

DISAGGREGATED PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL WAR DYNAMICS

MA Seminar, Summer Term 2022

Course instructor: Roman Krtsch

Time: Thursday, 08.15 a.m. – 09.45 a.m., Room D247

1 Course description

Traditional research on peace and conflict has typically focused on the drivers and consequences of armed conflicts on the level of the nation state. However, this aggregate perspective cannot capture complex dynamics on a more fine-grained level of analysis within individual conflicts. In recent years, a micro-level turn has thus reoriented peace and conflict research to more nuanced analyses that disaggregate conflicts by actors, time and space. In this seminar, we will explore this field of research and analyze different issue areas according to the three beforementioned dimensions: We will start by discussing the potentials and pitfalls of disaggregated analyses and investigate how conflicts can be disentangled by the relationship of relevant actors, temporal aspects, and location. The second block deals with the disaggregation of common conflict determinants, including social identity groups, economic conditions, and state capacity. We will discuss how these factors can be captured empirically on a fine-grained level, and to which extent it helps us to test established theoretical explanations with more rigor. In the third block, we turn to the disaggregation of actors on the meso- (rebel organizations and communities) and micro-level (individuals). The seminar closes with an investigation of actor behavior. We will learn how to capture strategic and tactical shifts of rebel groups and how these dynamics affect conflict processes. The last session in this block focuses on territorial control and rebel governance.

2 Learning objectives

Upon completion of the seminar, students (1) are familiar with different dimensions of disaggregation and can assess their benefits and challenges for investigating conflict-related research questions, (2) can critically evaluate theoretical explanations with regard to the required level of aggregation, (3) will be able to identify relevant data sources in order to address research questions that take a disaggregated perspective on conflict dynamics, and (3) can apply the learned knowledge in an own research project.

3 Class conduct / COVID rules / Preferred gender pronouns

The seminar will take place on campus against the backdrop of an ongoing pandemic. While this opens the possibility for more lively discussions, several activities (e.g. group work) and the limited physical space available in classroom requires us to still consider some precautionary measures in order to make the experience as comfortable as possible for all participants. I therefore ask each participant to wear a mask (preferably FFP-2) during class. Masks can be taken off temporarily for drinking, speaking or presenting.

Class rosters are provided to the course instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please inform me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

4 Course outline

Week	Date	Session topic
<i>Disaggregating conflicts across actors, time and space</i>		
1	14.04.2022	Introduction (ONLINE)
2	21.04.2022	Disaggregation in the study of civil wars: Potentials and pitfalls
3	28.04.2022	Disaggregation of actor relationships
4	05.05.2022	Disaggregation of time
5	12.05.2022	Disaggregation of space <i>Extra Data session: Processing spatial conflict data with QGIS</i>
<i>Disaggregating conflict determinants</i>		
6	19.05.2022	Social groups <i>Student presentation</i>
7	26.05.2022	Public holiday
8	02.06.2022	State capacity and economic conditions <i>Student presentation</i>
<i>Disaggregating actor characteristics</i>		
9	09.06.2022	Organizational features <i>Student presentation</i>
10	16.06.2022	Public holiday
11	23.06.2022	Individuals and civilian behavior <i>Student presentation</i>
<i>Disaggregating actor behavior</i>		
12	30.06.2022	Strategic and tactical variation <i>Student presentation</i>
13	07.07.2022	Territorial control and governance <i>Student presentation</i>
14	14.07.2022	No regular session
15	21.07.2022	Wrap-up

5 Structure of individual sessions

Block I (Weeks 1 through 5)

The first five weeks will be primarily devoted to getting familiar with the basic concepts and different approaches to the disaggregation of conflicts. These sessions will take the form of lecturer-guided presentations combined with classroom discussions. **Note that the first session will take place online! Please find the zoom link [here](#).**

Blocks II through IV: Conflict determinants, actor characteristics and actor behavior (Weeks 6 through 14)

The second part of the seminar will investigate conflict determinants, actor characteristics and actor behavior alongside three dimensions of disaggregation: actors, time, and space. Sessions in this part of the seminar will be broadly structured in the following way: We will begin with a short input presentation from the lecturer, followed by classroom discussions on the mandatory readings. Afterwards, there will be a student presentation on a data set that captures the topic of the session (ca. 10 minutes length) followed by a subsequent discussion (ca. 20 minutes)

Conclusion (Week 15)

In the last session, we will wrap-up the seminar topics, discuss the outcomes of the seminar, and clarify open questions regarding the seminar papers.

6 Course requirements

General remarks: I am happy to discuss any ideas on your presentation or paper topic during an office hours appointment. I will conduct office hours either in person or online ([link](#)). Please inform me about your preference when you sign up. You can also approach me with some preliminary idea early on in the semester. However, note that I cannot comment on paper drafts or discuss the feasibility of your idea via email.

