

Horizon Europe Matchmaking Guide 2026

Connecting PRIO Researchers with EU Collaboration Partners



Table of Contents

Introduction:	
Matchmaking for Excellence in Horizon Europe	3
What kind of institution is PRIO?	4
Why partner with us?	4
Research at PRIO	5
Get in touch with PRIO	6
Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society	7
Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society	67
Other EU grants	74
ERC Grants	75
MSCA Grants	75
Twinning	76

Introduction

Matchmaking for Excellence in Horizon Europe



Haakon Gjerløw
Acting Director

Dear future partner,

At PRIO – the Peace Research Institute Oslo – we combine independence, scientific excellence, and policy relevance. For decades, we have worked with partners across Europe and globally to advance research on peace, conflict, migration, and security. As one of Norway's top recipients of ERC grants and with a long track record in EU-funded projects, PRIO offers reliable expertise and experience for building strong consortia. We are eager to expand these collaborations and contribute to projects that deliver both academic and societal impact.

Securing Horizon Europe funding is highly competitive, and finding the right partners is essential to achieving ambitious goals and meaningful results. This **Matchmaking Guide** has been developed to support that process.

We have mapped each call of interest to researchers whose expertise and research focus align with the thematic priorities of the program. The profiles presented here provide an overview of their academic background and areas of specialization, offering a solid foundation for building strong, competitive and complementary consortia.

We look forward to building strong partnerships and working together to achieve engaged excellence!

Haakon Gjerløw
Acting Director

What kind of institution is PRIO?

PRIO is an **independent research institute**. Compared to most think tanks, we conduct more basic research, publishing in high-level, peer-reviewed academic outlets, such as *Nature Communications*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Journal of Peace Research*. We receive most of our funding through competitive grants. And compared to universities, we do not have a teaching mandate, but rather focus full time on producing knowledge that meets the highest academic standards while engaging with policymakers, civil society, and the public. Our researchers participate in high-level policy and governance forums, such as the IPCC, G20, and ICJ. This unique position allows PRIO to combine independence, scientific excellence, and policy relevance in all its projects.

Why partner with us?

At PRIO, we are committed to shaping and advancing the global peace research agenda. Our ambition is not only to produce world-class scholarship but also to ensure that the knowledge we generate makes a real difference for people, policies, and practices. We call this approach engaged excellence: combining rigorous research standards with active engagement across policy arenas, civil society, and the public.

This commitment guides our work as an international, independent, and interdisciplinary institute. With decades of experience in EU-funded projects and a proven track record of delivering evidence-based insights, we offer reliable partnership for collaborative research that informs policy and promotes democratic values, human rights, and sustainable peace.

Research at PRIO

Research at the Institute [↗](#) is multidisciplinary and covers a wide range of interrelated themes such as armed conflict and peacekeeping, security & defense, climate, migration, development and governance. The diversity of disciplines at PRIO creates a thriving research community that attracts both scholars and funding from around the world.

PRIO also currently hosts five centres, organized around specific areas of research.

1. The **PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security (GPS)** [↗](#) is a leading hub for research and policy engagement on gender in conflict and post-conflict settings.
2. The **PRIO Migration Centre** [↗](#) examines how states, groups and individuals engage with, and are affected by migration.
3. The **PRIO Centre on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence (CCC)** [↗](#) explores the cultural dimensions of violent conflict and peace, examining how practices of memory, art, media, and language shape democratic participation, social resilience, and coexistence.
4. The **PRIO Cyprus Centre (PCC)** [↗](#), since its inception in 2005, has functioned as an independent, bi-communal research centre based in Cyprus.
5. The **PRIO Middle East Centre** [↗](#) focuses on conflict dynamics, state-building, migration, and great power involvement across the region.



PRIO Centre on
Gender, Peace
and Security



PRIO
Migration
Centre



PRIO Centre on
Culture, Conflict
and Coexistence



PRIO
Cyprus
Centre



PRIO
Middle East
Centre

Get in touch with PRIO

Under each topic, you will find the contact details of our researchers. If you do not find an exact match, or if you are interested in collaboration opportunities beyond the topics presented here, we warmly invite you to get in touch to discuss potential synergies by contacting EU Adviser **Anne Duquenne** (annduq@prio.org) or our Pre-Grant Office, the **Project Development Team** (pdt@prio.org).

 **PRIO website**

www.prio.org

 **PRIO on LinkedIn**

no.linkedin.com/company/prio

 **PRIO on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/PRIO.org



Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

PRIO conducts research highly relevant to several Cluster 2 priorities, including democracy, governance, and societal transformation. Our work focuses on conflict prevention, migration, gender, cultural dynamics, and the protection of human rights, addressing core challenges such as democratic resilience, inclusion, and the governance of global commons, as well as the social impacts of digital technologies and migration. Methodologically, PRIO combines quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, including interviews, document analysis, and comparative case studies, often informed by critical and historical approaches.

One of PRIO's most significant recent contributions to EU-funded research is **MIGNEX (2018–2024)**, *Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus*. Running for six years and bringing together nine international partners, MIGNEX is among the largest EU-funded research projects on migration to date. MIGNEX generated an extensive dataset from ten countries of origin and transit, producing over 80 publications and offered valuable insights to policymakers and researchers on the complex links between migration and development. Complementing this, **QuantMig (2019–2023)**, carried out systematic reviews of survey-based migration motivations and analyses of conflict- and climate-related migration drivers, contributing directly to future-oriented migration scenarios and policy debates.

For over a decade (2012–2023), PRIO coordinated the **Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies (NCHS)** [\[2\]](#), working in close collaboration with two other leading research institutes to support joint research and facilitate exchanges between academic, policy, and humanitarian communities.

More recent projects further demonstrate PRIO's strengths. **EMPOW** has produced open-access data on women's mobilization in conflict-affected societies, reinforcing PRIO's expertise in gender-sensitive approaches to governance and peacebuilding. **MicroPeace**, meanwhile investigates how peace agreements are implemented in practice, and how civil servants in collaboration with local communities put lofty promises into tangible benefits on the ground. The list goes on.

Taken together, these capabilities – alongside PRIO's interdisciplinary expertise and extensive global networks – position the Institute as a strong and reliable partner for Horizon Europe Cluster 2 projects addressing democracy, rights, migration, gender equality, cultural heritage, and broader processes of societal transformation.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-01	
Tackling gender-based violence against politically active women and LGBTIQ people	9
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-02	
Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries	15
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-05	
Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality	22
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-06	
Governing global commons sustainably	24
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-07	
Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction	28
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-08	
Electoral integrity in the digital context	43
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-09	
Citizenship education as part of lifelong learning	48
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10	
Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience	52
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-06	
Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe	57
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-03	
Tackling child poverty and ensuring disadvantaged children's access to Early Childhood Education and Care	59
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-06	
Making Europe a global magnet for talent – Attracting and retaining students, researchers and high-skilled workers from outside the EU	61
HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-08	
Strengthened implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and a focus on inclusion, integration, and health	63

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-01

Tackling gender-based violence against politically active women and LGBTIQ people



Louise Olsson

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/3508

Expertise

- Leader of PRIO's Gender Research Group.
- Strong focus on gender dynamics in conflict, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), and gendered consequences of political violence.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Robust empirical grounding, policy interface experience, and a proven track record in gender equality, women's empowerment, Women, Peace and Security research – building a strong foundation to tackle politically motivated GBV affecting women and LGBTIQ individuals across Europe and beyond.

Methods

- Mixed-Methods & Empirical Research.
- Conflict-Resolution and Field-Based Studies.
- Policy-Research Engagement & Impact-Oriented Design.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Broad experience in coaching senior military, youth, civil and political actors: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Collaborated during Norway's 2021–22 UN Security Council term, advising on gender-sensitive policy and UNSCR 1325 implementation.
- Designed and delivered the Gender Coach Program for senior-level staff at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Senior gender integration coach for the Swedish Armed Forces, as part of their leadership training; Contributed to training programs for military leaders on gender equality and WPS at the Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations.



Torunn L. Tryggestad

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/5162

Expertise

- Leader of the **PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security (GPS)** [↗](#).
- Gender and inclusive mediation processes, including norms, barriers, and structures affecting women's participation.
- Norm diffusion and policy change, especially how international gender norms influence state behavior and civil society engagement.
- Civil society and UN system engagement, including the interaction between member states and advocacy networks.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Gender-based violence and political participation: issues related to women's exposure to violence and barriers to participation, both in diplomacy and in broader peace and security contexts.
- Norms, narratives, and media portrayals: Expertise on norm emergence and diffusion, especially around UNSCR 1325.
- Intersectional analysis: global peace and security – especially involving civil society, diplomacy, and vulnerable groups.

Methods

- Mixed qualitative and policy research, including surveys, structured interviews, and elite stakeholder engagement.
- Comparative analysis across conflict-affected and political environments.
- Normative and institutional analysis focused on global governance, diplomacy, and UN structures.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Leader of the Nordic Women Mediators (NWM) and NWM-Norway (2015–ongoing). Strengthens women's roles in diplomacy and peace processes.
- Leader of High-Level Seminars on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes (2013–ongoing). Policy-oriented seminars for practitioners and decision-makers.
- Strong engagement with Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through policy seminars and WPS initiatives.



