



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

ViEWS

– a political Violence Early Warning System

Topic: *Forecasting Changes in Monthly Fatalities in Armed Conflict*

Date: *8-9 October 2020*

Time: *14:00-18:00 (GMT+2/UTC+2)*

Place: *Zoom/Uppsala*

THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER

Meeting rooms

Room A

Zoom Meeting ID: 667 6354 6071

Zoom Link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66763546071>

Password: 312924

Room B

Zoom Meeting ID: 619 5973 1557

Zoom Link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61959731557>

Password: 316862

Schedule

11:30-13:00 **Lunch**

Venue: *Ristorante Villa Romana (Gamla Torget 4)*

14:00-15:00 **Welcome**

Chair: *Håvard Hegre, Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Liana Lopes*

Venue: *Zoom room A*

15:10-17:40 **Breakout sessions**

See next page

17:45-18:00 **Conclusion**

Chair: *Håvard Hegre, Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Liana Lopes*

Venue: *Zoom room A*

18:30- **Dinner**

Venue: *Meza (Östra Ågatan 11)*



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Thursday, cont.

Breakout session – Zoom room A

Chair: *Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Micaela Wannefors*

- 15:10-15:40 Challenging the Status quo: Predicting Violence with Sparse Decision-making Data
Konstantin Bätz, Ann-Cathrin Klöckner, Gerald Schneider
- 15:50-16:20 The Role of Governmental Weapons Procurements in Forecasting Monthly Fatalities in Intrastate Conflicts: A Semiparametric Hierarchical Hurdle Model
Cornelius Fritz, Marius Mehl, Paul W. Thurner, Göran Kauermann
- 16:30-17:00 Click, Click Boom: Using Wikipedia Statistics to Predict Battle-related Deaths
Christian Oswald, Daniel Ohrenhofer, Oguzhan Turkoglu
- 17:10-17:40 ViEWS Competition: Adding Event Data and Spatio-Temporal Graph Convolutional Networks
Patrick Brandt, Vito D’Orazio, Latifur Khan, Yi-Fan Li, Javier Osorio, Marcus Sianan

Breakout session – Zoom room B

Chair: *Håvard Hegre*

Moderators: *Muyi Yang, Hannah Frank*

- 15:10-15:40 Using Past Violence and Current News to Predict Changes in Violence
Hannes Mueller, Christopher Rauh
- 15:50-16:20 Ensemble Averaging of Specialized Random Forest and Gradient Boosting Models for the Improvement of Conflict Prediction
Felix Ettensperger
- 16:30-17:00 Conflict Early Warning and Monthly Fatalities Forecasting with Data at Scale and Adaptive Elastic Net
Fulvio Attinà, Marcello Carammia, Stefano Iacus
- 17:10-17:40 Spatial Convolutions for High Resolution Conflict Forecasts
Benjamin J. Radford





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FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER

Meeting rooms

Room A

Zoom Meeting ID: 667 6354 6071

Zoom Link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66763546071>

Password: 312924

Room B

Zoom Meeting ID: 619 5973 1557

Zoom Link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61959731557>

Password: 316862

Schedule

11:30-13:00 **Lunch**

Venue: *Borgen Restaurang och Festsalar (Orphei Drängars plats 1)*

14:00-14:10 **Welcome**

Chair: *Håvard Hegre, Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Angelica Lindqvist-McGowan*

Venue: *Zoom room A*

14:15-16:45 **Breakout sessions**

See next page

17:00-18:00 **Conclusion**

Chair: *Håvard Hegre, Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Angelica Lindqvist-McGowan*

Venue: *Zoom room A*

18:30- **Dinner**

Venue: *Messob (Sturegatan 4A)*





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Place: *Zoom/Uppsala*

Friday, cont.