The course requirements consist of three components, each of them must be individually completed in order to successfully pass the seminar:

1. **Regular attendance, participation and preparation of the mandatory readings** (no grading, pass/fail): In order to complete the course, each participant needs to regularly participate in the seminar. A substantial share of the seminar will be based on classroom discussions. Therefore, a thorough preparation of the sessions' mandatory readings will be essential in order for the seminar to work.
2. **Data set presentation** (ca. 30% of final grade): Each seminar participant is required to present one short presentation for a specific session (in groups or alone, depending on the eventual size of the seminar). The presentation should elaborate on a data set / source that relates to the session's topic (**max. 10 minutes**). The data set can in principle be chosen freely as long as it fits to the session's topic, but it must be discussed with and approved by the course instructor in advance (inform me about your choice at least one week ahead of your presentation.) Slides must be uploaded one day after the presentation latest. The presentation should focus on the following points:

- Familiarize the audience with the data set: What is the scope (temporal and geographical)? What is the unit of observation? Outline one or two key variables from the data set that are suitable for studying a specific conflict phenomenon / determinant (e.g. local economic performance, group ideology, etc.). Visualize the distribution of the variable either graphically (e.g. bar plot, map) or provide some basic descriptive statistics.
- Develop one (!) research question and hypothesis that can be addressed with the data set. Briefly elaborate how you would go about answering this question/hypothesis (e.g. which other data sources would you need? What would be your independent and dependent variable?). Note that if your chosen data set does not contain any conflict-related information (e.g. nighttime lights, census data), you should reflect which additional data source you *would* need to merge the data with.
- The presentation itself is followed by a feedback round of **20 minutes** length, in which we will discuss the research question and data set in the audience. You are not required to prepare any theoretical or methodological framework in the presentation itself, but you must familiarize yourselves with the codebook (if applicable) and be prepared to discuss theoretical/methodological aspects in the feedback round.

3. **Seminar paper (Research design paper)** (ca. 70% of final grade): In order to complete the course, each participant must submit a seminar paper by the end of the semester. The paper *can* be based on the presentation topic, but must reflect each student's own, autonomous work (i.e. no group work).

In the seminar paper, students are required to develop a research design (qualitative or quantitative) that is suitable for empirically addressing an explanatory research question. The paper's focus lies on the theoretical framework and research design, i.e. students are not required to carry out the actual analysis. The paper should be around 5,000 - 7,000 words (incl. references), and should contain at least the following parts:

- **Introduction** that outlines the research question and relevance
- **Literature review** that relates the research question to existing debates/findings
- **Theoretical argument** and the conjectured mechanism
- **Research design** that describes and discusses your data, variable operationalization, case selection / sample / unit of observation, and methodological approach.
- **Conclusion** that summarizes and critically reflects on the chosen approach.

More detailed information on the assessment criteria and formal requirements for the seminar paper will be provided on ILIAS. The final paper has to be uploaded in the "term paper" folder on ILIAS by **15 September 2022** (enclose a signed declaration that you have developed and written the paper completely by yourself, and have not used sources or means without declaration in the text).

7 Reading list / Individual sessions' topics

Week 1: Introduction

14.04.2022

Class topics:

- What should we expect from the course?
- What are the course requirements?

No readings for the first session

Week 2: Disaggregation in the study of civil wars: Potentials and pitfalls

21.04.2022

Class topics:

- Which types of research questions can or even need to be addressed through disaggregated analyses – and which ones require a more aggregated perspective?
- What are the benefits and potential pitfalls of disaggregated conflict analyses?
- What are the relevant levels of analysis? And how can they be combined?

Mandatory readings:

Balcells, Laia and Patricia Justino (2014). "Bridging Micro and Macro Approaches on Civil Wars and Political Violence: Issues, Challenges, and the Way Forward". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58.8, pp. 1343–1359.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. (2008). "Promises and Pitfalls of an Emerging Research Program. The Microdynamics of Civil War". In: *Order, Conflict, Violence*. Ed. by Stathis N. Kalyvas, Ian Shapiro, and Tarek Masoud. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 397–421.

Additional literature:

Arjona, Ana M. and Stathis N. Kalyvas (2012). "Recruitment into Armed Groups in Colombia: A Survey of Demobilized Fighters". In: *Understanding Collective Political Violence*. Ed. by Yvan Guichaoua. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, pp. 143–171.

Brück, Tilman, P. Justino, Philip Verwimp, and Alexandra Avdeenko (2010). *Identifying Conflict and Violence in Micro-Level Surveys*. 5067. Bonn: Institute for the Study of Labor.

