

SEBASTIAN VAN BAALEN

Stockholm, Sweden
+46 (0) 73 846 62 70
sebastian.van-baalen@pcr.uu.se
www.sebastianvanbaalen.se

CURRENT POSITION

2023– Associate Senior Lecturer, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

EDUCATION

2016–2021 Doctor of Philosophy, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2013–2015 Master of Social Science, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2010–2013 Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2012 Political Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–2022 Researcher, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2015–2016 Research assistant, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University.
2015 Research assistant, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2015–2017 Co-founder and assistant editor-in-chief, *MänskligSäkerhet.se*.
2011–2015 Freelance journalist and consultant, Van Baalen Reporting.
2014 Research intern, Embassy of Sweden in South Africa.
2014 Visiting researcher, Centre for Civil Society, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2024) Keeping communal peace in the shadow of civil war: A natural experiment from Côte d'Ivoire. *World Development* 176: 106512. DOI: [10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106512](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106512).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2023) Civilian protest in civil war: Insights from Côte d'Ivoire. *American Political Science Review*. DOI: [10.1017/S0003055423000564](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000564).
- van Baalen, Sebastian & Abel Gbala** (2023) Patterns of electoral violence during Côte d'Ivoire's third-term crisis. *African Affairs* 122(488): 447–460. DOI: [10.1093/afraf/adado20](https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adado20).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2023) Polls of fear? Electoral violence, incumbent strength, and voter turnout in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Peace Research*. DOI: [10.1177/00223433221147938](https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433221147938).

van Baalen, Sebastian & Niels Terpstra (2023) Behind enemy lines: State-insurgent cooperation on rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire and Sri Lanka. *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 34(1): 221–246. DOI: [10.1080/09592318.2022.2104297](https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2022.2104297).

Bara, Corinne, Annekatrin Deglow & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2021) Civil war recurrence and postwar violence: Towards an integrated research agenda. *European Journal of International Relations* 37(3): 913–935. DOI: [10.1177/13540661211006443](https://doi.org/10.1177/13540661211006443).

van Baalen, Sebastian (2021) Local elites, civil resistance, and the responsiveness of rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Peace Research* 58(5): 930–944. DOI: [10.1177/0022343320965675](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343320965675).

van Baalen, Sebastian & Kristine Höglund (2019) “So, the killings continued”: Wartime mobilization and post-war violence in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *Terrorism & Political Violence* 31(6): 1168–1186. DOI: [10.1080/09546553.2017.1218126](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2017.1218126).

van Baalen, Sebastian (2018) “Google wants to know your location”: The ethical challenges of fieldwork in the digital age. *Research Ethics* 14(4): 1–17. DOI: [10.1177/1747016117750312](https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016117750312).

van Baalen, Sebastian & Malin Mobjörk (2018) Climate change and violent conflict in East Africa: Integrating qualitative and quantitative research to probe the mechanisms. *International Studies Review* 20(4): 547–575. DOI: [10.1093/isr/vix043](https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/vix043).

DISSERTATION

van Baalen, Sebastian (2020) *Guns and governance: Local elites and rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire*. PhD dissertation. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

REPORTS

Sebastian van Baalen (2022) *How civilians can make rebels more responsive*. Policy Note. Gothenburg: The Program on Governance and Local Development at the University of Gothenburg, 2 May.

Bjarnesen, Jesper & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2021) *Democratic backsliding in Côte d'Ivoire: Legislative elections tighten Ouattara's grip on power*. NAI Policy Notes 2021:1. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI).

Bjarnesen, Jesper & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2020) *Ouattara's third-term bid raises old fears: Risk of violence in Côte d'Ivoire's upcoming presidential elections*. NAI Policy Notes 2020:5. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI).

Mobjörk, Malin, Maria-Therese Gustafsson, Hannes Sonnsjö, **Sebastian van Baalen**, Lisa Dellmuth & Niklas Bremberg (2016). *Climate-related security risks: Towards an integrated approach*. Report. Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

van Baalen, Sebastian & Malin Mobjörk (2016) *Climate change and violent conflict in East Africa: Implications for policy*. Policy brief. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Foreign Affairs (UI) & Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

van Baalen, Sebastian & Malin Mobjörk (2016) *A coming anarchy? Pathways from climate change to violent conflict in East Africa*. Report. Stockholm: Stockholm University.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

van Baalen, Sebastian (2023) Civilian protest and competitive state-building in rebel-held Côte d'Ivoire. In: Sam Kniknie & Karen Büscher (eds) *Rebellious Riots: Entangled Geographies of Contention in Africa*, pp. 94–127.

van Baalen, Sebastian (2020) The responsiveness of rebel governance in Man, Côte d'Ivoire. *Program on Governance and Local Development Working Paper* 34.

van Baalen, Sebastian (2014) The microdynamics of conflict escalation: The case of ANC-IFP fighting in South Africa in 1990. *Pax et Bellum Journal* 1(1): 14–20.

