized structure for storing, manipulating and analysing high-resolution spatial data. Gridded data comprise inherently political entities: the grid cells are fixed in time and space, they are insensitive to political boundaries and developments, and they are completely exogenous to likely features of interest, such as civil war outbreak, ethnic settlement patterns, extreme weather events or the spatial distribution of wealth. Moreover, unlike other disaggregated approaches, gridded data may be scaled up or down in a consistent manner by varying the resolution of the grid. This data structure allows researchers to readily and easily examine geo-referenced data to study the effects of local factors on civil conflict.

CSCW also received an Infrastruktur grant from the Research Council of Norway to develop a data-coding protocol and archiving standard for conflict data. PRIO already collaborates extensively with the University of Uppsala in producing conflict data. The ACDC project provides a method of standardization for linking datasets and coding new conflict-related variables.

Societal challenges and the Centre

Civil war is an obvious societal challenge, not only to communities in conflict, but also to global security at large. CSCW researchers have actively engaged in policy debates as critical experts. Our research on declining conflict trends counters a common perception held by the news media that we live in an ever more conflictive world. The fact is that the number of wars is declining, while numbers of battle deaths have declined even more precipitously. In his award-winning book on the decline of violence, Steven Pinker extensively cites PRIO data to demonstrate his point. Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg cited the decline of violence in his televised New Year’s speech in 2011.

Halvard Buhaug, with his article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and his work for the World Bank, have received worldwide publicity as a critical voice regarding the lack of evidence linking climate change to armed conflict. In his work on child soldiers, Scott Gates is able to inform policymakers in terms of how to develop policies that cater to the special needs of ex-combatants in post-conflict environments, and he has also served as an adviser to Save the Children. Buhaug and Gates’s work with Norwegian Geotechnical Institute on mapping conflict hotspots proved to be extremely useful to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in its preparations for the delivery of aid to areas affected by natural disasters. Research conducted for the World Bank’s 2011 World Development Report on the consequences of civil war was published in World Development and reported on in both the Economist and the Financial Times. In the latter they analysed the manner and extent to which civil conflict hurt economic development. And they found that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, such as reducing infant mortality rates, poverty and providing safe drinking water, was seriously affected by armed conflict.
Research on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism brought together researchers from a wide variety of backgrounds, who in turn interacted with representatives from the armed forces of a range of different countries. Significant discussion revolved around how counterterrorism tactics involving the use of special operations forces to target suspected terrorists undercut counterinsurgency’s driving impetus to redress civilian grievances – in short, how NATO policies in Afghanistan are contradictory. CSCW researchers were also active in countries torn by civil war. One example is Colombia, where CSCW researchers developed close ties with political leaders and organizations. Building on these ties, the research focus became more policy-relevant. In the area of land reform, the main theoretical achievement has been the elaboration of an often neglected distinction between transitional and distributive justice. With regard to constitutional politics, the focus of our discussions has been on whether Colombia’s President Álvaro Uribe was eligible to be re-elected for one more term (accepted by the Colombian Constitutional Court) or for two (rejected by the Court). The ties we established were reflected in the award in 2009 of a doctorate (honoris causa) by the National University of Bogotá to Jon Elster, the leader of the CSCW working group involved.

In 2011, Elster was also given an award by the leader of the CSCW working group involved. The ties we established were reflected in the award in 2009 of a doctorate (honoris causa) by the National University of Bogotá to Jon Elster, the leader of the CSCW working group involved. In 2011, Elster was also given an award by the Colombian Constitutional Court.

Results that would not have occurred without Centre of Excellence funding

Without the Research Council of Norway’s Centre of Excellence (CoE) programme, CSCW would not have been able to accomplish nearly as much as it did. It would have been far less international in scope, approach and orientation. Without CoE funds, the director of the Centre for the Study of Civil War, Scott Gates, a top international scholar in the field, would have not stayed on at PRIO. He is now employed as a research professor at PRIO on a permanent contract. Gates was able to link CSCW to his extensive network of North American scholars, and the Fulbright senior fellows that came to PRIO were and are part of that network.

Furthermore, the prestige of the CoE programme enabled PRIO to recruit renowned Norwegian scholars based outside, as well as within Norway, to work at PRIO, including Kaare Strøm (UCSD) and Jon Elster (Columbia). Strøm, Elster and Ola Listhaug (NTNU) had no previous background in conflict studies (let alone civil war research) when they were recruited to lead working groups at the Centre. Strøm is an expert in democratic institutions and parliaments. He was recruited to examine how political institutions and governance lead to peace. Kaare Strøm and Scott Gates received National Science Foundation and Research Council of Norway grants to work on power-sharing and peace. Elster is a globally renowned political philosopher. At CSCW, he examined the microfoundations of civil conflict as well as transformative justice. Listhaug is a leading expert on public opinion. Using his links to Eurobarometer and the World Values Survey, he was able to develop survey instruments to examine issues of tolerance, as well as attitudes towards human rights and democracy. Teaming up with experts from the Balkans he employed a series of surveys (including panel designs) to examine the changing nature of opinions regarding different ethnic groups in the region. In Macedonia, the team even employed a panel survey that examined attitudes before, almost during and after conflict. This was the first time that such a study had been conducted in a conflict zone. Fifty-six doctoral students were supported in some capacity by CSCW. Seven of them are now senior researchers at PRIO with permanent contracts, and four of those are women. Two of the fifty-six are now research professors at PRIO.