Brück, Tilman, P. Justino, Philip Verwimp, and A. Tedesco (2016). *Measuring Violent Conflict in Micro-Level Surveys: Current Practices and Methodological Challenges*. 7585. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Cederman, Lars-Erik and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (2009). "Introduction to Special Issue on "Disaggregating Civil War"". In: *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53.4, pp. 487–495. JSTOR: 20684599.

Donnay, Karsten, Elena Gadjanova, and Ravi Bhavnani (2014). "Disaggregating Conflict by Actors, Time, and Location". In: *Peace and Conflict 2014*, pp. 44–56.

Haer, Roos, Johannes Vüllers, and Nils B. Weidmann (2019). "Studying Micro Dynamics in Civil Wars: Introduction". In: *Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung* 8.2, pp. 151–159.

Verwimp, Philip, Patricia Justino, and Tilman Brück (2009). "The Analysis of Conflict: A Micro-Level Perspective". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 46.3, pp. 307–314.

Week 3: Disaggregation of actor relationships

28.04.2022

Class topics:

- How can we disentangle the relationship between conflict actors?
- What characterizes actors' interaction? Under which conditions do actors engage in cooperative behavior, and when do they engage in hostile behavior?
- What are the implications of changing inter-actor relationships for conflict dynamics?

Mandatory readings:

Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan (2009). "It Takes Two. A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53.4, pp. 570–597.

Wood, Reed M. and Jacob D. Kathman (2015). "Competing for the Crown: Inter-rebel Competition and Civilian Targeting in Civil War". In: *Political Research Quarterly* 68.1, pp. 167–179.

Additional literature:

Arjona, Ana (2015). "Civilian Resistance to Rebel Governance". In: *Rebel Governance in Civil War*. Ed. by Ana Arjona, Nelson Kasfir, and Zachariah Mampilly. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, pp. 180–202.

Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher, Marianne Dahl, and Anne Frugé (2017). "Strategies of Resistance. Diversification and Diffusion". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 61.3, pp. 591–605.

Fjelde, Hanne and Desirée Nilsson (2012). "Rebels against Rebels: Explaining Violence between Rebel Groups". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56.4, pp. 604–628.

— (2018). "The Rise of Rebel Contenders: Barriers to Entry and Fragmentation in Civil Wars". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 55.5, pp. 551–565.

Gade, Emily Kalah, Mohammed M Hafez, and Michael Gabbay (2019). "Fratricide in Rebel Movements: A Network Analysis of Syrian Militant Infighting". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 56.3, pp. 321–335.

Nilsson, Desirée (2008). "Partial Peace: Rebel Groups Inside and Outside of Civil War Settlements". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 45.4, pp. 479–495.

Ottmann, Martin (2019). "Peace for Our Time? Examining the Effect of Power-Sharing on Postwar Rebellions". In: *Journal of Peace Research*, p. 002234331988367.

Otto, Sabine (2017). "The Grass Is Always Greener? Armed Group Side Switching in Civil Wars". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, online first.

Pischedda, Costantino (2018). "Wars within Wars: Why Windows of Opportunity and Vulnerability Cause Inter-rebel Fighting in Internal Conflicts". In: *International Security* 43.1, pp. 138–176.

Rudloff, Peter and Michael G Findley (2016). "The Downstream Effects of Combatant Fragmentation on Civil War Recurrence". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 53.1, pp. 19–32.

Seymour, Lee J.M. (2014). "Why Factions Switch Sides in Civil Wars: Rivalry, Patronage, and Realignment in Sudan". In: *International Security* 39.2, pp. 92–131.

Shellman, Stephen M., Clare Hatfield, and Maggie J. Mills (2010). "Disaggregating Actors in Intranational Conflict". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 47.1, pp. 83–90. JSTOR: 25654530.

Staniland, Paul (2012). "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Insurgent Fratricide, Ethnic Defection, and the Rise of Pro-State Paramilitaries". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56.1, pp. 16–40.

Stedman, Stephen John (1997). "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes". In: *International Security* 22.2, pp. 5–53.

Week 4: Disaggregation of time

05.05.2022

Class topics:

- How does the behavior of armed actors change over the course of conflict?
- How do different episodes within conflicts – phases of lower intensity, a changing balance of power, or mediation – affect conflict dynamics?
- How can we grasp fine-grained temporal variation within individual conflicts?
- What are challenges of temporally disaggregated conflict analyses?

Mandatory readings:

Hultquist, Philip (2013). “Power Parity and Peace? The Role of Relative Power in Civil War Settlement”.

In: *Journal of Peace Research* 50.5, pp. 623–634.

Shellman, Stephen M., Brian P. Levey, and Joseph K. Young (2013). “Shifting Sands: Explaining and Predicting Phase Shifts by Dissident Organizations”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 50.3, pp. 319–336.

