



THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG



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**THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT
INSTITUTE
ANNUAL REPORT
2020**



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CONTENT

ABOUT US

4

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS 2020

8

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

11

PUBLICATIONS

17

THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE BEST PAPER AWARD

21

EVENTS

22

LUNCH SEMINARS AND VISITING SCHOLARS

23

QOG DATA

24

QOG FOR STUDENTS

29

ABOUT US

The Quality of Government (QoG) Institute was founded in 2004 by Professor Bo Rothstein and Professor Sören Holmberg. It is an independent research institute within the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. We are about 30 researchers who conduct and promote research on the causes, consequences and nature of Good Governance and the Quality of Government (QoG) – that is, trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic casts its shadow over 2020. Almost all activities at the Quality of Government (QoG) Institute during the past year have been affected by the international, national and institutional measures to fight the pandemic. Consequently, most of us have worked from home; fieldwork has been postponed; and our visiting scholar program, conferences, and meetings have been either cancelled or taken place online. I am, however, very pleased with the way my colleagues have handled this unfortunate situation. In spite of all, we can look back at yet another productive year for the QoG Institute.

The QoG Institute has continued to study how trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions affect societal prosperity and human well-being. It is probably more important than ever to understand the causes and effects of institutional quality. The QoG Institute includes about 30 scholars, both junior and senior, and administrative staff members, all of whom are deeply committed to the international research agenda on institutional quality.

During 2020, scholars from the QoG Institute have published papers in the highest ranked international scientific journals, such as *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Governance*, *Political Behavior*, *Public Administration*, and *Public Administration Review*, as well as books with publishers such as *Oxford University Press*. In total, no less than 35 peer reviewed articles from scholars associated with the QoG Institute were published in 2020. We are also very proud to present a new Quality of Government Expert Survey based on data gathered during 2020. It measures impartiality in recruitment as well as other factors that we know are important for institutional quality, in a global sample of countries, and is freely available.

Our scholars have presented ongoing research at international conferences and in working paper series. We have participated in webinars with practitioners and in online versions of conferences such as APSA. It is inspiring, indeed, to see both practitioners and scholars engaged in the discussion on institutional quality.

Due to the pandemic, internal meetings, the summer conference, and the seminar series have been online. The quality of presentations and discussions have, however, remained as high as before the pandemic. In October, we organized the workshop “Institutions and development: a sub-national perspective,” together with the International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development (ICSID), at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. It attracted participants from universities from all-around the world. Over the three days, the workshop had more than 100 participants from Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA,

Poland, and Turkey. We also formalized our professional relations with the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA), and signed a mutual memorandum of understanding. I am very much looking forward to continued cooperation between our two institutions.

During 2020, a number of new research projects started at the QoG Institute. Several applications associated with the institute were also successful in securing funding from, for example, the Swedish Research Council and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. The Vice Chancellor at the University of Gothenburg decided that the research infrastructure provided by the QoG Institute should be considered a common recourse for the university, which, among other things, opens up opportunities for additional support from the University of Gothenburg. We are also pleased to be part of the national research infrastructure consortium “Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social Policy, Conflict and Representation” (DEMSCORE), and to see that the agreement between the participating institutions was signed during 2020.

The work we do at the institute was possible because of generous financial support from donors. Riksbankens Jubileumsfond continued to fund our data infrastructure, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation supports large parts of our research activities, while additional funding from the European Commission, the European Research Council, the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, as well as the Swedish Research Council has made it possible for us to fund specific research projects within the QoG Institute. We are grateful for this generous support.

We launched a new website at the beginning of September 2020. This was a large and demanding project, and I would like to thank Alice Johansson and Natalia Alvarado for all their work with the new site. Finally, we engaged two new colleagues during the year, and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Eliška Drápalová and Cem Mert Dalli to the QoG Institute.



Carl Dahlström
Professor and Director of the Quality
of Government Institute

THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

The main objective of our research is to address the theoretical and empirical problem of how high quality government institutions can be created and maintained, as well as the effects of good government on public policy and socio-economic conditions in areas such as health, the environment, social policy, and poverty. In order to do this, we conduct research on the nature of good governance and the quality of government (QoG) - that is, trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions.

Professor Bo Rothstein and Professor Sören Holmberg founded the Institute in 2004. We are an independent research institute within the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. We investigate and generate knowledge on corruption and the quality of government in dialogue with a variety of societal actors, in both the public and private sectors.



THE QOG DATA

As a key resource for researchers and practitioners, QoG Data offers seven datasets, several data visualization tools, as well as tips and advice on how to use our data. Our goal is to enable researchers, academics and students to access high quality information about the quality of government and related areas. Our datasets are presented as both cross-sectional and time-series and in the most common data file formats.

OUR DATABASES

→ **Compilation datasets**

- [Standard Dataset](#)
- [Basic Dataset](#)
- [OECD Dataset](#)
- [EU Regional Dataset](#)

→ **Original datasets**

- [QoG Expert Survey](#)
- [European Quality of Government Index](#)
- [Swedish Agency Database](#)

The QoG team and organization. 35 researchers and administrative staff are currently engaged in different projects organized or funded by the QoG Institute.



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Doctoral student



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Associate Professor



Alvarado, Natalia
Database manager,
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Axelsson, Sofia
Associate researcher



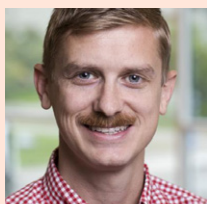
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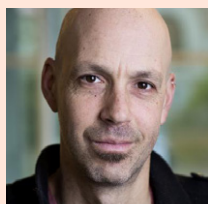
Bauhr, Monika
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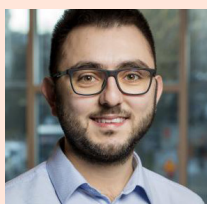
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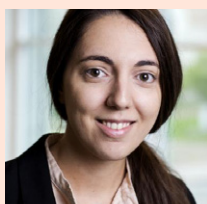
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Dalli, Cem Mert
Data manager, QoG Data



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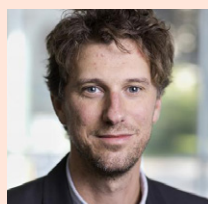
Dawson, Stephen
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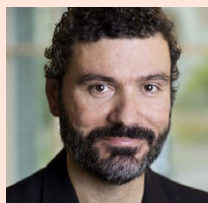
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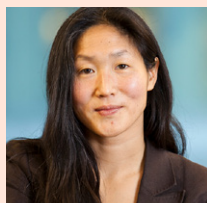
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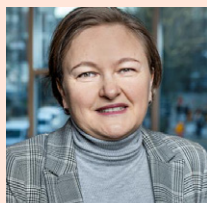
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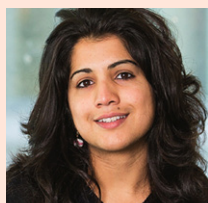
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Sundström, Aksel
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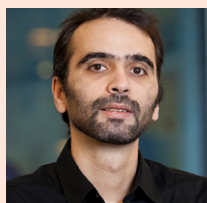
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Varraich, Aiysha
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Wängnerud, Lena
Professor



Xezonakis, Georgios
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NEW RESEARCH GRANTS 2020

In 2020, several project applications by QoG researchers were granted money.

DOES POPULAR INFLUENCE OVER POLICY LEAD TO GOOD OUTCOMES?

Anders Sundell and Mikael Persson

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond: 3 339 000 kronor

Does popular influence over policy produce good outcomes? It is surprisingly hard to say. The highest standards of human well-being are generally found in established democracies. But influential scholars have recently questioned the competence of the electorate, arguing that most people have little idea of what goes on in politics, and know even less of which policies they would benefit from. Research the last decade has also shown that it is far from certain that the existence of democratic institutions means that the preferences of the average voter impacts policy.

