

Research Seminar: Political Order and Conflict
MACIS Optional Research Seminar, Spring Term 2018

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Aims and organization

This seminar builds on the MACIS seminar on “political violence” and covers the literature on civil war and other types of conflict in the contemporary world. We will examine topics such as ethnic violence, political economy perspectives on war, the role of political institutions, and the international dimensions of civil conflict. The students will develop an original research question to be dealt with in a research paper.

The seminar will run for one term and will expose students to the literature on political order and conflict. It will provide an overview of core topics and readings, although students are highly encouraged to consult readings not covered on the syllabus when developing their projects. Students will write a research design, which may eventually turn into a full-length paper or thesis, and are expected to present their design during the final sessions of the course.

Requirements and grading

Students will have to fulfill the following requirements:

- Participate at the sessions of the seminar.
- Read the required readings assigned for each meeting.
- Write three short memos on the topics. The memos should develop a critique and analysis of the week’s readings. These memos are due on Monday evening of the week in which this topic is scheduled. Students need to be prepared to briefly present the main arguments appearing in their memos in class.
- Prepare a research design (due in week 12) that outlines the research question and the relevant literature for the research paper (see below).
- Discuss a research design of another student.
- Write a research paper on a topic chosen by the students (in agreement with the instructors).

The final grade will be determined primarily by the term paper. However, class participation and the memos are also taken into consideration.

All readings are available at:

<http://cederman.ethz.ch/teaching/poc2018/>
(User Name & Password: "poc2018")

Schedule and Readings

Week 1 (February 22nd). Introduction

Week 2 (March 1st). Concepts & Classical Approaches to Conflict

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48 (6): 814-858.

Cederman, Lars-Erik and Manuel Vogt. 2017. Dynamics and Logic of Civil War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61(9):1992-2016.

Gurr, Ted. 1968. Psychological Factors in Civil Violence. *World Politics* 20(2):245-278.

Tilly, Charles. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing. Chapter 3.

[Recommended reading:

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug. 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

Week 3 (March 7th). Political Economy and Natural Resources

Blattman, Christopher, and Edward Miguel. 2010. Civil War. *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(1):3-57.

Ross, Michael. 2015. What Have We Learned about the Resource Curse? *Annual Review of Political Science* 18:239-259.

Lujala, Päivi. 2010. The spoils of nature: Armed Civil Conflict and Rebel Access to Natural Resources. *Journal of Peace Research* 47(1): 15-28.

[Recommended reading:

Hunziker, Philipp and Lars-Erik Cederman. 2017. No Extraction without Representation: The Ethno-regional Oil Curse and Secessionist Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* 54(3): 365–381.]

Week 4 (March 14th). Ethnic Inequality

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug. 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3-5.

Horowitz, Donald L. 1985. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*. University of California Press. Chapter 5 (pp. 185-228).

[Recommended reading:

Gurr, Ted Robert. 1994. Peoples Against States: Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Changing World System. *International Studies Quarterly* 38(3):347-377.]

Week 5 (March 21th). Democracy, Democratization, and Conflict

Mann, Michael. 1999. The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing. *New Left Review* 1/235.

Mansfield, Edward D. and Jack Snyder. 2002. Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War. *International Organization* 56(2):297-337.

Hegre, Håvard. 2014. Democracy and Armed Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* 51(2):159-172.

[Recommended reading:

Hegre, Håvard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992. *American Political Science Review* 95(1):33-48.]

Week 6 (March 28th). Processes During Civil War

Kalyvas, Stathis N. and Matthew Kocher Kocher. 2007. How “Free” Is Free Riding in Civil Wars? Violence, Insurgency, and the Collective Action Problem. *World Politics* 59(2):177-216.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2008. The Social Processes of Civil War: The Wartime Transformation of Social Networks. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11:539-561.

Lyall, Jason. 2010. Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechen War. *American Political Science Review* 104(01):1-20.

[Recommended reading:

Tezcür, Günes Murat. 2016. Ordinary People, Extraordinary Risks: Participation in an Ethnic Rebellion. *American Political Science Review* 110(2):247-264.

[Easter break]

Week 7 (April 11th). Trans-border Relations and International Diffusion

Weiner, Myron. 1971. The Macedonian Syndrome: An Historical Model of International Relations and Political Development. *World Politics* 23 (4): 665-683.

Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. 1998. Spreading Fear: The Genesis of Transnational Ethnic Conflict. In *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict: Fear, Diffusion, and Escalation*, David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild (eds.), Princeton University Press. 3-34.

Gleditsch, Kristian. 2007. Transnational Dimensions of Civil War. *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (3): 293-309.

[Recommended readings:

Buhaug, Halvard, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2008. Contagion or Confusion? Why Conflicts Cluster in Space. *International Studies Quarterly* 52(2): 215-233.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug, 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

Rüegger, Seraina. 2017. Refugees and Conflict Diffusion. In *Peace and Conflict 2017*, Backer, David, Bhavnani, Ravinder and Paul Huth (eds.), Routledge.]

Week 8 (April 18th). Duration and Termination

Fearon, James D. 2004. Why Do Some Civil Wars Last So Much Longer Than Others? *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3):275-301.

Cunningham, David E., Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan. 2009. It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(4):570-97.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Halvard Buhaug. 2013. *Inequality, Grievances and Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8.

[Recommended reading:

Balcells, Laia and Stasis Kalyvas. 2017. Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(8):1390-1418.]

Week 9 (April 25th). Violence Against Civilians

Valentino, Benjamin A. 2014. Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence against Civilians. *Annual Review of Political Science* 17:89-103.

Straus, Scott. 2012. Retreating from the Brink: Theorizing Mass Violence and the Dynamics of Restraint. *Perspectives on Politics* 10(02):343-362.

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2006. Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War: Determinants of the Strategies of Warring Factions. *American Political Science Review* 100(3):429-447.

[Recommended readings:

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2006. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6-7.

Valentino, Benjamin A., Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare. *International Organization* 58(2):375-407.]

Week 10 (May 2nd). Power Sharing

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Simon Hug, Andreas Schädel, and Julian Wucherpfennig. 2015. Territorial Autonomy in the Shadow of Conflict: Too Little, Too Late? *American Political Science Review* 109(2):354-370.

Gates, Scott, Benjamin A. T. Graham, Yonatan Lupu, Håvard Strand, and Kaare W. Strøm. 2016. Power Sharing, Protection, and Peace. *Journal of Politics* 78(3):512-526.

Roessler, Philip. 2011. The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups, and Civil War in Africa. *World Politics* 63(2):300-346.

Week 11 (May 10th). Partition

Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars. *International Security* 20(4):136-175.

Chapman, Thomas and Philip Roeder. 2007. Partition as a Solution to Wars of Nationalism: the Importance of Institutions. *American Political Science Review* 101(4):677-691.

Sambanis, Nicholas, and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2009. What's in a Line? Is Partition a Solution to Civil War? *International Security* 34(2):82-118.

Week 12 (May 16th). Peacekeeping

Doyle, Michael W. and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. *American Political Science Review* 94(4):779-801.

Fortna, Virginia Page and Lise Morjé Howard. 2008. Pitfalls and Prospects in the Peacekeeping Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11(1):283-301.

Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman and Megan Shannon. 2014. Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting. *American Political Science Review* 108(04):737-753.

Week 13 (May 23rd). Student presentations I

Week 14 (May 30st). Student presentations II

Final Papers Due: [TBD]