

THE QUALITY OF  
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG



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21

**THE QUALITY OF  
GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**



# QoG

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**Visiting address**  
The QoG Institute  
Sprängkullsgatan 19  
Department of Political Science  
University of Gothenburg  
41123 Gothenburg  
Sweden

**Postal address**  
The QoG Institute  
Department of Political Science  
University of Gothenburg  
P.O. Box 711  
405 30 Gothenburg  
Sweden

**Produced by**  
The Quality of Government Institute  
Editor: Alice Johansson

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# 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

# 2

**2021 was in many ways** a typical year for the QoG Institute as, despite the coronavirus pandemic, we have continued to produce high quality research and other outputs on the causes and consequences of trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent government institutions. First, I'd like to note a monumental work – the Oxford Handbook of the Quality of Government – that summarises fifteen

years of research into the quality of government. Without doubt the handbook will serve as a point of reference for academics, students, policy professionals and all those who are interested in questions such as ‘how can corruption be eradicated?’ Despite the pandemic, the usual research output of about 30 peer-reviewed articles was met in 2021. QoG researchers published in such prestigious outlets as American Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, British Journal of Political Science and others. We continued to serve the scientific community with high quality data by updating existing datasets and bringing new ones into scientific circulation. Our flagship Standard dataset now includes more than 2000 variables assembled from more than 100 different sources. I would particularly like to note the new Environmental Indicators dataset, compiled by Marina Povitkina, which measures the environmental performance of countries over time.

Our researchers were active in the world of applied science and policy work. For example, Rasmus Broms, Carl Dahlström and Marina Nistotskaya prepared one of the background reports for the Swedish Corona Commission's investigation into the government response to the pandemic. Lena Wängnerud and Monika Bauhr took part in the conference of the UN Convention against Corruption, and Marina Nistotskaya took part in the online panel discussion on developing fiscal states in Africa, organised to bring together academics, policy practitioners and development partners. The annual report details other exciting policy engagements by QoG scholars. The year 2021 marked the beginning of a special partnership with Carl Bennet AB. A generous grant from Carl Bennet will provide support for the basic infrastructure of the Institute – such as its internal conferences, visiting researchers program, policy and outreach activities – for the next four years. The cooperation is intended for eight years, with a broader remit after the initial four-year period. Under the terms of the cooperation, Professor Bo Rothstein remains involved in the stewardship of the QoG Institute even after retiring from active duty at the University of Gothenburg. On behalf of the QoG team I sincerely thank Mr Bennet for his generous donation. In 2021, QoG associates raised more than 20 million SEK in research grants, including for research on whistleblowers (Birgitta Niklasson, PI), voter rationality (Mattias Agerberg, PI), the political integration of immigrants (Frida Boräng, PI), and a new integrated data portal (DEMSCORE), overseen from the QoG Institute by Aksel Sundström.



The research on corruption carried out by researchers at the QoG Institute was also assessed as excellent in terms of its originality, significance and rigour in an expert panel's report concluded by the Swedish Research Council during 2020–2021. The report concluded the results from a pilot evaluation of political science research in Sweden that aimed to assess the quality of Swedish research and its impact internationally.

The educational course on the quality of government in comparative perspective continues to attract students in high numbers. In 2021, 31 students read the course, with the overwhelming majority of students stating in their evaluation that the course enhanced their knowledge of the role of quality of government on human well-being ‘a great deal’. We continue to train young people in how to conduct research on quality of government through our competitive, but also rewarding, internship program.



**Marina Nistotskaya**  
Associate professor  
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 the private sector. Our ambition is to close the gap between broader audiences and the research of QoG.



## THE QOG DATA

**As a key resource** for researchers and practitioners, QoG Data offers nine 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](#)
- [QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset](#)

### → **Original datasets**

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

**The QoG team and organization.** 34 researchers and administrative staff are currently engaged in different projects organized or funded by the QoG Institute.



