

Sebastian Ziaja

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political methodology: measurement; multi-lingual text analysis; surveys; spatial analysis; causality

Comparative politics: democracy; regime change; state capacity; e-government

International relations: foreign aid; international drivers of democratization

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- present* – GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- 2022 Mar – Team leader Survey Data Augmentation
- 2022 Feb – German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
- 2019 Apr – Senior researcher, Research programme Transformation of Political (Dis-)Order
- 2019 Mar – University of Konstanz
- 2018 Oct – Interim full professor (W3), Department of Politics and Public Administration
- 2018 Sep – Hertie School of Governance
- 2018 Jan – Lead analyst for the Governance Report 2018
- 2018 Apr – Heidelberg University
- 2014 Jul – Postdoctoral researcher, Max-Weber-Institute of Sociology
- 2014 Jun – DIE
- 2008 Mar – Researcher, Department Governance, Statehood, Security

EDUCATION

- 2014 Jun – PhD in Government, University of Essex, United Kingdom
- 2010 Oct – Thesis: ‘A nudge too far? The effects of democracy aid on democratization and political instability’; advisors: Kristian S. Gleditsch and Jörg Faust
- 2008 Jan – Diplom in Regional Studies Latin America, Universität zu Köln, Germany
- 2002 Oct – Core subjects: political science, Latin American history, Spanish language and literature
Study abroad: Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Italy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- present* – Deutsche Gesellschaft für international Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- 2018 May – Lead analyst for a governance index project for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

- 2006 Dec – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
 2006 Oct – Field research for my master thesis in Haiti and the Dominican Republic
 2002 Aug – Un Techo Para Chile
 2001 Aug – Alternative civilian service; built emergency housing in slums

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- 2023 Ruth Carlitz and Sebastian Ziaja: “Harmony or cacophony? A disaggregated analysis of aid fragmentation”, *Studies in Comparative International Development* [open access]
- 2022 Christine Hackenesch, Svea Koch, and Sebastian Ziaja: “Beyond rich and poor: Identifying global development constellations”, *Development Policy Review* 40(6): e12628 [open access]
- 2020 Sebastian Ziaja: “More donors, more democracy”, *The Journal of Politics* 82(2), 433–447
- 2019 Sebastian Ziaja, Jörn Grävingholt, and Merle Kreibbaum: “Constellations of fragility: an empirical typology of states”, *Studies in Comparative International Development* 54(2), 299–321 [open access]
- 2018 Martin Elff and Sebastian Ziaja: “Method factors in democracy indicators”, *Politics and Governance* 6(1), 92–104 [open access]
- 2015 Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja, and Merle Kreibbaum: “Disaggregating state fragility: a method to establish a multidimensional empirical typology”, *Third World Quarterly* 36(7), 1281–1298 [open access]
- Jörg Faust, Jörn Grävingholt, and Sebastian Ziaja: “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 [open access]
- 2012 Sebastian Ziaja: “What do fragility indices measure? Assessing measurement procedures and statistical proximity”, *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 1(6), 39–64

Book Chapters

- 2018 Axel Dreher, Valentin Lang, and Sebastian Ziaja: “Foreign aid”, in: Thomas Risse, Tanja A. Börzel and Anke Draude (eds): *Oxford Handbook of Governance and Limited Statehood*, Oxford University Press, 394–415
- Helmut Anheier, Sonja Kaufmann, and Sebastian Ziaja: “Ten years after: the global financial and economic crisis – impact and implications”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 13–28
- Kai Wegrich and Sebastian Ziaja: “Governing capacities after the global financial and economic crisis: depleted, refilled, or steady state?”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 47–63
- Helmut Anheier, Luciana Cingolani, Mark Hallerberg, Sonja Kaufmann, Regina A. List, Jean Pisani-Ferry, Kai Wegrich, and Sebastian Ziaja: “Global crises and governance: lessons, implications, recommendations”, in: Hertie School of Governance (ed.): *The Governance Report 2018*, Oxford University Press, 105–118

- 2010 Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata: “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: “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