A finding common to contexts as diverse as the United States and Sweden is that the opinions of the wealthy matters much more than those of the poor. If life is better in democracies, it might thus not be because people can govern themselves competently; instead, it has been argued that the good outcomes reflect other features than popular influence over policy, such as rule of law for elites, or the absence of corruption. This project will bring evidence to bear on the debate, using a new, world-leading dataset that combines millions of survey answers with data on the implementation of thousands of policies in 43 countries. We will thus be able to see whether political and economic outcomes such as growth, unemployment, inequality and satisfaction with democracy turn out better when policy follows the “will of the people.”

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GENDER AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: A DECADE OF UPRISINGS

Ellen Lust (The Program on Governance and Local Development), Marwa Shalaby (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Lena Wängnerud (The QoG institute)
Riksbankens jubileumsfond: 446 000 kronor

The momentous upheavals in the MENA-region since 2011 have had substantial implications for gender politics. This project explores how the old paradigms, realities, and contexts for studying gender and politics in the region have been shaped and reshaped by unfolding political transformations since the onset of the uprisings. It is time to take stock of the state of the field and chart the research agenda ahead.

To do so, the project will convene a workshop to examine gender and politics across regimes and cultural contexts of the MENA compared with other regions. The workshop

is a collaborative effort by researchers at the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD), the Quality of Government (QoG) Institute, and the Working Group on Gender and Politics in the MENA. It will bring together 43 international, interdisciplinary scholars to discuss cutting-edge research in eight panels: 1) Gender in National and Sub-national Electoral Politics and Governance; 2) Gender and Authoritarian Politics; 3) Women’s Activism and Social Movements; 4) Gender, Religion, and Politics; 5) Gender and IR/Foreign Policy; 6) Gender, Displacement, and Conflict; 7) Methodology in the Study of Gender and Politics; 8) New Frontiers in Gender and Politics in MENA Research. The organizers will review papers, prepare them for publication as working papers, and as a special issue in an international, peer-reviewed journal. Results will also be discussed in the GLD podcast series, Governance Uncovered.

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INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY, STATE INTERVENTION, AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY IN EUROPE

Nicholas Charron

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond: 1 318 000 kronor

Since the turn of the millennium, leading international organizations, such as the World Bank and the UN have stressed the importance of ‘quality of government’ (QoG) for social and economic prosperity. This project analyzes several aspects of QoG, understood as fair and impartial application of laws and policies with low levels of corruption, and its causes and consequences in contemporary European politics. Building on 12 years of my previous work, the project is broadly organized in two parts. First, I study several consequences of QoG on citizens’ policy preferences. In a time of rising inequality, I investigate how QoG affects public demand for re-distributive policies like taxation, regulation, and inter-EU aid to members states in need post-COVID-19. I also ask how QoG affects preferences for authoritarian ‘strong-man’-type politics. Second, I am interested in causes of QoG along two lines. One, I study why voters hold some politicians accountable (or not) when involved in political corruption, and two, if and how political gender equality improves QoG. To carry out this research, I use newly collected primary data in 2020–2021 from several of my ongoing projects. I apply for the grant to, one, synthesize my current research projects and provide a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of QoG and to have time to produce high quality publications. And two, to collaborate with several of the world’s leading scholars on these topics at Harvard University.

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SETTING THE AGENDA IN THE SWEDISH RIKSDAG: PARTISAN POLITICS AND COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY, 1971–2021

Carl Dahlström and Mikael Holmgren
Swedish Research Council: 5 500 000 kronor

A central issue in contemporary democratic politics concerns the agenda-setting stages of the legislative process. It is central because for many of the political controversies that may appear up for legislative debate, the core issues will already have been vetted and effectively decided in the initial preparation of legislative proposals. A proper understanding of how modern democracies actually work therefore also requires a proper understanding of how they manage their legislative agendas – the procedures that surround them, the issues that constitute them, and above all, the political interests that control them. This project investigates how elected representatives manage the legislative agenda using novel data from the Swedish government.

Theoretically, our working hypothesis is that the parties in power control the entire legislative process, with appreciable implications for both the cabinet's delegation strategies and the sort of policy positions that are likely to enter the statutory rulebook. The traditional view of the Swedish Commissions of Inquiry depict them as prototypical examples of impartial and technocratic institutions. Much of the international literature that has developed over the past few decades,

however, emphasize the many ways in which partisanship can distort the legislative process. In particular, scholars of the US Congress have long suggested that party leaders can face strong incentives to block policies that might upset a majority of their party's members. If the cabinet ministers believe that a given policy recommendation might split their parliamentary base, then it would certainly be well within their rights to reject the recommendation. Similarly, scholars of the US Presidency have also long suggested that party leaders can face equally strong incentives to pack advisory bodies with co-partisans in order to stack the recommendations in their party's favor. If the cabinet mistrusts the commission's policy priorities, then it would also be well within their rights to fill the commission with party loyalists from the outset. Our overarching ambition is probe the effects of partisanship throughout the legislative process, from the cabinet's initial design of a given commission to the parliament's final-passage vote.

Empirically, we propose to construct a comprehensive database with detailed information on all Commissions of Inquiry and legislative bills between 1971 and 2021. We will collect data on the commissions' institutional designs and policy recommendations from a series of annual cabinet reports, along with the individual commission reports. Based on preliminary analyses, we expect the database to cover about 5 000 individual commissions and 40 000 individual commissioners, along with the approximately 10 000 bills that the ministers have sought to legislate over the observation period. We will make all data available to the public via the Quality of Government Institute website upon project completion.

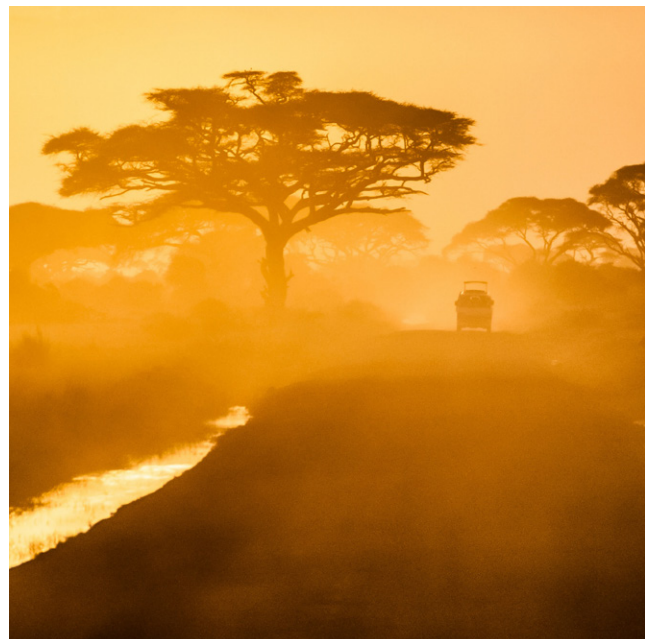
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WAGING WAR TO SAVE THE PEACE PARKS: A STUDY OF MILITARIZATION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Martin Sjöstedt, Sverker Jagers and Aksel Sundström
Swedish Research Council: 4 229 400 kronor

Recent decades have witnessed an increasing militarization of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. This trend has been most profound in African countries, where state agencies have responded to heavily armed poachers by providing rangers with more sophisticated and lethal weapons as well as more rigorous military training. The consequences of applying militarized forms of conservation measures have, however, rarely been evaluated in empirical research. The overall objective of this project is therefore to investigate how military style wildlife management affect the effectiveness and legitimacy of conservation efforts in southern Africa.

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PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020

In 2020, several new QoG-related projects started up, which was enabled by the many successful project applications by QoG researchers the year before.

