An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2018

During 2018, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff for most of the year, and hire an additional five research assistants. During the spring semester, UCDP had two part time interns, Ognjen Gogic and Rickard Süder. During the first half of the fall semester, UCDP had one full-time intern, Mert Can Yılmaz.

In October 2018, Magnus Öberg became the UCDP Director, taking over the position from Kristine Eck. Margareta Sollenberg served as an interim director during September.

In January 2018, UCDP released the first version of the public API covering all UCDP core datasets. This allows researchers and interested parties to interface directly with UCDPs computer systems, through a simple yet fully functional machine-to-machine communication method.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out four times during 2018, to more than 500 recipients. UCDP has also promoted its newsletters, publications etc. via social media.

In November, UCDP produced and published a tutorial on how to use the UCDP encyclopedia (starring UCDP’s Marcellina Priadi).

We have engaged in a strong partnership with the European Union ERC Advanced Grant funded Violence Early Warning System (ViEWS) also located at the Department. This will allow for a faster release cycle from UCDP in the future as well as provide data to ViEWS researchers.

We have also engaged with the Varieties of Democracy Programme (V-Dem) project for future joint projects and partnerships. As part of this UCDP participated in the V-Dem Annual Conference at the University of Gothenburg in 2018, and co-hosted, with V-Dem and others, the ‘Policy Dialogue Day’ in Gothenburg on 30 May 2018.

During 2018, the work continued apace on UCDP’s bid to become a national infrastructure funded by Vetenskapsrådet (VR). The Governance, Conflict and Democracy (GCD) consortium formed by V-Dem, QoG in Gothenburg and H-Data in Lund in 2017 was invited to submit a proposal for a national infrastructure consortium together with two other context data consortia – The European Policy Lab based in Stockholm, and REPDEM based in Umeå. In October, work started on forming a larger consortium – DEMSCORE – based on the three original consortia. On February 15 2019 an infrastructure application on this basis was submitted to VR.

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2018.

Research Funding

Applications submitted
UCDP submitted a project proposal to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Infrastructure) “Automation of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program”. Principal Investigator: Kristine Eck.

Grants received
The infrastructure application “Automation of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program” to Riksbankens Jubileumsfond received funding. The grant amounted to 5 477 180 SEK for the years 2020-2021 (research collaboration between Uppsala University and RISE SICS. Approximately 2.9 mkr of the grant will be requisitioned by RISE SICS from Uppsala).
Datasets released during 2018

- UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset
- UCDP External Support in Non-state Conflict Dataset

Using the new front-end, users can now create subsets of UCDP GED based on their navigation patterns on the fly (dynamically).

Press releases

UCDP sent out a press release on 18 June 2018 named "Antalet döda I organiserat våld minskar"  
https://www.uu.se/nyheter-press/nyheter/artikel/?id=10994&area=2,6,16,25,46&typ=artikel&lang=sv

Media

Appearances in the media

- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Uppsala Nya Tidning on 2018-01-17 “2017 var ett blodigt år”  
  http://www.unt.se/nyheter/uptidning/artikel/?id=mgUmHS6uuGn-tb1CM8eA8ZfIp-h9n
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by 24Uppsala ”Uppsalaforskarna: Året då IS är slut? ”De kommer troligen fortsätta genomföra attacker på civila mål runt om i världen.”” 2018-01-17  
  http://24uppsala.se/2018/01/17/uppsalaforskarna-aret-da-is-ar-slut/
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Sveriges Radio P4Uppland on 2018-01-18 regarding violence in 2017.
- Therese Pettersson wrote a note on why definitions are important in Aftenposten 1 February 2018 “Datainnsamling knyttet til væpnede konflikter“  
  https://www.aftenposten.no/meninger/debatt/i/9mEgvl/Dagens-kortinnlegg--torsdag-1-februar?fbclid=IwAR3y010CVAH8huVsUctsm_in0z0fYO5AwgRZ6dEs-KNY6zs3t0evNevs
- Emil Petersson was interviewed (1/3) by Sveriges Radio (SR) for broadcast "Fast i rättsligt limbo: 'Det känns som att han har gett upp'". Emil did not appear in broadcast, interview was just to provide journalist with background on ongoing conflicts in Libya. Aired on 2018-03-16,  
- Marcellina Priadi was interviewed by Radio Utblick for a podcast on Mexico, 2018-03-21.  
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed for Riksbankens Jubileumsfonds “Forskningsnyheter” 2018-05-21  
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Dagens Nyheter on 2018-06-18 in connection to the data release  
  https://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/dodsoffer-i-krig-sjunker-for-tredje-aret-i-rad/. This was picked up by, among others, Aftonbladet  
  (https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/QlAxJP/farre-dor-i-krig-och-konflikter) and
Eskilstunakuriren (https://www.ekuriren.se/nyheter-fran-tt/farre-dor-i-krig-och-konflikter/). Also TV4 Nyheterarna mentioned the trends and new data from UCDP in their news on both 2018-06-17 and 2018-06-18