Marianne Dahl

Acting Deputy Director

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 www.prio.org/people/4971

Expertise

- Civil resistance, democratic mobilization, and conflict-related sexual violence.
- Quantitative modeling and qualitative research, with a focus on non-violent vs. violent strategies, mass movements, and democratic erosion.
- Authoritarian protest dynamics, Ukrainian wartime democratic values, and Women's Peace & Security metrics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding drivers of GBV and political violence: work bridges sexual violence and political mobilization, dissecting how violence affects political engagement.
- Develop large-scale datasets (e.g., OMG, MAPS) to track societal-level responses to democratic threats.
- Intersectional lens: analyzes sexual violence within conflict-affected, mobilized populations – relevant for women and LGBTIQ participants.

Methods

- Large-N quantitative analysis: Constructs datasets (OMG, MAPS, WPS Index) for cross-national regression, modeling, and event analysis.
- Mixed-methods: Statistical models augmented with case studies and qualitative interviews.
- Conflict violence mapping: Conflict-related sexual violence studies to reveal societal and gendered impacts on political participation.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Engaged in public dialogue via Norwegian media outlets *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet*, and NRK on democracy and gender issues.
- Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Peace Research*.



Kaja Borchgrevink

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/4765

Expertise

- Religion, gender, and development, including gendered dimensions of religious practices and humanitarian action.
- Politics of aid, with extensive experience working with Muslim humanitarian actors and the intersections of religion, governance, gender norms, and societal participation.
- Transnational Muslim communities, including everyday religious life, social norms, and gendered experiences.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Gender and Intersectionality: Demonstrated research on gender norms, social expectations, and structural inequalities within Muslim communities.
- Experience analyzing how gendered narratives shape social position, stigma, and participation, which is useful for understanding misogynistic narratives targeting politically active women and LGBTIQ people.
- Multi-country qualitative research: Extensive fieldwork in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Norway, using interviews, ethnographic methods, and document analysis.
- Strong background in transnational, intercultural analysis, fitting the multi-country comparative scope of the call.

Methods

- Qualitative interviews and ethnography (extensive fieldwork in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Norway).
- Document and policy analysis, including governance, humanitarian standards, and public communication.
- Multi-country comparative research, often involving diverse cultural and political settings.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Muslim humanitarian organisations; UNDP Pakistan; Aga Khan Foundation – Afghanistan.



Pinar Tank

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/5042

Expertise

- Turkey's domestic and foreign policy, with a particular focus on democratisation, gender, political Islam, and Kurdish–Turkish relations.
- Geopolitical shifts and regional security in the Middle East, including rising powers' roles in peacebuilding and humanitarian action.
- Gender and authoritarianism.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Gendered political violence, misogynistic narratives, and institutional discrimination.
- Extensive research on political Islam, domestic repression, securitisation, and democratisation in Turkey.
- Intersectionality and vulnerable groups: Research on Kurdish–Turkish relations and minority politics offers a foundation for intersectional analysis involving ethnicity and political identity.

Methods

- Comparative political analysis across Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, and conflict zones.
- Policy analysis of authoritarian practices, securitisation, gender norms, and political institutions.
- Qualitative research, including case studies, elite interviews, and document analysis.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-02

Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries



Henrik Urdal

Research Professor

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 www.prio.org/people/3473

Expertise

- Demography and political violence, including youth bulges, urbanization, and other demographic drivers of conflict.
- Politics of census-taking and demographic governance, especially relevant for understanding local and national accountability structures.
- Conflict trend analysis, informed by long-term monitoring of violence patterns and structural drivers.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding how demographic pressures influence local democratic resilience, especially in fragile or low-income contexts.
- Work on youth bulges, population stress, and political violence directly informs how demographic structures affect local governance and citizen-state relations.
- Local-level governance challenges in areas with weak state presence, supported by research on census politics, territorial control, and the demographic underpinnings of local instability.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis, using long-term datasets on population, violence, and environmental change.
- Subnational and micro-level statistical methods, including geocoded studies of aid allocation and unrest.
- Comparative cross-country and cross-regional analysis, often focused on low-income and fragile states.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) from 2017 to 2025.
- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Peace Research* from 2010 to 2017.
- Collaborations with international institutions through fellowships (Harvard Kennedy School, East-West Center, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana) and contributions to major policy publications (e.g., background research for the UN/World Bank flagship report 'Pathways for Peace').



Haakon Gjerløw

Acting Director

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 www.prio.org/people/11472

Expertise

- Political institutions and domestic politics; Development; Democratization.
- Mass mobilization and protest dynamics, including how citizens participate, organize, and engage in political practices.
- Cooperation with development practitioners and humanitarian actors.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding local democratic practices: political institutions, domestic political dynamics, and electoral competition.
- Expertise in research infrastructure, data collection, and discovering new evidence.
- Insights into why and how citizens engage in democratic practices, especially in fragile or repressive environments.

Methods

- Randomized Control Trials.
- Large-N surveys and field data collection, including from vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.
- Advanced quantitative methods & dataset construction.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Interest in collaborating with development programme practitioners, NGOs, and humanitarian actors.
- Experience working with local-level authorities and service providers in Bangladesh and African contexts through field surveys and electoral datasets.
- Cooperation with the National Assembly of Zambia and multiple civil society organizations.



Ida Rudolfson

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/7887

Expertise

- Links between food insecurity and conflict – relevant for fragile contexts where service delivery affects trust and civic participation.
- Effectiveness of mass mobilization in transitions to democracy – directly linked to understanding grassroots democratic agency.
- Pro-authoritarian protests across regime types – providing insight into opposition, counter-mobilization, and local legitimizing dynamics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding local democratic practices in fragile settings.
- Expertise on how local non-state actors promote or hinder democratic practices, especially in low-income contexts.
- Mobilization, including pro-authoritarian protest.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis; Large-N dataset construction and analysis.
- Comparative political science methods.
- Cross-case analysis of mobilization and repression.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Civil society engagement.
- Collaboration with actors in conflict-affected countries.
- Links with humanitarian and development practitioners.



Marianne Dahl

Acting Deputy Director

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 www.prio.org/people/4971

Expertise

- Civil resistance, democratic mobilization, and conflict-related sexual violence.
- Quantitative modeling and qualitative research, with a focus on non-violent vs. violent strategies, mass movements, and democratic erosion.
- Authoritarian protest dynamics, Ukrainian wartime democratic values, and Women's Peace & Security metrics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding drivers of GBV and political violence: work bridges sexual violence and political mobilization, dissecting how violence affects political engagement.
- Develop large-scale datasets (e.g., OMG, MAPS) to track societal-level responses to democratic threats.
- Intersectional lens: analyzes sexual violence within conflict-affected, mobilized populations – relevant for women and LGBTIQ participants.

Methods

- Large-N quantitative analysis: Constructs datasets (OMG, MAPS, WPS Index) for cross-national regression, modeling, and event analysis.
- Mixed-methods: Statistical models augmented with case studies and qualitative interviews.
- Conflict violence mapping: Conflict-related sexual violence studies to reveal societal and gendered impacts on political participation.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Engaged in public dialogue via Norwegian media outlets *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet*, and NRK on democracy and gender issues.
- Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Peace Research*.



Øystein H. Rolandsen

Research Professor; Co-director, [PRIO Centre on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence](#) [↗](#)

@oystein@prio.org

www.prio.org/people/4704

Expertise

- Local and sub-national political authority in low-income and conflict-affected countries.
- Relationships between armed movements, local administrations, and civilian populations.
- African state formation, with deep area expertise in South Sudan, Sudan, the Sahel, and Eastern Africa.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Author of foundational empirical work on local political institutions below the national level, including local councils, customary authorities, and insurgent administrations.
- Extensive evidence-based research on: Local political elites; Civilian participation; Rebel-to-political party transitions.
- Research addresses how decentralised governance arrangements affect legitimacy, trust, and public service provision and on acceptance of democratic processes among citizen.

Methods

- Long-term qualitative field research in fragile, high-risk, and hard-to-access areas.
- Elite and community-level interviews.
- Analysis of informal, hybrid, and non-Western democratic practices.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; African universities and research institutions.
- Regular policy engagement with Nordic and European decision-makers.
- Frequent expert commentary on: Sudan and South Sudan; African conflicts and governance; Peace processes and legitimacy.



