

# Sebastian Ziaja

16 February 2018

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## Research interests

**Comparative politics:** political regimes; regime change; state capacity

**International relations:** foreign aid; globalization

**Political methodology:** measurement; classification methods; causal inference

## Current position

**Heidelberg University** (Heidelberg, Germany) 07/2014–*present*

*Research Center for Distributional Conflict and Globalization*

and *Max Weber Institute for Sociology*

Postdoctoral researcher

## Affiliations

**German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)**

(Bonn, Germany) 07/2014–*present*

*Department Governance, Statehood, Security*

Associate fellow

## Education

**University of Essex** (Colchester, United Kingdom) 10/2010–06/2014

*Department of Government*

*PhD* in Government, 17 June 2014; degree not graded in the UK

Thesis: “A nudge too far? The effects of democracy aid on democratization and political instability”

Advisors: Kristian S. Gleditsch (Essex; *chair*) and Jörg Faust (DIE)

Examiners: Katharina Michaelowa (University of Zurich) and Han Dorussen (Essex)

**Universität zu Köln** (Cologne, Germany) 10/2002–01/2008

*Diplom* (Masters equivalent) in Regional Studies Latin America, 29 January 2008; grade 1.6

Subjects: political science, Latin-American history, Spanish and Portuguese language and literature, economic and social geography, international law

**Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”** (Naples, Italy) 09/2004–03/2005

Latin-American history and literature

## Work experience

**German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)**

(Bonn, Germany) 03/2008–06/2014

*Department Governance, Statehood, Security*

Researcher; research, training and policy advice on fragile states, foreign aid and democratization

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) [formerly GTZ]**

(Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Eschborn, Germany) 09/2006–12/2006 and 04/2007

Field research for my master thesis in Haiti and the Dominican Republic; intern and consultant

**Un Techo para Chile** (Iquique, Chile) 08/2001–08/2002

Alternative civilian service; built emergency housing in slums

**Consulting**

Hertie School of Governance, 2018

German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), 2015–2017

Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2013, 2015–2016

German Institute for Development Evaluation / Deutsches Evaluierungsinstitut der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (DEval), 2015

InWent Capacity Building International, 2010

University of Duisburg-Essen, 2008

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), 2006

**Publications**

**Peer-reviewed journal articles**

Martin Elff and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Method factors in democracy indicators”, forthcoming in *Politics and Governance* 6(1) [OA]

Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja and Merle Kreibaum (2015): “Disaggregating state fragility: a method to establish a multidimensional empirical typology”, *Third World Quarterly* 36(7), 1281–1298; also appeared in Rachel Gisselquist (ed.) (2017): *Fragility, aid, and state-building: understanding diverse trajectories*, Routledge, 13–30 [OA]

Jörg Faust, Jörn Grävingholt and Sebastian Ziaja (2015): “Foreign aid and the fragile consensus on state fragility”, *Journal of International Relations and Development* 18(4), 407–427; available as DIE Discussion Paper 8/2013 [OA]

Sebastian Ziaja (2012): “What do fragility indices measure?”, *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 1(6), 39–64

**Book chapters**

Axel Dreher, Valentin Lang and Sebastian Ziaja (2018): “Foreign aid in areas of limited statehood”, forthcoming in: Thomas Risse, Tanja A. Börzel and Anke Draude (eds): *Oxford Handbook of Governance and Limited Statehood*, Oxford University Press; available as *CESifo Working Paper* 6340 [OA]

Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata (2010): “State fragility indices: lessons for development policy”, in: Claske Dijkema, Karine Gatelier, Ivan Samson, Josiane Tercinet (eds.): *Rethinking the Foundations of the State: An Analysis of Post-Crisis Situations*, Bruylant, 417–430

Ulrich Volz and Sebastian Ziaja (2010): “Die Auswirkungen der Finanzkrise auf fragile Staaten” [“The impact of the financial crisis on fragile states”], in: Christiane Fröhlich, Margret Johannsen, Bruno Schoch, Andreas Heinemann-Grüder, Jochen Hippler (eds.): *Friedensgutachten [Peace Report] 2010*, Lit, 376–388

### ***Under review***

Sebastian Ziaja: “More donors, more democracy”, February 2018, revise and resubmit; available as *University of Heidelberg Department of Economics Discussion Paper 640* [OA]

Sebastian Ziaja, Jörn Grävingholt and Merle Kreibaum: “Constellations of fragility: differentiating states with finite mixture modeling”, October 2017