CREATING LEGITIMACY IN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM PROCESSES: THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Lena Wängnerud and Mattias Agerberg
Swedish Research Council: 2 828 000 kronor

Recent years have seen a feminization in migration flows, with a rising share of female asylum applicants. Against this backdrop, this projects aims at exploring the foundations for the legitimacy of migration policy from a gender perspective. Based on theories on the importance of inclusive representation in decision-making bodies we aim to test how the representation of women and minorities in these bodies affect how the public views the legitimacy of immigration policies and asylum decisions. For policies and guidelines to be well functioning and sustainable in the long run, they need to be viewed as *legitimate* by the public. They also need to be anchored in *legal consciousness* i.e. in how people in general perceive “right” or “wrong” in a certain area.

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DEMSCORE – RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEMOCRACY, ENVIRONMENT, MIGRATION, SOCIAL POLICY, CONFLICT, AND REPRESENTATION

V-Dem, Prof. Staffan Lindberg (PI), QoG, Ass. Prof. Aksel Sundström, UCDP/VIEWS, Prof. Magnus Öberg and Prof. Håvard Hegre, COMPLAB, Prof. Andreas Duit, Prof. Kenneth Nelson, and Prof. Joakim Palme, REPDEM, Prof. Torbjörn Bergman and Assoc. Prof. Johan Hellström and H-DATA, Prof. Jan Teorell (PI)
Swedish Research Council: 15 000 000 kronor
Participating universities: 15 000 000 kronor

QoG participates in a newly established national infrastructure – DEMSCORE – which brings together some of the world’s leading contextual research infrastructures and databases located at various Swedish universities. The main objective of DEMSCORE is to advance national and international research on complex societal challenges facing Sweden, Europe, and the world, including for instance how to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Demscore is building a world-leading hub for contextual data based with user-friendly access to data, documentation, and online visualization tools. The aim is also to expand methodological development in this field, through harmonizing gold-standard protocols of data collection, processing, provision and documentation. The data

is provided by several research institutes and incorporates: the world’s largest data collection project on democracy – V-Dem Institute; the largest dataset on governance – Quality of Government; the infrastructure providing the world with authoritative data on armed conflicts – Uppsala Conflict Data Program/VIEWS; as well as the Comparative Policy Laboratory which brings together world leading data on social, environmental, and migration policies as well as Representative Democracy in Europe and its Neighbours combining leading datasets on national/local governments across Europe/OECD. Historical Data Archive which is a hub for collecting, integrating and curating historical data for all the other modules; Data on democracy and representation provided by Representative Democracy in Europe and its Neighbors.

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HOW TO RESEARCH CORRUPTION? A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON CONCEPTS, DATA AND METHODS

Ilona Wismulek (Polish Academy of Sciences), Marina Povitkina (The QoG institute), Oksana Huss (Bologna University / Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre, Kyiv), Christopher Starke (Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf) and Nils Köbis (Max Planck Institute for Human Development)

The Constructive Advanced Thinking grant of the Institutes for Advanced Studies for a series of fellowships

During the project, the interdisciplinary team will develop resources (a Handbook, website, and podcast series) that aim to foster critical reflections on appropriate data collection and research methods for investigating various forms of corruption, taking into account practical and ethical issues. The resources will unpack (a) the link between conceptualizations and methodological approaches in studying corruption, (b) limitations and benefits of particular data and methods for corruption research and (c) ethical and security-related issues in applying different methods of researching corruption. This year, the project team hosted two panels at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) general conference: [“Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Empirical Research: Methodological, Ethical and Security Challenges”](#) and [“Measuring Political Corruption – How to Hit a Moving Target?”](#), which took place online 24–28 August 2020. The participants discussed various novel methods of measuring corruption, methods of data collection and analysis, as well as ethics and security issues in corruption research.

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MEASURING THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT AT THE SUBNATIONAL LEVEL AND COMPARING RESULTS WITH PREVIOUS STUDIES

Nicholas Charron, Victor Lapuente,
Monika Bauhr and Bo Rothstein
EU Commission DG REGIO: 1.5mn Euro

The project consists of gathering new data across approximately 220 EU regions and case study fieldwork in selected regions. The data collected will among other things, go into constructing a 4th round of the European Quality of Government Index (EQI).

The European Quality of Government Index (EQI) is the result of novel survey data regional (e.g. sub-national) level governance within the EU. The index is based on a large citizen survey where respondents are asked about perceptions and experiences with public sector corruption, along with the extent to which citizens believe various public sector services are impartially allocated and of good quality. It aims to provide researchers and policy makers a tool to better understand how governance varies within countries and now, over time.

It covers all EU member states and two accession countries (Serbia and Turkey are also included in the 2013 round). The sub-national regions are at the NUTS 1 or NUTS 2 level, depending on the country. Currently, we provide data for up to 206 regions, depending on the year in question. In the four years of the EQI survey (2010 2013, 2017 and 2020); we have roughly 320,000 respondents in total.

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QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT AND SOLUTIONS TO COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS

The project teams involves Marina Povitkina (PI), Andrea Martinangeli, Sverker Jagers and Bo Rothstein. The partner for the project is Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance. Financial support was provided by the Swedish Research Council, grant number 2019-02680. Swedish Research Council: 2 305 642 kronor

Collective action dilemmas are at the heart of many societal problems today. Stopping the spread of COVID-19, collecting taxes to finance public policy programs, mitigating climate change – solving all of these critical problems relies on the willingness of actors to sacrifice their immediate gain for achieving collectively desirable outcomes. This project aims to study the role of institutional context in securing collective action among individuals and achieving socially beneficial outcomes. The first experiment in the project took place 24–28 of February 2020 at the Max Planck Institute of Tax Law and Public Finance. During the experiment, the project team tested the effect of institutional quality on social trust among the participants. The participants were first exposed to different levels of institutional quality in an environment mimicking public administration embezzlement. Then the participants played a trust game. The results show that individuals exposed to low institutional quality trust others significantly less.

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UNEXPECTED AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FROM PROTECTED RESERVES: LINKS BETWEEN NEW REGULATIONS ON POACHING IN AFRICA AND INCREASED LOCAL CORRUPTION

Aksel Sundström

Swedish Research Council: 4 399 179 kronor

The project revolves around how the establishment of protected areas in African countries affects surrounding communities. More specifically, it will investigate whether the establishment of protected areas affects levels of local corruption and institutional quality. To what extent is local corruption affected in areas where protected areas are established? Under what circumstances do these effects appear? A number of methods will be used to investigate these research questions; the project has the ambition to partly analyze existing large-scale datasets on protected areas and their effects on citizens' attitudes, but also to carry out its own data collection in certain selected protection areas. Here, both survey methods and / or in-depth interviews will be relevant.

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WHEN IS CIVIL SOCIETY CIVIL? INSTITUTIONAL DETERMINANTS OF CLAIM-MAKING AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

Marcia Grimes (PI), Agnes Cornell, and Paula Muñoz Chirinos from the Universidad del Pacífico in Lima, Peru
Swedish Research Council: 5 973 060 kronor

A strong civil society is often cited as a means to strengthen ties between citizens and the state, improve citizens' opportunities for demanding accountability, and in the long run also deepen democracy and the well-being of citizens. What lies behind these expectations, however, are assumptions that civil society organizations will act as a positive counterforce to the political elite, taking action, for example, when democracy is threatened, when citizens' rights are violated, or when the state fails to provide public goods and services. While civil society has indeed defended democracy at key points in history, there are also notable instances of when civil society has instead undermined accountability and democracy.

The project will investigate what types of claims civil society organizations make when they make demands on government. Previous research has often taken for granted that civil society

will make universal demands, i.e. demand for legal reforms, better government more generally, or improvements in goods and services that will benefit citizens broadly. While some may indeed make universal claims, others may also make particularist claims, i.e. demands for special privileges and benefits that only members will receive. Previous research documents that civil society associations at times engage in clientelistic exchanges, but has not sought to explain why this behavior arises in some settings but not in others.