Working Papers

- 2021 Ruth Carlitz and Sebastian Ziaja: “Dissecting aid fragmentation: development goals and levels of analysis”, *DIE Discussion Paper 17/2021* [open access]
- Jana Bante, Felix Helmig, Lara Prasad, Lea Deborah Scheu, Jean Christoph Seipel, Helge Senkpiel, Markus Geray, Armin von Schiller, David Sebudubudu, Sebastian Ziaja: “E-government and democracy in Botswana: Observational and experimental evidence on the effect of e-government usage on political attitudes”, *DIE Discussion Paper 16/2021* [open access]
- 2017 Axel Dreher, Valentin Lang, and Sebastian Ziaja: “Foreign Aid in Areas of Limited Statehood” *CESifo Working Paper 6340*; later published in *Oxford Handbook of Governance and Limited Statehood* [open access]
- 2012 Jörg Faust and Sebastian Ziaja: “German aid allocation and partner country selection: development-orientation, self-interests and path dependency”, *DIE Discussion Paper 7/2012* [open access]
- Jörn Grävingholt, Sebastian Ziaja, and Merle Kreibaum: “State fragility: towards a multi-dimensional empirical typology”, *DIE Discussion Paper 3/2012* [open access]

Reports and Policy Briefs

- 2021 Julia Leininger, Christoph Strupat, Yonas Adeto, Abebe Shimeles, Wilson Wasike, ..., Sebastian Ziaja, et al.: “The Covid-19 pandemic and structural transformation in Africa: Evidence for action”, *DIE Discussion Paper 11/2021* [open access]
- 2014 Sebastian Ziaja: “Donor fragmentation in democracy support has its benefits”, *KfW Development in Brief 25* [open access]
- Julia Leininger and Sebastian Ziaja: “Conflicting objectives in democracy promotion: avoiding blueprint traps and incomplete democratic transitions”, *DIE Briefing Paper 11/2014* [open access]
- 2010 Sebastian Ziaja and Javier Fabra Mata: “State fragility indices: potentials, messages and limitations”, *DIE Briefing Paper 10/2010* [open access]
- 2009 Jörn Grävingholt, Stefan Gänzle, and Sebastian Ziaja: “The convergence of peacebuilding and state building: addressing a common purpose from different perspectives”, *DIE Briefing Paper 4/2009* [open access]
- Javier Fabra Mata and Sebastian Ziaja: *Users’ Guide on Measuring Fragility*, Oslo: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) [open access]

Impact Factor

Google Scholar Citations: 753
Google Scholar h-index: 13
Google Scholar i10-index: 14

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Professional Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association (APSA), annual meetings 2013, 2015, 2021
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), annual meeting 2016, methods workshops 2016, 2019
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sozialwissenschaftlicher Institute, annual meeting 2023
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 conferences 2009, 2013; joint sessions 2013, 2014
European Network on Conflict Research (ENCoRe), spring and/or fall meetings 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
European Political Science Association (EPSA), general conferences 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled), 2021, 2022, 2023
German Economic Association: Research Group on Development Economics, 2019
International Political Economy Society (IPES), annual conference 2015
International Political Science Association (IPSA), joint conference with ECPR 2011
International Studies Association (ISA), annual conventions 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018
Peace Science Society (PSS), joint conference with ISA 2013

Invited Presentations and Research Stays

2021 GIGA Seminar in socio-economics, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, 1 April
2020 Workshop “Conflict and Democratization”, University of Essex, 11 March
2019 Institute of Science, Technology and Policy (ISTP) Colloquium, ETH Zurich, 29 October
2017 Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) workshop “Autocratic diversity: new distinctions and neglected issues”, Aarhus University, 28–29 September
Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project, “Visiting scholars program”, V-Dem Institute, Gothenburg University, 10–16 September
2015 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

- 2014 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
OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), “The 18th DAC network on governance plenary meeting”, European Commission, Brussels, 29 January
- 2011 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
World Bank International Development Association (IDA), “Working group on fragile and conflict-affected states”, Washington, D.C., 25 September
- 2010 London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Crisis States Research Centre, “Expert workshop on measuring poor state performance”, London, 20–21 May
- 2009 USAID/OECD-DAC, “International network on conflict and fragility (INCAF) meeting”, Washington, D.C., 5 November

