

Sebastian Ziaja

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Department of Politics and Public Administration
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Research interests

International relations: international determinants of conflict and regime change

Comparative politics: political regimes; regime change; state capacity

Political methodology: measurement; clustering methods; causal inference

Current position

University of Konstanz (Konstanz, Germany) 10/2018–03/2019

Chair for Comparative Politics of Non-democratic States

Interim full professor substituting for Prof. Dr. Nils Weidmann (W3-Vertretungsprofessur)

Affiliations

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

(Bonn, Germany) 07/2014–*present*

Department Governance, Statehood, Security

Associate fellow

Previous positions

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (Eschborn, Germany) 05/2018–11/2018

Independent consultant in a governance index project for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Hertie School of Governance (Berlin, Germany) 01/2018–09/2018

Lead analyst for the *Governance Report 2018*

Heidelberg University (Heidelberg, Germany) 07/2014–04/2018

Research Center for Distributional Conflict and Globalization
and *Max Weber Institute for Sociology*

Postdoctoral researcher

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

(Bonn, Germany) 03/2008–06/2014

Department Governance, Statehood, Security

Researcher; research, training and policy advice on fragile states, foreign aid and democratization

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) [formerly GTZ]

(Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Eschborn, Germany) 09/2006–12/2006 and 04/2007

Field research for my master thesis in Haiti and the Dominican Republic; intern and consultant

Education

University of Essex (Colchester, United Kingdom) 10/2010–06/2014

Department of Government

PhD in Government, 17 June 2014

Thesis: “A nudge too far? The effects of democracy aid on democratization and political instability”

Advisors: Kristian S. Gleditsch (Essex; *chair*) and Jörg Faust (DIE)

Examiners: Katharina Michaelowa (University of Zurich) and Han Dorussen (Essex)

Universität zu Köln (Cologne, Germany) 10/2002–01/2008

Diplom (Masters equivalent) in Regional Studies Latin America, 29 January 2008

Subjects: political science, Latin-American history, Spanish and Portuguese language and literature, economic and social geography, international law

Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale” (Naples, Italy) 09/2004–03/2005

Latin-American history and literature

Awards

Rudolf Wildenmann Prize 2014 for the best paper by a young scholar at the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops for “Diversity Trumps Quantity: Types of Foreign Aid, Donor Fragmentation and Democratization”

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “More donors, more democracy”, forthcoming in *The Journal of Politics*, earlier version available as *University of Heidelberg Department of Economics Discussion Paper* 640 [open access]

Martin Elff and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Method factors in democracy indicators”, *Politics and Governance* 6(1), 92–104 [open access]

Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja, and Merle Kreibbaum (2015): “Disaggregating state fragility: a method to establish a multidimensional empirical typology”, *Third World Quarterly* 36(7), 1281–1298; also appeared in Rachel Gisselquist (ed.) (2017): *Fragility, aid, and state-building: understanding diverse trajectories*, Routledge, 13–30 [open access]

Jörg Faust, Jörn Grävingholt, and Sebastian Ziaja (2015): “Foreign aid and the fragile consensus on state fragility”, *Journal of International Relations and Development* 18(4), 407–427; available as DIE Discussion Paper 8/2013 [open access]

Sebastian Ziaja (2012): “What do fragility indices measure? Assessing measurement procedures and statistical proximity”, *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 1(6), 39–64

Book chapters

Axel Dreher, Valentin Lang, and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Foreign aid”, in: Thomas Risse, Tanja A. Börzel and Anke Draude (eds): *Oxford Handbook of Governance and Limited Statehood*, Oxford University Press, 394–415; earlier version available as *CESifo Working Paper* 6340 [open access]

Helmut Anheier, Sonja Kaufmann, and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Ten years after: the global financial and economic crisis – impact and implications”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 13–28

Kai Wegrich and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Governing capacities after the global financial and economic crisis depleted, refilled, or steady state?”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 47–63

Helmut Anheier, Luciana Cingolani, Mark Hallerberg, Sonja Kaufmann, Regina A. List, Jean Pisani-Ferry, Kai Wegrich, and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Global crises and governance: lessons, implications, recommendations”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 105–118

Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata (2010): “State fragility indices: lessons for development policy”, in: Claske Dijkema, Karine Gatelier, Ivan Samson, Josiane Tercinet (eds.): *Rethinking the Foundations of the State: An Analysis of Post-Crisis Situations*, Bruylant, 417–430

