



## **The winner of the Cedric Smith Prize 2020 is... Sebastian van Baalen!**

The Conflict Research Society congratulates Sebastian van Baalen, winner of the Cedric Smith Prize 2020. Sebastian is a doctoral candidate in his last year at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University. The Cedric Smith Prize is awarded annually to the best article or thesis chapter in peace and conflict research by a PhD student.

Sebastian's winning article "Guns and governance: Local elites, civil resistance, and the responsiveness of rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire" addresses an intriguing question about rebel governance, namely why some rebels solicit and act upon civilian preferences much more than others. The paper has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Peace Research*. Sebastian demonstrates that local elites' clientelist networks fundamentally influence rebels' responsiveness to civilians in the areas they govern. The jury was impressed both by the novel theoretical argument and the combination of existing survey data with unique interview and archival data collected during eight months of fieldwork in Côte d'Ivoire. Overall, this research emphasizes the importance of civilian agency and civil resistance in improving rebel governance and civilian protection.

The CRS received 23 excellent submissions for the prize from all over the world (this was the first year the prize was open to PhD students outside the UK and RoI). The winner was selected by an international jury consisting of Prof. Hugh Miall (University of Kent), Dr. Anne-Kathrin Kreft (University of Gothenburg), Dr. Luke Abbs (University of Essex, former prize winner), and Dr. Corinne Bara (Uppsala University, Chair of the Jury).

Find out more about the prize

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## **Announcement: The CRS AGM will be held online on 13 November from 16:00 to 17:00**

It's time for the annual general meeting of the CRS. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like to join, please [contact us](#) to let us know and we will provide an individual invite for the meeting. See minutes from the previous meeting [here](#).

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## **In case you missed it: Reclaiming Everyday Peace, CRS Book Prize Talk with Dr Pamina Firchow**

This talk was held online on 24 September. In case you were not able to attend, you can now watch the event [here](#).

Find out more about the prize

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## **Calls for Papers**

### **Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS) Annual Conference 2021**

Date: 29 June - 1 July 2021 - London, UK

Abstract submission deadline:

**31 January 2021**

[Submit an abstract](#)

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## **COVID-19 and Conflict**

**Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy releases**

## special issue on COVID-19

The September (special) issue of Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy, contains excellent pieces reflecting on the Post-COVID-19 World. [Check it out](#).

### **Palestinian women most affected by COVID-19 and annexation - blog post by Ibrahim Natil**

COVID-19 and Israeli annexation pose new challenges to civil society and community participation in occupied Palestinian territories, [writes Dr Ibrahim Natil](#).

### **As COVID-19 fuels conflict, threatens international security, global unity to fight terrorism is needed more than ever, UN Secretary-General tells Aqaba Process meeting**

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres' spoke at the Aqaba Process virtual meeting on COVID-19 response in New York on 2 September 2020. See his full comments [here](#).

### **Conflict, climate crisis and COVID-19 pose great threats to the health of women and children - World Health Organization report**

"Conflict, climate instability and the COVID-19 pandemic are putting the health and well-being of all children and adolescents at risk. The COVID-19 crisis, in particular, is exacerbating existing inequities, with reported disruptions in essential health interventions disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable women and children. At the height of pandemic lockdowns, schools were closed in 192 countries, affecting 1.6 billion students. Domestic violence and abuse of girls and women increased. Poverty and hunger are also on the rise..." Find the report [here](#).

For more stories, reports, blogs, including also development related material, see a list of resources compiled by the [Political Settlements Research Programme](#).

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## Peace and Conflict Jobs

### **Programme Officer (parental leave), Kvinna till Kvinna, Erbil, Iraq**

Deadline: 7 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)

### **Consultation: Report on Diasporas, Memory and Reconciliation in Europe, The International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP)**

Deadline: 9 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)

### **Co-Director (Programmes), The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders), The Hague, Netherlands**

Deadline: 10 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)

**Gender Expert, European Institute of Peace, Kabul, Afghanistan**

Deadline: 13 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Research Fellow in Conflict and Migration, University College  
London, UK**

Deadline: 14 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Science, University of Oslo,  
Norway**

Deadline: 15 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Postdoctoral Fellow/Assistant Professor on Autocratic Politics,  
University of Oslo, Norway**

Deadline: 15 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Data Scientist/Insight Analyst, World Vision, UK**

Deadline: 18 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Post-doctoral Researchers in the field of Terrorism and Political  
Violence, University of Leiden, Netherlands**

Deadline: 23 October 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Senior Researcher: "International Cyber Security (ICS)",  
University of Hamburg, Germany**

Deadline: 5 November 2020

[Full advertisement](#)**Researcher, Interpeace, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

Deadline: Ongoing

[Full advertisement](#)

For peace and conflict jobs in the tertiary sector see the website of the [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#), which lists vacancies for its many members.

