

Hannah Smidt, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-present **Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure track)** with a focus on International Governance and Organisation, School of Economic & Political Science, University of St. Gallen
- 2019-2022 **Head of the research area “International Security, Peace and Conflict”** at the Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2018-2019 **Post-doctoral Researcher** at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany
- 2017-2018 **Post-doctoral Research Fellow** at the Department of Politics and IR, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- 2013-2017 **Research Assistant and Teaching Fellow** at University College London, United Kingdom
- 2012-2013 **Research Assistant and Teaching Fellow** at the University of Mannheim, Germany

EDUCATION

- 2013-2017 **MPhil/PhD in Political Science, University College London**
Title: UN Peacekeeping and Electoral Violence in Conflict-Affected Countries
Advisors: Prof. Kristin M. Bakke, Prof. Neil Mitchell, Dr. Julian Wucherpfennig (Political Science) and Dr. Jun Wang (Computer Science)
(No grade awarded, passed without corrections)
- 2010-2012 **MA Political Science, University of Mannheim, Germany**
Graduated with distinction
- 2010-2011 **Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, USA**
Year abroad in the MA programme at the University of Mannheim
- 2007-2010 **BA Political Science, University of Mannheim, Germany**
Communication (minor), graduated with distinction
- 2009 **Institut d'études politiques (Sciences Po) Lille II, France**
One semester abroad (six months) in BA programme at the University of Mannheim

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS)

- 2025.** The backlash against civil society participation in international organizations: The case of human rights complaints mechanisms (with Christoph Steinert, University of Zurich and University of St. Gallen, 2022-2024 | reverse alphabetical author). Accepted at *British Journal of Political Science*
- 2024** Many hurdles to take: Explaining peacekeepers' ability to implement human rights activities on the ground. *Journal of Peace Research Online First* (with Sabine Otto, Uppsala University, and Constantin Ruhe, Goethe University Frankfurt | first author). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343324127634>
- 2024** A Red Flag for Public Goods? The Correlates of Closing Civic Space. *Governance Online First* (with Kristin Bakke and Neil Mitchell, both University College London | first author). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12894>
- 2024** UN peacekeeping upon deployment: Peacekeeping activities in theory and practice. *Cooperation and Conflict Online First* (with Sabine Otto, Uppsala University and Felix Kube, University of Konstanz | third author). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00108367241235888>
- 2024** Civil Society Under Attack: A Warning Sign of the Erosion of Horizontal Accountability Institutions. *Studies of Comparative International Development Online First* (with Jessica Johansson und Thomas Richter, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies | first author). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-023-09423-x>
- 2023** Peacekeepers without helmets: How violence shapes local peacebuilding by civilian peacekeepers. *Comparative Political Studies* 57(5): 778-817 (with Allard Duursma, ETH Zurich | alphabetical order). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140231178740>
- 2023** (UN-)protected Elections – Left for Good? Withdrawal of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and its Effects on Violence during Electoral Periods in War-Affected Countries. *International Peacekeeping* 30(2):165-179 (with Jana R. Kissling, University of Zurich | alphabetical order). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2022.2134121>.
- 2023** UN peacekeeping and Democratization in Conflict-Affected Countries. *American Political Science Review* 117(4): 1308-1326 (with Rob Blair and Jessica Di Salvatore | alphabetical order). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422001319>.
- 2022** Introducing the Peacekeeping Mandates (PEMA) Dataset. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 66(4-5): 924-951 (with Jessica Di Salvatore, Magnus Lundgren and Kseniya Oksamytna | alphabetical order). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027211068897>.
- 2021** When Do UN Peacekeeping Operations Implement Their Mandates? *American Journal of Political Science* 66(3): 664-880 (with Rob Blair and Jessica di Salvatore | alphabetical order) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12650>.
- 2021** Protecting the Vote? Peacekeeping presence and the risk of electoral violence. *British Journal of Political Science* 52(3): 1113-1132 (with Hanne Fjelde | alphabetical order) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123421000132>.
- 2021** Keeping electoral peace? Activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations and their effects on election-related violence. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 38(5): 580-604. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0738894220960041>.

