

## Abstracts

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### **The Blood Trail of the Veto: Forecasting the Risk of Extreme Massacres in Syria**

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An abundance of large data sets and improved estimation methods have enabled conflict researchers to estimate the risk of war or terrorist incidents quite precisely. However, as it is the case with predicting particularly violent earthquakes, forecasting extremely bloody events in ongoing conflicts has been difficult until now. This chapter reports how power laws can be used to predict extreme massacres *ex post* and *ex ante*. The power law distribution we use is based on the observation that standard probability distributions like the normal distribution typically underestimate the risk of such escalations. Using data on fatalities in the Syrian civil war until the end of February 2013, we estimate the probability of a single event with 250 or more killed civilians at 80% (60%-94%) and between March and May 2013 at up to 48%. We discuss the ethical and practical implications of these findings and argue that the forecasts could provide a transparent risk assessment tool to decision makers.

**Keywords:** one-sided violence, civil war, power law distribution, conflict prediction, early warning, Syria

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### **The Heidelberg Approach to Conflict Data Collection**

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Quantitative comparative conflict research achieved significant progress in the past decade. On the one hand, technical innovation has led to an enormous broadening and deepening of our knowledge about political conflicts. On the other hand, the research institutes engaged in quantitative data collection made considerable conceptual efforts to cope with the wealth of empirical information and to enable a realistic representation of contemporary conflicts. The geographic disaggregation of conflicts and a turn towards non-state actors have yielded considerable progress. Certain research desiderata remain, however. In particular, this refers to taking into consideration conflicts of no or low violence, to the conceptual integration of various types of conflict into a coherent model, to the inclusion of conflict dynamics, and to the valid measurement of the intensity of conflicts. Against this background, the

present chapter compares the state of research of leading conflict datasets and especially focuses on the newly reformed Heidelberg approach to conflict data collection.

**Keywords:** quantitative conflict research, conflict datasets, conflict intensity, georeferencing

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**Europeanization on the Ground: The Frontex Mission *Nautilus II* in the Mediterranean Sea**

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This chapter is based on ethnographical research carried out in Malta in 2007. It describes and analyses the *Nautilus II* mission of the European border agency Frontex. The European countries try to handle the phenomenon of undocumented migration by sea in the context of European co-operation and on a bilateral basis. The European border patrol agency Frontex constitutes a new actor in the Mediterranean. Frontex's mission of preventing boats from landing on EU territory clashes with the basic cornerstone of European refugee protection: the protection of refugees from being returned to places where they might be subjected to persecution and the prohibition of sending them back without considering their proposal for asylum (the principle of *non-refoulement*). Using an approach that combines the empirical study of border regions with a legal anthropological perspective, this chapter analyses the legal insecurities of the Frontex missions as well as their effects on refugees in the Mediterranean Sea and on European refugee protection. It explores how new parameters for refugee protection are emerging in the border regions of the European Union.

**Keywords:** Frontex, Malta, legal anthropology, refugees, Mediterranean

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**Using Force if Need Be? Global Justice and the Justification of Military Intervention**

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The literature review draws on recent debates of international ethics and global justice about military intervention. International Political Theory (IPT) and normative IR-theory both discuss the question of responsibility of states beyond own borders and their moral obligations to prevent human suffering. The debates on global justice regarding the use of force ask whether human rights violations might outweigh fundamental norms such as state sovereignty rights. From a cosmopolitan

perspective numerous reasons for military interventions can be identified. On the contrary, critical approaches point to the problem of liberal hierarchies in such a conceptualization of global justice. Discourse ethical approaches might offer some alternatives, but are themselves confronted with difficulties. For peace and conflict research these debates on global justice and military intervention are of interest as the »justice motive« is frequently used by politics to overcome public resistance. Theorizing on moral grounds can reduce the hindrances for military interventions.

**Keywords:** international ethics, global justice, just war theory, humanitarian interventions