For Academic positions see [jobs.ac.uk](#) and [THE](#).

For European academic funding opportunities (including PhDs, Postdocs, etc.) see [EURAXESS](#).

If you have any recommendations to add to this list, please hit reply to this email and let us know!

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## Upcoming Events/Opportunities

## [A Recital for Peace, Musicians for Peace and Disarmament Online Concert](#)

When: **7 October, 19:30 BST** Where: **Online**

MPD's patron pianist Roger Vignoles will be joined by tenor James Gilchrist to perform a beautiful programme of songs directly and indirectly about pacifism, including works by Mozart and Beethoven, and by English composers Jonathan Dove, Gerald Finzi and Ivor Gurney. The concert is free and donations will go to organisations in the peace movement. [Register here](#).

## [New book series 'Protest, Power and Resistance' Open for Proposals](#)

McGill-Queen's University Press would love to hear from members who might have proposals to discuss with them. Check out the flyer (link in title), or contact [Sarah Marsden](#) or [Richard Baggaley](#), editors, for more information.

## [International meeting \(online\) on Sustainability Disaster Management and Peace](#)

An International meeting (online) on Sustainability Disaster Management and Peace will be held at Mahatma Gandhi International Center of Conflict Prevention and Management, ABBS School of Management, Bangalore, India on **July 26-27, 2021**.

Persons interested to participate are requested to contact [Manas Chatterji](#), or [Madhumita Chatterji](#) for details.

## [International meeting \(online\) on Challenges of Globalization and COVID-19](#)

An International meeting (online) on Challenges of Globalization and COVID-19 will be held at Graduate School of International Studies on **January 21 2021**.

Persons interested to participate are requested to contact [Manas Chatterji](#) or [Urs Luterbacher](#) for details.

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## **CRS Members in Action**

**Power or values?... UN, 1945; CRS, 1963; John Burton... Xi, Trump**



The UN was founded in 1945. The CRS was founded in 1963. [John Burton](#) (1915-2010) was at both. He was a key member of the [Australian delegation](#) to the UN conference in San Francisco in 1945. He was the founder of the Conflict Research Society in 1963. His chapter in [Conflict in Society](#) (1963), pages 370-401, contains a critique of the dominant 'realist' or 'power politics' approach to international relations and outlines the key components of an alternative based on reciprocity, co-ordination and cooperation. This contrast was echoed at the session of the UN General Assembly last week to mark the [75th anniversary](#) of its founding: [Donald Trump's](#) 'America First' and [Xi Jinping's](#) 'cooperation', (but see discussion in VWSM Weekly). [International perceptions](#) of USA and China have been analysed elsewhere. A [Chicago Conference report](#) last week reported an America divided in their perceptions of the international arena. These and other topics are discussed in [this week's issue](#) (see especially pages 10-12 on John Burton) of Gordon Burt's new [VWSM Weekly](#).

## Emerson's Taxonomy of Decision-making

When voting on a decision, the extent to which the outcome can be described as representing the collective will, the consensus, (and the will of the majority), increases (a) as the voting procedure becomes more consensual and (b) as the number of options increases in excess of two... usually, on topics complex and/or controversial, up to a maximum of six.

[Read all about it.](#)

## The Politicians' prayer: DEAR LORD, GIVE ME CONSENSUS... BUT NOT YET

You cannot best get a consensus by majority voting. After all, with so many votes 'for' and so many 'against', it measures the very opposite, the degree of dissent. So, just as you would not measure the temperature of a Covid-19 patient with a thermometer which had only two readings, 'hot' and 'cold', so too in politics, we should not seek to identify the voter's or the MP's will with an instrument which has only two calibrations, 'yes' and 'no'.

Majority voting is a blunt instrument, which may produce an outcome which is inaccurate if not indeed incorrect. Furthermore, it is manipulable and often manipulated. Yet it is the basis of umpteen democracies, many of which

practice binary majority rule or majoritarianism. The latter was and is a cause of conflict in countless conflict zones, yet majority voting remains ubiquitous, not only in democracies but also in one-party states.

In contrast, preferential points voting – the Modified Borda Count MBC – is robust, inclusive, and far more accurate. It is also non-majoritarian. If it were the international norm, every democracy could have an all-party power-sharing government (and not just the Swiss).

[Read the full piece here.](#)

**DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE FOR THE CRS?**

[CONTACT US](#)



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