2021 Silencing Their Critics: How Effective are Governments in Restricting Civil Society? *British Journal of Political Science* 51(3): 1270-1291 (with Dominic Perera, Kristin Bakke, and Neil Mitchell | reverse alphabetical order) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123419000693>.

2020 Mitigating Election Violence Locally: Election Education Campaigns of UN Peacekeepers in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Peace Research* 57(1): 199-216. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343319884993>.

2020 United Nations Peacekeeping Locally: Enabling Conflict Resolution, Reducing Communal Violence? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64(2-3): 344-372. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002719859631>.

2019 When States Crack Down on Human Rights Defenders. *International Studies Quarterly* 64(1): 85-96 (with Kristin Bakke and Neil Mitchell | alphabetical order). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqz088>.

2016 From a Perpetrator's Perspective: International Election Observers and Post-Electoral Violence. *Journal of Peace Research* 53(2): 226-241. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343315626240>.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

2024 Does It Matter if UN Peacekeeping Operations Implement Their Mandates? (with Robert A. Blair, Brown University, and Jessica Di Salvatore, Warwick University). **Under review at *International Organization***

2024 Greater than the sum of their parts: How cooperation between UN peacekeepers and local mediators leads to local conflict resolution (with Allard Duursma, ETH Zurich). **Target journal: *Journal of Peace Research***

2024 Can news media run by international organizations increase their legitimacy? **Target journal: *Journal of Politics***.

2024 The protective effects of UN radio (with Marc Werner, University of St. Gallen). **Target Journal: *International Organization***.

2024 Peacekeeping beyond bullets: The impact of civilian staff deployments on civilian protection. **Target journal: *American Journal of Political Science***

PUBLICATIONS (NOT PEER REVIEWED)

2023 UN Peacekeeping at 75: Achievements, Challenges, and Prospects, *International Peacekeeping* (with Duursma, Allard, Bara, Corinne, Wilén, Nina et al.). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2023.2263178>

2023 Exiting UN peacekeepers were unpopular in Mali. *Africa @ LSE*, 19 July.

2022 Peacekeeping and Electoral Violence. In: Han Dorussen. *Handbook on Peacekeeping and International Relations*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

2022 Ein gefährlicher Abschied? Was der Abzug von Friedensmissionen für die internationale Sicherheit bedeutet (with Jana R. Kissling), 23 Dec.

2020 Governments Around the World Are Restricting Rights, Using the Pandemic as Cover, *The Washington Post's Monkey Cage* (with Neil Mitchell and Kristin Bakke), May 6.

2019 From disaggregated findings to 'bigger picture' and spatial modelling implications in peacekeeping research. Reply to 'Violence reduction or relocation' by Laura Peitz and Gregor Reisch.

2018 Shrinking Civic Space in Africa: When Governments Crack Down on Civil Society. *GIGA Focus Africa* 4.

2018 Book review: Matanock, Aila M. 2017. Electing Peace. From Civil Conflict to Political Participation. Africa Spectrum 53(2): 135-138.

2015 Why the 2015 Presidential Election Was Peaceful, Africa at LSE Blog, Part of the African Elections series.

RESEARCH MONOGRAPH

2017 UN Peacekeeping and Electoral Violence in Conflict-Affected Countries. PhD dissertation submitted at University College London.

RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS / FIELDWORK

2023	Two weeks in Mali : Leading the implementation of a survey experiment and interviews
2015	Two months in Côte d’Ivoire : interviews with UN personnel and local and national politicians
2011	Two months in Senegal : interviews with pro-democracy activists

PRIZES AND AWARDS

2024	Reviewer Excellence Award 2024 of the British Journal of Political Science
2023	University of St. Gallen Latsis award for research achievements (CHF 25,000)
2017	Award for the best published PhD paper in the Political Science Department, UCL
2017	Dina Zinnes Award for the best PhD paper, Scientific Study of Int. Processes, ISA
2016	Cedric Smith Prize for best PhD paper, British Conflict Research Society
2016-2017	UCL Graduate Research Scholarship for Cross-Disciplinary Training (£16,000)
2013-2016	UCL Graduate Research Scholarship for three years (£48,000)
2010-2011	DAAD living and tuition stipend , Johns Hopkins University
2009	ERASMUS scholarship , Institut d’Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) Lille