Siri Aas Rustad

Research Director & Research Professor

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 www.prio.org/people/4693

Expertise

- Research Director and Research Professor at PRIO with over 20 years of experience working with conflict data and quantitative analyses.
- Expertise spans conflict data and trends, human consequences of conflict, and natural resources and environment, including research on inequalities, aid efficiency, maternal/child health, education, sexual violence, and non-state conflicts.
- Longstanding work on ceasefires, resource-related conflict, and challenges in post-conflict natural resource management.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Extensive research on inequalities, community-level vulnerabilities, and human development outcomes in conflict-affected settings, relevant for understanding how local governance and democracy function under stress.
- Work on conflict trends and sub-national conflict variation directly supports comparative analysis of local governance dynamics in low-income contexts.
- Research on resource governance, climate mitigation conflicts (e.g., REDD+), and environmental pressures helps illuminate structural conditions affecting democratic participation at local levels.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis, including statistical modelling of conflict trends and sub-national variation.
- Large-scale conflict datasets and mixed empirical approaches to investigate drivers and consequences of violence.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regularly used as expert on conflict trends in national and international media, consulted by both governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Appears frequently in national and international media as an expert on conflict trends.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-05

Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality



Cindy Horst

Research Professor; Co-director, **PRIO Centre**
on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence [↗](#)

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Expertise

- Active citizenship, gender, mobility, migration, and refugee governance.
- Cultural and artistic practices as forms of democratic engagement and resistance.
- Diaspora, transnational civic engagement, and social justice.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Extensive research on intersectional inequalities linked to gender, migration status, ethnicity, religion, displacement, and class.
- Longstanding focus on everyday democratic practices.
- Proven experience transforming research findings into: Policy briefs; Practitioner tools; Training modules.

Methods

- Participatory and community-engaged research, living labs and co-creation spaces with non academic actors, Arts-based and creative methods.
- Multi-sited ethnography, life history and narrative approaches.
- Ethical, reflexive research design addressing power, positionality, and researcher safety.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; Refugee-led organisations; Local and national public authorities.
- Arts and cultural institutions.
- Regular speaker at: Policy forums; Public debates; Academic-policy hybrid events.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-06

Governing global commons sustainably



Simon Reid-Henry

Research Professor

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 www.prio.org/people/6517

Expertise

- Long-standing engagement on the political, economic, legal, and technical dimensions of global governance.
- Interdisciplinary work on humanitarianism, global health, development, migration, security, inequality, and democracy, linking these to governance systems and crisis response.
- Extensive background analysing how knowledge forms shape political practice, including scientific innovation, public health, and international cooperation.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Area A – Climate Governance: Leads research on global public goods and global public “bads”, including the climate-health-financing nexus (BIO-FUND, PAND-FUND), relevant for understanding systemic challenges in climate governance.
- Area B – Biodiversity Governance: Broader research into global governance and public participation informs issues of access, accountability, and civil society engagement.
- Area C – Governance of Spaces Beyond National Jurisdiction: Focus on global public goods financing contributes to understanding new frameworks for governing transboundary and extra-territorial domains.

Methods

- Strong interdisciplinary methodology, integrating geography, political economy, history, and legal-technical analysis in studying global governance.
- Emphasis on conceptual rigor and methodological innovation, combining empirical breadth with theory-driven approaches.
- Uses comparative, historical, and policy-analytic methods to understand multilateral cooperation and global systems.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- One of the original thinkers behind a new paradigm for international public finance that can better secure global public goods and protect the global commons. In this capacity he served as Academic Lead and member of the Secretariat for the international Expert Working Group on Global Public Investment and co-founded the Global Public Investment Network.
- Founder and managing director of Public Interest, a platform for creatives, experts, writers and strategic thinkers to reimagine public policy institutions with common purpose. Public Interest works with governments and multilaterals to find new ways of enhancing public value.



Ilaria Carrozza

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/11404

Expertise

- Great power competition and international order, with a particular focus on China's foreign and security policy and China's engagement in Africa and Asia, including South-South cooperation and interactions with existing global governance frameworks.
- The normative, political, and security implications of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and data governance.
- Multilateral affairs and geopolitics, with attention to how rules, norms, and institutions evolve under geopolitical pressure.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- In-depth knowledge of systemic challenges to rules-based multilateralism, especially as emerging powers advance alternative governance models in global and transnational spaces.
- Research on norm contestation and norm diffusion in areas such as digital governance and security provides insight into the drivers and motivations shaping global commons governance.
- Expertise in analysing the role of technology and infrastructure (e.g. digital systems, AI, space-related domains) as emerging and contested global commons-adjacent arenas.

Methods

- Qualitative methods: field research, expert interviews, focus groups, foreign policy analysis, discourse and content analysis, document analysis of multilateral agreements and strategic frameworks.
- Comparative and case-based research, with attention to regional variation across Asia, Africa, and global governance fora.
- Integration of international relations theory, security studies, and policy-relevant analysis to bridge academic research and decision-making contexts.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regular engagement with policy-relevant audiences through PRIO policy briefs, workshops, and dialogue with stakeholders on international security, technology governance, and geopolitics.
- Contributions to policy debates, public commentary, and expert discussions on [China](#) , global governance, [security](#) , and emerging [technologies](#)  via PRIO channels and external [platforms](#) .



Giacomo Bruni

Doctoral Researcher

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Expertise

- Doctoral Researcher at PRIO (submission Spring 2026) working on how digital technologies influence international security and global affairs.
- Research interests include technology, security, defence, and governance in contexts shaped by geopolitical competition.
- Leads PRIO's Security and Technology Research Group, reflecting expertise in global security architectures and multilateral dynamics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Experience analysing how digital technologies intersect with international governance, relevant for strengthening science-policy interfaces in foreign/security policy contexts.
- Work on global political implications of technology competition (U.S.–China) contributes to understanding systemic drivers undermining cooperation over global commons.
- Research on the “new space race” connects directly to governance challenges over outer space – one of the core global commons.

Methods

- Fieldwork interviews and stakeholder engagement.
- Comparative, geopolitical, and governance-focused analysis across regions experiencing great-power competition.
- Policy-oriented outputs (e.g., PRIO policy briefs) applying mixed qualitative political analysis.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Participation in multi-stakeholder events such as Arctic Frontiers 2026, indicating interaction with international policy communities.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-07

Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction



Cindy Horst

Research Professor; Co-director, **PRIO Centre**
on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence [↗](#)

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Expertise

- Active citizenship, gender, mobility, migration, and refugee governance.
- Cultural and artistic practices as forms of democratic engagement and resistance.
- Diaspora, transnational civic engagement, and social justice.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Extensive research on intersectional inequalities linked to gender, migration status, ethnicity, religion, displacement, and class.
- Longstanding focus on everyday democratic practices.
- Proven experience transforming research findings into: Policy briefs; Practitioner tools; Training modules.

Methods

- Participatory and community-engaged research, living labs and co-creation spaces with non academic actors, Arts-based and creative methods.
- Multi-sited ethnography, life history and narrative approaches.
- Ethical, reflexive research design addressing power, positionality, and researcher safety.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; Refugee-led organisations; Local and national public authorities.
- Arts and cultural institutions.
- Regular speaker at: Policy forums; Public debates; Academic-policy hybrid events.



Louise Olsson

Senior Researcher

@ louise@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/3508

Expertise

- Leader of PRIO's Gender Research Group.
- Strong focus on gender dynamics in conflict, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), and gendered consequences of political violence.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Research on how gender dynamics shape post-conflict transitions, peace agreement implementation, and inclusive democratic rebuilding (including reintegration and security).
- Expertise on WPS-informed governance and rights-based reconstruction, including integrity and accountability dimensions in post-conflict policymaking.
- Proven record of turning research into policy briefs, dialogue formats, and training/advisory support for government and security/defence stakeholders on WPS and gender integration.

Methods

- Mixed-Methods & Empirical Research.
- Conflict-Resolution and Field-Based Studies.
- Policy-Research Engagement & Impact-Oriented Design.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Broad experience in coaching senior military, youth, civil and political actors: Swedish and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Senior gender integration coach for the Swedish Armed Forces, as part of their leadership training; Contributed to training programs for military leaders on gender equality and WPS at the Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations.



Øystein H. Rolandsen

Research Professor; Co-director, [PRIO Centre on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence](#) [↗](#)

@oystein@prio.org

www.prio.org/people/4704

Expertise

- Local and sub-national political authority in low-income and conflict-affected countries.
- Relationships between armed movements, local administrations, and civilian populations.
- African state formation, with deep area expertise in South Sudan, Sudan, the Sahel, and Eastern Africa.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Post-conflict democracy, governance, and reconstruction: Expertise on rebuilding political authority and local governance in post-conflict settings, including the interaction between conflict legacies, decentralisation, and democratic legitimacy.
- Conflict legacies, reconciliation, and social cohesion: Research on how historical narratives, ethnic violence, and war time governance arrangements shape reconciliation, accountability, and risks of fragmented post-conflict transitions.
- Local actors, civil society, and community-level peacebuilding: Proven expertise on the role of local authorities, civil society, and community practices in sustaining peace, rebuilding trust, and supporting inclusive democratic reconstruction after conflict.