**Agerberg, Mattias**  
Associate Professor



**Alexander, Amy**  
Associate Professor



**Alvarado, Natalia**  
Database manager,  
QoG Data



**Axelsson, Sofia**  
Associate researcher



**Bågenholm, Andreas**  
Doctor, Program  
manager



**Bauhr, Monika**  
Associate Professor



**Boräng, Frida**  
Associate Professor



**Broms, Rasmus**  
Associate Professor



**Charron, Nicholas**  
Professor



**Cornell, Agnes**  
Associate Professor



**Dahlström, Carl**  
Professor, Director



**Dalli, Cem Mert**  
Data manager, QoG Data



**Davidovic, Dragana**  
Doctoral student



**Dawson, Stephen**  
Doctoral student



**Drapalova, Eliska**  
Postdoctor



**Grimes, Marcia**  
Associate Professor



**Harring, Niklas**  
Associate Professor



**Holmberg, Sören**  
Professor, Founder  
of the QoG institute



**Johansson, Alice**  
Degree Program  
coordinator



**Lapuente, Victor**  
Professor



**Niklasson, Birgitta**  
Associate Professor



**Nistotskaya, Marina**  
Associate Professor



**Off, Gefjon**  
Doctoral student



**Persson, Anna**  
Associate Professor



**Povitkina, Marina**  
Postdoc



**Rothstein, Bo**  
Professor, Founder  
of the QoG institute



**Schwenk, Jana**  
Doctoral student



**Sorak, Nicholas**  
Doctoral student



**Sundell, Anders**  
Associate professor



**Sundström, Aksel**  
Associate Professor,  
Principle Investigator  
QoG Data



**Tengs, Elise**  
Doctoral student



**Varraich, Aiysha**  
Doctoral student



**Wängnerud, Lena**  
Professor



**Xezonakis, Georgios**  
Associate Professor

# RESEARCH GRANTS 2021

In 2021, several project applications by QoG researchers were granted money. The University of Gothenburg also concluded a cooperation agreement with the Carl Bennet AB that provides the QoG Institute with SEK 12 million over the next four years. In 2021, the QoG Institute also received the second part of the DEMSCORE grant.



## MISCONDUCT AND WHISTLE-BLOWING IN POLITICAL PARTIES

**Funder:** The Swedish Research Council  
**Project size:** 6 093 000  
**Participants:** Birgitta Niklasson (PI),  
 Andreas Bågenholm, Jenny De Fine Licht

Our aim is to identify and examine the mechanisms of whistleblowing in political parties. Whistleblowing, understood as insiders' disclosure of illegal, immoral, or illegitimate practices of an organization is generally recognized as a key process through which government institutions and corporations are held accountable. Still, we know little of this process in one of the most central institutions of democracy: the political parties. Bringing together the literatures on party research and the research fields of whistleblowing and corruption, we pose two sets of research questions: 1) What types of misconduct occur in political parties and to what extent do these practices take place? 2) How, by whom, and with what results is whistleblowing used to reveal these misconducts? The project provides an in-depth empirical knowledge into hitherto hidden processes of misconduct and inter-party accountability by analysing surveys sent to political representatives in Sweden and by carrying out a large number of qualitative interviews with Swedish politicians, party members, civil servants, and journalists. Upon the conclusion of the project in 2025, our results will inform the discussion on the role of political parties in generating and sustaining good governance. They may also spark a debate about transparency and whistleblowing protection in party organizations.

**Read more about this project at:** <https://www.gu.se/en/research/misconduct-and-whistleblowing-in-political-parties>

→ **Contact:** Birgitta Niklasson  
 birgitta.niklasson@pol.gu.se



## THE MYTH OF THE (IR)RATIONAL VOTER? THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS FOR STUDYING VOTER RATIONALITY

**Funder:** The Swedish Research Council  
**Project size:** 4 451 000  
**Participants:** Mattias Agerberg (PI), Love Christensen

The idea of voter rationality has come under serious attack in the last two decades. Prominent scholars argue that voters blindly follow their favored political parties and have strong cognitive biases. We argue that researchers arrive at conclusions about voter irrationality by holding voters to an impossible ideal. Much of the presented empirical evidence in favor of this bleak picture is in fact inconclusive and many studies in the field are surprisingly uninformative about the questions they purport to investigate. This project improves on the state of the art theoretically and methodologically by incorporating insights from the theory of bounded rationality. Our goal is to replace a naïve notion of “perfect rationality” with a practical rationality that is compatible with the capacities possessed by real people.