- Stina Högbladh was interviewed by Radio Canada on 2018-07-03, https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1111665/pays-en-guerre-conflits-victimes
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by ETC 2018-07-07 on the defeat of IS https://www.etc.se/utrikes/veckans-fraga-ar-helt-besegrade
- Stina Högbladh was interviewed by Forskning & Framsteg about the Nobel Peace Prize, on 2018-10-05 https://fo.se/artikel/nobels-fredspris-for-kamp-mot-sexuellt-vald
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by ETC on the security situation in Afghanistan on 2018-10-14 https://www.etc.se/inrikes/valdet-har-blivit-fullkomligt-oforutsagbart
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by BBC for the More or Less Podcast on the myth of 90% civilian fatalities in modern wars. The program initially aired on 2018-11-24.
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Tidningen Hemvärnet on conflict trends in Issue 6 2018 (December).
- Therese Pettersson was interviewed by Dagens Nyheter on the recent trends in armed conflict on 2018-12-25 “Dödligaste kriget nu i Afghanistan – går om Syrien” https://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/dodligaste-kriget-nu-i-afghanistan-gar-om-syrien/?fbclid=IwAR27w_AiqK6UIWerj1hjBQnlcLMpjcUM0mOW9EX6Cc6BbDa2hNtlr7efNc

Media referring to UCDP (selected)

- Paris Match 2018-09-16 “Karim, le Charlie Chaplin de l’Afghanistan, veut rendre le sourire à son pays” https://www.parismatch.com/Actu/International/Karim-le-Charlie-Chaplin-de-l-Afghanistan veut rendre le sourire a son pays.1574394
- Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 2018-12-06 on Swiss arms exports to conflict countries “So viele Waffen exportiert die Schweiz bereits heute in Länder, die Krieg führen” https://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/waffenexporte-schweiz-liefert-vermehrt-in-laender-mit-konflikten-ld.1422907

Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching

- Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP at the Strengthening inclusion and Sustaining Peace in Latin America Seminar arranged by Uppsala University and the Dag Hammarsköld Foundation in Bogota, Colombia 15-19 January 2018.
- Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP at Senioruniversitetet in Uppsala, 7 February 2018.
- Peter Wallensteen held a presentation in Granada 14 February 2018
- Peter Wallensteen held a lecture to CEMUS 1 March 2018
- Emil Petersson held a lecture on UCDP at Jensen Gymnasium 5 March 2018
- Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP data to the Finish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Stockholm 9 March 2018.
- Magnus Öberg gave a talk on conflict trends and forced migration to the Nordic Inter Parliamentary Union at Wallmstedtska Gården, Uppsala 9 March 2018
- Peter Wallensteen held a lecture at the Diplomatic Training Program, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs 15 March 2018.
- Kristine Eck presented UCDP to a Rotary International/Rotary Foundation delegation which visited Uppsala on 20 April 2018.
- Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP conflict trends at the UN Security Council retreat at Backåkra, Sweden 21 April 2018.
- Garoun Engström presented UCDP, with a focus on Latin America, at a Mass Violence Awareness Initiative (MVAI) lunch lecture 26 April 2018.
- Margareta Sollenberg gave a presentation on UCDP to a Rotary International/Rotary Foundation delegation which visited Uppsala on 14 May 2018.
- Emil Petersson and Christie Nicoson presented UCDP to a group from Hafiza Merkezi: Defending Peace in Difficult Times who visited Uppsala on 17 May 2018.
- Emil Petersson presented UCDP at Rotary Uppsala Norra lunch event on 15 May 2018.
- Margareta Sollenberg gave a presentation on UCDP and Emil Petersson and Marcellina Priadi staffed a UCDP stand at the Policy Dialogue Day in Gothenburg on 30 May 2018.
- Margareta Sollenberg held a lecture on UCDP for the International Training in Dialogue and Mediation (ITDM) at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, on 4 June 2018.
Kristine Eck and Therese Pettersson met with Professor Timothy Clark, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Social Sciences and Health) Durham University, on 29 August 2018.