Methods

- Long-term qualitative field research in fragile, high-risk, and hard-to-access areas.
- Elite and community-level interviews.
- Analysis of informal, hybrid, and non-Western democratic practices.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; African universities and research institutions.
- Regular policy engagement with Nordic and European decision-makers.
- Frequent expert commentary on: Sudan and South Sudan; African conflicts and governance; Peace processes and legitimacy.



Henrikas Bartusevičius

Research Professor

@ henrikas@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/4994

Expertise

- Democracy, electoral qualities of regimes, and civil conflict. Co-developed the Lexical Index of Electoral Democracy, a cross-national dataset measuring components of democracy. Research on the democratic civil peace and the relationship between regime type and armed conflict.
- Psychology of political violence: individual-level drivers of support for, engagement in, and willingness to use violence, as well as autocratic orientations and anti-system attitudes, studied via large multinational surveys and experiments.
- Wartime civilian behavior and political attitudes.
- Interdisciplinary experimental research integrating political science, behavioural economics, cognitive science, and social psychology

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Research on the democratic civil peace: examined which types of electoral regimes reduce the risk of civil conflict.
- A two-stage framework for understanding how conflicts escalate (International Organization 2019).
- Ukraine survey programme: coordinated ~20 scholars and panel data during Russia's 2022 invasion.
- HUMAN-UKR (2026–2030): upcoming 5-year programme studying war's impact on citizens.

Methods

- Large-scale survey experiments and online cognitive-behavioural tasks, including cognitive-psychological paradigms.
- Panel survey design and rapid crisis deployment.
- Spatio-temporal GIS integration: linking survey responses with geocoded conflict event data.
- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), congruence analysis.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Policy engagement with government ministries and international organisations in the area of democracy promotion and conflict prevention.
- Collaboration with civil society organisations in conflict-affected settings, including local partners in Ukraine.
- Experience working with practitioners through dedicated panels bridging research findings and policy recommendations.



Helga Malmin Binningsbø

Senior Researcher

@ helmal@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/4633

Expertise

- The design and implementation of mechanisms initiated as responses to armed conflict and injustice, such as peace agreements, truth commissions, amnesties, and prosecutions, across conflict-affected, settler-colonial, and discriminatory contexts.
- How armed conflict, political violence, and discrimination shape political attitudes, including support for peace-building and transitional justice, and how these mechanisms influence legitimacy, trust, and reconciliation over time.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Public opinion research in conflict-affected societies on attitudes about peace agreements and transitional justice measures, with implications for institutional legitimacy and post-conflict governance.
- Analysis of transitional justice mechanisms and their role in shaping accountability, rule of law, and reconciliation.
- Research on peace agreement implementation and the relationship between civil servants and local communities in post-conflict reconstruction.

Methods

- Extensive experience in developing survey questionnaire and administering data collection across a wide range of contexts, including Colombia, Guatemala, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Norway, Uganda, and the United States.
- Extensive experience in developing codebooks, conducting, and administering the collection of cross-sectional, time-varying data on during- and post-conflict justice processes.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- UNDP Colombia.



Pinar Tank

Senior Researcher

@ pinar@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5042

Expertise

- Turkey's domestic and foreign policy, with a particular focus on democratisation, gender, political Islam, and Kurdish–Turkish relations.
- Geopolitical shifts and regional security in the Middle East, including rising powers' roles in peacebuilding and humanitarian action.
- Gender and authoritarianism.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Democratisation and domestic political dynamics in conflict-affected settings: Research on democratisation, Kurdish–Turkish relations, gender, and political Islam in Turkey.
- Peacebuilding and conflict-resolution perspectives: Experience and research focus connected to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including programme leadership in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building at PRIO.
- International humanitarian outreach and external actors in reconstruction contexts: Research on geopolitical shifts, international humanitarian outreach, and the role of rising powers in peacebuilding and humanitarianism (using Turkey as a case).

Methods

- Comparative political analysis across Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, and conflict zones.
- Policy analysis of authoritarian practices, securitisation, gender norms, and political institutions.
- Qualitative research, including case studies, elite interviews, and document analysis.
- Conflict and crisis analysis, integrating political science and area studies methods.



Ida Rudolfson

Senior Researcher

@ idarud@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/7887

Expertise

- Links between food insecurity and conflict – relevant for fragile contexts where service delivery affects trust and civic participation.
- Effectiveness of mass mobilization in transitions to democracy – directly linked to understanding grassroots democratic agency.
- Pro-authoritarian protests across regime types – providing insight into opposition, counter-mobilization, and local legitimizing dynamics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Social conflict, state repression, and post-conflict instability: Research on social conflict and state repression, with relevance for understanding democratic fragility and instability in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Civil society and mass mobilization in political transitions: Work on civil society organisations and the effectiveness of mass mobilization for transitions to democracy across regime types.
- Food insecurity and conflict dynamics: Expertise on the links between food insecurity, domestic instability, and conflict, informing post-conflict reconstruction and prevention of renewed violence.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis; Large-N dataset construction and analysis.
- Comparative political science methods.
- Cross-case analysis of mobilization and repression.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Civil society engagement.
- Collaboration with actors in conflict-affected countries.
- Links with humanitarian and development practitioners.



Marianne Dahl

Acting Deputy Director

@mdahl@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/4971

Expertise

- Civil resistance, democratic mobilization, and conflict-related sexual violence.
- Quantitative modeling and qualitative research, with a focus on non-violent vs. violent strategies, mass movements, and democratic erosion.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Mass mobilization, non-violence, and democratic change.
- Post-conflict stability and relapse into war.
- Democratization and democratic backsliding in conflict-affected contexts.

Methods

- Large-N quantitative analysis: Constructs datasets (OMG, MAPS, WPS Index) for cross-national regression, modeling, and event analysis.
- Mixed-methods: Statistical models augmented with case studies and qualitative interviews.
- Conflict violence mapping: Conflict-related sexual violence studies to reveal societal and gendered impacts on political participation.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Engaged in public dialogue via Norwegian media outlets *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet*, and NRK on democracy and gender issues.
- Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Peace Research*.



Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert

Senior Researcher

@ margab@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/6646

Expertise

- Working at the intersection of humanitarianism, migration, security, and technology, with long-standing experience in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Specialist in Europe's humanitarian borders, humanitarian governance, and the political and social consequences of crisis response in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Research on how humanitarian responses, citizen mobilisation, and civil society engagement shape accountability, inclusion, and legitimacy in crisis and post-conflict environments.
- Experience analysing international cooperation, EU policies, and NGO practices in contexts emerging from conflict, including the implications for governance, human rights, and social cohesion.
- Strong analytical focus on narratives, media, and communication around crises, relevant for reconciliation, public trust, and democratic reconstruction.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary social science methods, drawing on political science, international relations, and political sociology to analyse post-conflict and crisis contexts.
- Empirical research including case studies, discourse and media analysis, and close engagement with practitioners, NGOs, and civil society actors.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Active engagement with humanitarian practitioners and NGOs through research dialogue and applied policy discussions linked to PRIO activities.
- Regular contributor to PRIO blogs, public commentary, and recorded events on humanitarian crises, migration, and post-crisis governance challenges.
- Featured in interviews and public discussions (audio/video) reflecting on humanitarian practice, researcher-practitioner dialogue, and crisis governance.



Marte Nilsen

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/6786

Expertise

- Historian of Religions with focus political and violent conflict in Myanmar and Thailand and the Rohingya crisis.
- Focuses on civil society movements, societal transformation in peacebuilding/democratization, and the politics of humanitarian aid and development schemes in violent conflict settings.
- Expertise on religious/spiritual practices in politics and nation-building, and on popular culture and art in resistance and legitimacy struggles.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Analyses how civil society movements and societal transformation interact with peacebuilding and democratization, relevant for rebuilding democratic institutions after conflict.
- Studies the politics of humanitarian aid and development schemes in violent conflicts, relevant to reconstruction assistance, integrity risks, and accountability dynamics.
- Research on Rohingya forced displacement and refugees' own humanitarian and political strategies, relevant to inclusion of vulnerable groups and community-led recovery approaches.

Methods

- Analysis of media reports and interviews with resource persons in conflict settings.
- Stakeholder workshops to engage relevant actors (as specified in Myanmar peace process project design).
- Interpretive and cultural approaches to understand legitimacy, identity politics, and religious/spiritual knowledge in politics and nation-building.



Paola Vesco

Senior Researcher

@ paoves@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/11220

Expertise

- Study and forecasting of armed conflict, their impacts on human development, and their interaction with climate hazards.
- Expertise in climate security, conflict impacts, and the interaction between climate extremes, societal vulnerability, and violent conflict.
- Specialist in artificial intelligence and machine learning applied to conflict research, particularly for theory testing and forecasting.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Analyses how armed conflict and climate shocks affect societal vulnerability and human development, informing earlier and more targeted anticipatory action and disaster risk response. Develops early-warning and forecasting tools that help policymakers anticipate instability and humanitarian needs in fragile contexts.
- Contributes evidence to support anticipatory action and prevention of organized violence.