Additional literature:

Condra, Luke N. and Jacob N. Shapiro (2012). “Who Takes the Blame? The Strategic Effects of Collateral Damage”. In: *American Journal of Political Science* 56.1, pp. 167–187.

Holtermann, Helge (2016). “Relative Capacity and the Spread of Rebellion. Insights from Nepal”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60.3, pp. 501–529.

Pischedda, Costantino (2018). “Wars within Wars: Why Windows of Opportunity and Vulnerability Cause Inter-rebel Fighting in Internal Conflicts”. In: *International Security* 43.1, pp. 138–176.

Ruhe, Constantin (2015). “Anticipating Mediated Talks: Predicting the Timing of Mediation with Disaggregated Conflict Dynamics”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 52.2, pp. 243–257.

Straus, Scott (2007). “What Is the Relationship between Hate Radio and Violence? Rethinking Rwanda’s “Radio Machete””. In: *Politics & Society* 35.4, pp. 609–637.

Wood, Reed M. (2014). “From Loss to Looting? Battlefield Costs and Rebel Incentives for Violence”. In: *International Organization* 68.4, pp. 979–999.

Zeitoff, Thomas (2011). “Using Social Media to Measure Conflict Dynamics: An Application to the 2008–2009 Gaza Conflict”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55.6, pp. 938–969.

— (2016). “Does Social Media Influence Conflict? Evidence from the 2012 Gaza Conflict”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Online First, pp. 1–35.

Week 5: Disaggregation of space

12.05.2022

Class topics:

- How do geographically varying factors like terrain, wealth, or ties to the local population affect actor behavior in conflicts?
- How can we empirically assess spatial variation within civil wars?

Mandatory readings:

- Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede and Nils B. Weidmann (2012). “Richardson in the Information Age: Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Data in International Studies”. In: *Annual Review of Political Science* 15.1, pp. 461–481.
- Greig, J. Michael (2015). “Rebels at the Gates: Civil War Battle Locations, Movement, and Openings for Diplomacy”. In: *International Studies Quarterly* 59.4, pp. 680–693.
- Raleigh, Clionadh and Håvard Hegre (2009). “Population Size, Concentration, and Civil War. A Geographically Disaggregated Analysis”. In: *Political Geography* 28.4, pp. 224–238.

Additional literature:

- Buhaug, Halvard (2010). “Dude, Where’s My Conflict?” In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 27.2, pp. 107–128.
- Buhaug, Halvard, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, Helge Holtermann, Gudrun Østby, and Andreas Forø Tollefsen (2009). “Revolt of the Paupers or the Aspiring? Geographic Wealth Dispersion and Conflict”. In: *Paper presented at the International Studies Association, New York, 15–18 February*.
- Eck, Kristine (2012). “In Data We Trust? A Comparison of UCDP GED and ACLED Conflict Events Datasets”. In: *Cooperation and Conflict* 47.1, pp. 124–141.
- Ethington, Philip J. and Jason A. McDaniel (2007). “Political Places and Institutional Spaces: The Intersection of Political Science and Political Geography”. In: *Annual Review of Political Science* 10.1, pp. 127–142.
- Hammond, Jesse and Nils B Weidmann (2014). “Using Machine-Coded Event Data for the Micro-Level Study of Political Violence”. In: *Research & Politics* 1.2, p. 205316801453992.
- Kibris, Arzu (2021). “The Geo-Temporal Evolution of Violence in Civil Conflicts: A Micro Analysis of Conflict Diffusion on a New Event Data Set”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 58.5, pp. 885–899.
- Schutte, Sebastian and Karsten Donnay (2014). “Matched Wake Analysis: Finding Causal Relationships in Spatiotemporal Event Data”. In: *Political Geography* 41, pp. 1–10.
- Shapiro, Jacob N. and Nils B. Weidmann (2015). “Is the Phone Mightier Than the Sword? Cellphones and Insurgent Violence in Iraq”. In: *International Organization* 69.2, pp. 247–274.
- Weidmann, Nils B. (2016). “A Closer Look at Reporting Bias in Conflict Event Data”. In: *American Journal of Political Science* 60.1, pp. 206–218.

Week 6: Disaggregating conflict determinants I: Social groups

19.05.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on data that captures subnational variation of social identity groups, e.g.

- Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) or a related data set (<https://icr.ethz.ch/data/epr/>)
- Spatially Interpolated Data on Ethnicity (SIDE) (<https://icr.ethz.ch/data/side/>)
- Information on religion or ethnicity from surveys (e.g. DHS, <https://dhsprogram.com/data/>) or census data (<https://international.ipums.org/international-action/samples>)

Class topics:

- In which way do subnational differences across social groups matter for conflicts? What are relevant dimensions?

