

The Economics of Conflict

Dr. Laura Renner and Lena Schmid

ECTS: 6

Target group: MSc VWL/IMP(Econ.&Pol.)

Language: englisch

Participants: max. 10

Based on critical discussion and replication of the existing literature on both determinants as well as consequences of conflict (ranging from civil war to social unrest) we will discuss questions like the connections between economic inequality, political repression, poverty or gender inequality and conflict. Each student will be working on a specific article allocated in the beginning. During the seminar, you will replicate and extend the article using the statistical program Stata. In the mandatory tutorial, Stata and the application of relevant methods for conflict studies will be introduced. In the block seminar, we will discuss everybody's results so that we get to learn about different perspectives, methods and questions related to conflict. Please note: The entire seminar is organized online. We offer a combination of asynchronous videos, live meetings (via Zoom or Big Blue Button) and chats. Regular participation in the live meetings is expected.

Requirements: Knowledge in statistics and econometrics

Introductory Literature:

- Blattman, C. and E. Miguel (2010): Civil War. *Journal of Economic Literature* 48 (1): 3 – 57.
- Hegre, H. and N. Sambanis (2006): Sensitivity Analysis of Empirical Results on Civil War Onset. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50 (4): 508–535.
- Collier, P. (1999): On the Economic Consequences of Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 51 (1):168–183
- Collier, P. and A. Hoeffler (2004): Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 56 (4): 563–595.

Dates:

- **Application** until October 1st, 2020 (with the application form, a ranking of preferred topics, and a transcript of records)
- **Allocation of topics by October 9th, 2020**
- **First meeting (mandatory):** November 6th, 2020, 9.30-12.30, ONLINE
- Withdrawal after November 6th, 2020 is not possible
- **Block seminar:** January 07th, 2021, from 9.00 to 16.00 and January 08th, 2021, from 9.00 to 12.30, ONLINE
- **Individual meetings** to discuss extension ideas/structure of the seminar paper with Dr. Renner (online meetings, prior booking required): November 19th, 2020 (13-17h) and December 17th, 2020 (13-17h)
- Handing in presentations: January 05th, 2021
- Handing in the final paper: February 1st, 2021

Stata tutorial (held by Lena Schmid, online):

- Videos to watch (including: Introduction to Stata, Descriptive Statistics, Estimation Techniques)
- Problem Set on How-to-Work-With-Stata with discussion in live meeting on
 - o November 13th, 2020, 9.15-11.45
- Live Chats for smaller questions concerning Stata: Fridays, 9-10h
 - o November 27th, 2020
 - o December 18th, 2020
- Live Q&A concerning Stata, 9.15-12
 - o December 4th, 2020

4 ECTS: Not possible

6 ECTS: Seminar participants have to write a seminar paper (4,500-5,000 words plus tables, graphs and references), and to do a short presentation (25 minutes). In the paper, we expect a critical discussion of the paper, a reasoning for the extension and a discussion of the results. A placement in the literature is expected and the foundation for the critical discussion and the extension.

List of Topics:

1. ***Economic Conditions I : Economic growth and conflict in Africa***
Miguel, E., S. Satyanath, and E. Sergenti (2004): Economic shocks and civil conflict: An instrumental variables approach. *Journal of Political Economy* 112 (4): 725–753.
Miguel, E. and S. Satyanath (2011): Re-examining economic shocks and civil conflict. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 3 (4): 228–32.
2. ***Economic Conditions II : Trade and price shocks and conflict***
Bazzi, S. and C. Blattman (2014): Economic shocks and conflict: Evidence from commodity prices. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 6 (4): 1–38.
3. ***Economic Conditions III : Climate and natural disasters***
Bergholt, D. and P. Lujala (2012): Climate-related natural disasters, economic growth, and armed civil conflict. *Journal of Peace Research* 49 (1): 147–162.
4. ***Resources: Oil discoveries, wealth and conflict***
Cotet, A. M. and K. K. Tsui (2013): Oil and conflict: What does the cross country evidence really show? *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 5 (1): 49–80.
5. ***Actors in conflict: A dyadic analysis of civil wars***
Cunningham, D. E., K. Skrede Gleditsch, and I. Salehyan (2009): It takes two: A dyadic analysis of civil war duration and outcome. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53 (4): 570–597.
6. ***Inequality I : Landholding inequality and civil war***
Thomson, H. (2016): Rural grievances, landholding inequality, and civil conflict. *International Studies Quarterly* 60: 511–519.

7. ***Inequality II : Ethnic inequality, polarization, fractionalization***
Esteban, J., L. Mayoral, and D. Ray (2012): Ethnicity and conflict: An empirical study. *American Economic Review* 102 (4): 1310–1342S.
8. ***Politics and Institutions: US Food Aid***
Nunn, N. and N. Qian (2014): US food aid and civil conflict. *American Economic Review* 104 (6): 1630–1666.
9. ***Spillovers: Refugees and conflict in the country of asylum***
Salehyan, I. and K. S. Gleditsch (2006): Refugees and the spread of civil war. *International Organization* 60: 335–366.
10. ***Others forms of conflict : Protests and Coups d'état***
Johnson, J. and C. L. Thyne (2018): Squeaky wheels and troop loyalty: How domestic protests influence coups d'état, 1951–2005. *Journal of conflict resolution* 62 (3): 597–625.