Methods

- Machine learning and artificial intelligence for the study and forecasting of armed conflict and its impacts on societal development.
- Quantitative modelling and predictive analytics to assess conflict risk, impacts, and interactions between climate shocks and violence.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Member of the VIEWS (Violence & Impacts EarlyWarning System) team, which collaborates with humanitarian organizations, UN agencies, and other decisionmakers to support anticipatory action (as indicated in PRIO news and profile descriptions).
- Featured in PRIO news and blog outputs on conflict forecasting, early warning, and climate–conflict risks, aimed at policy and practitioner audiences.



Jørgen Jensehaugen

Research Professor

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 www.prio.org/people/5841

Expertise

- Arab–Israeli and Israeli–Palestinian conflict history and diplomacy, focusing on negotiations from the late 1940s to today, including UN processes, US-led mediation, US Jerusalem policy, and Israeli/Palestinian diplomatic strategies.
- Conflict mediation, peace processes, and the ethics of negotiation, with contributions to projects on peace negotiation ethics and mediation in regionalized intrastate conflicts.
- Refugee politics in the Middle East, with a focus on Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Deep historical analysis of conflict legacies, including ethnic/national tensions, displacement, and intergenerational impacts within Israel/Palestine and the neighboring states.
- Evidence-based insights on international cooperation and diplomacy, particularly US, UN, and European roles in mediation, peacebuilding and the interconnectedness between diplomacy and foreign aid.
- Research on inequalities and humanitarian consequences of protracted conflict, including refugee politics, aid power dynamics, and host-country bargaining.

Methods

- Historical archival analysis with experience from UN, US, UK and Norwegian diplomatic archives, photographic material.
- Qualitative case-study research, including diplomacy case reconstruction and long-term process tracing.
- Interpretive analysis, especially on representation, narratives, and political framing in conflict.
- Policy analysis related to humanitarian governance, recognition politics, and refugee management.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Board Member, *Babylon – Nordic Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.
- Strong presence in major Norwegian outlets (*Aftenposten*, *Panorama*, *VG*) on topics such as UNRWA, Israel–Palestine dynamics, refugee politics, and Norwegian foreign policy.
- Frequently referenced in international venues such as *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, BBC, Al Jazeera, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, History News Network, and other platforms where he contributes analyses or is cited.



Siri Aas Rustad

Research Director & Research Professor

@sirir@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/4693

Expertise

- Research Director and Research Professor at PRIO with over 20 years of experience working with conflict data and quantitative analyses.
- Expertise spans conflict data and trends, human consequences of conflict, and natural resources and environment, including research on inequalities, aid efficiency, maternal/child health, education, sexual violence, and non-state conflicts.
- Longstanding work on ceasefires, resource-related conflict, and challenges in post-conflict natural resource management.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Extensive work on human consequences of conflict – including inequalities, social vulnerability, health outcomes, and education – relevant for assessing societal recovery paths in post-conflict democratisation.
- Research on conflict trends and sub-national conflict variation supports understanding of local post-conflict dynamics and the conditions under which democratic practices can take root after violence.
- Expertise on resource governance and environmental pressures (climate change, resource curse, natural resource management) illuminates structural challenges faced by post-conflict societies rebuilding political institutions.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis, including statistical modelling of conflict trends and sub-national variation.
- Large-scale conflict datasets and mixed empirical approaches to investigate drivers and consequences of violence.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regularly used as expert on conflict trends in national and international media, consulted by both governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Appears frequently in national and international media as an expert on conflict trends.



Gudrun Østby

Research Professor

@ gudrun@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/3501

Expertise

- Socioeconomic consequences of political violence, with a strong focus on children, education, and health outcomes in conflict-affected and fragile settings.
- Children in conflict, including how violence, instability, and inequality shape children's educational trajectories, wellbeing, and long-term life chances.
- Horizontal inequalities, poverty, and exclusion, and their implications for social outcomes across population groups.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Strong analytical expertise on the socioeconomic and institutional legacies of armed conflict, including how conflict-related inequalities and violence affect long-term prospects for social cohesion and democratic reconstruction.
- Research on education, health, and child outcomes in conflict and post-conflict settings, providing insight into intergenerational effects of conflict and the foundations for sustainable peace and democratic capacity.
- Extensive experience analysing horizontal inequalities and group-based exclusion, directly relevant to understanding post-conflict divisions that undermine reconciliation, accountability, and inclusive governance.

Methods

- Quantitative methods: statistical analysis of large-N datasets, administrative data, and cross-national indicators related to education, health, poverty, and inequality.
- Mixed-methods approaches, combining statistical analysis with contextual and policy-relevant interpretation.
- Strong experience in causal inference and impact-oriented analysis, relevant for assessing returns on social investments in children.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Consultancy and advisory work for organisations such as Save the Children, UNDP, UNESCO, USAID, and the World Bank.
- Editor-in-chief, *Journal of Peace Research*.
- Regular public dissemination of research through PRIO news, commentary, seminars, and policy-oriented events, particularly on children, education, health, and inequality.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-08

Electoral integrity in the digital context



Åshild Kolås

Research Professor

@ ashild@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5024

Expertise

- Identity, representation, governance, sovereignty, and digital politics, with extensive experience in India and China.
- Governance, governmentality, identity politics, discourse and representation, particularly in multi-ethnic contexts.
- Gender, peacebuilding and conflict, including work on women's agency in peace processes (Myanmar, Northeast India).

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Digital politics and governance, including analysis of how digitalization shapes political participation and state–citizen relations.
- Social media discourse and conflict framing, including research on “Keyboard Warriors and Peace-makers” (relevant for disinformation dynamics).
- Identity and representation, applicable to understanding how digital campaigns and AI-generated content influence vulnerable or minority groups.

Methods

- Long-term ethnographic fieldwork in multi-ethnic and politically sensitive regions (India, China, Nepal, Tibet).
- Mixed qualitative approaches, including discourse analysis, representation studies, and governance/governmentality frameworks.
- Digital discourse and media analysis, applied in recent work on social media and conflict narratives (e.g., “Keyboard Warriors and Peace-makers”).

Engagement Beyond Academia

- President, Interdisciplinary Studies Section, International Studies Association (ISA) (2024–2026).
- Co-Editor, *Journal of International Development*.
- Editorial board member, *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* and European Bulletin of Himalayan Research (EBHR).



Kristoffer Lidén

Senior Researcher & Research Director

@ kristoffer@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5134

Expertise

- Ethics of international affairs, with focus on peacemaking, humanitarian action, security politics, and digital technologies.
- Global governance and international law, especially ethical and political dimensions of governance in conflict and security contexts.
- Ethics of security technology, including digitalization, risk governance, and extremism.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Ethics of digital technologies in international affairs – highly relevant for evaluating risks from AI, cybersecurity, and digital political influence.
- Risk governance and security technology ethics, applicable to analysing digital threats to electoral integrity and platform accountability.
- Border security and digitalisation of sovereignty, offering insights into state responses to digital threats and governance challenges in cross-border digital flows.

Methods

- Ethical and political philosophy analysis, applied to global governance, conflict, and digital security issues.
- Interdisciplinary research integrating philosophy, peace and conflict studies, international relations, law, and technology governance.
- Policy-oriented research involving work packages on ethics, law, human rights, and security technology, suitable for applied governance and regulatory contexts.
- *Digital peacebuilding: a framework for critical-reflexive engagement* (2023), co-authored – addresses digital technologies, governance, and risks in political contexts.
- Extensive work on ethics of liberal peacebuilding, risk governance, and EU security research ethics (various peer-reviewed articles).
- Ethical analyses within EU funded security and governance projects (SOURCE, NordSTEVA, CORE), contributing to guidance on technology, ethics, and governance.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Deputy Director (former), Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies (NCHS).



Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert

Senior Researcher

@ margab@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/6646

Expertise

- Working at the intersection of humanitarianism, migration, security, and technology, with long-standing experience in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Specialist in Europe's humanitarian borders, humanitarian governance, and the political and social consequences of crisis response in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Experienced in analysing how citizen mobilisation, civil society action, and humanitarian responses influence accountability, inclusion, and legitimacy – relevant for understanding public trust and democratic resilience in digitalised environments.
- Deep knowledge of EU border governance, security technologies, and migration policies, useful for understanding digital infrastructures, governance practices, and risks related to manipulation or exclusion.
- Strong analytical focus on crisis narratives, media logics, digital communication, and representation, relevant for studying how AI generated content and digital media shape public opinion and trust.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary social science methods, drawing on political science, international relations, and political sociology to analyse post-conflict and crisis contexts.
- Empirical research including case studies, discourse and media analysis, and close engagement with practitioners, NGOs, and civil society actors.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Active engagement with humanitarian practitioners and NGOs through research dialogue and applied policy discussions linked to PRIO activities.
- Regular contributor to PRIO blogs, public commentary, and recorded events on humanitarian crises, migration, and post-crisis governance challenges.
- Featured in interviews and public discussions (audio/video) reflecting on humanitarian practice, researcher–practitioner dialogue, and crisis governance.



