

## **Violence, conflict and the prospect for peace**

MA Seminar  
HWS 2017  
10 ECTS

Monday 12:00 – 13:30, Room: A 102 Seminarraum

Prof. Dr. Lilli Banholzer

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 – 12:30 by appointment via website

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This seminar focuses on the outbreak and the dynamics of violent conflict as well as ways to end wars and sustain peace and stability. We will start by looking at the concepts of "peace" and "war" and examine empirical trends. Is the world more violent or more peaceful than in the past? How can we measure peace and conflict? In the following we will take a closer look at the relationship between religion and war, as well as economics and war. Does religion cause war? Or are economic factors more important for explaining why people fight? We will devote sessions to study terrorism as an alternative way of fighting (as opposed to conventional and civil wars), migration as a source of peace and conflict and the various forms of violence used by different militant groups. Why are some groups so much more violent than others? What is the rational behind using different forms of violence? Finally we will have a look at empirical evidence concerning ways to end conflicts and sustain peace. Are peace missions for example an effective tool to make and sustain peace? Does development assistance foster development? The seminar is designed to provide MA-students with an in-depth insight into peace and conflict research. We will thereby answer (if possible) practical questions with scientific examinations and evidence.

## Overview

Session 1. 04.09.	General Intro into the Course
Session 2. 11.09.	Peace and War
Session 3. 18.09.	The Empirical Side of Peace and War
Session 4. 25.09.	Causes of Peace and War
Session 5. 02.10.	Religion, War and Peace
Session 6. 09.10.	Economics, War and Peace
Session 7. 16.10.	The Other Way to Fight: Terrorism
Session 8. 23.10.	Violence
Session 9. 30.10.	Refugees and Conflict
Session 10. 06.11.	Research week 1 // one-to-one
Session 11. 13.11.	Research week 2 // one-to-one
Session 12. 20.11.	Strategies for peace: Peace Missions
Session 13. 27.11.	Strategies for peace: Democratization and Development Assistance
Session 14. 04.12.	Make-up (in case needed)

## Course Requirements & Assessment:

- Regular attendance & active class participation
- Class presentation & leading the class discussion. **Every student is obliged to discuss his or her presentation one week in advance during my office hours with me.**
- A research paper, DEADLINE: January 22th (12 am). The paper will be 10-15 pages.
- Please hand in an electronic copy AND a printed version. The printed copy must be submitted to my secretary (not my colleagues) on the due date. Make sure to include an anti-plagiarism statement.

Presentation: Your presentation should consist of several components. How you arrange them is up to you.

- A general introduction into the topic. Be creative in your way of communication. No boring presentations are acceptable.
- An overview of the existing literature / types of studies.
- The presentation of at least one academic study including method, data and results (plus a critique of the former) in more detail.
- A group work. The group work may consist of several smaller parts or one large one. I highly encourage you to integrate questions, small group works (brainstorming / collecting ideas...) into your presentation.
- A wrap slide → In a nutshell, what were the most important points in your presentation.

In total, your presentation (including the group- work) should take up ca. 1 hour – depending on the discussions we are having it might take up a little more time.

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## Detailed Course Plan & Readings

### Session 1: General Intro into Course

### Session 2: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Research

#### Essential Readings

- Diehl, Paul F. 2016: Exploring Peace: Looking Beyond War and Negative Peace. *International Studies Quarterly*. 0, 1-10.

#### Check out:

- UCDP Datasets
- Global Peace Index

### Session 3: The empirical side of peace and war

Leading questions: How dangerous is our world today? How can we measure peace and war? What are the long-term and short-term trends?

#### Essential Readings

- Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Steven Pinker, Bradley A. Thayer, Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson 2013: The Forum: A Decline of War. *International Studies Review*. 15, 396-419.

#### Check out also:

- To watch: Steven Pinker on The Decline of Violence & "The Better Angels of Our Nature. Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_\\_XWMSz4aU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c__XWMSz4aU)

## Session 4: Causes of Peace and War

Leading questions: What is peace? Which factors contribute to peace? Are there certain features that “peaceful societies” share?

### Essential Readings

- Institute for Economics & Peace: Positive Peace Report 2015: Conceptualising and Measuring the Attitudes, Institutions and Structures that build a more peaceful society. Available at: <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Positive-Peace-Report-2015.pdf>

### Check out:

- UAB College of Arts and Science, Department of Anthropology project on “Peaceful Societies”: <https://cas.uab.edu/peacefulsocieties/societies/>

### Supplementary Readings

- Fabbro, David 1978: Peaceful Societies: An Introduction. *Journal of Peace Research*. 1(XV), 67-83.
- Adolf, Anthony 2009: *Peace: A World History*. Cambridge: Polity. (available in my office).
- Galtung, Johan. 1969. “Violence, Peace, and Peace Research.” *Journal of Peace Research* 6(3): 167-91.

## Session 5: Religion, War and Peace

Leading questions: How important is religion in today’s societies? What does this mean for conflict and war? Which role does religion play in civil wars?

### Essential Readings

- Duffy Toft, Monica 2007: Getting Religion? The Puzzling Case of Islam and Civil War. *International Security*. 31(4), 97-131.