FUNDING / GRANTS

2024-2027	Swiss National Science Foundation – UN-Popular: The Causes and Consequences of Citizens’ Opposition to UN Peace Operations (PI), CHF 674,350
2023	Basic Research Fund University of St. Gallen – The impact of citizen-focused communication by international organizations (PI), CHF 25,915
2022-2023	Folke Bernadotte Academy - People-centred Peacebuilding (PI), €26900
2019-2023	Swedish Research Council - Civilian Dimension of Peace Operations (Co-PI), €568149 (with PI Dr. Sabine Otto, Uppsala University, Sweden)
2018	Folke Bernadotte Academy Grant (Co-PI), €3900 (with Co-PI Dr. Rob Blair, Brown University, USA)

2018	German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Innovation Fund (PI), €2500
2017	Folke Bernadotte Academy Grant (Co-PI), €14672 (with Co-PI Dr. Rob Blair, Brown University, USA)
2017	International Studies Association travel grant, £500
2016	American Peace Science Society travel grant, £250

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

2025	Political Science Research Seminar at Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Germany
2025	Aarauer Demokratietage, Panel “War and Democracy», Aarau, Switzerland
2024	Workshop “Peace Dividends and Post-conflict” in London organized by Ismene Gizelis and Han Dorussen (Essex University)
2024	Symposium on the Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping organized by Prof. Jennifer Welsh and Prof. Emily Paddon-Rhoads with International Peace Institute (IPI) and UN Department of Peace Operations DPO), McGill University, Montreal, Canada
2024	Scientific workshop on social cohesion in post-conflict settings and researcher-practitioner exchange , Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden
2023	Immigration Policy Lab of Prof. Dominik Hangartner, Research Talk Series , ETH Zurich
2023	“UN Peacekeeping at 75” Workshop , ETH Zurich
2022	Pre-NEPS Workshop on Peace & Conflict Studies , University of Essex
2021	The Implications of COVID-19 for Civic Spaces , GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies and HSK Hessische Stiftung für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, Online workshop
2021	7th Hitotsubashi Summer Institute , Workshop on Economic Development, Tokyo University
2021	Introducing the Peacekeeping Mandates Dataset , King’s College, Online Presentation
2020	Pursuit of Peaceful Polling , Folke Bernadotte Academy
2020	Electoral Violence Workshop , Online University of Amsterdam
2020	ETH Conflict Research Group , Online Presentation
2019	Restrictions on Civil Society Organizations , NRW Eine Welt Landeskongferenz
2019	United Nations Peacekeeping and Inter-community Dialogue , Uppsala University
2019	United Nations Peacekeeping Locally , Folke Bernadotte Academy, Stockholm
2018	Using Force in Peacekeeping Operations , Norwegian Defence University College, Oslo
2018	Elections in Emerging Democracies , Folke Bernadotte Academy Research-Policy Dialogue, Stockholm
2018	Informal Governance after War , Global Governance Institute, University College London
2018	Electoral Violence Workshop , University of Amsterdam

2017	Future Agendas in Conflict Research , University of Oxford
2017	Cracking Down on Human Rights Defenders , University of Oxford (with Kristin Bakke)
2017	Combating Electoral Violence , King's College London
2017	Shrinking Civic Space , Global Governance Institute, University College London
2016	Peacekeeping and Election Violence , Conflict Research Society, Trinity College in Dublin
2016	The Future of Peacekeeping , Policy and Practice Seminar Series, University College London
2016	European Network of Conflict Research (ENCoRe) Workshops
2016	Peacekeeping and Election Violence , Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020-2025	Swiss Political Science Association Annual Meeting (regular attendance)
2018-2025	Network of European Peace Science (NEPS) Annual Meeting (regular attendance)
2016-2021	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting (regular attendance)
2015-2023	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention (regular attendance)
2015, 2016	Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, United States
2014, 2016, 2017	British Conflict Research Society Annual Meeting
2017, 2020	European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Meeting
2018	European Consortium of Political Science Research (ECPR) Annual Meeting
2021	52. Kolloquium der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung
2021	Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2020	Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW) , Annual Meeting