Stine Bergersen

Senior Researcher

@stiber@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/12646

Expertise

- Specialist in risk and threat communication, digitalisation of security and crisis management, and disinformation, with strong relevance for safeguarding democratic processes under digital threat.
- Research focus includes risk- and emergency communication societal resilience, hybrid threats, and security governance, particularly where digital technologies shape public understanding and behaviour.
- Academic background in criminology, political science, and security studies, with extensive experience analysing how authorities communicate complex or uncertain threats to the public.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Lead researcher on projects examining national resilience to disinformation, offering direct insights into identifying, understanding, and countering negative effects of FIMI and digital/hybrid threats.
- Expertise in communicating complex uncertainty, including how authorities convey information about security threats and how such communication affects public trust and societal values – aspects which are critical in electoral contexts vulnerable to disinformation and AI-driven influence.

Specific Expertise for the Call (continued)

- Strong analytical grounding in how media and digital communication shape perceptions of risk, which aligns with call priorities on public opinion, information manipulation, and trust in democratic institutions.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary research combining criminology, sociology, communication studies, and security studies to analyse threat communication and digital crisis governance.
- Media analysis and risk communication frameworks, examining how authorities, media, and publics interact around digitalised threats.
- Applied research with security institutions, including ethical and societal impact assessments in EU funded projects (e.g., DRIVER+).

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Collaborates with Nordic security actors through a NordForsk funded project on responses to antagonistic threats such as disinformation.
- Experience working with the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, including heading a government secretariat evaluating police–civil society relations.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-09

Citizenship education as part of lifelong learning



Cindy Horst

Research Professor; Co-director, **PRIO Centre on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence** [↗](#)

@ cindy@prio.org

www.prio.org/people/4969

Expertise

- Active citizenship, gender, mobility, migration, and refugee governance.
- Cultural and artistic practices as forms of democratic engagement and resistance.
- Diaspora, transnational civic engagement, and social justice.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Inclusive & Intersectional Policy Design: Extensive research on intersectional inequalities linked to gender, migration status, ethnicity, religion, displacement, and class.
- Active citizenship & everyday democratic practices: empirical analysis of how people engage with their surroundings, relevant for lifelong civic learning beyond elections and for recommendations that reach policy-makers and educators
- Education, citizenship and displacement: co-editing and authoring scholarship on education for refugees and citizenship, pertinent to designing adult/VET-oriented approaches that foster participation and democratic values across life stages.

Methods

- Participatory and community-engaged research, living labs and co-creation spaces with non academic actors, Arts-based and creative methods.
- Multi-sited ethnography, life history and narrative approaches.
- Ethical, reflexive research design addressing power, positionality, and researcher safety.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; Refugee-led organisations; Local and national public authorities.
- Arts and cultural institutions.
- Regular speaker at: Policy forums; Public debates; Academic-policy hybrid events.



Marta Bivand Erdal

Research Professor in Migration Studies

@ marta@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5830

Expertise

- Researches migration, transnationalism, and citizenship, focusing on how migration shapes identities, belonging, and nationhood in diverse societies.
- Expertise in migration-related diversity, including religion, nationhood and citizenship in European and Asian contexts.
- Studies social and spatial mobility, and relationships between migrants, non-migrants, and state actors.
- Extensive background in human geography with qualitative and quantitative methodological experience.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Has researched citizenship, national belonging, and how diverse populations understand and practice citizenship, aligning with the call's interest in lifelong citizenship learning for diverse groups.
- Work on migration-related diversity and inclusion provides insights relevant to designing inclusive citizenship frameworks for people with different backgrounds.
- Leadership on projects about governing and experiencing citizenship in multicultural Scandinavia speaks directly to real-world understandings of citizenship across life stages.

Methods

- Qualitative methods: interviews, focus groups, life histories, multi-sited ethnography, document/policy analysis.
- Quantitative approaches: survey analysis and mixed-method designs integrating demographic and mobility data.
- Emphasis on critical attention to analytical categories used in studying citizenship and migration.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regular engagement with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders through her citizenship and migration research.
- Member of international research networks such as IMISCOE, through project collaborations on migrant integration and transnationalism.
- Regular outreach events on migration, diversity, and citizenship, including seminars and multimedia outreach.



Henrik Urdal

Research Professor

@ urdal@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/3473

Expertise

- Demography and political violence, including youth bulges, urbanization, and other demographic drivers of conflict.
- Politics of census-taking and demographic governance, especially relevant for understanding local and national accountability structures.
- Conflict trend analysis, informed by long-term monitoring of violence patterns and structural drivers.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Understanding how demographic pressures influence local democratic resilience, especially in fragile or low-income contexts.
- Work on youth bulges, population stress, and political violence directly informs how demographic structures affect local governance and citizen-state relations.
- Public service provision, inequality, and conflict risk, including evidence on development aid effectiveness and links to infant mortality and local exclusion.
- Local-level governance challenges in areas with weak state presence, supported by research on census politics, territorial control, and the demographic underpinnings of local instability.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis, using long-term datasets on population, violence, and environmental change.
- Subnational and micro-level statistical methods, including geocoded studies of aid allocation and unrest.
- Comparative cross-country and cross-regional analysis, often focused on low-income and fragile states.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Director, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) from 2017 to 2025.
- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Peace Research* from 2010 to 2017.
- Collaborations with international institutions through fellowships (Harvard Kennedy School, East-West Center, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana) and contributions to major policy publications (e.g., background research for the UN/World Bank flagship report 'Pathways for Peace').

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-I0

Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience



Stine Bergersen

Senior Researcher

@stiber@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/12646

Expertise

- Specialist in risk and threat communication, digitalisation of security and crisis management, and disinformation, with strong relevance for safeguarding democratic processes under digital threat.
- Research focus includes risk- and emergency communication societal resilience, hybrid threats, and security governance, particularly where digital technologies shape public understanding and behaviour.
- Academic background in criminology, political science, and security studies, with extensive experience analysing how authorities communicate complex or uncertain threats to the public.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Leads research on national resilience to disinformation, offering direct insights into public behaviour and vulnerability in digital information environments.
- Expertise in how people process uncertainty and crisis information, which is essential for designing effective digital literacy strategies and countering emotionally manipulative narratives.
- Strong analytical grounding in media and digital communication processes, including how media framing influences perception, trust, and polarisation. This aligns with the call's emphasis on emotive amplification and algorithmic effects.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary research combining criminology, sociology, communication studies, and security studies to analyse threat communication and digital crisis governance.
- Media analysis and risk communication frameworks, examining how authorities, media, and publics interact around digitalised threats.
- Applied research with security institutions, including ethical and societal impact assessments in EU funded projects (e.g., DRIVER+).

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Collaborates with Nordic security actors through a NordForsk funded project on responses to antagonistic threats such as disinformation.
- Experience working with the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, including heading a government secretariat evaluating police-civil society relations.



Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert

Senior Researcher

@ margab@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/6646

Expertise

- Working at the intersection of humanitarianism, migration, security, and technology, with long-standing experience in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Specialist in Europe's humanitarian borders, humanitarian governance, and the political and social consequences of crisis response in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Experienced in analysing how citizen mobilisation, civil society action, and humanitarian responses influence accountability, inclusion, and legitimacy – relevant for understanding public trust and democratic resilience in digitalised environments.
- Examines how technologies and media influence public awareness and narratives of crises – relevant to understanding how people encounter and interpret crisis-related content online.
- Work on humanitarian communication and representation (including new tech/AI) aligns with the call's focus on emotional dynamics in digital content and trust.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary social science methods, drawing on political science, international relations, and political sociology to analyse post-conflict and crisis contexts.
- Empirical research including case studies, discourse and media analysis, and close engagement with practitioners, NGOs, and civil society actors.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Active engagement with humanitarian practitioners and NGOs through research dialogue and applied policy discussions linked to PRIO activities.
- Regular contributor to PRIO blogs, public commentary, and recorded events on humanitarian crises, migration, and post-crisis governance challenges.
- Featured in interviews and public discussions (audio/video) reflecting on humanitarian practice, researcher-practitioner dialogue, and crisis governance.



Marianne Dahl

Acting Deputy Director

@mdahl@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/4971

Expertise

- Civil resistance, democratic mobilization, and conflict-related sexual violence.
- Quantitative modeling and qualitative research, with a focus on non-violent vs. violent strategies, mass movements, and democratic erosion.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Mass mobilization, non-violence, and democratic change.
- Post-conflict stability and relapse into war.
- Democratization and democratic backsliding in conflict-affected contexts.

Methods

- Large-N quantitative analysis: Constructs datasets (OMG, MAPS, WPS Index) for cross-national regression, modeling, and event analysis.
- Mixed-methods: Statistical models augmented with case studies and qualitative interviews.
- Conflict violence mapping: Conflict-related sexual violence studies to reveal societal and gendered impacts on political participation.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Engaged in public dialogue via Norwegian media outlets *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet*, and NRK on democracy and gender issues.
- Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Peace Research*.