### ***Working papers***

Jörg Faust and Sebastian Ziaja (2012): “German aid allocation and partner country selection: development-orientation, self-interests and path dependency”, *DIE Discussion Paper 7/2012* [OA]

Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja and Merle Kreibaum (2012): “State fragility: towards a multi-dimensional empirical typology”, *DIE Discussion Paper 3/2012* [OA]

### ***Manuscripts***

Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Sebastian Ziaja: “External signals and liberalization”, October 2017

Sebastian Ziaja: “Regime type matters for civil conflict onset”, June 2017

Sebastian Ziaja: “Fuel or water to the fire? A country-month analysis of foreign aid and political unrest in Africa”, September 2016

Sebastian Ziaja: “What’s the beef with fried chicken? A spatial analysis of local exposure to globalization and domestic conflict in Africa”, November 2015

### ***Work in progress***

Christine Hackenesch, Svea Koch and Sebastian Ziaja: “World problems and problem-solving capabilities: an empirical typology of countries”

Sebastian Ziaja: “Political liberalization and the monopoly of violence”

Kai Wegrich and Sebastian Ziaja: “Governance capacity”, chapter in preparation for Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press

### ***Policy publications***

Sebastian Ziaja (2014): “Donor fragmentation in democracy support has its benefits”, *KfW Development in Brief 25* [OA]

Julia Leininger and Sebastian Ziaja (2014): “Conflicting objectives in democracy promotion: avoiding blueprint traps and incomplete democratic transitions”, *DIE Briefing Paper 11/2014* [OA]

Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata (2010): “State fragility indices: potentials, messages and limitations”, *DIE Briefing Paper 10/2010* [OA]

Jörn Grävingholt, Stefan Gänzle and Sebastian Ziaja (2009): “The convergence of peacebuilding and state building: addressing a common purpose from different perspectives”, *DIE Briefing Paper 4/2009* [OA]

Javier Fabra Mata and Sebastian Ziaja (2009): *Users’ Guide on Measuring Fragility*, Oslo: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) [OA]

## **Presentations and workshops**

### ***Professional conference presentations***

*American Political Science Association (APSA)*, annual meeting 2013, 2015

*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK)*, annual meeting 2016, methods workshop 2016

*Conflict Research Society (CRS)*, annual conference 2017

*Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW)*, section development theory and policy 2008; working group democracy research 2009; section comparative political science 2015, 2017; section methods 2017; section international relations 2017

*European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)*, general conference 2009, 2013; joint sessions 2013, 2014

*European Network on Conflict Research (ENCoRe)*, biannual meetings 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

*European Political Science Association (EPSA)*, general conference 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

*International Political Economy Society (IPES)*, annual conference 2015

*International Political Science Association (IPSA)*, joint conference with ECPR 2011

*International Studies Association (ISA)*, annual convention 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018

*Peace Science Society (PSS)*, joint conference with ISA 2013

### ***Invited presentations and research stays***

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) workshop “Autocratic diversity: new distinctions and neglected issues”, Aarhus University, 28–29 September 2017

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project, “Visiting scholars program”, V-Dem Institute, Gothenburg University, 10–16 September 2017

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), “Workshop on defining a multi-dimensional approach to fragility for the OECD States of Fragility Report 2016”, BMZ, Berlin, 15 October 2015

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), “The evolving conceptualization of fragility and the EU comprehensive approach to external conflict”, FES, Brussels, 16 October 2014

OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), “The 18th DAC network on governance plenary meeting”, European Commission, Brussels, 29 January 2014

World Bank Center on Conflict Security and Development, UNDP and OECD, “Expert workshop on peace-building and state-building indicators”, Washington, D.C., 27–28 September 2011

World Bank International Development Association (IDA), “Working group on fragile and conflict-affected states”, Washington, D.C., 25 September 2011

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Crisis States Research Centre, “Expert workshop on measuring poor state performance”, London, 20–21 May 2010

USAID/OECD-DAC, “International network on conflict and fragility (INCAF) meeting”, Washington, D.C., 5 November 2009

### ***Organization of workshops, panels, and summer schools***

Panel “Democracy, autocracy, hybrid regimes: approaches to the measurement and classification of political regimes” at the Congress *Frontiers of Democracy* of the German Association for Political Science (Deutsche

Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft; DVPW), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, 25-28 September 2018 (co-organized with Martin Elff)