The project therefore examines the circumstances under which civil society organizations choose to pursue universal or particularist demands respectively. Our hypothesis is that the quality of state institutions shapes which type of claims civil society organizations will be inclined to make.

The project, which will begin in January 2021, will examine these dynamics in the context of Peruvian local government using surveys with embedded experiments. The project will shed light on why efforts to involve or strengthening civil society has not always lived up to expectations.

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WHY ARE SOME DEMOCRACIES LESS CORRUPT THAN OTHERS? UNDERSTANDING THE LINK BETWEEN WOMEN REPRESENTATION AND CORRUPTION

Monica Bauhr, Nicholas Charron and Lena Wängnerud
Swedish Research Council: 4 477 470 kronor

One of the most puzzling results in contemporary corruption studies is the wide variation in the ability of democracies to contain corruption. Theoretically, and assuming that the public prefers public over particularistic goods, introducing democratic reforms should help the demos to exercise control over its representatives, and incentivize elected officials to opt out of corruption. However, the corruption-reducing functions of democracies seem to be much less present than theories would suggest, and many democracies are still struggling with widespread corruption and venality. While several explanations have been suggested thus far for the wide variation in the ability of democracies to contain corruption, one of the most consistent findings is that there seems to be a strong link between the share of women in elected office and lower levels of corruption. The aim of this project is to investigate how the share of women in elected office is linked to lower level of corruption. When does women representation cause reductions in corruption? If so, why? What kinds of corruption are reduced? And will the effect last over time? This project seeks to bring both theoretical and empirical innovations to this field of research. It builds on a mix of survey data and conjoint experiments (through surveys such as the EQI 2020) as well as more objective municipal level data, and it is currently constructing a unique municipal gender



and corruption index. This 3-year research project, funded by the Swedish Research Council, will run from 2020–2023, and involves Monika Bauhr (PI), Nicholas Charron and Lena Wängnerud. Some of its early publications include:

Bauhr, Monika and Nicholas Charron (forthcoming). Will women in Executive office reduce corruption? Marginalization and network inclusion. *Comparative Political Studies*.

Bauhr, Monika and Nicholas Charron 2020. Do men and women perceive corruption differently? Gender differences in perception of need and greed corruption. *Politics and Governance*8(2), 92–102. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v8i2.2701>

→ **Contact:** Monika Bauhr
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WHY DO SOME CIVIL SERVANTS FOLLOW THEIR PROFESSIONAL RULES MORE THAN OTHERS?

Victor Lapuente Gine and Kohei Suzuki (Leiden University)
Swedish Research Council: 4 489 796 kronor

Why in some administrations, do public employees follow professional norms, while in others they obey their political superiors' orders (even if they go against the standard operating procedures)? In this project, Victor Lapuente and Kohei Suzuki (Leiden University) aim to explore what explains civil servants' attitudes and behavior, and, in particular, why some civil servants are more committed to professional norms and public service values – such as impartiality, equity, efficiency, and innovation – than others.

Numerous studies have identified an empirical link between macro-level bureaucratic factors such as the type of recruitment system of public servants (i.e. meritocratic) or salary levels, and favorable outcomes. And we aim to contribute to this literature by conducting survey experiments in which we will confront public managers with hypothetical real-life decision-making situations, where they must weigh the demand of their political superiors (e.g. interested in having a positive report on a particular policy they have promoted) against civil servants' professional norms (e.g. offering a balanced policy report).

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PUBLI- CATIONS

2020 was a very productive year in terms of peer-reviewed publications. QoG researchers published 35 peer-reviewed articles in renowned journals, which is a record since the start of the institute. Another 15 working papers were made available on our website. The book *Democratic Stability in an Age of Crisis: Reassessing the Interwar Period*, by QoG scholar Agnes Cornell, together with Jørgen Møller and Svend-Erik Skaaning, was published by the Oxford University Press, and the volume "Good Government: The Relevance of Political Science", edited by Sören Holmberg and Bo Rothstein, and with contributions by many in the QoG team, was translated and published in Chinese by Peking University Press.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

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Bauhr, M., & Carlitz, R. (2020). When does transparency improve public services? Street-level discretion, information, and targeting. *Public Administration*.



Bauhr, M., & Charron, N. (2020). Will women executives reduce corruption? Marginalization and network inclusion. *Comparative Political Studies*, 0010414020970218.

Bauhr, M., & Charron, N. (2020). In God we Trust? Identity, Institutions and International Solidarity in Europe. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 58(5), 1124–1143.

Bauhr, M., & Charron, N. (2020). Do men and women perceive corruption differently? Gender differences in perception of need and greed corruption. *Politics and Governance*, 8(2), 92–102.

Boräng, F., Jagers, S. C., & Povitkina, M. (2021). In Light of Democracy and Corruption: Institutional Determinants of Electricity Provision. *The Energy Journal*, 42(2).

Boräng, F., Kalm, S., & Lindvall, J. (2020). Unions and the rights of migrants in the long run. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 30(5), 557–570.

Broms, R., Dahlström, C., & Nistotskaya, M. (2020). Competition and service quality: Evidence from Swedish residential care homes. *Governance*, 33(3), 525–543.

Broms, R., & Rothstein, B. (2020). Religion and institutional quality: Long-term effects of the financial systems in Protestantism and Islam. *Comparative Politics*, 52(3), 433–454.

Bågenholm, A., & Charron, N. (2020). Accountable or Untouchable? Electoral accountability in Romanian local elections. *Electoral Studies*, 66, 102183.

Bågenholm, A. (2020). Öst är öst och väst är väst? En jämförande studie av partisystemens stabilitet i Europa 2008–2019. *Nordisk Østforum*, 34, 27–50.

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Charron, N., & Annoni, P. (2020). What is the Influence of News Media on People's Perception of Corruption? Parametric and Non-Parametric Approaches. *Social Indicators Research*, 1–27.

Cornell, A., Knutsen, C. H., & Teorell, J. (2020). Bureaucracy and Growth. *Comparative Political Studies*, 53(14), 2246–2282.

Cornell, A., & Sundell, A. (2020). Money matters: The role of public sector wages in corruption prevention. *Public Administration*, 98(1), 244–260.

Dahlberg, S., Axelsson, S., & Holmberg, S. (2020). Democracy in context: using a distributional semantic model to study differences in the usage of democracy across languages and countries. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*, 1–35.



Dahlström, C., Fazekas, M., & Lewis, D. E. (2020). Partisan Procurement: Contracting with the United States Federal Government, 2003–2015. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Davidovic, D., & Harring, N. (2020). Exploring the cross-national variation in public support for climate policies in Europe: The role of quality of government and trust. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 70, 101785.

Davidovic, D., Harring, N., & Jagers, S. C. (2020). The contingent effects of environmental concern and ideology: institutional context and people's willingness to pay environmental taxes. *Environmental Politics*, 29(4), 674–696.

Dawson, S. (2020). Electoral fraud and the paradox of political competition. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 1–20.

Drápalová, E., & Di Mascio, F. (2020). Islands of good government: Explaining successful corruption control in two Spanish cities. *Politics and Governance*, 8(2), 128–139.

Drápalová, E., & Wegrich, K. (2020). Technocratic Populism and Subnational Governance. *Government and Opposition*, 1–21.

Drupalova, E., & Wegrich, K. (2020). Who governs 4.0? Varieties of smart cities. *Public Management Review*, 22(5), 668–686.

Harring, N., Jagers, S. C., & Löfgren, Å. (2020). COVID-19: Large-scale collective action, government intervention, and the importance of trust. *World Development*, 138, 105236.

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Lindvall, J., Bäck, H., Dahlström, C., Naurin, E., & Teorell, J. (2020). Sweden's parliamentary democracy at 100. *Parliamentary Affairs*, 73(3), 477–502.

Stockemer, D., Wigginton, M., & Sundström, A. (2020). Boys' club or good ol' boys club? Corruption and the parliamentary representation of young and old men and women. *Parliamentary Affairs*.