- What is the specific role of group-level inequalities for the onset and dynamics of conflict?
- How can we capture variation across social groups empirically?

Mandatory readings:

- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (2011). “Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War. A Global Comparison”. In: *American Political Science Review* 105.3, pp. 478–495.
- Fjelde, Hanne and Lisa Hultman (2014). “Weakening the Enemy: A Disaggregated Study of Violence against Civilians in Africa”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58.7, pp. 1230–1257.

Additional literature:

- Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher and Nils B. Weidmann (2010). “Shared Space. Ethnic Groups, State Accommodation, and Localized Conflict”. In: *International Studies Quarterly* 54.4, pp. 1035–1054.
- Hillesund, Solveig (2019). “Choosing Whom to Target: Horizontal Inequality and the Risk of Civil and Communal Violence”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63.2, pp. 528–554.
- Kalyvas, Stathis N. (2008). “Ethnic Defection in Civil War”. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 41, pp. 1043–1068.
- Kuhn, Patrick M. and Nils B. Weidmann (2015). “Unequal We Fight. Between- and Within-Group Inequality and Ethnic Civil War”. In: *Political Science Research and Methods* 3.3, pp. 543–568.
- Mancini, L. (2008). “Horizontal Inequalities and Communal Violence. Evidence from Indonesian Districts”. In: *Horizontal Inequalities and Conflict. Understanding Group Violence in Multiethnic Societies*. Ed. by Frances Stewart. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 106–135.
- Müller-Crepon, Carl (2021). “Local Ethno-Political Polarization and Election Violence in Majoritarian vs. Proportional Systems”. In: *Journal of Peace Research*, p. 0022343320973724.
- Müller-Crepon, Carl and Philipp Hunziker (2018). “New Spatial Data on Ethnicity: Introducing SIDE”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 55.5, pp. 687–698.
- Ottmann, Martin (2017). “Rebel Constituencies and Rebel Violence against Civilians in Civil Conflicts”. In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 34.1, pp. 27–51.
- Weidmann, Nils B. (2009). “Geography as Motivation and Opportunity. Group Concentration and Ethnic Conflict”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53.4, pp. 526–543.
- Wucherpfennig, Julian, Nils W. Metternich, Lars-Erik Cederman, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (2012). “Ethnicity, the State, and the Duration of Civil War”. In: *World Politics* 64.1, pp. 79–115.
- Wucherpfennig, Julian, Nils B. Weidmann, Luc Girardin, Lars-Erik Cederman, and Andreas Wimmer (2011). “Politically Relevant Ethnic Groups across Space and Time. Introducing the GeoEPR Dataset”. In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 20.10, pp. 1–15.

Week 7: Public holiday (no class)

26.06.2022

Week 8: State capacity and economic conditions

02.06.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on data that captures subnational variation of economic conditions, e.g.

- DMSP Nighttime lights (<https://eogdata.mines.edu/products/dmsp/>)

- Socio-economic characteristics for an individual country based on census data (<https://international.ipums.org/international-action/samples>)
- pre-processed data on economic indicators on the grid-cell level from PRIO-GRID (<https://grid.prio.org/#/download>)

Class topics:

- In which way do local differences in state capacity and wealth affect conflict dynamics?
- How can we assess the variation of these factors on a fine-grained level?

Mandatory readings:

De Juan, Alexander and André Bank (2015). “The Ba‘athist Blackout? Selective Goods Provision and Political Violence in the Syrian Civil War”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 52.1, pp. 91–104.

Koren, Ore and Anoop K Sarbahi (2018). “State Capacity, Insurgency, and Civil War: A Disaggregated Analysis”. In: *International Studies Quarterly* 62.2, pp. 274–288.

Additional literature:

Fetzer, Thiemo (2022). *Using R to Study the Yemen Conflict with Night Light Images / R-bloggers*. URL: <https://www.r-bloggers.com/2017/03/using-r-to-study-the-yemen-conflict-with-night-light-images/> (visited on 04/10/2022).

Luna, Juan Pablo and Hillel David Soifer (2017). “Capturing Sub-National Variation in State Capacity: A Survey-Based Approach”. In: *American Behavioral Scientist* 61.8, pp. 887–907.

McDougal, Tophier and Raul Caruso (2016). “Is There a Relationship between Wartime Violence and Postwar Agricultural Development Outcomes? The Case of Concessions and Community Grants in Mozambique”. In: *Political Geography* 50, pp. 20–32.

Shortland, Anja, Katerina Christopoulou, and Charalampos Makatsoris (2013). “War and Famine, Peace and Light? The Economic Dynamics of Conflict in Somalia 1993-2009”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 50, pp. 545–561.50, p. 5.

