

Jeffrey T. Checkel

Simons Chair, Simon Fraser University
Global Fellow, PRIO
jtcheckel@sfu.ca

PhD Seminar
31 August, 1, 4-6 September 2017
Peace Research Institute Oslo
Peace Room

Governance, Identity and War

A Doctoral Course within the University of Oslo, NTNU and PRIO
Research School on Peace & Conflict

Overview: Through multiple disciplinary perspectives, this seminar explores three broad processes - governance, identity, and war – that shape much of contemporary peace and conflict studies. How does governance work at the global level and, in particular, what role do institutions play? Are international organizations (sometimes) a force for good, or (mostly) ineffectual 'talk shops'? We see an ever-growing amount of international human-rights law making, yet horrific abuses of such rights continue. Why?

Regarding identity, you and I have one. States have identities. Regions have identities. Identities establish boundaries and markers ('this is who we are!'), and create senses of shared community. But how does identity matter in shaping political outcomes? When does it lead to violence – genocide or sexual assault, say? When is it benign? It has become a commonplace to talk of a European identity, and to see it as force for good. Yet both Brexit and the current refugee crisis suggest it may be weaker than many suspect.

Finally, international wars – that is, a war between two states – seem to be a relic of the past. Yet, sadly, organized violence persists; however, it is now most often an instance of civil war. How do we explain the origins and duration of such wars? Why do some rebel groups engage in horrific acts of sexual violence while others do not? What – if anything - can the international community do to mitigate the worst effects of such conflicts?

We will explore these issues through a careful reading of major works by political scientists, economists, sociologists, and institutional theorists, among others. These will be supplemented with articles and chapters that provide critical context and background.

Admission: Please fill in the application form on the [course homepage](#). PhD candidates should specify the topic of their project under 'Research interests.' PhD students get priority, but others with graduate training from a relevant discipline may also apply.

There is no course fee, but the cost of transportation and accommodation must be covered by the participants. A limited number of stipends to cover basic accommodation at the neighbouring Anker Hotel are available for PhD students who do not have funding for such course participation through their universities.

If needed to make the necessary travel arrangements, students may request an early evaluation of their application in an e-mail to Marte Nilsen (marte.nilsen@prio.org).

Credits: 10 ECTS.

Requirements: There are three.

1) Active Participation in Class Discussions: The course will be run as a seminar, where debate and discussion are the norm; for each session, written discussion questions will serve as our starting point. For this format to be successful, students need to read the seminar readings prior to our first meeting on 31 August.

2) Preparation of Discussion Points: For each class session, students should prepare a brief list of discussion questions and comments (3-5 in number); these should be based on the readings and will be distributed to all other seminar participants. (Please make sufficient copies for distribution!) Your questions/comments should reflect a critical assessment of those readings. What are their strong and weak points? Their theoretical, methodological, empirical contributions? How do they relate to or build upon other readings or discussions?

3) Completion of an Analytic Essay: Students have two options. (I) Prepare an analytic review on a topic that is of special interest and is consistent with the course's purpose and theme; or (II) prepare a draft research design for a PhD project where the course subject matter plays some role. In either case, essays should be 6000-10000 words and are due by 15 December 2017. On the first day of class – Thursday, 31 August - students should provide the instructor with a 1-2 page introduction to their proposed essay. These overviews will then be discussed at one-on-one meetings on the morning of Monday, 4 September, 0900-1200, when there will be no formal class sessions.

Readings: The following 4 books – all available as paperbacks - should be purchased.

- Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. 2004. *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Fligstein, Neil. 2009. *Euroclash: The EU, European Identity, and the Future of Europe*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Risse, Thomas, Stephen Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink. Eds. 2013. *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Simmons, Beth. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Students should be able to access most other assigned reading – especially journal articles - through their local libraries. A number of hard-to-get readings (chapters in books not recommended for purchase; forthcoming articles) will be made available on the [course homepage](#) by early August.