Stockemer, D., & Sundström, A. (2020). Quotas, the Electoral System Type and the Election of Young Women. *Social Politics*.

Sundström, A., Linell, A., Ntuli, H., Sjöstedt, M., & Gore, M. L. (2020). Gender differences in poaching attitudes: Insights from communities in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe living near the great Limpopo. *Conservation Letters*, 13(1), e12686.

Sundström, A., & Stockemer, D. (2020). Conceptualizing, measuring, and explaining youths' relative absence in legislatures. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 1–7.

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WORKING PAPERS

2020:1 Holmberg, S., Rothstein, B. Social Trust – the Nordic gold?
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-05/2020_1_Holmberg_Rothstein.pdf

2020:2 Erlingsson, G. Ó., Wittberg, E., Lindström, M. Municipally owned enterprises and heightened corruption risks.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-05/2020_2_Erlingsson_Wittberg_Lindstrom.pdf

2020:3 Dahlström, C., Lundberg, E., Pronin, K. Conflict-resolvers or tools of electoral struggle? Swedish commissions of inquiry 1990–2016.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-05/2020_3_Dahlstrom_Lundberg_Pronin.pdf

2020:4 Carlitz R., Povitkina, M. Environmental protection in authoritarian regimes: Investigating the role of pluralism.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-06/2020_4_Carlitz_Povitkina.pdf

2020:5 Holmberg, S. How People Around the World assess Democracy Communicating Online.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-08/2020_5_Holmberg.pdf

2020:6 Cuellar, M-F., Stephenson, M. Taming Systemic Corruption: The American Experience and Its Implications for Contemporary Debates.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020_6_Cuellar_Stephenson.pdf

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https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020_7_Hammaren.pdf

2020:8 Sundström, A., Stockemer, D. Measuring support for women's political leadership: Social desirability and gendered interviewer effects among African respondents.
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https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020_9_Vaccaro_0.pdf

2020:10 Tengs, E. Taxation as a Social Contract: Public goods and collective action in Sub-Saharan Africa.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_10_Tengs.pdf

2020:11 Bågenholm, A., Charron, N. Who votes for Anti-Corruption Parties? The Emergence of a New Party Family.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_11_Bagenholm_Charron.pdf

2020:12 Charron, N., Lapuente, V., Rodriguez-Pose, A. Uncooperative Society, Uncooperative Politics or Both? How Trust, Polarization and Populism Explain Excess Mortality for COVID-19 across European regions.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_12_Charron_Lapuente_Rodriguez-Pose.pdf

2020:13 Martinangeli, A.F.M., Povitkina, M. Jagers, S.C, Rothstein, B. Institutional Quality Causes Social Trust: Evidence from Survey and Experimental Data on Trusting Under the Shadow of Doubt.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_13_Martinangeli_Povitkina_Jagers_Rothstein.pdf

2020:14 Silva, M.S., Alexander, A.C., Klasen, S., Welzel, C The Roots of Female Emancipation: The Initializing Role of Cool Water.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_14_Santos%20Silva_Alexander_Klasen_Welzel.pdf

2020:15 Sundell, A. Hits close to home: Shootings and support for the Sweden Democrats.
https://www.gu.se/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_15_Sundell.pdf

BOOKS



Cornell, Agnes, Jørgen Møller & Svend-Erik Skaaning (2020).

Democratic Stability in an Age of Crisis: Reassessing the Interwar Period. Oxford University Press.

Abstract: The interwar period has left a deep impression on later generations. This was an age of crises where representative democracy, itself a relatively recent political invention, seemed unable to cope with the challenges that confronted it. Against the backdrop of the economic crisis that began in 2008 and the rise of populist parties, a new body of scholarship - frequently invoked by the media - has used interwar political developments to warn that even long-established Western democracies are fragile. *Democratic Stability in an Age of Crisis* challenges this ‘interwar analogy’ based on the fact that a relatively large number of interwar democracies were able to survive the recurrent crises of the 1920s and 1930s. The main aim of this book is to understand the striking resilience of these democracies, and how they differed from the many democracies that broke down in the same period. The authors advance an explanation that emphasizes the importance of democratic legacies and the strength of the associational landscape (i.e., organized civil society and institutionalized political parties). Moreover, they underline that these factors were themselves associated with a set of deeper structural conditions, which on the eve of the interwar period had brought about different political pathways. The authors’ empirical strategy consists of a combination of comparative analyses of all interwar democratic spells and illustrative case studies. The book’s main takeaway point is that the interwar period shows how resilient democracy is once it has had time to consolidate. On this basis, recent warnings about the fragility of contemporary democracies in Western Europe and North America seem exaggerated – or, at least, that they cannot be sustained by interwar evidence.

Holmberg, Sören and Lennart Weibull (2020)
Institutionsförtroende bygger samhällen. SOM Institutet.



BOOK CHAPTERS

Holmberg, S. “Feeling represented”. In Rohrschneider, Robert and Jacques Thomassen (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Representation in Liberal Democracies.* Oxford University Press.

Sundell, A. “Sociala medier och det politiska deltagandet”. In *Det demokratiska samtalet i en digital tid. En antologi om desinformation, propaganda och näthat.* En antologi utgiven av kommittén Nationell satsning på medie- och informationskunnighet och det demokratiska samtalet.

In 2020, the volume *Good Government: The Relevance of Political Science*, edited by Sören Holmberg and Bo Rothstein, and with contributions by many in the QoG team, was translated and published in Chinese by Peking University Press. The original volume is from 2012 (see image above).

<http://www.sg.pku.edu.cn/xkjs/xkjsdt/1324951.html>

THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE BEST PAPER AWARD

The Quality of Government Institute Best Paper Award is an annual prize awarded to a paper on a Quality of Government related topic, demonstrating outstanding research based on its theoretical and empirical contributions. We are very happy to announce that the 2018–2019 Quality of Government Best Paper Award goes to **Paola Proietti** (Gran Sasso Science Institute, L’Aquila, Italy) and **Davide Luca** (Bennett Institute of Public Policy, Cambridge University) for the paper “Hosting to skim. Organized Crime and the Reception of Asylum Seekers in Italy”.

In their paper, the authors demonstrate how local mafia activity is associated with the distribution of asylum seeker reception centers across Italy. Particularly relevant to the QoG agenda are the causal mechanisms that are offered (and subsequently tested) for the observed relationship namely, low administrative capacity and the vulnerability of public procurement to corrupt activity. The authors test their expectations using sophisticated analyses, novel sets of data and a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. They add to the robustness of their findings by instrumenting organized crime intensity using data on sulphur mines and agricultural features such as the conduciveness of the land to the cultivation of citruses, factors that historically have been related to the presence of the mafia in specific areas of Italy.

Their work speaks to a variety of literature from regional development, to human trafficking, research on immigration and potentially voting studies as well. Their findings have implications related not only to national but also funding flows from the European Union. As such their paper represents an important and unique contribution that can carry policy implications in what is, admittedly, one of the most pressing challenges facing the EU and other parts of the world. Finally, through this contribution Proietti and Luca further our understanding about the consequences of low quality of government and weak state capacity at the national and local level and again provide clues as to where policy makers should focus in order to halt or reverse these trends.

The Committee Members:

- Stephen Dawson (PhD Candidate)
- Marcia Grimes (Associate Professor)
- Lena Wängnerud (Professor)
- Georgios Xezonakis (Associate Professor)



→ **Paola Proietti and Davide Luca**

EVENTS

Even though the pandemic put an end to most physical events in 2020, QoG scholars have continued to present their research at various digital international conferences, such as APSA and ECPR, and have engaged in a number of online activities directed towards the academic world as well as policy-makers and the public.

We also held two internal conferences, one in Copenhagen, co-organized with Copenhagen Business School, and one online. In total, 37 papers were presented and discussed.