WORK IN PROGRESS (ARTICLE-LENGTH DRAFTS)

Uribe, Andres & **Sebastian van Baalen** (under review at *World Politics*) Governing the shadows: Territorial control and state making in civil war.

van Baalen, Sebastian (working paper) Ballots, boycotts, and bloodshed: Explaining violence during election boycotts.

van Baalen, Sebastian & Nguyen Ha (working paper) Political territorial control and conflict-related violence in postwar Abidjan.

Abbs, Luke, Marina G Petrova & **Sebastian van Baalen** (working paper) In harm's way: Civilian nonviolent action and the intensity of civil war.

OP-EDS AND BLOG POSTS

[Local elections signal the death of coalition politics in Côte d'Ivoire](#). *Democracy in Africa*. 27 September 2023.

Därför riskerar kriget i Ukraina att bli långdraget [Why the war in Ukraine will be long]. *Tranås Posten*, 22 February 2023.

Hur slutar ett krig? [How does war end?]. *Tranås Posten*, 18 April 2022.

[Can nonviolent civil resistance stop Putin?](#) *Political Violence @ a Glance*. 11 March 2022 (with Isak Svensson).

[Icke våldsmotståndet som utmanar Putin](#) [The nonviolent resistance challenging Putin]. *Utrikesmagasinet*, 9 March 2022 (with Isak Svensson).

Putins invasion är ett hot mot den rådande världsordningen [Putin's invasion is a threat to the current global order]. *Tranås Posten*, 2 March 2022.

[Elfenbenskusten: Risk för våld vid ifrågasatt val](#) [Côte d'Ivoire: Risk of violence following contested election]. *Global Bar Magazine*, 28 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[The making of a dinosaur? Côte d'Ivoire's 2020 elections](#). *Democracy in Africa*. 22 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[Will Côte d'Ivoire's presidential election turn violent?](#) *Political Violence @ a Glance*. 15 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[The nuts and bolts of a climate-conflict link in East Africa](#). *New Security Beat*. 19 March 2018 (with Malin Mobjörk).

[Politisk maktkamp hotar freden i Elfenbenskusten](#) [Political power struggle threatens Côte d'Ivoire's peace]. *Utrikesmagasinet*. 15 December 2017.

[Jasaffären i Botswana strider mot Sveriges mål](#) [The Jas-deal with Botswana violates Sweden's goals]. *Svenska Dagbladet*. 24 March 2017 (with Johan Brosché and Kristine Höglund).

[Underskatta inte IS administrativa makt](#) [Do not underestimate the Islamic State's administrative power]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 25 October 2016.

[Sydafrikas moraliska förfall](#) [South Africa's moral decay]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 2 November 2015.

[Fredsarbete måste se till relationen mellan det lokala och nationella](#) [Peacebuilding must consider the relationship between the local and national]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 16 June 2015.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

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| 2020 | Cedric Smith Prize. Awarded by the Conflict Research Society for the best article in peace and conflict research by a PhD student. |
| 2019 | Boulding Award, runner-up. Awarded by the International Studies Association (ISA) for the best graduate paper in Peace Studies presented at the ISA convention in Toronto, Canada. |
| 2015 | Mats Hammarström Award. Awarded by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, for the best MA thesis. |

FIELD RESEARCH

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| 2022 | Côte d'Ivoire. Conducted 37 semi-structured interviews and mapping workshops over the course of five weeks of field research on electoral violence. |
| 2017–2020 | Côte d'Ivoire. Conducted more than 90 semi-structured interviews and extensive archival research over the course of eight months of field research on rebel governance. |
| 2014 | South Africa. Conducted more than 30 semi-structured interviews and archival research over the course of three months of field research on postwar violence. |

MEDIA APPEARANCES

[Ex-Credit Suisse chief Tidjane Thiam takes first step in campaign to lead Ivory Coast](#), *Financial Times*, 15 December 2023, commenting on the opposition's chances to challenge President Ouattara in Côte d'Ivoire's 2025 presidential election.

[Är tredje världskriget snart här?](#) [Is World War III here soon?], *A-kursen Podcast*, 13 November 2023, discussing central concepts and trends in peace and conflict research. Long version available [here](#).

