

Selected Topics in International Politics:

Human Rights & Conflict Research

MA Research Seminar (12 ECTS)
HWS 2013

Wednesday 10:15-13:30, Room: A5, B143

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by appointment, arranged via email

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In this course, we will engage with contemporary research on repression and intra-state armed conflict. The focus of this research seminar will be to actively engage with this research and to practice your own research skills. You will therefore be asked to produce work throughout the semester, beyond doing the readings in preparation for class discussion as in regular seminars. You will need to produce your own work as well as provide feedback on other student's work. The seminar will introduce you to selected core questions on human rights and armed conflict, and will guide you towards developing your own research questions and carrying out your own research. The topics currently listed in the syllabus can be modified depending on students' interest. The specific readings might also be adjusted accordingly.

Course Requirements & Assessment:

Course requirements include regular attendance, active class participation, incl. a class presentation, a short literature critiques and acting as a discussant, and a research paper.

Participation (10%):

Students are expected to come prepared to the sessions, having read the reading for class discussion. Particular emphasis will be placed on the *critical discussion of the readings*, which

should generally be dominated by you, not me, and the discussion of and feedback on your work. To facilitate critical engagement with the reading, you need to email the discussant and me 1-2 discussion questions about the required reading (for the weeks where there are such readings). These questions should stimulate a critical engagement and debate with the text, i.e. they should not focus on merely reproducing key arguments, but should go beyond this, e.g. by linking the arguments to current events, highlighting strengths and weaknesses etc. You need to email your discussion questions to us by **Monday preceding the Wednesday meeting**, so allow the presenter to include your questions if appropriate.

Presentation & critical literature review (20%):

You need to lead one seminar discussion and write a critical literature review or book review on the respective topic. The literature review needs to critically evaluate the required reading(s) plus additional academic articles (3-5 in total), at least one of these needs to be taken from the list of further readings. (if you want to find additional articles, a good starting point would be looking in the bibliographies of the readings listed in this syllabus). The literature critique should bring together the different readings, compare and contrast their contributions and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, discuss contributions and open questions. It should synthesise the readings but should also include your own arguments and ideally original thought from you. Instead of a review of the readings, you can also write and then present a book review of the book listed under the respective week. On **Monday, noon, preceding the Wednesday meeting**, you need to email me your literature critique (4-6 pages long double-spaced). During class, you will present your literature critique and data/replication (20 min max.). Following this, you will lead the *class discussion*, for example by preparing 2-3 discussion questions based on the required readings and your presentation. For the week where you present your review and lead the discussion you do not need to submit any discussion questions.

Presentation of Dataset (10%)

You need to sign up for a data presentation – then present the dataset, including descriptive statistics, or a brief replication of one of the articles (articles published in *Journal of Peace Research* often provide the best access to replication files!). You will need to familiarize yourself with the respective codebook and in your presentation give a brief overview of the data and then show some interesting information you can extract from the dataset (10-15 min). On **Tuesday, noon, preceding the Wednesday meeting**, you need to email me a brief summary of the dataset (1-2 pages or the slides from your presentation). To find replication datasets and articles introducing datasets, see primarily *Journal of Peace Research* and *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. **Note:** if you want to discuss a different dataset than the one listed in the syllabus, then please discuss this with me in good time.

Research paper (40%)

One of the goals of this seminar is to facilitate the learning process on how to produce academic research and write term papers, which will eventually help you in writing your MA dissertation. An important element of the research seminar is therefore to receive feedback during the process and provide others with your own feedback. Therefore, you need to submit a research proposal, which will then be assigned two discussants and presented and discussed in class. This will involve the following steps:

1. You need to develop a specific **research question** that is ideally linked to the topic of your literature critique. This research question needs to be submitted to me via email by **24 September 2013** and they will be discussed in class on 25 September.
2. Second, you will need to write and present (15 min max) the **research proposal**, in which you
 - a. introduce the research question,
 - b. briefly justify the importance of the research question, based on the gap in academic research and real-world relevance
 - c. Discuss in detail your theoretical argument and state your hypothesis/-es
 - d. Outline your research methodology (whether quantitative or qualitative) and your operationalization (e.g. what sources or data you intend to use).