**Read more about this project at:** <https://www.gu.se/en/research/the-myth-of-the-irrational-voter-theoretical-and-methodological-advancements-for-studying-voter-rationality>

→ **Contact:** Mattias Agerberg  
 mattias.agerberg@gu.se



## STALLED INTEGRATION? HOW EXPERIENCE WITH ANTI- IMMIGRANT EXPRESSIONS AND ETHNIC NEIGHBOURHOODS AFFECT IMMIGRANTS' POLITICAL INTEGRATION

**Funder:** The Swedish Research Council

**Project size:** 4 783 000

**Participants:** Frida Boräng (PI), Maria Tyrberg, Linna Martén

Immigrant integration is a key concern in contemporary European societies. Yet, we have surprisingly little knowledge about to what extent the surrounding society assists or, rather, hinders successful integration. The general aim of our 3-year multidisciplinary project is to answer how political integration in Sweden is influenced by the migrants' surrounding environment during the integration window, i.e. the period after arrival, testing the impact of anti-immigrant expressions (including electoral support for the Sweden Democrats) and ethnic neighbourhoods. An original contribution with the project is the extensive data collection. For the first part of the project, we gather information on anti-immigrant expressions and political integration using surveys to migrants. For the second and third part, we use the 2016 Swedish settlement reform as a natural experiment to test the causal contextual effect of Sweden Democratic support and ethnic neighbourhoods. Using register data, we test whether refugees' integration levels varies depending on the level of Sweden Democratic support and the concentration of co-nationals in the area where they were resettled.

Read more about this project at: <https://www.gu.se/en/research/stalled-integration-how-experience-with-anti-immigrant-expressions-and-ethnic-neighbourhoods-affect-immigrants-political-integration>

→ **Contact:** Frida Boräng  
frida.borang@pol.gu.se



## DEMSCORE (RESEARCH INFRA- STRUCTURE FOR DEMOCRACY, ENVIRONMENT, MIGRATION, SOCIAL POLICY, CONFLICT, AND REPRESENTATION)

In 2021, the QoG Institute received the second part of the DEMSCORE grant, approximately 6.5 million SEK, from the full grant of 51 million SEK (2022–2024).

Demscore brings together some of the world's leading contextual research infrastructures and databases located at various Swedish universities. It is building a world-leading hub for contextual data including several national and internationally renowned databases of outmost importance for the scientific community when tackling complex societal challenges associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda and beyond.

Demscore is funded by the Swedish Research Council, University of Gothenburg, Stockholm University, Uppsala University and Umeå University.

### Partners

V-Dem – the Varieties of Democracy

QoG – the Quality of Government Institute

UCDP/VIEWS – Uppsala Conflict Data Program/VIEWS

COMPLAB – Comparative Policy Laboratory

REPDEM – Representative Democracy in Europe and its Neighbours

H-DATA – Historical Data Archive

Read more about the Demscore project at:

<https://www.demscore.se/>

→ All our ongoing projects are listed on our website at: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/our-research/research-projects>



## CARL BENNET AB GRANT

In 2021, the University of Gothenburg and the Carl Bennet AB concluded a cooperation agreement that provides the QoG Institute with SEK 12 million over the next four years. Professor Bo Rothstein, one of the founders of the QoG Institute, will be responsible for the research collaboration and the money will be used to support the QoG institute's infrastructure, such as the visiting scholar program, the databases, conferences and administrative support.

The initiative for the collaboration came from Carl Bennet, who in April contacted Bo Rothstein to discuss the possibility of working together.

“These funds are very important,” Bo Rothstein says. “The QoG Institute's researchers have been successful in receiving funding for various research projects, but it has proven difficult to obtain funding for the Institute's central infrastructure. You might say that many research funding organisations want to pay for ‘operating the trains’ but not for building and maintaining the ‘rails’.”

# FEATURED PROJECT

## OPENING THE BLACK BOX OF POLITICAL WILL: LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN UKRAINE

**A**ssociate Professor Marcia Grimes, together with Oksana Huss, Leiden University, Oleksandra Keudel, PhD Candidate, Free University of Berlin, and Dmytro Iarovy, Kyiv School of Economics, are working on a project investigating political will to combat corruption at the local level in Ukraine. The project is funded by the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy.