[Academics in uproar after Sweden cancels research funding](#), *The Local*, 28 June 2023, discussing cuts to development research funding.

[Sagan om ringen](#) – I tre olika format [Lord of the Rings – In three different formats], *Vi hör i Underlandet Podcast*, 16 February 2023, discussing peace and war in the Lord of the Rings universe.

[Civilt motstånd kan spela en avgörande roll för kriget](#) [Civil resistance can be decisive for the war], *Upsala Nya Tidning*, 3 April 2022, discussing the role of nonviolent civil resistance in the Ukraine war.

[Star Wars – På riktigt](#) [Star Wars – For real], *Vi hör i Underlandet Podcast*, 4 May 2022, discussing conflict dynamics in the Star Wars universe.

Bloomberg, 15 October 2020, analysing the role of ex-rebel commanders during the Ivorian 2020 presidential election.

DATA PROJECTS

Ongoing	<i>Masters and Agents of Election-Related Violence in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya (MAVERICK) Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on the actors of electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya (1990–2022). The dataset currently contains information on 895 electoral violence incidents in both countries.
2023	<i>Electoral Violence in Côte d'Ivoire Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on various forms of electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire (2020–2021). The dataset contains information on 320 electoral violence incidents intended to influence the process or outcome of the 2020 presidential election or the 2021 legislative election. DOI: 10.1177/00223433221147938 .
2023	<i>Wartime Civilian Protest in Côte d'Ivoire Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on conflict-related nonviolent civilian protest in Côte d'Ivoire (2002–2011). The dataset contains information on 412 events in which civilians made demands on armed actors, including demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, and protest marches. DOI: 10.7910/DVN/MPTSQR .

RESEARCH GRANTS

2021	Swedish Research Council. <i>Crossing the Rubicon: The dynamics of restraint in civil war</i> . Co-applicant. 4.5 million SEK. Written together with project leader Johan Brosché and co-applicant Corinne Bara.
2020	Swedish Research Council. <i>Alliances of anarchy: Actor constellations and patterns of electoral violence</i> . Co-applicant. 5.2 million SEK. Written together with project leader Kristine Höglund and co-applicant Espen Geelmuyden Rød.
2019	The Program on Governance and Local Development at Gothenburg University. <i>Guns and governance: Local elites and rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire</i> . Main applicant. 33,000 SEK.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2017–2019	Anna-Maria Lundin Travel Grant. Smålands Nation, Uppsala University, for field research in Côte d'Ivoire. Eight separate scholarships totalling 278,904 SEK.
2017	Forskraft Foundation, Theodor Adelswårds minne, for field research in Côte d'Ivoire. 80,000 SEK.
2015	Bielke's Scholarship. Faculty of Social Sciences, Uppsala University, for "outstanding academic achievements in political science." Awarded both in 2014 and 2015.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

2016– Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. 2,198 teaching hours, including 167 supervision hours (as of 31 December 2023). Supervised 13 MA theses and 7 BA theses. Course convener: Security Scenario Analysis (BA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2019/2020, 2018/2019); Causes of War (MA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2021, 2022); Conflict Resolution (BA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2022); International Conflict Resolution (MA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2023/2024); Assistant supervisor of PhD Candidate Hüsne Akgöl.

GUEST LECTURER

2023 Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management, Radboud University.
 2022 Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix, Abidjan.
 2022 Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management, Radboud University.
 2017 Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix, Abidjan.

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2023 Supervising PhD Students, Uppsala University (3 weeks).
 2022 Teaching Academic Writing (workshop), Uppsala University.
 2019 Academic Teacher Training Course, Uppsala University (5 weeks).
 2015 Interactive Lecturing Techniques for Sustainable Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

PUBLIC OUTREACH & CONSULTING

2023 Invited expert. Center for Crisis Early Warning (CCEW) conflict risk mapping for Côte d'Ivoire, online. 13 October.
 2023 Invited speaker. Department of Political Science, Amsterdam University, Amsterdam. 18 September.
 2023 Invited speaker. Center for Crisis Early Warning (CCEW), München. 7 June.
 2023 Invited moderator. Pax et Bellum's panel discussion on peacekeeping. 20 February.
 2022 Invited panellist. Overseas Development Institute's roundtable discussion on civilian-armed group relations. 21 June.
 2022 Invited moderator. Pax et Bellum's panel discussion on the Ukraine war. 6 May.
 2022 Invited speaker. Holavésgymnasiet's theme day on the Ukraine war. 19 April.
 2021 Invited panellist. Uppsala Association of International Affairs. 10 December.
 2021 Expert reviewer. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) Insight series.
 2021 Invited speaker. Tekniska muséet's exhibition Hyper Human. 5 November.
 2021 Invited expert. The Nordic Africa Institute's ambassador briefing on West Africa. 7 October.
 2021 Invited speaker. University of Bologna's Online Roundtable on Digital Security and Data Protection. 12 May.
 2021 Invited speaker. Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'Ecole Militaire (IRSEM), Paris. 28 April.
 2020 Invited speaker. Folke Bernadotte Academy's discussion on digital security. 20 November.