Breakout session – Zoom room A

Chair: *Paola Vesco*

Moderator: *Angelica Lindqvist-McGowan*

- 14:15-14:45 Developing a State-space Model for Predicting Conflict Data
Andreas Lindholm, Johannes Hendriks, Adrian Wills, Thomas B. Schön
- 14:55-15:25 Forecasting Changes in Monthly Fatalities: a Shape-based Approach
Thomas Chadeaux
- 15:35-16:05 Predicting De-escalation of Violence: Exploiting Local Peacekeeping Data
Lisa Hultman, Maxine Leis, Desirée Nilsson
- 16:15-16:45 Recurrent Neural Networks for Conflict Forecasting
Iris Malone

Breakout session – Zoom room B

Chair: *Håvard Hegre*

Moderator: *Micaela Wannefors*

- 14:15-14:45 Predicting Escalating and De-escalating Violence in Africa Using Markov Models
David Randahl, Johan Vegelius
- 14:55-15:25 ViEWS Prediction Competition Entry: PRIO-GRID v.3
Jonas Vestby, Jürgen Brandsch, Vilde Bergstad Larsen, Peder Landsverk, Andreas F. Tollefsen
- 15:35-16:05 Forecasting Political Instability in Africa with Automated Machine Learning Systems
Vito D’Orazio, Yu Lin
- 16:15-16:45 Predicting Conflict as Images: A Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory approach
Gareth Lomax, Nils W. Metternich





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List of participants

Competition participants:

Adrian Wills, The University of Newcastle (School of Engineering)
Andreas F. Tollefsen, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
Andreas Lindholm, Uppsala University (Department of Information Technology)
Ann-Cathrin Klöckner, University of Konstanz
Benjamin J. Radford, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Christian Oswald, Trinity College Dublin
Christopher Rauh, University of Cambridge
Cornelius Fritz, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Department of Statistics)
Daniel Ohrenhofer, Trinity College Dublin
David Randahl, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)
Desirée Nilsson, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)
Felix Ettensperger, Universität Freiburg
Fulvio Attinà, University of Catania
Gerald Schneider, University of Konstanz
Göran Kauermann, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Department of Statistics)
Hannes Mueller, IAE (CSIC) and Barcelona GSE
Iris Malone, George Washington University
Javier Osorio, University of Arizona
Johan Vegelius, Uppsala University (Department of Statistics)
Johannes Hendriks, The University of Newcastle (School of Engineering)
Jonas Vestby, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
Jürgen Brandsch, Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)
Konstantin Bätz, University of Konstanz
Latifur Khan, The University of Texas at Dallas
Lisa Hultman, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)
Marcello Carammia, University of Catania
Marcus Sianan, The University of Texas at Dallas
Marius Mehl, University of Essex (Department of Government)
Maxine Leis, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)
Oguzhan Turkoglu, Trinity College Dublin
Patrick Brandt, The University of Texas at Dallas
Paul W. Thurner, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science)



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List of participants, cont.

Peder Landsverk, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Stefano Iacus, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Thomas B. Schön, Uppsala University (Department of Information Technology)

Thomas Chadeaux, Trinity College Dublin

Vilde Bergstad Larsen, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Vito D'Orazio, The University of Texas at Dallas

Yi-Fan Li, The University of Texas at Dallas

Yu Lin, University of Texas at Dallas

Other speakers:

Gareth Lomax, University College London

Nils Metternich, University College London

Organization Committee/Editors:

Håvard Hegre, ViEWS Project leader; Professor Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University and Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

Michael Colaresi, William S. Dietrich II Chair of Political Science and currently the Research and Academic Director at the Institute for Cyber Law, Policy and Security at the University of Pittsburgh.

Paola Vesco, Post-doctoral researcher at Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research).

Scoring Committee:

Michael Don Ward, Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Duke University; Affiliate Professor at University of Washington

Nils B. Weidmann, University of Konstanz (Department of Politics and Public Administration)

Adeline Lo, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Glenn B. & Cleone Orr Hawkins Chair, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Department of Political Science)

Gregor Reisch (formerly German MFA)



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List of participants, cont.

Other ViEWS Team Members:

Angelica Lindqvist-McGowan, Uppsala University (Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research)

Espen Geelmuyden Rød, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

James Dale, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Jia (Muyi) Yang, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Hannah Frank, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Liana Lopes, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Micaela Wannefors, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Mihai Croicu, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Naima Mouhle, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

Remco Jansen, Uppsala University (Department of Peace and Conflict Research)