The research proposal should be no longer than 6 pages double-spaced and needs to be uploaded on Ilias **no later than one week before the discussion of your proposal is scheduled**. (16th or 23rd October)

3. Finally, you need to develop your research proposal into a **short research paper**. This paper can be, but does not have to be, a replication study. It needs to employ empirical analyses, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods. The research paper should be quite short, 3,000-4,000 words (please include a word count on the cover page!) and the focus should be on the theoretical argument and the analysis. It needs to include a very brief introduction, theory, hypothesis, operationalization and empirical analysis (quantitative or qualitative). A regular research paper would also contain a literature review, but since you will have already written a critical literature review at this point, your research paper should only contain a brief summary (no more than 1 page!) of the state of research relevant for your research question. The focus will be on the theory and the analysis, which can contain elements from your data presentation. The paper is due on **20 December 2013 at noon**. Please submit one hard copy and email me one electronic copy, which will be used to check for plagiarism. Please also email me your data files (e.g. dataset, do files). *If your assignments are late, you will be deducted 1,0 marks per day*. You will receive only a mark for the research paper and not for the research proposal, since this will only be used to provide early feedback on your project.

Lead discussant (20%):

Each student will need to discuss the research proposal of two other students, once as lead discussant and once as second discussant. As first discussant, you need to critically evaluate and comment on the research proposal of another student. This should be in the form of a written critique (2-4 pages double-spaced) and will be presented (10 min.). Your work as lead discussant will also be marked. As second discussant, you are expected to present feedback during class with a short presentation (5-10 min). The focus of the discussions are to provide constructive criticism by highlighting points that are not clear and suggest ways on how to improve the project.

Week 1: Introduction to the seminar
4 September

No reading

Discussion and distribution of topics

Week 2: Overview of theories of repression

11 September

Required reading

- Earl, Jennifer. 2011. "Political Repression: Iron Fists, Velvet Gloves, and Diffuse Control." *Annual Review of Political Science* 37: 261-284.
- Poe, Steven C. 2004. "The decision to repress: An integrative theoretical approach to the research on human rights and repression." In S. Carey and S. Poe, eds. *Understanding Human Rights Violations*, Aldershot: Ashate Publishing, p.16-38.

Further reading

- Book: Landman, Todd. 2005. *Protecting Human Rights. A Comparative Study*. Washington D.C: Georgetown University Press.
- Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State repression and political order." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10(1): 1-23.
- Galtung, Johan. 1969. "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research." *Journal of Peace Research* 6(3): 167-91.
- Wood, Reed, and Mark Gibney. 2010. "The Political Terror Scale (PTS): A Re-Introduction and Comparison to CIRI." *Human Rights Quarterly* 32(2): 367-400.
- Data: The Political Terror Scale, www.politicalerrorscale.org;
- Poe, Steven C., and C. Neil Tate. 1994. "Repression of Human Rights and Personal Integrity in the 1980s: A Global Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 88 (4): 853-72.
- Poe, Steven C., C. Neil Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. "Repression of the Human Right to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-National Study Covering the Years 1976-1993." *International Studies Quarterly* 43 (2): 291-313.
- Landman, Todd. 2005. "The political science of human rights." *British Journal of Political Science* 35(3): 549-572.

Week 3: Human Rights and the Application of Principal-Agent Models

18 September

Required reading

- Miller, Gary J. 2005. "The Political Evolution of Principal-Agent Models." *Annual Review of Political Science* 8: 203-25.
- Cingranelli, David. Paola Fajardo-Heyward, and Mikhail Filippov. 2013. "Principals, Agents and Human Rights." *British Journal of Political Science* DOI: 10.1017/S0007123413000070

Further reading

- Book: Tilly, Charles. 2006. *Contentious Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Butler, Christopher K., Tali Gluch, and Neil J. Mitchell. 2007. "Security Forces and Sexual Violence: A Cross-National Analysis of a Principal-Agent Argument." *Journal of Peace Research* 44: 669-87.
- Salehyan, Idean. 2010. "The Delegation of War to Rebel Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54: 493-515.
- Staniland, Paul. 2012. "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Insurgent Fratricide, Ethnic Defection, and the Rise of Pro-State Paramilitaries." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56: 16-40.
- Cingranelli, David L., and David L. Richards. 2010. "The Cingranelli and Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Data Project." *Human Rights Quarterly* 32(2): 401-424.
- Data: CIRI: www.humanrightsdata.org

Week 4: Delegating Violence & Discussion of Research Questions 25 September

Required reading

- Mitchell, Neil J. 2004. *Agents of Atrocity. Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 2.
- Alvarez, Alex. "Militias and Genocide." *War Crimes, Genocide, and Crimes against Humanity* 2 (2006): 1-33.