Lecture series “The end of globalization? Understanding the challenges to international cooperation”, Heidelberg University, October 2016 to February 2017; speakers included, among others, Andrew Moravcsik, Andrew K. Rose, Nita Rudra, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (co-organized with Andreas Fuchs)

“European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe) spring meeting 2015”, DIE, Bonn, 5-7 March 2015 (co-organized with Sabine Carey)

Workshop “Political institutions and inclusive development”, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 10-11 November 2014 (co-organized with Helmut Anheier, Luis Camacho and Jörg Faust)

DIE summer school “Research design”, Gary Goertz (University of Arizona), DIE, Bonn, 12-16 July 2011

High-level panel “Indices on fragility and conflict – what use and implications for European development policy in Africa?”, European Development Days, Stockholm, 22–24 October 2009 (co-organized with Javier Fabra Mata)

## **Teaching experience**

Graduate seminar “Causality: theoretical foundations and empirical strategies”, Heidelberg University, Fall 2017

Graduate seminar “Social science indicators”, Heidelberg University, Fall 2016

Graduate seminar “Measuring conflict”, Heidelberg University, Fall 2015

Undergraduate seminar “War, democracy and foreign aid”, University of Mannheim, Fall 2014

Teaching assistance for Luke Keele, “Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”, Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis (ESS) 2012

Teaching assistance for Marco Steenbergen, “Logit and probit models”, ESS 2011

“Development and security”, yearly one-day postgraduate course on development policy at DIE, with Jörn Grävingholt, 2009–2014

Taught volunteers how to conduct survey interviews and build wooden barracks in Iquique, Chile, 2001–2002

## **Awards**

*Rudolf Wildenmann Prize* for the best paper by a young scholar at the *ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops* for “Diversity Trumps Quantity: Types of Foreign Aid, Donor Fragmentation and Democratization”, presented at the 2013 Joint Sessions in Mainz

## **Grants**

Travel grant for attending the EPSA Conference in Milano, Italy, *German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst; DAAD)*, 2017, 600 Euro

Funding of a guest lecture on the *V-Dem* project by Svend-Erik Skanning (Aarhus University), *Field of Focus 4, Heidelberg University*, 2016, 600 Euro

Travel grant for attending the IPES Conference in Stanford, California, USA, *DAAD*, 2015, 1.800 Euro

Travel grant to the Dominican Republic for my masters thesis, *DAAD*, 2006, 1.500 Euro

## **Methods training**

- “Hierarchical models”, by Jeff Gill, Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis (ESS) 2013
- “Modelling heterogeneity in cross-sectional and panel data”, by Daniel Stegmüller, ESS 2012
- “Causal inference in the social sciences”, by Benn Jann, GESIS Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Cologne, 2012
- “Panel data analysis for comparative research”, by Chris Adolph, ESS 2011
- “Selection and strategic models”, by Curtis Signorino, ESS 2011
- “Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”, by Luke Keele, ESS 2010
- “Structural equation modelling with AMOS”, by Markus Wirtz, University of Duisburg-Essen, 2010
- “Mathematical tools for social scientists: matrix algebra with R”, by Martin Elff, GESIS, Cologne, 2009
- “Non-linear multivariate analysis and multidimensional scaling”, by Patrick Groenen, GESIS, Cologne, 2009
- “Advanced research methods”, by Vera Troeger, University of Essex, 2010/11
- “Basic econometrics”, Center for Development Studies (ZEF), Bonn, 2008
- “Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)”, by Andrea Herrmann, University of Cologne, 2007

## **Programming skills**

Advanced skills in R, Stata, LaTeX

## **Referee**

For journals:

*British Journal of Political Science, Democratization, European Political Science Review, International Peacekeeping, Journal of International Relations and Development, Journal of Peace Research, Politics and Governance, The Lancet Global Health, Research & Politics, Review of International Organizations, Third World Quarterly, World Development*

For funding agencies:

*Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung (DSF; German Foundation for Peace Research)*

## **Professional services**

Speaker of the PhD colloquium at DIE, 2012–2013

Member of several search committees at DIE, 2010–2013

## **Memberships**

*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK; German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies)*

*Conflict Research Society (CRS)*

*Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW)*

*European Political Science Association (EPSA)*  
*International Studies Association (ISA)*

## **Language skills**

German (native)  
English, Spanish (fluent)  
French, Italian, Portuguese (basic speaking, good reading skills)

## **References**

Professor Helmut K. Anheier, PhD  
Max Weber Institute for Sociology, Heidelberg University  
and President, Hertie School of Governance  
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