Organizing the researchers beyond the Centre of Excellence period

CSCW will undergo significant and visible changes following the end of its Centre of Excellence status. Most markedly, it will lose its special position as a semi-autonomous part of PRIO, reverting back to being a part of the larger organization – one of several departments and administrative divisions within the institute. It will accordingly have the same reporting and line-management setup as PRIO’s other two departments, and its leader will no longer be an autonomous director, but will act as research director, as is the case in the other departments. Beyond this, the organizational setting for individual researchers will not change much, and the overwhelming majority will continue to work in a single unit. Researchers at PRIO were geared towards application to external funding sources before the creation of the CoE. This focus was maintained during the CoE period, and in fact quickly became the main source of income for the Centre even surpassing the CoE grant. Having all the Centre researchers focus on external sources as the main source of funding for their projects thus represents nothing new and will facilitated integration into PRIO. The survival of the Centre’s achievements will now depend on our continuing success at developing sound fundable projects, as well as on the future success of PRIO as a whole.
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?

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 leaders and followers in insurgency movements.

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).

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.

This working 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.

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 escalations 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.

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, transitional justice and various forms of power-sharing.
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.

Civil wars have been the dominant form of armed conflict in what will soon be 70 years since the end of World War II. Civil wars often attract military interventions by foreign powers. Among those powers are kin states whose interventions are shaped by their transnational ties to co-ethnic combatants. This study goes beyond pointing out that kin states intervene in civil wars, however, and systematically explores the different kinds of kin states that intervene and how, why and under what conditions they come to do so. The study advances a commitment-problems theory of kin-state interventions.

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 two quantitative case studies: one of Kenya and the other of Indonesia. It also includes a global analysis and three analyses of Africa in general, of which two have a subnational design. The main finding is that while there is no relationship between environmental shocks and civil violence, lower-level violence is influenced by resource shocks, although the risk of such violence appears to increase or decrease depending on the particular circumstances.
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 data sets.

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 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.

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 determinants of civil war onset.

When the leaderships of Iran and Egypt were challenged in the summer of 2009 and spring of 2011, respectively, both responded forcefully with riot police or militia forces. In Mexico, on the other hand, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) responded to almost every challenger 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 into decisions on this issue, and what are the relevant determinants? This study focuses on four particular areas of inquiry: the effects of repression, the strategy of repression, and the respective institutions of repression and co-optation.

This political science project explores how interpersonal or social violence is affected by political and institutional conditions. The project examines how democratization and urbanization are bringing about changes in the types and locations of emerging violence in the global South. This study seeks to assess the impact of armed conflict on maternal and reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa. This will involve gathering and comparing disaggregated regional-level quantitative data on maternal and reproductive health indicators in conflict and post-conflict settings in that region, using primarily the Demographic Health Surveys and Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset datasets. Qualitative data will also be collected during fieldwork through the use of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. Systematic reviews will also be undertaken in an effort to answer the following questions: What is the effect of armed conflict on fertility and family planning? What non-facility-based interventions can be used to improve maternal and reproductive health in conflict/post-conflict settings?
Youth, Identities and State–Society Relations in the Dynamics of Violence in South Sudan

INGRID MARIE BREIDLID  Dissertation
Advisors: Hilde Henriksen Waage (University of Oslo/PRIO) and Øystein H. Rolandsen (PRIO)

This project will explore drivers, strategies and mechanisms related to the mobilization and participation of youth in organized violence in South Sudan. Its focus will be on Sudan’s second civil war (1983–2005) and the postwar period until South Sudan’s independence in 2011. The project will employ a historical and empirically based approach, but will be informed by conceptual tools developed within the social sciences. Within this analytical framework, the project will investigate the dynamic interaction between individual and group motives, collective identities and structural features in the fluid political and economic environment of South Sudan.

Desisting from Violence: The Selection of Nonviolent vs. Violent Strategies

MARIANNE DAHL  Dissertation
Advisors: Scott Gates (PRIO & NTNU) & Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (University of Essex & PRIO)

In stark contrast to what is often assumed, recent research has showed that nonviolent campaigns are more likely to succeed than their violent counterparts. This leaves us with a puzzle: If nonviolent campaigns are not only less costly but also more likely to succeed, why would anyone choose a violent strategy? This project looks at whether the dynamics of within-group and between-group competition can explain the choice of strategy. When more than one group is fighting for the same cause, violence can be used to make sure that one’s group remains or becomes relevant. Being relevant is assumed to be decisive for whether one is invited to the negotiation table as well as, ultimately, whether one gets a share in the private goods that are not distributed to everyone.

