

# Christian Oswald

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Research Associate, Center for Crisis Early Warning  
University of the Bundeswehr Munich · Center for Intelligence and Security Studies

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## Current position

Research Associate, [Center for Crisis Early Warning, Uni Bw Munich](#) 02/2022–present

## Research interests

Substantive: Political Violence and Instability, International and Civil Conflict

Methodological: Quantitative Methods, Computational Social Science, Prediction, Causal Inference

## Education

[Trinity College Dublin](#)

*Dublin, Ireland*

Ph.D. in Political Science

09/2017–04/2023

Advisor: [Prof. Thomas Chadeaux](#)

Examiners: [Prof. Charles Butcher](#), [Prof. Nils Metternich](#)

[University of Nottingham](#)

*Nottingham, United Kingdom*

M.A. in International Relations (Research Track)

09/2013–12/2014

[University of Mannheim](#)

*Mannheim, Germany*

M.A. in Political Science

08/2012–09/2014

B.A. in Political Science

08/2009–07/2012

## Research

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Oswald, Christian, and Daniel Ohrenhofer. 2022. "[Click, click boom: Using Wikipedia data to predict changes in battle-related deaths.](#)" *International Interactions* 48(4): 678–696.

Oswald, Christian, Melanie Sauter, Sigrid Weber, and Rob Williams. 2020. "[Under the Roof of Rebels: Civilian Targeting After Territorial Takeover in Sierra Leone.](#)" *International Studies Quarterly* 64(2): 295–305.

### PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

"Staying local: The effect of battlefield dynamics on the timing and location of terrorism in civil conflicts"

"The revolution will not be typewritten: Comparing topics among the three generations of the Red Army Faction"

"[Sharpening blunt instruments: Exploiting non-linearities to enhance identification](#)" with Christopher Schwarz and Sally Sharif

"[Taking time seriously: Predicting conflict fatalities using temporal fusion transformers](#)" with Julian Walterskirchen, Sonja Häffner, and Marco Binetti

"[The 2023/24 VIEWS Prediction Challenge: Predicting the Number of Fatalities in Armed Conflict, with Uncertainty](#)" with Håvard Hegre, Paola Vesco, Michael Colaresi, Jonas Vestby, et al.

[“Mass Reproducibility and Replicability: A New Hope”](#) with Abel Brodeur, Derek Mikola, et al.

#### WORKING PAPERS

“Margin of (t)error: Predicting terrorism in civil conflicts for theory building and improvement”

“Listening to the wind of change: Predicting protest dynamics in autocracies using Wikipedia page changes”

“I still haven’t found what I’m looking for: Predicting conflict fatalities and security-related incidents with Google Trends and Wikipedia data”

“The night before or the morning after: Coup risk, failed coup attempts, and minister removals in autocracies” with Marco Binetti, Christoph Dworschak, Sonja Häffner, and Julian Walterskirchen

“Identification at scale: Exploiting first stage heterogeneity in instrumental variables designs” with Christopher Schwarz and Sally Sharif

“Caught up in the moment: The effect of changes in territorial control on the timing, location and intensity of state-based and one-sided violence in civil conflicts”

#### REPLICATION REPORTS

Christian Oswald, Julian Walterskirchen, Sonja Häffner, Marco Binetti and Christoph Dworschak. 2023. [Replication of The Morning After: Report from the Nottingham Replication Games](#). *I4R Discussion Paper No. 45*.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

“Common enemies make strange bedfellows: Peacekeeping presence and inter-rebel dynamics in civil war” with Christoph Dworschak, Jenniina Kotajoki, and Marcella Morris

“Resistance in the Streets, Data in the Sheets: A conceptual and empirical appraisal of protest event data” with Christoph Dworschak, Hannah Frank, Maxine Leis, and Maurice Schumann

“Outsourcing war: The strategic logic behind choosing pro-government militias or private military contractors” with Nadine O’Shea

“A change is gonna come: Predicting anti-government protest onsets in autocracies by issue area with Wikipedia page changes”

“Wikipedia page changes as fine-grained measure of contention and controversy”

#### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Oswald, Christian, and Daniel Ohrenhofer: [Using Wikipedia for conflict forecasting](#). *ECPR’s The Loop*. 19 July 2022.

Oswald, Christian, Melanie Sauter, Sigrid Weber, and Rob Williams: [Civilian Victimization and Rebel Territorial Control in Sierra Leone](#). *The Quantitative Peace*. 13 April 2020.

