

Empirical Research Seminar in Institutional Economics

Dr. Laura Renner

Winter term 2021/22

The Economics of Conflict

Dr. Laura Renner

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 such as 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: Depending on the covid-19 situation, the seminar will be hybrid (in person meetings for the block seminar and the Stata tutorial in the PC Pool) or entirely online.

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.
- Why replications and extensions? Check out for example: Liang, W., & Sim, N. (2019). Did rainfall shocks cause civil conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa? The implications of data revisions. *European Journal of Political Economy*, 60, 101808.

Dates:

- **Application** until October 1st, 2021 (with the application form, a ranking of preferred topics, and a transcript of records)
- **Allocation of topics by October 9th, 2021**
- **First meeting (mandatory):** October 19th, 2021, 14.00-18.00 h, ONLINE or in person (tbc))
- Withdrawal after October 19th, 2021 is not possible
- **Block seminar:** January 13th, 2022, from 9.00 to 16.00 and January 14th, 2022, from 9.00 to 16.00, ONLINE or in person
- Handing in presentations: January 12th, 2022
- Handing in the final paper: February 1st, 2022

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- **Individual meetings** to discuss extension ideas/structure of the seminar paper with Dr. Renner (online or in person meetings, prior booking required): November 12th, 2021 (9-14h) and December 10th, 2021 (9-14h)
- **Stata tutorial:**
 - Stata introduction (PC pool or online): October 22nd 2021, 9-14 h
 - Asynchronous: Descriptive Statistics, Estimation Techniques
 - Problem Set on How-to-Work-With-Stata with discussion in PC pool or online on October 29th, 2021, 9-14h
 - Live online Q&A for smaller questions concerning Stata: Fridays, 9- 11h
 - November 19th, 2021
 - December 3rd, 2021
 - December 17th, 2021
 - January 21st, 2022

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 give a presentation in the first meeting (5 minutes) as well as in the block seminar in January (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 : Income shocks and conflict***
Nicolas Berman, Mathieu Couttenier (2015); External Shocks, Internal Shots: The Geography of Civil Conflicts. *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 2015; 97 (4): 758–776.
2. ***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.
3. ***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.
4. ***Inequality I: Gender inequality***
Dahlum, S., & Wig, T. (2020). Peace Above the Glass Ceiling: The Historical Relationship between Female Political Empowerment and Civil Conflict. *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(4),
5. ***Inequality II : Landholding inequality and civil war***

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Thomson, H. (2016): Rural grievances, landholding inequality, and civil conflict. *International Studies Quarterly* 60: 511–519.

6. ***Inequality III : Ethnic inequality, polarization, fractionalization***

Bormann N-C, Cederman L-E, Vogt M. Language, Religion, and Ethnic Civil War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 2017;61(4):744-771.

7. ***Politics: US Food Aid***

Nunn, N. and N. Qian (2014): US food aid and civil conflict. *American Economic Review* 104 (6): 1630–1666.

8. ***Spillovers: Refugees and conflict***

Böhmelt T, Bove V, Gleditsch KS. Blame the victims? Refugees, state capacity, and non-state actor violence. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2019;56(1):73-87.

9. ***Mobilization I: The group and organizational level***

Vogt M, Gleditsch KS, Cederman L-E. From Claims to Violence: Signaling, Outbidding, and Escalation in Ethnic Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. March 2021. doi:10.1177/0022002721996436

10. ***Mobilization II: 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.