Disaggregating the Conflict Trap: A Spatial Analytical Approach

ANDREAS FORØ TOLLEFSEN  Dissertation
Advisors: Kristian Stokke (University of Oslo) & Håvard Strand (PRIO)

Violence begets violence; thus, civil war-affected countries are more likely to experience future conflict. While the idea of a conflict trap is central for understanding the inertia of political violence, it has only been conceptualized and explored at the country level. This project aims to disaggregate the concept of the conflict trap into its local components and mechanisms. Combining new innovations in GIS applications for conflict research with new geo-referenced data sources and insights from political geography, this project seeks to develop new theory and new evidence on the local dynamics behind the conflict trap.

Civil Conflict and Institutional Design: Investigating a Two-Way Relationship

TORE WIG  Dissertation Advisers: Håvard Hegre (PRIO) & Carl Henrik Knutsen (University of Oslo)

To identify the causal effects of various institutions on conflict risk, one needs to account for the possibility that institutions are created and sustained as a response to the risk of civil conflict. This has not been accounted for in the current literature. This project investigates the effects of credibility-enhancing institutions – such as democratic elections, power-sharing and well-functioning judicial institutions – on the risk of civil conflict, with a focus on the endogeneity of political institutions to conflict risk. The project draws on advances in statistical modelling and new data sources on institutions and conflict – including both cross-national and subnational data, as well as historical data.

Mass Mobilization in Autocracies

ESPEN GEELMUYDEN RØD  Dissertation
Advisors: Nils Weidmann (University of Konstanz) & Håvard Hegre (PRIO)

The collapse of the Soviet Union ushered in an era of ‘competitive authoritarianism’, in which the political mobilization and participation of the masses has been a defining trait. Since 2000, popular uprisings have forced autocrats to step down in Georgia, Côte d’Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Serbia, and the ‘Arab Spring’ brought changes to the rooted political system in the Middle East. Although these developments may be viewed as encouraging, anti-government sentiments are not the only facet of mass politics under authoritarianism. Leaders of autocracies also mobilize support rallies to counter powerful opposition movements. This project seeks to develop and test theoretical accounts of mass mobilization under authoritarianism. Specifically, what makes citizens rally in opposition to, or in favour of, autocratic governments? Furthermore, what explains the escalation of mass mobilization incidents in repressive settings?
CSCW Selected Publications in 2012

For a complete list of 2012 publications, see http://www.prio.no/CSCW/Research-and-Publications/Publications/

Monographs


Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Binningsbø, Helga Malmin & Siri Aas Rustad. ‘Sharing the Wealth: A Pathway to Peace or a Trail to Nowhere?’, Conflict Management and Peace Science 29(3): 547–566.


Book Chapters


Edited Volumes


CSCW Projects in 2012

Social Dynamics of Civil War
Microfoundations of Civil War
Environmental Factors in Civil War
Political Demography (Urdal postdoc)
Human Rights, Governance and Conflict
Conflict and Economic Performance
Values and Violence
Civil Peace
CSCW Centre Office
Cross-Cutting Activities
Military History
Disaggregating the Study of Civil Wars
Data Projects Management
Dynamics of Institutional Change and Conflict
A New Agenda for European Security
Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)

Resources and Peace: Power-Sharing and Wealth-Sharing in Post-Conflict Situations
Security Implications of Climate Change
Climate Change, Hydro-Conflicts and Human Security (CLICO)
Ethnic/Cultural Conflicts and Patterns of Violence (ECCO)
Power-Sharing, Democracy and Civil Conflict
Advanced Conflict Data Catalogue (ACDC)
Inside Insurgencies: Organization, Motives and Prospects for Peace
Training and Mobility Network for the Economic Analyses of Conflict
Climate Change and Water-Security Challenges on the Indian Subcontinent
Insurgencies, Counterinsurgencies and State-Building in Afghanistan

Conceptualization and Measurement of Democracy
Gender-Based Violence in Armed Conflict
Effective Nonviolence? Resistance Strategies and Political Outcomes
Dynamics of State Failure
Conflict, Strategies and Violence: An Actor-Based Approach to Violent and Non-Violent Interactions
Youth and Violence in Rural South Sudan
Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Analysing Data
From Political Conflict to Civil War
Strategic Justice During Civil War
Qualitative Data Collection in Chad, CAR and the DRC
Reassessing the Role of Democracy: Political Institutions and Armed Conflict (PIAC)

Project Funders:
1 Research Council of Norway – CSCW Centre of Excellence Grant
2 Research Council of Norway
3 Research Council of Norway – PRIO Core Grant
4 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5 European Union funding schemes
6 Trinity College Dublin
7 NOREF
8 International Law and Policy Institute
9 Ministry of Defence
10 National Science Foundation
11 Other smaller sources

Total project income in 2012 was NOK 18,062,280.
A total number of 47 people were employed or visiting researchers at the Centre, which resulted in 20.7 person-years (one person-year is the equivalent of one full-time position for a year).
An election official observes polling in South Sudan’s referendum on independence in January 2011.

Photo: Mark Naftalin, PRIO

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.