Syllabus and Class Schedule

Day #1: Thursday, 31 August

Session I (0900 – 1030): Global Governance and Institutions – Perspectives from Economics and Sociology

Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press – Chapters 1, 5-6.

Johnston, Alastair Iain. 2001. "Treating International Institutions as Social Environments." *International Studies Quarterly* 45/4: 487-515.

Session II (1030 – 1200, 1315 – 1400): Governance and Institutions - The Power, Pathologies and Legitimacy of International Organizations

Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. 2004. *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press – Chapters 1-2, 5-6.

Session III (1400 – 1630): Governance and Human Rights I – Insights from International Law and Political Science

Simmons, Beth. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Chapters 1-4, 6, 9.

Day #2: Friday, 1 September

Session IV (0900 - 1100): Governance and Human Rights II – Insights from Sociology

Risse, Thomas, Stephen Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink. Eds. 2013. *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Chapters 1, 4, 8-9, 12-13.

Session V (1100 – 1200, 1315 - 1415): Identity and Great Powers

Hopf, Ted. 2002. *Social Construction of International Politics: Identities and Foreign Policies, Moscow, 1955 and 1999*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press – Chapters 1-3.

Session VI (1415 - 1630): Identity and Regional Institutions

Fligstein, Neil. 2009. *Euroclash: The EU, European Identity, and the Future of Europe*. NY: Oxford University Press – Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8.

Checkel, Jeffrey T. and Peter J. Katzenstein. Eds. 2009. *European Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Chapters 1, 7.

Day #3: Monday, 4 September

Session VII (0900 - 1200): Individual Meetings on Course Essays

Session VIII (1315 - 1630): Identity and Violence

Kalyvas, Stathis. 2008. "Ethnic Defection in Civil War." *Comparative Political Studies* 41/8: 1043-68.

Checkel, Jeffrey T. 2017. "Socialization and Violence: Introduction & Framework." *Journal of Peace Research* 54/5 (forthcoming in September).

Wood, Elisabeth and Nathaniel Toppelberg. 2017. "The Persistence of Sexual Assault within the US Military." *Journal of Peace Research* 54/5 (forthcoming in September).

Fujii, Lee Ann. 2017. “‘Talk of the Town’: Explaining Pathways to Participation in Violent Display.” *Journal of Peace Research* 54/5 (forthcoming in September).

Day #4: Tuesday, 5 September

Session IX (0900 - 1200): Civil War – (Differing) Insights from Economics, Political Science and Sociology

[Human Security Report 2009/2010](#). 2011. Oxford: Oxford University Press – Chapters 1, 2, 4.

Blattman, Christopher and Edward Miguel. 2010. “Civil War.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 48/1: 3-57.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2007. “Inside Insurgencies: Politics and Violence in an Age of Civil War (Book Review Essay).” *Perspectives on Politics* 5/3: 587-600.

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2008. “The Social Processes of Civil War: The Wartime Transformation of Social Networks.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 539-61.

Session X (1315 – 1630): Civil War - International Dimensions

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede and Idean Salehyan. 2006. “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War.” *International Organization* 60/2: 335-66.

Checkel, Jeffrey T. 2013. “Transnational Dynamics of Civil War.” In Checkel, Ed. *Transnational Dynamics of Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Chapter 1.

Bakke, Kristin. 2013. “Copying and Learning from Outsiders? Assessing Diffusion from Transnational Insurgents in the Chechen Wars.” In Jeffrey T. Checkel, Ed. *Transnational Dynamics of Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Chapter 2.

Day #5: Wednesday, 6 September

Session XI (0900 - 1100): Civil War - International Interventions in Post-Conflict Settings

Autesserre, Severine. 2009. “Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence and International Intervention.” *International Organization* 63/2: 249-80.

Autesserre, Severine. 2014. *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press – Introduction, Chapters 1, 5, Appendix.

Session XII (1100 - 1215): Summary & Conclusions

No Reading