SUPERVISING AND MENTORING

PhD Theses

2025-2028	Susana de Pinho Tavares (Main supervisor)
2024-2027	Jana R. Kissling, ETH Zurich (Second supervisor)

MA theses

2019-present	21 theses (15 at University of St.Gallen)
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BA theses

2019-present	43 theses (16 at University of St.Gallen)
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TEACHING AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT

2025	MA Consultancy Course with Fondation Hironnelle , University of St. Gallen
2023, 2024	BA seminar, Civilian Peace Missions , University of St. Gallen
2023, 2024, 2025	MA seminar, International Governance of Conflict Manag. , University of St. Gallen
2023	BA seminar, Political Violence: Causes & Consequences , University of St. Gallen
2022-2024	Lecture, Quantitative Methods , University of St. Gallen (in German & English)
2020, 2021	BA Seminar, The Politics of Peace , University of Zurich
2020	BA seminar, Politics of Human Rights , University of Zurich
2020, 2021	Lecture, Conflict and Security , University of Zurich
2019	MA seminar Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding , University of Zurich
2019, 2020, 2023	BA seminar Political violence , University of Zurich and University of St. Gallen
2013-2017	MSc seminars Terrorism (seminars) , UCL
2015	MSc block seminar Binary cross-section, time-series analysis , UCL
2013-2016	BA tutorial Introduction to int. relations and conflict studies , UCL
2013- 2016	BA tutorial Introduction to political economy , UCL
2013	MA/PhD Tutorials Modelling heterogeneity , Essex Summer School
2013	BA seminar Comparative methods for studying conflict , University of Mannheim
2012	BA seminar Introduction to peace and conflict studies , University of Mannheim

CONSULTANCY

2017	Consultant for the Development Leadership Programme - Gender Equality Fund
2017	Consultant for CIVICUS on Tracking Civic Space

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

External PhD Supervisor

2024-2027	ETH Zurich, second supervisor (Jana R Kissling; main supervisor: Lars-Eric Cederman)
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External PhD Defences:

09/2022	University of Bergen, examiner (Lisa-Marie Selvig)
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Referee:

08/2021	Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung (German Foundation for Peace Research)
05/2021	Heinz Eulau Award Committee Member (American Political Science Association)

Panel Organization:

- 09/2021 Organisation of a session in the Colloquium of the CIS Centre for Comparative and International Studies (University of Zurich / ETH Zurich)
- 08/2019 New Directions in the Study of UN Peacekeeping (together with Dr. Rob Blair), 115th APSA Annual Meeting, Washington DC
- 08/2018 Mitigating Electoral Violence (together with Dr. Mascha Rauschenbach) *European Consortium of Political Science Research (ECPR)* General Conference, *Hamburg*
- 09/2016 Disaggregating Peacekeeping: New Data on Operation Attributes (together with Dr. Gaby Lloyds), 112th APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Reviewer:

- E.g., African Affairs, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Africa Spectrum, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, European Journal of International Relations, Government and Opposition, International Interactions, International Organization, International Peacekeeping, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, The Journal of Politics, International Studies Quarterly, Party Politics, Political Geography, Studies in Comparative International Development, Terrorism & Political Violence, Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung. Etc.
- Reviewer Excellence Award 2024 of the British Journal of Political Science

Services to the department

- Organization and moderation of the political science research seminar (University of St.Gallen)
- Member of ad-hoc working on criteria for promotion from Associate to Full Professor (University of St.Gallen)
- Organization and moderation of the research seminar at the Institute of Political Science (University of Zurich)
- Member of the Diversity Group at the Institute of Political Science (University of Zurich)
- Speaker of the research team (GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Swiss Political Science Association

Folke Bernadotte Academy (on invitation)

International Studies Association (Section: Scientific Study of International Processes)

Network of European Peace Scientists

LANGUAGES

German (native), English (B2), French (B2)

SOFTWARE

Python (beginner), LaTeX (advanced), html/css (beginner), R (advanced), STATA (advanced)