Ulrich Volz and Sebastian Ziaja (2010): “Die Auswirkungen der Finanzkrise auf fragile Staaten” [“The impact of the financial crisis on fragile states”], in: Christiane Fröhlich, Margret Johannsen, Bruno Schoch, Andreas Heinemann-Grüder, Jochen Hippler (eds.): *Friedensgutachten [Peace Report] 2010*, Lit, 376–388

Work in progress

Sebastian Ziaja, Jörn Grävingholt, and Merle Kreibaum: “Constellations of state fragility: an empirical typology”, October 2018, *revise and resubmit*

Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Sebastian Ziaja: “External signals, democracy movements, and liberalization”

Sebastian Ziaja: “Regime type matters for civil conflict onset”

Sebastian Ziaja: “Fuel or water to the fire? A country-month analysis of foreign aid and political unrest in Africa”

Sebastian Ziaja: “What’s the beef with fried chicken? A spatial analysis of local exposure to globalization by Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants and domestic conflict in Africa”

Christine Hackenesch, Svea Koch, and Sebastian Ziaja: “World problems and problem-solving capabilities: an empirical typology of countries”

Sebastian Ziaja: “Political liberalization and the monopoly of violence”

Martin Elff and Sebastian Ziaja: “Improving the measurement of regime dynamics”

Policy publications and working papers

Sebastian Ziaja (2014): “Donor fragmentation in democracy support has its benefits”, *KfW Development in Brief* 25 [open access]

Julia Leininger and Sebastian Ziaja (2014): “Conflicting objectives in democracy promotion: avoiding blueprint traps and incomplete democratic transitions”, *DIE Briefing Paper* 11/2014 [open access]

Jörg Faust and Sebastian Ziaja (2012): “German aid allocation and partner country selection: development-orientation, self-interests and path dependency”, *DIE Discussion Paper* 7/2012 [open access]

Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja, and Merle Kreibaum (2012): “State fragility: towards a multi-dimensional empirical typology”, *DIE Discussion Paper* 3/2012 [open access]

Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata (2010): “State fragility indices: potentials, messages and limitations”, *DIE Briefing Paper* 10/2010 [open access]

Jörn Grävingholt, Stefan Gänzle, and Sebastian Ziaja (2009): “The convergence of peacebuilding and state building: addressing a common purpose from different perspectives”, *DIE Briefing Paper* 4/2009 [open access]

Javier Fabra Mata and Sebastian Ziaja (2009): *Users’ Guide on Measuring Fragility*, Oslo: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) [open access]

Presentations and workshops

American Political Science Association (APSA), annual meeting 2013, 2015

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), annual meeting 2016, methods workshop 2016

Conflict Research Society (CRS), annual conference 2017

Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW), section development theory and policy 2008; working group democracy research 2009; section comparative political science 2015, 2017; section methods 2017; section international relations 2017

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), general conference 2009, 2013; joint sessions 2013, 2014

European Network on Conflict Research (ENCoRe), spring and/or fall meetings 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

European Political Science Association (EPSA), general conference 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

International Political Economy Society (IPES), annual conference 2015

International Political Science Association (IPSA), joint conference with ECPR 2011

International Studies Association (ISA), annual convention 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018

Peace Science Society (PSS), joint conference with ISA 2013

Invited presentations and research stays

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) workshop “Autocratic diversity: new distinctions and neglected issues”, Aarhus University, 28–29 September 2017

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project, “Visiting scholars program”, V-Dem Institute, Gothenburg University, 10–16 September 2017

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), “Workshop on defining a multi-dimensional approach to fragility for the OECD States of Fragility Report 2016”, BMZ, Berlin, 15 October 2015

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), “The evolving conceptualization of fragility and the EU comprehensive approach to external conflict”, FES, Brussels, 16 October 2014

OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), “The 18th DAC network on governance plenary meeting”, European Commission, Brussels, 29 January 2014

World Bank Center on Conflict Security and Development, UNDP and OECD, “Expert workshop on peace-building and state-building indicators”, Washington, D.C., 27–28 September 2011

World Bank International Development Association (IDA), “Working group on fragile and conflict-affected states”, Washington, D.C., 25 September 2011

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Crisis States Research Centre, “Expert workshop on measuring poor state performance”, London, 20–21 May 2010