Further reading

- Book: Mitchell, Neil J. 2004. *Agents of Atrocity. Leaders, Followers, and the Violation of Human Rights in Civil War*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bapat, Navin A. 2012. "Understanding State Sponsorship of Militant Groups." *British Journal of Political Science* 42: 1-29.
- Data: Carey, Sabine, Neil Mitchell, and Will Lowe. 2013. "States, the Security Sector, and the Monopoly of Violence: A New Database on Pro-Government Militias." *Journal of Peace Research* 50(2): 249-258; <http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/militias/>

Week 5: Incentives for Delegating Violence 2 October

Required reading

- Kirschke, Linda. 2000. "Informal Repression, Zero-Sum Politics and Late Third Wave Transitions." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 38 (3): 383-405.
- Roessler, Philip G. 2005. "Donor-Induced Democratization and the Privatization of State Violence in Kenya and Rwanda." *Comparative Politics* 37 (2): 207-+.

Further reading

- Book: Ahram, Ariel L. 2011. *Proxy Warriors. The Rise and Fall of State-Sponsored Militias*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

- DeMeritt, Jacqueline. N.D. "Delegating Death: Military Intervention and Government Killing." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, forthcoming.
http://www.psci.unt.edu/~demeritt/research_files/dd.pdf , for data files, see <http://psci.unt.edu/~demeritt/research.html>
- Carey, Sabine C., Michael Colaresi and Neil J. Mitchell. 2012 "Why do Governments Use Militias?" Unpublished Manuscript http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/militias/?page_id=17
- Data: Social Conflict in Africa Database, <https://www.strausscenter.org/scad.html>

Week 6: Torture

9 October

Required reading

- Mitchell, Neil J. 2012. *Democracy's Blameless Leaders: From Dresden to Abu Ghraib: How Leaders Evade Accountability for Abuse, Atrocity, and Killing*. NYU Press, pp. 139-182.
- Conrad, Courtenay Ryals and Will H. Moore. 2010. "What stops the torture?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(2): 459-476.

Further reading

- Book: Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Conrad, Courtenay R. and Emily Hencken Ritter. 2013. "Treaties, Tenure and Torture: The Conflicting Domestic Effects of International Law." *Journal of Politics* 75(2): 397-409.
- Conrad, Courtenay R and Will H Moore. 2013. Political institutions, plausible deniability, and the use of stealth torture. Unpublished Manuscript, <http://faculty.ucmerced.edu/cconrad2/Academic/Publications.html>
- Data: The Ill-Treatment and Torture (ITT) Data Collection Project, http://faculty.ucmerced.edu/cconrad2/Academic/ITT_Data_Collection.html (this website also contains links to two forthcoming articles describing the database.

Week 7: Discussion of Research Proposals I

16 October

Required reading

- Research Proposals
- Zigerell, L.Z. 2013. "Rookie Mistakes: Preemptive Comments on Graduate Student Empirical Research Manuscripts." *PS: Political Science* January, 142-146.

Week 8: Discussion of Research Proposals II

23 October

Required reading

- Research Proposals

Week 9: Democracy and Human Rights

30 October

Required reading

- Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State repression and the tyrannical peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 44(4): 485,
- Bueno De Mesquita, Bruce, Feryal Marie Cherif, George W Downs, and Alastair Smith. 2005. "Thinking inside the box: A closer look at democracy and human rights." *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(3): 439–458,