### Supplementary Reading

- Monica Duffy Toft. 2006: Religion, Civil War, and International Order. BCSIA Discussion Paper 2006-03, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. <http://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/2006-03.pdf>

## Session 6: Economics, War and Peace

Leading questions: How important are economic factors for the outbreak and the dynamic of (civil) wars? How important are the individual factors poverty, resources and inequality?

### Essential Readings

- Ross, Michael. 2006. 'A Closer Look at Oil, Diamonds, and Civil War.' *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 265-300. (focus on impact of natural resources on civil war)

### Supplementary Reading

- Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler (2004): Greed and Grievance in Civil War. Oxford Economic Papers. 56(4), 563-95.
- Håvard Hegre, Gudrun Østby and Clionadh Raleigh. 2009. Poverty and Civil War Events: A Disaggregated Study of Liberia. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 53, pp. 598-623.
- Justino, Patricia (2009): Poverty and Violent Conflict: A Micro-Level Perspective on the Causes and Duration of Warfare. *Journal of Peace Research*.46(3), 315-333

## **Session 7: The other way to fight: Terrorism**

Leading questions: Which are the features and strategies of terrorism? Which are the causes of terrorism? Is terrorism an effective strategy?

### Essential Readings

- Fortna, Virginia Page 2015: Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes. *International Organization*. 69(3), 519 - 556

### Supplementary Readings

- Kydd, Andrew and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. 'The Strategies of Terrorism.' *International Security* 31(1): 49-80.

## **Session 8: Violence**

Leading questions: What is one-sided violence? What is the empirical evidence for one-sided violence? Which are the causes of one-sided violence? Can one-sided violence be stopped / prevented?

### Essential Readings

- Schneider, Gerald, Lilli Banholzer und Roos Haer. 2011: Cain's Choice: Causes of One-Sided Violence against Civilians. In *Causes of War: An Introduction to Theories behind Warfare and Collective Violence*, Tor Georg Jakobsen (Hrsg.) 2010. New York: Nova Science Publishers, 57-82.

### Supplementary Readings

- Elbert, Thomas, Roland Weierstall, and Maggie Schauer. 2010: "Fascination Violence: On Mind and Brain of Man Hunters." *European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience*. 260(2): 100-105.
- Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2006: „Handling and Manhandling Civilians in Civil War.“ *The American Political Science Review*. 100 ( 3): 429-447.
- Eck, Kristine, and Lisa Hultman. 2007: "One-sided Violence against Civilians in War: Insights from new Fatality Data". *Journal of Peace Research*. 44(2): 233-246.

- Valentino, Benjamin A. 2005: "Final Solutions. Mass Killing and Genocide in the 20th Century". Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 9-30.

## **Session 9: Refugees and Conflict**

Leading questions: In how far is conflict a cause for migration? In which way is migration a cause for conflict?

### Essential Readings

- Collier, Paul (2013): Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century. London, Allen Lane. Chapter 1 & 2.

### Supplementary Readings

- Schmeidl, Susanne (1997): Exploring the Causes of Forced Migration: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis, 1971-1990.
- Öberg, Magnus and Melander, Erik (2006): Time to Go? Duration Dependence in Forced Migration. *International Interactions* 32(2), 1-24.
- King, Russel (2012): Theories and Typologies of Migration: an overview and a primer. Willy Brandt Series of Working Papers in International Migration and Ethnic Relations. 3/12. Available at: <https://www.mah.se/upload/Forskningscentrum/MIM/WB/WB%203.12.pdf>

## **Session 10: Research Week 1**

## **Session 11: Research Week 2**

The two research weeks are for you to think about and decide upon a research topic and a research question for your final paper. Please make sure to make an appointment with me for a one-to-one talk about your concrete ideas, methods and data.

## **Session 12: Strategies for peace: Peace Missions**

Leading questions: What is the rationale behind peace missions? Do they work? What does the empirical evidence say?

### Essential Readings

- Fortna, Virginia Page (2004): Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War. *International Studies Quarterly*. 48(2), 269–292.

### Supplementary Readings

- Hartzell, Caroline, Matthew Hoddie and Donald Rothchild (2001): Stabilizing the Peace after Civil War: An Investigation of Some Key Variables. *International Organization*, 55(1), 183-208.
- Doyle, Michael W., and Nicholas Sambanis (2000): International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis. *The American Political Science Review*. 94(4), 779-801.

- Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2007): Demobilization and Reintegration. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 51(4), 531-567.
- Gilligan, Michael, and Stephen J. Stedman (2003): Where Do the Peacekeepers Go? *International Studies Review*. 5(4), 37-54

### **Session 13: Strategies for peace: Democratization and Development Assistance**

Leading questions: Does democratization cause peace? Does / how does development assistance work? What does the empirical evidence say?

#### Essential Readings

- Hegre, Havard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates and Nils Peter Gleditsch (2001): Toward a Democratic civil peace? Democracy, political change, and civil war, 1816-1992. *The American Political Science Review*. 95(1), 33-48.

#### Supplementary Readings

- Blaydes, Lisa and Mark Andreas Kayser (2011): Counting calories: Democracy and distribution in the developing world. *International Studies Quarterly*. 55(4), 887
- Gleditsch, Kristian S. and Michael D. Ward (2011): War and Peace in Space and Time: The Role of Democratization. *International Studies Quarterly*. 44 (1 ),1-29.

### **Session 14: Make up (in case needed)**