Ida Rudolfson

Senior Researcher

@ idarud@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/7887

Expertise

- Links between food insecurity and conflict – relevant for fragile contexts where service delivery affects trust and civic participation.
- Effectiveness of mass mobilization in transitions to democracy – directly linked to understanding grassroots democratic agency.
- Pro-authoritarian protests across regime types – providing insight into opposition, counter-mobilization, and local legitimizing dynamics.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Social conflict, state repression, and post-conflict instability: Research on social conflict and state repression, with relevance for understanding democratic fragility and instability in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Civil society and mass mobilization in political transitions: Work on civil society organisations and the effectiveness of mass mobilization for transitions to democracy across regime types.
- Food insecurity and conflict dynamics: Expertise on the links between food insecurity, domestic instability, and conflict, informing post-conflict reconstruction and prevention of renewed violence.

Methods

- Quantitative conflict analysis; Large-N dataset construction and analysis.
- Comparative political science methods.
- Cross-case analysis of mobilization and repression.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Civil society engagement.
- Collaboration with actors in conflict-affected countries.
- Links with humanitarian and development practitioners.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-06

Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe



Marta Bivand Erdal

Research Professor in Migration Studies

@ marta@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5830

Expertise

- Researches migration, transnationalism, and citizenship, focusing on how migration shapes identities, belonging, and nationhood in diverse societies.
- Expertise in migration-related diversity, including religion, nationhood and citizenship in European and Asian contexts.
- Studies social and spatial mobility, and relationships between migrants, non-migrants, and state actors.
- Extensive background in human geography with qualitative and quantitative methodological experience.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Researches migration, transnationalism, and citizenship, focusing on how migration shapes identities, belonging, and nationhood in diverse societies.
- Expertise in migration-related diversity, including religion, nationhood and citizenship in European and Asian contexts.
- Studies social and spatial mobility, and relationships between migrants, non-migrants, and state actors.
- Extensive background in human geography with qualitative and quantitative methodological experience.

Methods

- Qualitative methods: interviews, focus groups, life histories, multi-sited ethnography, document/policy analysis.
- Quantitative approaches: survey analysis and mixed-method designs integrating demographic and mobility data.
- Emphasis on critical attention to analytical categories used in studying citizenship and migration.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regular engagement with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders through her citizenship and migration research.
- Member of international research networks such as IMISCOE, through project collaborations on migrant integration and transnationalism.
- Regular outreach events on migration, diversity, and citizenship, including seminars and multimedia outreach.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-03

Tackling child poverty and ensuring disadvantaged children's access to Early Childhood Education and Care



Gudrun Østby

Research Professor

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 www.prio.org/people/3501

Expertise

- Socioeconomic consequences of political violence, with a strong focus on children, education, and health outcomes in conflict-affected and fragile settings.
- Children in conflict, including how violence, instability, and inequality shape children's educational trajectories, wellbeing, and long-term life chances.
- Horizontal inequalities, poverty, and exclusion, and their implications for social outcomes across population groups.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Strong analytical expertise in estimating social and economic costs borne by children growing up in disadvantage, particularly where poverty intersects with instability, inequality, or weak public service provision.
- Research on education and conflict provides insight into how early disruptions in education contribute to longer-term inequality, reduced human capital, and societal costs.
- Extensive experience analysing child-focused outcomes (education, health, wellbeing) across the life course, directly relevant to understanding short- and long-term returns of early investment in children.

Methods

- Quantitative methods: statistical analysis of large-N datasets, administrative data, and cross-national indicators related to education, health, poverty, and inequality.
- Mixed-methods approaches, combining statistical analysis with contextual and policy-relevant interpretation.
- Strong experience in causal inference and impact-oriented analysis, relevant for assessing returns on social investments in children.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Consultancy and advisory work for organisations such as Save the Children, UNDP, UNESCO, USAID, and the World Bank.
- Editor-in-chief, *Journal of Peace Research*.
- Regular public dissemination of research through PRIO news, commentary, seminars, and policy-oriented events, particularly on children, education, health, and inequality.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-06

Making Europe a global magnet for talent – Attracting and retaining students, researchers and high-skilled workers from outside the EU



Marta Bivand Erdal

Research Professor in Migration Studies

@ marta@prio.org

 www.prio.org/people/5830

Expertise

- Researches migration, transnationalism, and citizenship, focusing on how migration shapes identities, belonging, and nationhood in diverse societies.
- Expertise in migration-related diversity, including religion, nationhood and citizenship in European and Asian contexts.
- Studies social and spatial mobility, and relationships between migrants, non-migrants, and state actors.
- Extensive background in human geography with qualitative and quantitative methodological experience.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Extensive research on migration drivers, including social mobility, development opportunities, and migrant decision-making in different national contexts.
- Expertise on transnational lives, belonging, and identity, relevant for analysing factors influencing skilled migrants' long-term settlement choices.
- Research into citizenship, nationhood, and integration, providing insight into policy frameworks shaping attractiveness and retention of migrants.
- Engagement with migration-related diversity and societal inclusion, informing mechanisms that support workplace integration and long-term settlement.

Methods

- Qualitative methods: interviews, focus groups, life histories, multi-sited ethnography, document/policy analysis.
- Quantitative approaches: survey analysis and mixed-method designs integrating demographic and mobility data.
- Emphasis on critical attention to analytical categories used in studying citizenship and migration.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regular engagement with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders through her citizenship and migration research.
- Member of international research networks such as IMISCOE, through project collaborations on migrant integration and transnationalism.
- Regular outreach events on migration, diversity, and citizenship, including seminars and multimedia outreach.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-08

Strengthened implementation
of the EU Pact on Migration and
Asylum and a focus on inclusion,
integration, and health



Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/6646

Expertise

- Working at the intersection of humanitarianism, migration, security, and technology, with long-standing experience in conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- Specialist in Europe's humanitarian borders, humanitarian governance, and the political and social consequences of crisis response in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Experienced in analysing how citizen mobilisation, civil society action, and humanitarian responses influence accountability, inclusion, and legitimacy – relevant for understanding public trust and democratic resilience in digitalised environments.
- Examines how technologies and media influence public awareness and narratives of crises – relevant to understanding how people encounter and interpret crisis-related content online.
- Work on humanitarian communication and representation (including new tech/AI) aligns with the call's focus on emotional dynamics in digital content and trust.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary social science methods, drawing on political science, international relations, and political sociology to analyse post-conflict and crisis contexts.
- Empirical research including case studies, discourse and media analysis, and close engagement with practitioners, NGOs, and civil society actors.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Active engagement with humanitarian practitioners and NGOs through research dialogue and applied policy discussions linked to PRIO activities.
- Regular contributor to PRIO blogs, public commentary, and recorded events on humanitarian crises, migration, and post-crisis governance challenges.
- Featured in interviews and public discussions (audio/video) reflecting on humanitarian practice, researcher–practitioner dialogue, and crisis governance.



Marta Bivand Erdal

Research Professor in Migration Studies

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Expertise

- Researches migration, transnationalism, and citizenship, focusing on how migration shapes identities, belonging, and nationhood in diverse societies.
- Expertise in migration-related diversity, including religion, nationhood and citizenship in European and Asian contexts.
- Studies social and spatial mobility, and relationships between migrants, non-migrants, and state actors.
- Extensive background in human geography with qualitative and quantitative methodological experience.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Has researched citizenship, national belonging, and how diverse populations understand and practice citizenship, aligning with the call's interest in lifelong citizenship learning for diverse groups.
- Work on migration-related diversity and inclusion provides insights relevant to designing inclusive citizenship frameworks for people with different backgrounds.
- Leadership on projects about governing and experiencing citizenship in multicultural Scandinavia speaks directly to real-world understandings of citizenship across life stages.

Methods

- Qualitative methods: interviews, focus groups, life histories, multi-sited ethnography, document/policy analysis.
- Quantitative approaches: survey analysis and mixed-method designs integrating demographic and mobility data.
- Emphasis on critical attention to analytical categories used in studying citizenship and migration.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Regular engagement with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders through her citizenship and migration research.
- Member of international research networks such as IMISCOE, through project collaborations on migrant integration and transnationalism.
- Regular outreach events on migration, diversity, and citizenship, including seminars and multimedia outreach.



Jørgen Carling

Research Professor in Migration Studies

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 www.prio.org/people/5122

Expertise

- International expert on migration theory, transnational mobility, and migration decision-making, with extensive comparative research in Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- Specialises in governance of migration, including border regimes, return policies, and the dynamics between aspiration, ability, and structural constraints.
- Conducts long-term research on diaspora engagement, remittances, and transnational family life, integrating sociology, anthropology, and demography.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Deep expertise in analysing asylum and migration governance systems, including how policy frameworks shape mobility decisions and outcomes.
- Experienced in studying migration control measures, return regimes, and the lived effects of border and asylum policies – directly relevant to the EU Pact's implementation challenges.
- Offers analytical frameworks for understanding integration trajectories, mobility constraints, and the biographical dimensions of migrant experiences, aligning with the call's focus on long-term inclusion.