Soifer, Hillel (2008). “State Infrastructural Power: Approaches to Conceptualization and Measurement”. In: *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43.3, p. 231.

Weidmann, Nils B. and Sebastian Schutte (2016). “Using Night Light Emissions for the Prediction of Local Wealth”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 54.2, pp. 125–140.

Weidmann, Nils B. and Gerlinde Theunissen (2021). “Estimating Local Inequality from Nighttime Lights”. In: *Remote Sensing* 13.22 (22), p. 4624.

Wig, Tore and Andreas Forø Tollefsen (2016). “Local Institutional Quality and Conflict Violence in Africa”. In: *Political Geography* 53, pp. 30–42.

Week 9: Organizational features

09.06.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on data that captures organizational features of rebel groups, e.g.

- Non-State Actor data set (<http://ksgleditsch.com/eacd.html>)
- Minorities at Risk Organizational Behavior (MAROB) (<https://www.start.umd.edu/data-tools/minorities-risk-organizational-behavior-marob-middle-east-1980-2004>)

- Big Allied and Dangerous (BAAD II) (<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/JT6GFR>)
- Foundations of Rebel Group Emergence (FORGE) (<https://www.jessicamaves.com/forge.html>)
- Anatomies of Resistance (<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/YMAF2S>)

Class topics:

- In which way do organizational characteristics of armed actors like ideology, cohesiveness, and leadership affect actor behavior in civil wars?
- Which factors determine organizational cohesion?
- How can we grasp different groups' organizational traits?

Mandatory readings:

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2006). "Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War". In: *American Political Science Review* 100.3, pp. 429–447.

Staniland, Paul (2012). "Organizing Insurgency. Networks, Resources, and Rebellion in South Asia". In: *International Security* 37.1, pp. 142–177.

Additional literature:

Asal, Victor, Richard Legault, Ora Szekeley, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld (2013). "Gender Ideologies and Forms of Contentious Mobilization in the Middle East". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 50.3, pp. 305–318.

Bakke, Kristin M, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, and Lee JM Seymour (2012). "A Plague of Initials: Fragmentation, Cohesion, and Infighting in Civil Wars". In: *Perspectives on Politics* 10.2, pp. 265–283.

Faulkner, Christopher M. and Austin C. Doctor (2021). "Rebel Fragmentation and the Recruitment of Child Soldiers". In: *International Studies Quarterly* 65.3.

Gates, Scott (2017). "Membership Matters: Coerced Recruits and Rebel Allegiance". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 54.5, pp. 674–686.

Huang, Reyko and Patricia L. Sullivan (2021). "Arms for Education? External Support and Rebel Social Services". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 58.4, pp. 794–808.

Joo, Minnie M. and Bumba Mukherjee (2021). "Rebel Command and Control, Time, and Rebel Group Splits". In: *International Interactions* 47.2, pp. 318–345.

Mehrl, Marius (2022). "Female Combatants and Rebel Group Behaviour: Evidence from Nepal". In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, p. 07388942221082234.

Weinstein, Jeremy M. (2007). *Inside Rebellion. The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wood, Reed M. and Jakana L. Thomas (2017). "Women on the Frontline: Rebel Group Ideology and Women's Participation in Violent Rebellion". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 54.1, pp. 31–46.

Week 10: Public holiday (no class)

16.06.2022

Week 11: Individuals and civilian behavior

23.06.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on a survey data set suitable to explore the impact of individuals' exposure to war violence on (post-war) behavior/attitudes, individual perceptions on war, or individual motivations to join a rebel group, e.g.

- Arab / Asia / Euro- / Latino- / Afrobarometer for a conflict or post-conflict country
- Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS)

Class topics:

- What determines individuals' decision to flee, support or mobilize against combatants?
- What is the impact of conflict exposure on individuals' attitudes and behavior?
- How can we empirically grasp individuals' motivations and behavior?

Mandatory readings:

Rohner, Dominic, Mathias Thoenig, and Fabrizio Zilibotti (2013). "Seeds of Distrust: Conflict in Uganda". In: *Journal of Economic Growth* 18.3, pp. 217–252.

Shesterinina, Anastasia (2016). "Collective Threat Framing and Mobilization in Civil War". In: *American Political Science Review* 110.3, pp. 411–427.

Additional literature:

Barter, Shane J. (2014). *Civilian Strategy in Civil War. Insights from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Bosi, Lorenzo and Donatella Della Porta (2012). "Micro-Mobilization into Armed Groups: Ideological, Instrumental and Solidaristic Paths". In: *Qualitative Sociology* 35.4, pp. 361–383.

