

# Annina Mirjam Hirzel

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International Conflict Research  
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## Education

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- 2014 – 2018      **PhD, International Conflict Research**  
**Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland**  
Thesis: *Agency at the Margin – Indigenous Responses to State Expansion in a Context of Ongoing Conflict*  
Supervisor: Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman
- 2010 – 2012      **MA, Comparative and International Studies**  
**Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and University of Zurich, Switzerland**  
Thesis: *Concretizing Boundaries – An Exploratory Study of Boundary Fortification, 1945 – 2012* (achieved highest grade)  
Supervisors: Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman and Prof. Stefanie Bailer
- 2005 – 2009      **BSc, International Development and Food Policy**  
**University College Cork, Ireland**  
Thesis: *Gender in the Context of Conflict – A Case Study of Western Sahara*  
Supervisor: Mike FitzGibbon  
Scholarships: Title of College Scholar (2006/2007), Undergraduate College Scholarship (2007/2008, 2008/2009)

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## Further Education

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- April 2017      **Current Debates in International Development and Cooperation**  
Centre for Development and Cooperation (NADEL), ETH Zurich
- October 2015      **Participatory Approaches and Qualitative Methods**  
Centre for Development and Cooperation (NADEL), ETH Zurich
- June 2015      **Brown International Advanced Research Institute on ‘Inequality, Ethnicity und Conflict’**  
Brown University, Rhode Island, USA
- March 2013      **Migration: A Challenge for International Development Cooperation**  
Centre for Development and Cooperation (NADEL), ETH Zurich

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## Employment

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- 2014 - 2018      **Research assistant, Chair for International Conflict Research  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland**  
Data collection on politically relevant ethnic groups  
Proofreading of academic documents  
Management of the cooperation with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and various administrative tasks, including the development and maintenance of the website and contribution to reports for funding agencies, as part of the R4D (Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development) project on 'Ethnic Power Relations and Conflict in Fragile States'
- 2013 – 2014      **Communications and PR, Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS), ETH Zurich and University of Zurich, Switzerland (50%)**  
Re-development and maintenance of CIS website  
Design and development of print media  
Co-edition of newsletter  
Event management
- Semester 2011      **Teaching assistant, Chair for International Conflict Research  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland**  
Tutorial in conflict studies to students of the BA Programme in Public Policy  
Supervision and correction of exams
- 2010 – 2013      **Student assistant, Chair for Global Governance  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland**  
Proofreading of academic documents  
Data collection and management

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## Overseas Experience

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- 2014 – 2017      **Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Mumbai, India**  
Eight months of fieldwork as part of PhD project  
Conduction of over 60 in-depth interviews with various stakeholders  
Direction of a small field research team
- 2008 – 2010      **Sahrawi Refugee Camps, Algeria**  
Six-month internship with the National Union of Sahrawi Women (2008)  
Research on gender and the experience of conflict and exile for BSc thesis and various publications (2008 – 2010)  
Engagement in various community-based projects (2009 – 2010)

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## Further Activities

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- 2012 – 2018      **Committee member, *Bureau International pour les Droits de l'Homme au Sahara Occidental (BIRDHSO)*, Geneva**  
Supporting the Sahrawi delegation at the Human Rights Council of the UN
- 2011 – 2013      **Assistant, *Fondation Danielle Mitterrand - France Libertés***  
**Human Rights Council of the United Nations**  
Preparation and presentation of oral and written statements  
Organisation of and participation in side-events as speaker and/or Chair  
Coordination of joint activities with *Terre des Hommes Basel* (Switzerland)  
Preparation of a lobbying dossier
- 2008 – 2010      **Committee member, *Ethical Development Action (EDA)*, Ireland**  
Organisation of events and intercultural activities
- 2006 – 2009      **Member, University College Cork Environmental Society**  
Representative in the Students' Union Environmental Working Group (2006-2007)  
Secretary of the Green Campus Committee for the Foundation for Environmental Education 'Green Campus Award' under the Green Flag Programme  
Organisation of a weekly Farmer's Market on campus for the promotion of Fair Trade and local agricultural products
- 2005 – 2006      **Member, University College Cork Suas Society**  
Supporting the Cork Traveller Visibility Group  
Fundraising activities

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## Research Interests

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Conflict processes, with a particular focus on ethnic mobilisation  
State expansion, particularly the links between strengthening state capacity, inequality, identity and action  
Relationship between development and conflict  
Borders and boundary fortification

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## Publications

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Awasthi, M. and M. Hirzel. (2016). "Ethnic power relations in India: the relevance of local politics and the nuances of historically disadvantaged identity." *EPR Working Paper Series No. 2*.

Hirzel, M. (2015). "Africa's last colony: inside the Western Sahara conflict." *CIS News No. 25*. Centre for Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zurich and University of Zurich.

FitzGibbon, M. and M. Hirzel (2010). 'The Sahrawis: living the consequences of Earth's longest military wall'. In Besosa, M., Ragaven, C., Loree Allen, S. and O'Halloran, A. (eds.), *Walls, fences, borders and boundaries – essays on social exclusion, inclusion and integration*. IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

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## Language Skills

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**English:** mother tongue  
**German:** mother tongue

**Spanish:** fluent  
**French:** conversant

**Arabic:** elementary  
**Hindi:** elementary

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## IT Skills

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Good knowledge of all general purpose office applications

Proficient in doing qualitative research with Atlas.ti

Basic knowledge of quantitative analysis using Stata

Some experience with desktop publishing (especially Adobe InDesign) and web technologies (HTML, CSS, JavaScript)

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## References

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Prof. Dr. Lars-Erik Cederman  
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Prof. Dr. Simon Hug  
University of Geneva, Department of Political  
Science and International Relations

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