Methods

- Combines qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research, with strong conceptual and theoretical grounding.
- Extensive experience with multi-country comparative fieldwork, including interviews, surveys, and ethnographic approaches.
- Develops innovative theoretical frameworks for analysing mobility, migration aspirations, decision-making, and transnationalism.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Collaborates regularly with international organisations, including IOM, UNHCR, and regional bodies working on migration governance.
- Engages with governmental and policy actors in Europe and Africa through advisory work, workshops, and applied research.
- Frequently consulted for evidence-based insights on return migration, legal pathways, and immigrant integration. Including commentary in news media, podcasts, and public debates on European and global migration trends.

Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society

PRIO conducts systematic research on security, risk governance, and societal resilience, with particular attention to disaster preparedness, crisis management, and the protection of fundamental rights. Our work examines how societies respond to complex risks, including hybrid threats and cross-border challenges, and explores approaches to strengthen civil protection and social cohesion.

PRIO has extensive experience in EU-funded projects relevant to Cluster 3. In **DRIVER+ (2014–2020)**, PRIO developed the co-creative Trial Guidance Methodology for crisis-management experiments, now adopted across Europe. Through **HumBORDER (2017–2022)**, PRIO analysed governance at EU external borders, providing socio-legal insights into the intersection of security and humanitarian norms. Most recently, in **TRANSCEND (2023–2025)**, PRIO has advanced participatory methodologies for security technology assessment, focusing on inclusive, privacy-sensitive, and open-source approaches to civil society engagement in security innovation.

Our research relies primarily on qualitative methods – interviews, document analysis, and case studies – often applied within critical theoretical frameworks drawing on governmentality studies, genealogy, conceptual history, and media and social theory. These capabilities, combined with interdisciplinary

expertise and a proven track record in EU security research, position PRIO as a strong and reliable partner for Horizon Europe Cluster 3 projects.

HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-INFRA-01**Tools and processes to support stress tests of critical infrastructure****69****HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-01****Designing new ways of risk awareness and enhanced disaster preparedness****71**

HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-INFRA-01

Tools and processes to support stress tests of critical infrastructure



Bruno Oliveira Martins

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/10958

Expertise

- Intersection between technological developments, security practices, and societal change, with a strong focus on security and defence implications.
- Security and emerging technologies, including drones, artificial intelligence, and digital infrastructures, particularly in European security contexts.
- EU security, defence, and crisis governance, including how technologies are developed, regulated, and deployed in security-critical environments.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Strong expertise in analysing technical and operational vulnerabilities emerging from the integration of new technologies into security-critical systems and infrastructures.
- Research on drones and airspace integration provides insight into stress testing, risk assessment, and regulatory challenges affecting critical infrastructure operations.
- Experience examining human, organisational, and governance dimensions of security technologies, relevant for understanding adaptive capacities and operational resilience.

Methods

- Qualitative and interpretive methods, including policy and legal analysis, document analysis, and discourse analysis of security and defence frameworks.
- Interdisciplinary socio-technical approaches integrating security studies, science and technology studies (STS), and legal perspectives.
- Comparative analysis across European and international security governance systems.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Co-leader of PRIO's Security & Technology Research Group and Editor-in-Chief of Security Dialogue.
- Member of the UN Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks, linking academic research with operational security practice.
- Commissioned research for the European Commission and European Parliament on security and defence technologies and their regulation.
- Regular engagement in policy debates and expert commentary on security, technology, and defence through PRIO channels and international fora.

HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-01

Designing new ways of risk awareness and enhanced disaster preparedness



Stine Bergersen

Senior Researcher

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 www.prio.org/people/12646

Expertise

- Specialist in risk and threat communication, digitalisation of crisis and security communication, hybrid threats and disinformation, with strong relevance for understanding how citizens interpret and respond to (digital) information.
- Research focus on risk perception, societal resilience, and communication dynamics, including how digital technologies shape public understanding and emotional responses during crises.
- Background in criminology, political science and security studies, with deep expertise in how authorities communicate uncertain or sensitive information.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Expertise in risk perception, risk communication, and behavioural responses, directly aligned with the call's focus on improving risk awareness and inclusive communication strategies.
- Works on digital emergency communication systems, highly relevant for the call's emphasis on innovative, technology-supported preparedness tools.
- Leads research on societal resilience and the impact of disinformation on population preparedness – matching the need for whole-of-society engagement.

Specific Expertise for the Call (continued)

- Experience with vulnerable groups and public trust in crisis information environments, supporting inclusive risk-awareness approaches.

Methods

- Qualitative and interdisciplinary research combining criminology, sociology, communication studies, and security studies to analyse threat communication and digital crisis governance.
- Media analysis and risk communication frameworks, examining how authorities, media, and publics interact around digitalised threats.
- Applied research with security institutions, including ethical and societal impact assessments in EU funded projects (e.g., DRIVER+).

Engagement Beyond Academia

- Collaborates with Nordic security actors through a NordForsk funded project on responses to antagonistic threats such as disinformation.
- Experience working with the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, including heading a government secretariat evaluating police–civil society relations.



Øystein H. Rolandsen

Research Professor; Co-director, **PRIO Centre**
on Culture, Conflict and Coexistence [↗](#)

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www.prio.org/people/4704

Expertise

- Local and sub-national political authority in low-income and conflict-affected countries.
- Relationships between armed movements, local administrations, and civilian populations.
- African state formation, with deep area expertise in South Sudan, Sudan, the Sahel, and Eastern Africa.

Specific Expertise for the Call

- Author of foundational empirical work on local democratic institutions in fragile and low-income settings, including local councils, customary authorities, and insurgent administrative structures.
- Extensive evidence-based research on local political elites, civilian participation, and rebel-to-party transitions, informing inclusive decision-making in crisis contexts.
- Strong background in decentralisation and service delivery, analysing how local governance affects legitimacy, trust, and public service provision – key to resilient preparedness frameworks.
- Insights into how local governance successes or failures shape acceptance of democratic processes, relevant to risk awareness and community-level resilience strategies.

Methods

- Long-term qualitative field research in fragile, high-risk, and hard-to-access areas.
- Elite and community-level interviews.
- Analysis of informal, hybrid, and non-Western democratic practices.

Engagement Beyond Academia

- International NGOs; African universities and research institutions.
- Regular policy engagement with Nordic and European decision-makers.
- Frequent expert commentary on: Sudan and South Sudan; African conflicts and governance; Peace processes and legitimacy.

Other EU grants: ERC, MSCA and Twinning projects

ERC Grants

For several years, PRIO has consistently ranked amongst the top five recipients of ERC grants in Norway – remarkably, as the only non-University in that list. Given its relatively small size compared to major universities, PRIO is the highest per capita recipient of ERC funding among those Norwegian research institutions.

In addition to hosting several ERC grants, PRIO researchers are also partners in grants hosted by other institutes. We encourage prospective collaborators to reach out if PRIO's expertise could contribute to your project or proposal.

MSCA Grants

PRIO welcomes collaboration within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) across all schemes. As a research institute based in a Horizon Europe Associated Country, PRIO is fully eligible to participate as a host or partner organisation in MSCA Doctoral Networks, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Staff Exchanges, and COFUND projects, alongside universities, research institutions, businesses, and other organisations in Europe. We offer a strong track record of internationally recognised research, experienced supervisors, and a vibrant interdisciplinary environment. Prospective consortia and applicants are warmly invited to reach out to explore how PRIO's expertise and research environment can strengthen MSCA proposals and training networks.

Twinning

PRIO is currently a partner in a **Twinning project** [↗](#) with Masaryk University (2024–2027). Building on this experience and recognising the value of international collaboration and the professional development it brings to both research staff and Research Managers and Administrators (RMAs), PRIO is enthusiastic about joining additional Horizon Europe Twinning projects.

Here below are a few activities PRIO could offer in a Twinning project:

- **Knowledge exchange workshops:** Topics of the workshop could include communication among researchers and RMAs, impact, motivation of researchers to apply for competitive funding, proposal development and project management in HE/FP10.
- **Ethics workshop:** PRIO has a special Ethics advisor guiding researchers both pre- and post-grant in all matters related to ethics issues.
- **Gender and academic promotion:** Lecture by PRIO's special advisor on professional development, gender and diversity on **gender and academic promotion**.
- **Training on publication strategies:** Introduction on how to efficiently present research results in scientific journals, targeting junior researchers.
- **“Writing Detox course”:** Concept established at PRIO to help researchers identify what might be getting in the way of being able to finish the writing project, and to plan a strategy for moving forward.
- **Research school on Peace & Conflict:** Well-established training concept developed at PRIO, **The PRIO Research School on Peace and Conflict** [↗](#) is our hub for state-of-the-art PhD level courses aimed at training emerging scholars in peace research.



Independent – International – Interdisciplinary

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) conducts research on the conditions for peaceful relations between nations, groups and people.



PRIO

Peace Research
Institute Oslo