Czaika, Mathias and Krisztina Kis-Katos (2009). "Civil Conflict and Displacement: Village-Level Determinants of Forced Migration in Aceh". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 46.3, pp. 399–418. JSTOR: 25654412.

De Luca, Giacomo and Marijke Verpoorten (2012). *From Vice to Virtue? Civil War and Social Capital in Uganda*. Afrobarometer Working Paper No. 138. Cape Town/Accra/East Lansing, MI: Afrobarometer.

Gates, Scott and Mogens K. Justesen (2020). "Political Trust, Shocks, and Accountability: Quasi-experimental Evidence from a Rebel Attack". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64.9, pp. 1693–1723.

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M Weinstein (2008). "Who Fights? The Determinants of Participation in Civil War". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 52.2, pp. 436–455.

Kaplan, Oliver (2017). *Resisting War. How Communities Protect Themselves*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Leventoğlu, Bahar and Nils W. Metternich (2018). "Born Weak, Growing Strong. Anti-Government Protests as a Signal of Rebel Strength in the Context of Civil Wars". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 62.3, pp. 581–596.

- Lyall, Jason, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai (2013). “Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan”. In: *American Political Science Review* 107.4, pp. 679–705.
- Masullo, Juan (2020). “Civilian Contention in Civil War: How Ideational Factors Shape Community Responses to Armed Groups”. In: *Comparative Political Studies* Online First, pp. 1–36.
- Muldoon, Orla T., Katrina McLaughlin, Nathalie Rougier, and Karen Trew (2008). “Adolescents’ Explanations for Paramilitary Involvement”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 45.5, pp. 681–695.
- Steele, Abbey (2009). “Seeking Safety: Avoiding Displacement and Choosing Destinations in Civil Wars”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 46.3, pp. 419–429.

Week 12: Strategic and tactical variation

30.06.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on a data set that captures different types of insurgent violence, e.g.

- UCDP One-Sided Violence data set or GED (<https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/>)
- Armed Conflict Location and Event data set (ACLED) (<https://acleddata.com/#/dashboard>)
- Strategies of Resistance data set (<http://www.kathleengallaghercunningham.com/data-projects.html>)
- Country-specific sources, e.g. report from Truth Commission in El Salvador, <https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc268920/>.

Class topics:

- Under which conditions do armed groups resort to different forms of violence, e.g. regular confrontations with security forces, violence against civilians, or terrorist attacks?
- Which factors related to the groups’ organizational structure, local conditions, or conflict episodes make the use of violence against civilians more or less likely?
- How can we empirically assess the use of different forms of violence on both a spatial and temporal level? What are common data sources that can be utilized?

Mandatory readings:

- Horowitz, Michael C., Evan Perkoski, and Philip B.K. Potter (2018). “Tactical Diversity in Militant Violence”. In: *International Organization* 72.1, pp. 139–171.
- Polo, Sara M. T. and Belén González (2020). “The Power to Resist: Mobilization and the Logic of Terrorist Attacks in Civil War”. In: *Comparative Political Studies* 53.13, pp. 2029–2060.

Additional literature:

- Arves, Stephen, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, and Caitlin McCulloch (2019). “Rebel Tactics and External Public Opinion”. In: *Research & Politics* 6.3, pp. 1–7.
- Balcells, Laia (2011). “Continuation of Politics by Two Means. Direct and Indirect Violence in Civil War”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55.3, pp. 397–422.
- Balcells, Laia and Stathis N. Kalyvas (2014). “Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58.8, pp. 1390–1418.

- De la Calle, Luis and Ignacio Sanchez-Cuenca (2015). “How Armed Groups Fight: Territorial Control and Violent Tactics”. In: *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 38.10, pp. 795–813.
- Fortna, Virginia Page, Nicholas J. Lotito, and Michael A. Rubin (2018). “Don’t Bite the Hand That Feeds: Rebel Funding Sources and the Use of Terrorism in Civil Wars”. In: *International Studies Quarterly* 62.4, pp. 782–794.
- Frisch, Hillel (2009). “Strategic Change in Terrorist Movements: Lessons from Hamas”. In: *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 32.12, pp. 1049–1065.
- Horowitz, Michael (2015). “The Rise and Spread of Suicide Bombing”. In:
- Kalyvas, Stathis N. (2006). *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge/New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Lyll, Jason (2009). “Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks?” In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53.3, pp. 331–362.
- Page Fortna, Virginia (2015). “Do Terrorists Win? Rebels’ Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes”. In: *International Organization* 69.3, pp. 519–556.
- Perkoski, Evan (2019). “Internal Politics and the Fragmentation of Armed Groups”. In: *International Studies Quarterly*.
- Polo, Sara MT and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch (2016). “Twisting Arms and Sending Messages: Terrorist Tactics in Civil War”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 53.6, pp. 815–829.
- Qiu, Xiaoyan (2022). “Rebel Strategies and the Prospects for Peace”. In: *American Journal of Political Science* 66.1, pp. 140–155.
- Sullivan, Patricia Lynne and Johannes Karreth (2019). “Strategies and Tactics in Armed Conflict: How Governments and Foreign Interveners Respond to Insurgent Threats”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63.9, pp. 2207–2232.
- Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth, and Dylan Balch-Lindsay (2004). ““Draining the Sea”: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare”. In: *International Organization* 58.2, pp. 375–407.
- Wood, Reed M. (2014a). “From Loss to Looting? Battlefield Costs and Rebel Incentives for Violence”. In: *International Organization* 68.4, pp. 979–999.
- (2014b). “Opportunities to Kill or Incentives for Restraint? Rebel Capabilities, the Origins of Support, and Civilian Victimization in Civil War”. In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 31.5, pp. 461–480.