- 2020 Invited expert. The Nordic Africa Institute's policy dialogue on the 2020 Ivorian presidential elections. 22 October.
- 2019 Invited speaker. The Glassroom Experience's public lectures on the ethical challenges of fieldwork in the digital age. 28 January.
- 2017 Invited speaker. Lecture on global trends in armed conflict, 1989–2017. Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix (CERAP) in Abidjan. 10 November.
- 2016 Consultant. Swedish Church Aid. Produced the report *Gränslös: Svenska kyrkans internationella arbete med migrations- och flyktingfrågor [Borderless: Swedish Church Aid's international engagements with migration refugee issues]* (with Erik Schrammel).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

DEPARTMENTAL DUTIES

- 2024 PhD Admission Committee, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2024– Grading working group, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2023– Representative for the Department Board of the Teacher/Researcher Corporation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2023– AI and teaching working group, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2021– Ethics Committee for Student Work, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2023 International Training Director for the International Training on Dialogue and Mediation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2022–2023 Second deputy representative for the Department Board of the Teacher/Researcher Corporation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2017–2018 Equality officer, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2016–2017 PhD representative, Equality Committee, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

REFeree ASSIGNMENTS (2019–)

Contributed 29 reviews (27 verified on [Web of Science](#)), including for: *American Political Science Review*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management & Peace Science*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Civil Wars*, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, and *The Nordic Journal of African Studies*.

OTHER DUTIES

- 2022 Jury member for the Cedric Smith Prize for the Conflict Research Society.
- 2019–2021 Country expert coder on Côte d'Ivoire for the Violence Early-Warning System (ViEWS) project at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- 2021, 2023 Organiser of the biannual Development Research Seminar, Uppsala University.

MEMBERSHIPS

Conflict Research Society (CRS), International Studies Association (ISA), Rebel Governance Network (RGN).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. London, UK, 12–13 September.
2023	Nonviolence and conflict transformation workshop. Leeds, UK, 15 April.
2023	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Montréal, Canada, 15–18 March.
2022	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7–9 September.
2022	Fifth Annual GLD Conference. Brastad, Sweden, 23–25 May.
2022	Swiss Congress of Political Science. Virtual, 3–4 February.
2021	Amsterdam University Workshop on Elections and Violence. Virtual, 25–27 October.
2021	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Virtual, 8–10 September.
2021	Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) Book Workshop. Virtual, 29 April.
2021	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Virtual, 5–9 April.
2019	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Toronto, Canada, 27–30 March.
2019	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Brighton, UK, 8–10 September.
2018	Development Research Conference (DevRes). Gothenburg, Sweden, 22–23 August.
2018	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. San Francisco, USA, 4–7 April.
2016	German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) International Workshop. Pretoria, South Africa, 28–29 July.

SOFTWARE SKILLS

In addition to the standard software: Stata, R, LaTeX, Quantum GIS, ATLAS.ti.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Native	Swedish, Dutch
Fluent	English
Basic	French

OTHER SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Security Training for Journalists in Disaster and Conflict Areas (December 2015) Fojo Media Institute, Kalmar, Sweden.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2016	Leave of absence, 2 months, 20% (1 April–31 May 2016).
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REFERENCES

Professor Kristine Höglund

Professor of Peace and Conflict Research

Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

Phone: +46 (0) 18 471 63 87, cell: + 46 (0) 73 346 29 28

Email: kristine.hoglund@pcr.uu.se

Professor Scott Straus

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Political Science and Department Chair

Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Phone: +1 (608) 263 2036, home: +1 (608) 233 9396

Email: sstraus@wisc.edu

Professor Robert Egnell

Professor of Security, Strategy, and Leadership and Vice-Chancellor

Swedish Defence University

Phone: +46 (0) 8 553 42 768, cell: +46 (0) 70 232 95 45

Email: robert.egnell@fhs.se

Dr Jeremy Speight

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Department of Political Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Phone: +1 (907) 474 6505, cell: +1 (907) 378 5540

Email: jspeight@alaska.edu