### Teaching experience

#### INSTRUCTOR

International Conflict (PG)	09/2021–01/2022
Contemporary International Relations (UG)	09/2021–01/2022
Research Methods for Political Science (UG)	09/2021–01/2022

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

International Relations (UG)	09/2018–08/2021
Introduction to Political Science (UG)	09/2017–08/2018

## Training

<a href="#">Summer Institute in Computational Social Science</a> APIs, web scraping, networks, NLP, ML, ABM	University of Edinburgh 2023
<a href="#">Responsible Public Engagement Institute</a> Direct engagement with policy actors, Disseminating research to policy audiences	University of Denver 2021
<a href="#">ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research</a> Bayesian modeling I & II, Game Theory I & II	University of Michigan 2018, 2019
<a href="#">IQMR Summer Institute</a> Multi-method Research, Natural Experiments, Causal Models & Text Analysis	Syracuse University 2019
<a href="#">BIGSSS Computational Social Science Summer School on Conflict</a> Analyzing conflict dynamics at the event-level	Jacobs University 2018
<a href="#">EITM Europe Summer Institute</a> Theoretical and methodological foundations	University of Mannheim 2014
<a href="#">ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques</a> Panel Data Analysis	University of Vienna 2014

## Presentations

(\* indicates nonpresenting co-author)

### CONFERENCES

Conflict Research Society, Edinburgh (scheduled)	09/2024
ECPR General Conference, Dublin (scheduled)	08/2024
European Political Science Association*, Cologne	07/2024
Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, Dublin	06/2024
Conflict Research Society, London	09/2023
European Political Science Association, Glasgow	06/2023
COMPTXT, Glasgow	05/2023
Conflict Research Society, Belfast	09/2022
European Political Science Association, Prague	06/2022
PolMeth Europe, Hamburg	06/2022
COMPTXT, Dublin	05/2022
Society for Political Methodology (virtual)	07/2021

Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference (virtual)	06/2021
European Political Science Association (virtual)	06/2021
PolMeth Europe (virtual)	03/2021
Conflict Research Society, Brighton	09/2019

#### WORKSHOPS

Authoritarian Political Systems Group (APSG) Workshop (virtual)	03/2024
CCEW Symposium, Center for Crisis Early Warning, Munich	10/2023
ViEWS Prediction Challenge*, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin	10/2023
Empirical Peace and Conflict Research, AFK Methods section, Munich	09/2023
CCEW Symposium, Center for Crisis Early Warning, Munich	11/2022
Empirical Peace and Conflict Research, AFK Methods section, Denmark	09/2022
PRIO Research School Symposium, Oslo (virtual)	09/2022
CCEW Symposium, Center for Crisis Early Warning (virtual)	10/2021
ViEWS Prediction Competition (virtual)	10/2020
IQMR Summer Institute, Syracuse	06/2019
Peace Research Institute Oslo, Oslo	03/2018

#### INVITED TALKS

PaCE Conflict Forecasting Workshop, Dublin	03/2024
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (virtual)	07/2023

### Funding and Awards

#### GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship for Political Science Research (ICPSR)	2019
NSF Open Pool Scholarship (IQMR)	2019
EITM Certification Scholarship (ICPSR)	2018
Trinity Trust & Department Travel Grants	2018, 2019, 2021
Ph.D. Scholarship (Department of Political Science)	09/2017–07/2021
<a href="#">Center for Doct. Studies in Soc. and Behav. Sciences</a> Travel & Research Grant	06/2014
<a href="#">School of Politics and International Relations</a> Student Fund	12/2013
ECPR Travel and Accommodation Grant	12/2013
Qualification Scholarship ( <a href="#">GESS</a> )	09/2013–08/2014
Erasmus Scholarship	01/2011–06/2011

## AWARDS

ViEWS Prediction Competition Award for Transparency & Replicability	2022
Teaching Certificate of Achievement ( <a href="#">School of Social Sciences and Philosophy</a> )	2020
<a href="#">PRIO Research School on Peace &amp; Conflict</a> Member	03/2018–present
Associated Member of <a href="#">GESS CDSS</a> , University of Mannheim	09/2013–08/2014

## Research & work experience

Research Associate, <a href="#">Center for Crisis Early Warning, Uni Bw Munich</a>	02/2022–present
Teaching Fellow, <a href="#">Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin</a>	09/2021–01/2022
Teaching Assistant, <a href="#">Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin</a>	09/2017–08/2021
Research Assistant, <a href="#">CONIAS Risk Intelligence</a>	02/2015–08/2017
Junior Research Assistant, <a href="#">ICPVTR, RSIS, NTU Singapore</a>	06/2013–09/2013
Research Assistant, <a href="#">Institute of Baltic Studies</a>	08/2011–09/2011
Student research assistant, <a href="#">MZES &amp; SFB 884 “Political Economy of Reforms”</a>	02/2010–01/2015

## Skills

### STATISTICAL SOFTWARE & PROGRAMMING

R, JAGS, BUGS, Stan, Python, Stata, SPSS, SQL, Git, Markdown,  $\text{\LaTeX}$

### LANGUAGES

German (native), English (fluent), Spanish & French (good), Russian & Estonian (basic)

## Service and professional activities

### PEER REVIEW

*Conflict Management and Peace Science, Data & Policy, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Global Security Studies, Political Analysis, Terrorism and Political Violence*

### DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair and/or discussant at the 2023 Conflict Dynamics Workshop; Comtext 2023; CRS 2019, 2022 & 2023; IQMR Summer Institute 2019; EPSA 2021 & 2022; AFK Methods section workshop 2022 & 2023; Trinity College Dublin Friday Seminar 2020 & 2021

Co-organizer AFK Methods section annual workshop (2023, University of the Bundeswehr Munich)

Co-convenor Departmental Research in Progress Workshop (Fall 2021, Trinity College Dublin)

### MEMBERSHIPS

European Political Science Association, Network of European Peace Scientists, Conflict Research Society, Society for Political Methodology

## References

Available upon request