Organization of Workshops, Panels and Summer Schools

- 2019 Workshop “Measuring subnational state capacity”, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), Bonn, 26 June (co-organized with Thomas Wencker)
- 2018 Panel “Democracy, autocracy, hybrid regimes: approaches to the measurement and classification of political regimes”, Congress *Frontiers of Democracy* of the German Association for Political Science (Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft; DVPW), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, 25-28 September (co-organized with Martin Elff)
- 2016/17 Lecture series “The end of globalization? Understanding the challenges to international cooperation”, Heidelberg University, October to February; speakers included, among others, Andrew Moravcsik, Andrew K. Rose, Nita Rudra, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul (co-organized with Andreas Fuchs)
- 2015 “European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe) spring meeting 2015”, DIE, Bonn, 5-7 March (co-organized with Sabine Carey)
- 2014 Workshop “Political institutions and inclusive development”, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, 10-11 November (co-organized with Helmut Anheier, Luis Camacho and Jörg Faust)
- 2011 DIE summer school “Research design”, Gary Goertz (University of Arizona), DIE, Bonn, 12-16 July
- 2009 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 (co-organized with Javier Fabra Mata)

AWARDS

- 2014 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”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Münster

2021/22 Graduate seminar “Decline of democracy? Empirical assessments of political regime change”

DIE Postgraduate Training Programme

2019/20 Leader of a team of six postgraduate students conducting field work for the study
“E-government and democracy in Botswana: Observational and experimental evidence on
the effect of e-government usage on political attitudes”, November to May

2019–21 “Democracy promotion”, yearly one-day postgraduate course at DIE, with Daniel Nowack

2009–14 “Development and security”, yearly one-day postgraduate course at DIE, with Jörn
Grävingsholt

University of Konstanz

2018/19 Graduate seminar “Autocracy and democracy: concept and measurement”

Graduate seminar “Political impacts of information technology”

Undergraduate seminar “Foreign aid and violent conflict”

Undergraduate seminar “State capacity: domestic and international perspectives”

Colloquium for BA and MA students (including a refresher in research design)

Heidelberg University

2017/18 Graduate seminar “Causality: theoretical foundations and empirical strategies”

2016/17 Graduate seminar “Social science indicators”

2015/16 Graduate seminar “Measuring conflict”

University of Mannheim

2014/15 Undergraduate seminar “War, democracy and foreign aid”

Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis

2012 Teaching assistant for Luke Keele, “Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”

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

POLICY ADVICE

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BMZ, FES, GIZ, KfW, OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), The World Bank, UNDP, USAID

SERVICE

Journal Manuscript Peer Review

American Journal of Political Science; British Journal of Political Science; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Cross-Cultural Research; Democratization; European Journal of International Relations; European Political Science Review; International Peacekeeping; International Studies Quarterly; Journal of International Relations and Development; Journal of Peace Research; Politics and Governance; The Lancet Global Health; Regulation & Governance; Research & Politics; Review of International Organizations; Third World Quarterly; World Development

Funding Agency Peer Review

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW; German Political Science Association)

European Political Science Association (EPSA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

DATA WEBSITES

“Constellations of state fragility” (contributed data and ideas), <http://statefragility.info/>

“Hertie Governance Report 2018: Global crisis governance” (contributed data, led implementation), www.hertie-school.org/en/governancereport/govreport-2018

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Language Skills

German (native)

English, Spanish (fluent)

French, Italian, Portuguese (basic speaking, good reading skills)

Statistical and Programming Software Skills

Advanced skills in R, LaTeX, markdown, git

Good skills in Stata, Python

Methods Training

- 2022 “Using simulation studies to evaluate statistical methods”, by Tim Morris and Matteo Quartagno, at GESIS
- 2019 “Quantitative text analysis with R”, by Sven-Oliver Proksch, DIE
- 2013 “Hierarchical models”, by Jeff Gill, Essex Summer School on Social Science Data Analysis (ESS)
- 2012 “Modelling heterogeneity in cross-sectional and panel data”, by Daniel Stegmüller, ESS
“Causal inference in the social sciences”, by Benn Jann, GESIS
- 2011 “Panel data analysis for comparative research”, by Chris Adolph, ESS
“Selection and strategic models”, by Curtis Signorino, ESS
- 2010/11 “Advanced research methods”, by Vera Troeger, University of Essex
- 2010 “Non-parametric and semi-parametric methods”, by Luke Keele, ESS
“Structural equation modelling with AMOS”, by Markus Wirtz, University of Duisburg-Essen
- 2009 “Mathematical tools for social scientists: matrix algebra with R”, by Martin Elff, GESIS
“Non-linear multivariate analysis and multidimensional scaling”, by Patrick Groenen, GESIS
- 2008 “Basic econometrics”, Center for Development Studies (ZEF), Bonn
- 2007 “Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)”, by Andrea Herrmann, University of Cologne

Updated April 2023