Week 13: Territorial control and governance

07.07.2022

Presentation:

Student presentation on a data set that captures rebel governance, e.g.

- Rebel Governance data (<https://zoom.us/j/93491968551?pwd=RFYyMDMwbktTWmt2VC9FOHYyQ0>)
- Reputation of Terrorist Groups data (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022343315626506?journalCode=jpra>)
- Rebel Quasi-state Institutions Dataset (<https://rebelgovernance.weebly.com/data.html>)
- During-Conflict Justice (DCJ) data set (<http://www.justice-data.com/>)

Class topics:

- In which way does territorial control affect the behavior of armed groups?

- How can we operationalize territorial control? How can we distinguish between regions held by government or rebel forces, and how do we account for changes over time?
- Under which conditions do rebel groups establish governance structures? How can we determine their impact?

Mandatory readings:

Kasfir, Nelson (2015). “Rebel Governance – Constructing a Field of Inquiry: Definitions, Scope, Patterns, Order, Causes”. In: *Rebel Governance in Civil War*. Ed. by Ana Arjona, Nelson Kasfir, and Zachariah Mampilly. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, pp. 21–46.

Van Baalen, Sebastian (2021). “Local Elites, Civil Resistance, and the Responsiveness of Rebel Governance in Côte d’Ivoire”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* Online First, pp. 1–15.

Additional literature:

Anders, Therese (2020). “Territorial Control in Civil Wars: Theory and Measurement Using Machine Learning”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* Online First, pp. 1–14.

Arjona, Ana (2016). *Rebelocracy: Social Order in the Colombian Civil War*. Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Arjona, Ana, Nelson Kasfir, and Zachariah Cherian Mampilly, eds. (2015). *Rebel Governance in Civil War*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Breslawski, Jori (2020). “The Social Terrain of Rebel Held Territory.” in: *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher, Reyko Huang, and Katherine M. Sawyer (2021). “Voting for Militants: Rebel Elections in Civil War”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65.1, pp. 81–107.

Hammond, Jesse (2018). “Maps of Mayhem: Strategic Location and Deadly Violence in Civil War”. In: *Journal of Peace Research* 55.1, pp. 32–46.

Heger, Lindsay L. and Danielle F. Jung (2017). “Negotiating with Rebels: The Effect of Rebel Service Provision on Conflict Negotiations”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61.6, pp. 1203–1229.

Huang, Reyko (2016). *The Wartime Origins of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kalyvas, Stathis N. (2006). *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge/New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Liu, Shelley X. (2021). “Control, Coercion, and Cooptation: How Rebels Govern after Winning Civil War”. In: *World Politics*, pp. 1–40.

Mampilly, Zachariah (2011). *Rebel Rulers*. Ithaca, NY/London: Cornell University Press.

Metelits, Claire (2010). *Inside Insurgency. Violence, Civilians, and Revolutionary Behavior*. New York, NY/London: New York University Press.

Rueda, Miguel R. (2016). “Popular Support, Violence, and Territorial Control in Civil War”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Online First, pp. 1–27.

Sabates-Wheeler, Rachel and Philip Verwimp (2014). “Extortion with Protection. Understanding the Effect of Rebel Taxation on Civilian Welfare in Burundi”. In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58.8, pp. 1474–1499.

Staniland, Paul (2012). “States, Insurgents, and Wartime Political Orders”. In: *Perspectives on Politics* 10.2, pp. 243–264.

Stewart, Megan A (2020). “Rebel Governance: Military Boon or Military Bust? (Isard Award Article)”. In: *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 37.1, pp. 16–38.

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Friday, 10 am - 11 am (please sign up via ILIAS one day in advance)
Office hours can take place online ([link](#)) or in person. Please inform me about your preference when signing up.