Further reading

- Book: Davenport, Christian. 2007. *State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cingranelli, David and Mikhail Filippov. 2010. "Electoral Rules and Incentives to Protect Human Rights." *Journal of Politics* 72(1): 243-257.
- Conrad, Courtenay R., and Jacqueline HR DeMeritt. 2013. "Constrained by the Bank and the Ballot: Unearned Revenue, Democracy, and State Incentives to Repress." *Journal of Peace Research* 50(1): 105-119.
- Davenport, Christian, and David Armstrong. 2004. "Democracy and the Violation of Human Rights: A Statistical Analysis from 1976 to 1996." *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 538-554.
- Regan, Patrick, and Errol Henderson. 2002. "Democracy, Threats and Political Repression in Developing Countries: Are Democracies Internally Less Violent?" *Third World Quarterly* 23 (1): 119-36
- Data: The Polity IV Data (or another democracy dataset)

Week 10: State Capacity and Human Rights

6 November

Required reading

- Bell, Sam R., David Cingranelli, Amada Murdie, and Alper Caglayan. 2013. "Coercion, Capacity and Coordination: Predictors of Political Violence." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30(3): 240-262.
- Young, Joseph. 2009. "State Capacity, Democracy, and the Violation of Personal Rights." *Journal of Human Rights* 8: 283-300.

Further reading

- Book: Walter, Barbara. 2009. *Reputation and Civil War. Why Separatist Conflicts are so Violent?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Englehart, Neil. 2009. "State Capacity, State Failure, and Human Rights." *Journal of Peace Research* 46(2): 163-180.
- Rost, Nicolas. 2011. "Human Rights Violations, Weak States, and Civil War." *Human Rights Review* 12: 417-440.

- Data: Autocratic Regimes, <http://www.personal.psu.edu/jgw12/blogs/josephwright/Autocratic%20Breakdown%20and%20Regime%20Transition.pdf>

Week 11: Human Rights and Political Survival

13 November

Required reading

- Ritter, Emily Hencken. 2013. "Policy Disputes, Political Survival, and the Onset and Severity of State Repression." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* forthcoming DOI: 10.1177/0022002712468724
- Escribà-Folch, Abel. 2013. "Repression, Political Threats, and Survival under Autocracy." *International Political Science Review* forthcoming, DOI: 10.1177/0192512113488259

Further reading

- Book: Simmons, Beth A. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kagwanja, Peter. 2009. "Courting Genocide: Populism, Ethno-nationalism and the Informalisation of Violence in Kenya's 2008 post-election crisis." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*. 27(3): 365-387.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., Susan D. Hyde, and Ryan S. Jablonski. 2013. "When Do Governments Report to Election Violence?" *British Journal of Political Science* forthcoming, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0007123412000671>
- Data: Non-state Actor Data, <http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~ksg/eacd.html>

Week 12: Human Rights and International Interventions

20 November

Required readings:

- Murdie, Amanda, and David R. Davis. "Problematic Potential: The Human Rights Consequences of Peacekeeping Interventions in Civil Wars." *Human Rights Quarterly* 32, no. 1 (2010): 49-72.
- Escribà-Folch, Abel. 2011. "Authoritarian Responses to Foreign Pressure: Spending, Repression, and Sanctions." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(6): 683-713.

Further readings:

- Book: Fortna, Virginia Page. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Peksen, Dursun. 2012. "Does Foreign Military Intervention Help Human Rights?" *Political Research Quarterly* 65(3): 558-571.
- Krain, Matthew. 2005. "International Intervention and the Severity of Genocide and Politicides." *International Studies Quarterly* 49(3): 363-388.

- Data: Raleigh, Clionadh, Andrew Linke, Håvard Hegre, and Joakim Karlson. 2010. "Introducing ACLED: An Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(5): 651-660, <http://www.acleddata.com/data/>

Week 13: Repression and Civil War

27 November

Required reading

- Young, Joseph K. 2013. "Repression, Dissent, and the Onset of Civil War." *Political Research Quarterly* 66 (3): 516-32.
- Mason, T. David. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire. Revolutions, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, Chapter 2.

Further reading

- Book: Mason, T. David. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire. Revolutions, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield
- Pierskalla, Jan Henryk. 2010. "Protest, Deterrence, and Escalation: The Strategic Calculus of Government Repression." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54 (1): 117-45.
- Data: Battle-deaths dataset <http://www.prio.no/Data/Armed-Conflict/Battle-Deaths/>

Week 14: Discussion of Research Papers

4 December