Our visiting scholar program and lunch seminar series continue to attract renowned and promising scholars from a range of countries. In 2020, we hosted 22 visiting scholars / lunch seminar guests. All but six, presented on zoom.

Workshop: “Institutions and development: a sub-national perspective”

Between October 7–9, the QoG institute organized the workshop “Institutions and development: a sub-national perspective,” together with the International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development (ICSID), at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

The keynote speakers at the workshop were [Susanne Wengle](#), professor of Political Science Department at the University of Notre Dame (USA) and [Nicholas Charron](#), professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden).

The conference attracted participants from universities from all-around the world. Over the three days, the workshop had more than 100 participants from Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Poland, and Turkey.

Partnership for University-Wide Capacity Building on Ethical Research Methods and Grant Proposal Writing

In Spring 2020, a new SIDA financed program called “Partnership for University-Wide Capacity Building on Ethical Research Methods and Grant Proposal Writing” started, for which Anna Persson, associate professor and member of the QoG team, is part of the planning group. This is a so called “Research Training Partnership Program” between The School of Business, Economics, and Law at University of Gothenburg

and Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia. The plan is to run the program for 3 years (2019-2022), after which it will be taken over by researchers and teachers at Addis Ababa University. The proposal was adopted by SIDA (in competition with other actors) in June 2019 and received 3,900,000 SEK in funds. The program managers are Yonas Alem, Gunnar Köhlin and Zerihun Woldu.

Panel discussion on the Ninth Whitehall Lecture – “Did Covid Kill the Climate? How Democracies Fail in a Time of Crisis”

In November, QoG scholars were invited to participate in the panel discussion following the Ninth Whitehall lecture given by David Runciman, Professor of Politics, University of Cambridge, on the topic “Did Covid Kill the Climate? How Democracies Fail in a Time of Crisis.” The lecture discussed why the pandemic will not lead us to solutions to the climate change crisis.

The panel discussion was moderated by Bronwen Maddox and included Edward Luce from the Financial Times, Ellen Quigley from the University of Cambridge, Mark Leonard from the European Council on Foreign Relations, and Marina Povitkina from the Quality of Government Institute. The panelists discussed the issues of democratic deficit, democratic innovation, corruption, and institutional trust.

The event had more than 300 participants, including business leaders (e.g., from Goldman Sachs), NGOs (e.g., Human Rights Watch), academics (e.g., from the University of Oxford, Cambridge, Science Po), journalists (e.g., from the Washington Post, BBC News), think tanks (e.g., Green Alliance), consultants, and politicians (incl. the UK government and the US Senate).

QoG internal conferences

Twice a year, we arrange internal academic conferences, which give participating researchers an opportunity to present papers and new ideas in a familiar yet highly professional and critical environment. Many of the papers presented at previous internal conferences have later become QoG working papers or been published in peer-reviewed journals. This year, the first internal conference took place 27–29 January in Copenhagen, in cooperation with Copenhagen Business School, and the second was held digitally on 19–21 August.

LUNCH SEMINARS AND VISITING SCHOLARS

The QoG Visiting Scholar Program and the QoG Lunch Seminar Series are vital parts of our Institute. The aim of the Visiting Scholar Program is to provide intellectual impetus for the Institute. We aim at inviting cutting-edge scholars who conduct studies on issues related to the research carried out at the QoG Institute. For our lunch seminar series, we also aim at inviting experts from NGOs and other organizations, alongside speakers from the international research community. In 2020, we hosted 22 visiting scholars / lunch seminar guests. All but six, presented on zoom.

Claudio Radaelli, Professor, UCL School of Public Policy; **Claire Dunlop**, Professor, University of Exeter; **Jonathan Kamkhaji**, Doctor, University of Exeter; **Gaia Taffoni**, Research fellow UCL School of Public Policy
Title: “Procedural Tools for Effective Governance (PROTEGO)”

Ignacio Sanchez, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Carlos III-Juan March Institute of Social Sciences at Carlos III University of Madrid
Title: “Early and Late Democratizers”

***Andreea Nastase**, Assistant Professor in European Public Policy Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University
Title: “An ethics for the lobbying profession? The role of private associations in defining and codifying behavioural standards for lobbyists in the EU”.

***Andi Hoxhaj**, Ph.D., School of Law, University of Warwick
Title: “The EU Anti-Corruption Policy”

***Sergo Praca**, Professor and researcher, the CPDOC School of Social Sciences (FGV-RJ).
Title: “Bureaucrats, politicians and fiscal gimmicks in Brazil”.

***Andrea Vaccaro**, Ph.D. Student at the Department of Social Sciences and Economics, Sapienza University of Rome
Title: “Comparing Cross-National Measures of State Capacity: Similarities, Divergencies, and Shortcomings”

Tanushree Goyal, PhD candidate, Nuffield College, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, UK
Title: “How women mobilize women into politics: A natural experiment in India”

*visiting scholars

Nico Ravanilla, Assistant Professor, UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy.
Title: “Social Accountability in a Patronage Democracy: A Field Experiment on Members of Congress in the Philippines”

Alexander Libman, Professor of Social Sciences and Eastern European Studies at the Institute of Sociology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.
Title: “The Real Costs of Plagiarism: Russian Governors, Plagiarized PhD Theses and Infrastructural Development in Russian Regions”

Sara Engler, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Zurich
Title: “Politicizing corruption within and beyond the populist divide”

David Andersen, Assistant Professor and Jonathan Doucette, Research Assistant, PhD Student, Aarhus University, Business and Social Sciences
Title: “State First? A Disaggregation and Empirical Interrogation”

Hye Young You, Assistant Professor, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University
Title: “Bureaucratic Revolving Doors and Interest Group Participation in Policymaking”

Bilyana Petrova, Postdoctoral Scholar, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, City University of New York
Title: “Redistribution, Democratic Accountability, and the Quality of Government: Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe”

Sarah Brierley, Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Government, The London School of Economics and Political Science
Title: “Manipulating Leviathan: Public Service Delivery, Corruption, and Bureaucratic Co-optation in Ghana”

Susanne Wengle, Associate Professor of Political Science Department at the University of Notre Dame
Title: “The New Plenty; Why are some post-Soviet farms thriving?”

Davide Luca, Research Associate, University of Cambridge and **Paola Proietti**, PhD student, School of Advanced Studies, Gran Sasso Science Institute
Title: “Hosting to skim. Organized Crime and the Reception of Asylum Seekers in Italy”

QoG DATA

2020 brought new challenges and opportunities for QoG Data. During the year, the QoG Data Team fruitfully worked on new databases and other projects. The new version of QoG Standard, QoG Basic and QoG OECD datasets were released in January 2020; the second version of QoG EU Regional dataset was published in November 2020; the new update of QoG Expert Survey is on its way and we now have a new website.

QOG DATA

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For the 2020 update of the *QoG compilation datasets*, we gathered 2,272 variables from 99 sources; making it one of the most comprehensive collections of data relevant for political scientists currently available. For the first time, the following datasets are now included in the QoG datasets;

- The Corruption Risks Indicators (Fazekas and Kocsis, 2017). This dataset presents two objective proxy measures of high-level corruption in public procurement: single bidding in competitive markets and a composite score of tendering “red flags.”
- The Central Bank Independence Dataset (Garriga, 2016). This dataset identifies statutory reforms affecting CBI, their direction, and the attributes necessary to build on the Cukierman, Webb, and Neyapti (1992) (CWN) index in 182 countries between 1970 and 2012.
- The Global Peace Index (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019). This dataset ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.
- The E-Government Development Index and E-Participation Index (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018). This dataset presents the state of E-Government Development of United Nations Member States.

Together with changes to the website of the University of Gothenburg, the QoG Data webpages were updated. The new user-friendly design presents our datasets in a more accessible manner, where it is easier to find relevant information. Additional to our recurrent databases, we have also published the QoG Swedish Agency Database, a comprehensive sample of administrative agencies in the Swedish executive bureaucracy between 1960 and 2014, and the Swedish Municipalities Dataset, which contains detailed information on 290 Swedish municipalities between 1980 and 2015.