Margareta Sollenberg presented UCDP to Mr Michael Wilson, Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who visited Uppsala on 31 August 2018.

Therese Pettersson presented UCDP to Chelsea E Kaser from the US department of State Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary, who visited Uppsala on 8 September 2018.

Emil Petersson and Marcellina Priadi held a lecture on UCDP for Master students in Uppsala 5 September 2018.


Therese Pettersson presented UCDP to Professor Kwon from the Global Research Center at Sunmoon University, South Korea, who visited Uppsala on 27 September 2018.

Therese Pettersson participated in and held a presentation at the international conference ‘How safe is Afghanistan’ in Stockholm 4 October 2018. Pettersson also participated in the concluding panel discussion.

UCDP participated in the “Choose Peace” exhibition in London, which was hosted by Community Albums and The Salvation Army to celebrate 100 years since the end of WWI. Maps, data and information from JPR 2018 were exhibited between 10 November and 7 December. http://www.communityalbums.com/pages/chart/choose-peace / https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5aihb8zSCw / https://twitter.com/ChoosePeace2018/status/1081157960901029889 (Mert, Lukas & Marcellina)

Emil Petersson presented UCDP at Utrikespolitiskt convent in Uppsala 11 November 2018.

Therese Pettersson held a presentation at MR-dagarna (Swedish Forum for Human Rights) on 15 November 2018.

Gabrielle Lövquist presented UCDP at ”Torsdagsseminarium Öppen föreläsningsserie i freds- och konfliktvetenskap” Lund University, 22 November 2018.

Kajsa Tidblad-Lundholm presented UCDP at Jensen gymnasium, Uppsala 3 December 2018.

Emil Petersson held a presentation of UCDP and a brief discussion on possible use of the Encyclopedia at Armémuseum, Stockholm 12 December 2018.

UCDP is part of an online course on “Accounting for Death in War: Separating Fact from Fiction” by Future Learn, https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/accounting-death-war?fbclid=IwAR2yBuLa2UVEZMx3sYiO6CL0sWLVY1o563apCTai_BtLq1AmNeNT_2LxOA. Lotta Themnér and Therese Pettersson figure in a video interview in the course.

Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Data workshop PreView, 17 January 2018
- ISA Annual Convention San Francisco 4-7 April 2018
- Workshop on Forecasting Political Violence, University College London, 18-19 May 2018
- How safe is Afghanistan 4 October 2018, Stockholm
- MR-dagarna (Swedish Forum for Human Rights) 15-17 November, Stockholm
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Incorporating Spatial Analysis and Big Data in International Relations Studies and Conflict Research workshop, 11 December 2018
International cooperation

In October 2018 UCDP joined an international initiative led by the Brookings Institute and SIPRI aimed at developing better data for measuring SDG 16. The initiative known as the Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) includes several well-known data collection projects, universities and research institutes in the US, Europe and elsewhere.

2018 employees
Marie Allansson
Garoun Engström
Shawn Davies
Helena Grusell
Nanar Hanach
Lukas Hegele
Stina Högbладb
Jenniina Kotajoki
Gabrielle Lövquist
Fredrika Moberg
Emil Petersson
Therese Pettersson
Marcellina Priadi
Margareta Sollenberg
Lotta Themnér
Kajsa Tidblad-Lundholm
Peter Wallensteen
Per Åsberg
Magnus Öberg

Publications (by members of UCDP)

Journal Articles


Blog posts


Publications, using UCDP data (selected)

Journal Articles and Reports


**Blog posts**


PRIO Blog 2018-12-18 “The Clash of Guns and Swords: Game of Thrones and Reality”