USAID/OECD-DAC, “International network on conflict and fragility (INCAF) meeting”, Washington, D.C., 5 November 2009

Organization of workshops, panels, and summer schools

Panel “Democracy, autocracy, hybrid regimes: approaches to the measurement and classification of political regimes” at the Congress *Frontiers of Democracy* of the German Association for Political Science (Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft; DVPW), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, 25-28 September 2018 (co-organized with Martin Elff)

Lecture series “The end of globalization? Understanding the challenges to international cooperation”, Heidelberg University, October 2016 to February 2017; speakers included, among others, Andrew Moravcsik, Andrew K. Rose, Nita Rudra, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (co-organized with Andreas Fuchs)

“European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe) spring meeting 2015”, DIE, Bonn, 5-7 March 2015 (co-organized with Sabine Carey)

Workshop “Political institutions and inclusive development”, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 10-11 November 2014 (co-organized with Helmut Anheier, Luis Camacho and Jörg Faust)

DIE summer school “Research design”, Gary Goertz (University of Arizona), DIE, Bonn, 12-16 July 2011

High-level panel “Indices on fragility and conflict – what use and implications for European development policy in Africa?”, European Development Days, Stockholm, 22–24 October 2009 (co-organized with Javier Fabra Mata)

Teaching experience

Graduate seminar “Autocracy and democracy: concept and measurement”, University of Konstanz, 2018 (scheduled)

Graduate seminar “Political impacts of information technology”, University of Konstanz, 2018 (scheduled)

Undergraduate seminar “Foreign aid and violent conflict”, University of Konstanz, 2018 (scheduled)

Undergraduate seminar “State capacity: domestic and international perspectives”, University of Konstanz, 2018 (scheduled)

Graduate seminar “Causality: theoretical foundations and empirical strategies”, Heidelberg University, 2017

Graduate seminar “Social science indicators”, Heidelberg University, 2016

Graduate seminar “Measuring conflict”, Heidelberg University, 2015

Undergraduate seminar “War, democracy and foreign aid”, University of Mannheim, 2014

“Development and security”, yearly one-day postgraduate course on development policy at DIE, with Jörn Grävingholt, 2009–2014

Teaching assistance for Luke Keele, “Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”, Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis (ESS), 2012

Teaching assistance for Marco Steenbergen, “Logit and probit models”, ESS, 2011

Methods training

“Hierarchical models”, by Jeff Gill, Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis (ESS) 2013

“Modelling heterogeneity in cross-sectional and panel data”, by Daniel Stegmüller, ESS 2012

“Causal inference in the social sciences”, by Benn Jann, GESIS Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne, 2012

“Panel data analysis for comparative research”, by Chris Adolph, ESS 2011

“Selection and strategic models”, by Curtis Signorino, ESS 2011

“Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”, by Luke Keele, ESS 2010

“Structural equation modelling with AMOS”, by Markus Wirtz, University of Duisburg-Essen, 2010

“Mathematical tools for social scientists: matrix algebra with R”, by Martin Elff, GESIS, Cologne, 2009

“Non-linear multivariate analysis and multidimensional scaling”, by Patrick Groenen, GESIS, Cologne, 2009

“Advanced research methods”, by Vera Troeger, University of Essex, 2010/11

“Basic econometrics”, Center for Development Studies (ZEF), Bonn, 2008

“Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)”, by Andrea Herrmann, University of Cologne, 2007

Peer reviewing

For academic journals:

American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Democratization, European Journal of International Relations, European Political Science Review, International Peacekeeping, Journal of International Relations and Development, Journal of Peace Research, Politics and Governance, The Lancet Global Health, Research & Politics, Review of International Organizations, Third World Quarterly, World Development

For funding agencies:

Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung (DSF; German Foundation for Peace Research)

Memberships

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK; Association for Peace and Conflict Studies)

Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW; German Political Science Association)

European Political Science Association (EPSA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

Consulting

Hertie School of Governance, 2018

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 2006, 2018

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), 2015–2018
Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2013, 2015–2016
German Institute for Development Evaluation / Deutsches Evaluierungsinstitut der Entwicklungs-
zusammenarbeit (DEval), 2015
InWent Capacity Building International, 2010

Language skills

German (native)
English, Spanish (fluent)
French, Italian, Portuguese (basic speaking, good reading skills)

Programming skills

Advanced skills in R (including GIS), Stata, LaTeX, github