Data collection for the third wave of the *QoG Expert Survey* was completed in June 2020. This endeavour was initiated by Principle Investigator Marina Nistotskaya in late 2019 with the purpose of measuring bureaucratic behavior and the structure and quality of government across the globe, with the help of country experts. By integrating anchoring vignette questions into the survey for the first time, the data team improved the consistency and comparability of country-level results. The final report of the Expert Survey, with a country-level dataset, will likely be released in early 2021.

Aiming to expand our data coverage at the regional-level, we released a second, updated version of the *QoG EU Regional Dataset* at the end of 2020; this version includes the updated data from Eurostat and adds a new dataset, the Corruption Risk Indicators by Fazekas and Kocsis (2017). Moreover, we standardized the codebooks of the *QoG EQI datasets* to make them easier to use.

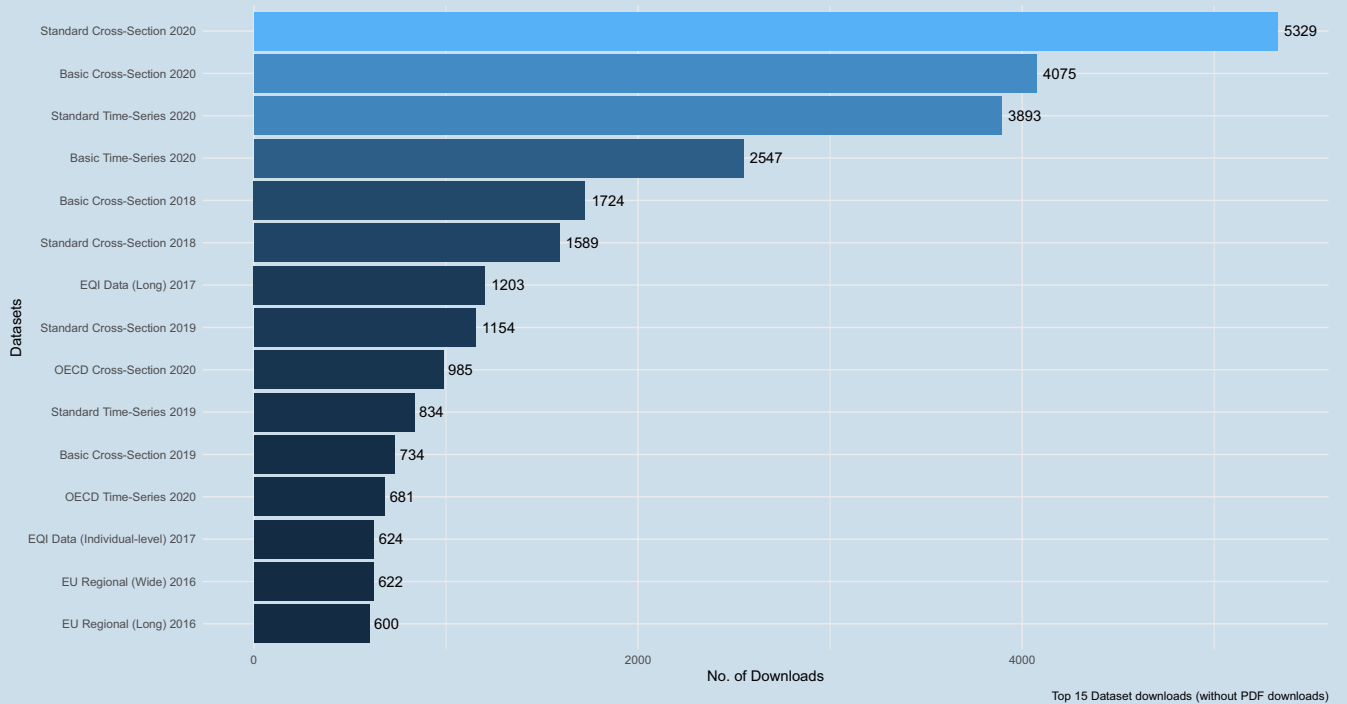
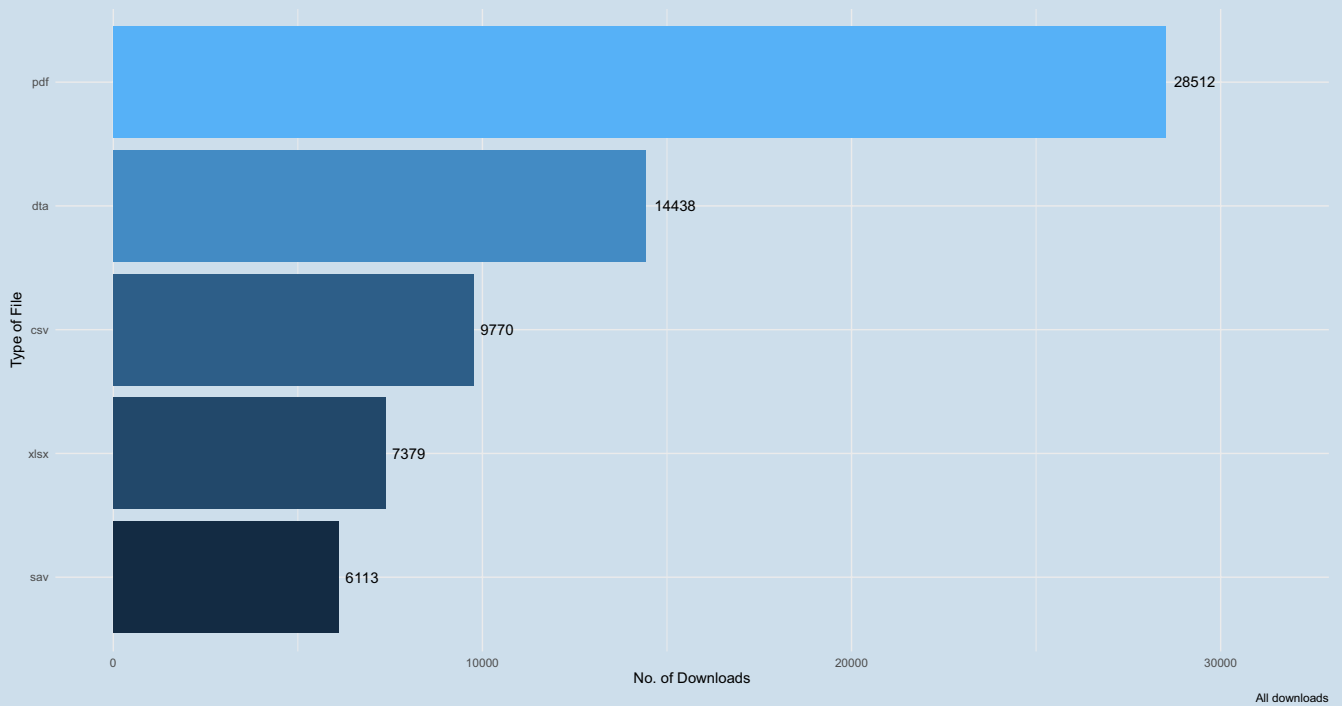
In the first semester, our QoG data manager, Natalia Alvarado, held two online workshops on how to make graphs in R, progressing attendees from novice to independent users. Its purpose was to help new users understand the basics of working with R, and we hope to repeat this exercise in the coming years.

At the beginning of the year, some major staff changes took place in the QoG data team and we welcomed two new colleagues. Associate Professor Aksel Sundström took over the leadership of the team after the departure of Stefan Dahlberg, who left for a position as a professor at Mid Sweden University. We also welcomed Cem Mert Dalli, who, having previous work experience and a master's degree from Lund University, was recruited as a new data manager. With the assistance of this new team, we will continue to pursue our goal of making reliable data on QoG and its correlates more accessible, and we will expand the scope of QoG Datasets even further.



➔ QoG Data offers open-access datasets, so users can learn, research and understand better the concepts relating to Quality of Government.

Downloads from January to December 2020



**Countries using QoG data
from January to December 2020**





NEW WEBSITE

On Wednesday, 2 September, the QoG institute launched a new website, with a new web address: www.gu.se/qog

The new website is part of the University of Gothenburg's new web system that was launched in September 2020.

Our website is our most important communication channel, and our goal has been to create a website that is user-friendly and accessible and where it is easy to find relevant information.

NEW GRAPHIC PROFILE

At the end of 2020, we started a process to update our graphic profile. The QoG institute has existed for over 10 years and our graphic profile has been with us since the start. With increasing digitalization and visibility online, as well as a completely new website, we saw the need to update and modernize our current graphic profile. During spring 2021, we will gradually start updating our website with the new look, which includes a modernized logo, new colors and fonts and new profile images. This report has also been created in line with the new graphic profile.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND QOG NEWS

The QoG Institute has a Twitter account and a Facebook page on which we post new publications as well as information about lectures and events. There are currently about 2370 followers on our Twitter account.

The electronic "QoG News" currently reaches about 1350 subscribers and is distributed via e-mail every six to eight weeks. Subscribers include academics and students from all parts of the world, as well as journalists and public officials from Sweden and abroad.

QOG FOR STUDENTS

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Quality of Government Institute hosts an internship program aimed at students enrolled on a master’s program. The internship provides opportunities for students to obtain practical experience in working with various research projects within academia in an international environment, and gives the student the opportunity to experience the day-to-day work at the Institute and to participate in seminars and other events organized by the Institute. In 2020, we accommodated six interns for a period of 10 weeks.

Abdulmuizz Onawole, MS International Administration and Global Governance, University of Gothenburg

Hanna Severinets, MS International Administration and Global Governance, University of Gothenburg

Isabella Ciancaglini, MS International Politics and Markets, Università di Bologna

Morgan Young, Double degree MS Comparative Politics, University of Konstanz & University of Gothenburg

Salima Ismayilzada, MS Political Science, University of Gothenburg

Tsz Wa Yip, MS European Studies, University of Gothenburg

The most remarkable aspects of my internship were the guidance and encouragement I received from supervisor and colleagues, which definitely helped me hone my analytical skills and understand how research works. Overall, the internship experience at QoG did not only offer me the opportunity to develop myself but a chance to work with different experts in the field. I would highly recommend those who are interested in the research project related to institutional quality, corruption, and governance, to join the QoG’s internship programme.”

Hanna Severinets, intern at the QoG Institute, Spring 2020

“I did an internship at the Quality of Government Institute as a part of my master’s program in International Administration and Global Governance. The internship became a great source of inspiration for my master thesis and future academic research. My main goals of doing this internship were to improve my academic skills and explore from within how the academic world works. The QoG became a great place where I successfully fulfilled these goals. Working at the well-recognized academic institution along with highly professional researchers was an invaluable experience. Besides, the working environment at the institute was friendly and collaborative. The QoG team is rather international and unites people from different backgrounds making the internship a truly international experience.

As the QoG is an academic institution, most of my tasks were academic and included literature reviews, data collection and analysis for ongoing research projects. I had administrative tasks as well, including proofreading of articles, checking and editing references, filling in research grant forms, working on the QoG expert survey. As an intern, I had an opportunity to attend all the events (lunch seminars, lectures of visiting scholars, docent talks, round tables, method meetups) organized by the QoG and other research units at the department. It was a great opportunity to learn how state-of-the-art research is conducted.

I would recommend this internship for the students who are going to pursue an academic career (in social sciences). This internship is a great opportunity to experience day-to-day life at the research institution. This experience helps to better understand the academic environment and provides the space to develop skills needed for highly professional research.”

INTERNSHIP PORTRAITS

Tsz Wa Yip, intern at the QoG Institute, Spring 2020

“In the spring of 2020, I worked as a research intern at the Quality of Government Institute (QoG) for 10 weeks, which was a great learning experience that I thoroughly enjoyed.

During the first year of the master’s programme in European Studies, I applied for the internship at QoG in order to gain valuable research experience and explore academic interests. And these are exactly what QoG has given me the opportunity to do. In my time there, I assisted in various research projects and the tasks covered different stages of the research process, including literature review, data collection, and data analysis. For instance, I had an opportunity to work for a study to assess QoG’s social impact beyond academia. As an intern, we are encouraged to participate in different kinds of seminars and learning groups in the department. The topics of seminars were wide-ranging and provided a great opportunity to learn the studies and methodology from the scholars across the world. Also, I had participated in some peer learning groups to learn about statistical tools and techniques, which enhanced my knowledge about data analytics.

MASTER'S COURSES

Master students at the University of Gothenburg have an opportunity to take part in courses that specifically explore different aspects of Quality of Government and the performance of democracies from a “governance” perspective.

The Quality of Government in Comparative Perspective

This course explores problems of the quality of government (QoG) and corruption in a comparative perspective. The background to this is the recent consensus among social scientists about the importance of high-quality government for economic and democratic development as well as for social and environmental sustainability. Government organizations that are trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent are currently seen as one of the most important determinants of human well-being. Until recently the “general wisdom” was that corruption and related phenomena (patronage, clientelism and cronyism) had many positive effects (“greasing the wheels”). New theories and better data have turned this argument around. Corruption is now seen as having detrimental effects on economic growth, public goods provision, the democratic processes and trust among citizens. Quality of government is not a problem of developing countries only, but exists also in economically advanced democracies where trust in government institutions and the sustainability of welfare programs have been questioned. The central issues addressed in the course are: What is QoG? How can QoG be defined and measured? What do you get from high QoG and what are the mechanisms through which the effects of high/low QoG work? What explains the great variation between countries in QoG? How is QoG related to democracy, economic growth, the rule of law, social capital, inequality, social policies, and people’s collective and individual well-being? Lastly, for those who aspire to win the Nobel prize: What does it take for countries to change from low to high quality government institutions?

In 2020, 29 students were enrolled on the QoG course.

The Performance of Democracies

This course explores factors that explain cross country variation in democratic performance and their implications. More specifically, it is concerned with how institutional variation among democratic regimes is related to outcomes in general dimensions of performance, such as, human well-being, corruption and sound management of public finances, among others. It therefore takes a “governance” perspective, focusing less on issues that have to do with what democracy is, democratic transitions or democratic survival, but rather with why and how democracies “succeed or fail” in the aforementioned areas. It also reviews the implications that follow for citizen attitudes and democratic support.

In 2020, 29 students were enrolled on the PERDEM course.

NEW COLLEAGUES

We are very pleased to welcome two new colleagues to the QoG team.



Eliška Drápalová has joined the QoG institute as a postdoctoral researcher. Previously she worked as a Postdoctoral fellow at the Hertie School in Berlin. She is a political scientist with research interests in quality of government, corruption, regional and local governance and political economy. Eliška obtained her PhD in Political

Economy from the European University Institute in Florence in 2016. She recently won Marie Skłodowska-Curie Vinnova grant for her project on determinants of administrative capacity building in Southern and Eastern European Local Government (CAPA-City).



Cem Mert Dalli has joined the QoG institute as database manager. He holds a master’s degree in Welfare Policies and Management from Lund University, with a major in Political Science, and a double-major degree in Political Science & IR, and History from Boğaziçi University, Turkey. Before joining to the QoG Institute,

worked for one and a half year as research assistant at the STANCE Project at the Department of Political Science, Lund University. He has also worked as a research assistant at several other research projects, conducted by scholars based at MIT, Yale University, University of Oslo and Texas at Austin. His research interests include intrastate wars, ethnic conflicts, democratization, redistributive politics and voting behavior.



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