*“Institutional change requires political will. But what is political will, and where does it come from? The project focuses on local communication strategies and actor constellation as key elements to develop political will, and examines these dynamics in the context of Ukraine.”*

Pervasive corruption presents a challenge to scholars, practitioners and activists. The importance of political will for the success of anti-corruption reforms is widely recognized, but our understanding of why political will arises (or not) is lacking. This research aims to dissect the concept of political will with regards to anti-corruption policies among local public authorities (LPAs). This project addresses the question: Why, in a context where corruption is widespread, do some local public authorities engage in meaningful anti-corruption efforts while others do not? Ukraine presents an advantageous setting, with considerable subnational variation and widespread ongoing anti-corruption efforts. We will interview local public authorities in eight strategically selected regions, which all based on previously collected data show some evidence of political intent to combat corruption. The project will investigate how environmental conditions (institutions, relevant actors) and individual level attributes of LPAs (personal background, perceptions, capacity) influence whether this minimal anti-corruption intent builds into the collective momentum defined as political will.

The study has to date carried out a survey of civil society activists and interviews with local public officials in six cities. The project has so far resulted in a policy brief at the International Center for Local Development entitled [“Building Political Will to Combat Corruption.”](#)

Read the full policy brief: [https://icld.se/app/uploads/2021/10/ICDL\\_Policy-Brief\\_16\\_Final.pdf](https://icld.se/app/uploads/2021/10/ICDL_Policy-Brief_16_Final.pdf)



## RESEARCH TEAM

**Marcia Grimes**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg

**Oksana Huss**, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Department of International Studies, Leiden University

**Oleksandra Keudel**, PhD Candidate, Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies, Free University of Berlin

**Dmytro Iarovy**, Program Manager, Kyiv School of Economics

**Contact:** Marcia Grimes  
marcia.grimes@pol.gu.se

Read more about this project on the ICLD website: <https://icld.se/en/researchproject/opening-the-black-box-of-political-will-local-public-authorities-and-anti-corruption-efforts-in-ukraine/>

# PUBLI- CATIONS

In July 2021, The Handbook of The Quality of Government, edited by Andreas Bågenholm, Monika Bauhr, Marcia Grimes and Bo Rothstein, was published by Oxford University Press. The Handbook provides a thorough overview about corruption and the quality of government, featuring contributions from world leading scholars in the field, many of which are active within the QoG Institute. 2021 was also a very productive year in terms of peer-reviewed publications. QoG researchers published 30 peer-reviewed articles in renowned journals. Another 10 working papers were made available on our website.

# PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Agerberg, Mattias (2021). [Messaging about corruption: The power of social norms](#). *Governance*, 1–22.

Agerberg, Mattias and Sohlberg, Jacob (2021). [Personal Proximity and Reactions to Terrorism](#). *Comparative Political Studies*.

Agerberg, Mattias and Tannenber, Marcus (2021). [Dealing with measurement error in list experiments: Choosing the right control list design](#). *Research & Politics*, 8.

Bastos Lima, M. G., Harring, N., Jagers, S. C., Löfgren, Å., Persson, M., Sjöstedt, M. Brülde, B., Langlet, D., Steffen, W., & Alpizar, F. (2021). [Large-scale collective action to avoid an Amazon tipping point – key actors and interventions](#). *Current Research in Environmental Sustainability*, 3.

Bauhr, Monika & Carlitz, Ruth (2021). [When Does Transparency Improve Public Services? Street-level Discretion, Information, and Targeting](#). *Public Administration*, 99(3), 500–516.

Bauhr, Monika & Nicholas Charron (2021). [Stand together or alone? Public support for European economic solidarity during the Covid-19 pandemic](#). *European Societies*, 23(4), 533–561.

Bauhr, Monika and Nicholas Charron (2021). [Will women in Executive office reduce corruption? Marginalization and network inclusion](#). *Comparative Political Studies*, 54 (7), 1292–1322.

Boräng, Frida, & Naurin, Daniel (2021). [Political Equality and Substantive Representation by Interest Groups](#). *British Journal of Political Science*, 1–8.

Boräng, Frida, Sverker Jagers & Marina Povitkina (2021). [In Light of Democracy and Corruption](#). *The Energy Journal*, 42(2).

Broms, Rasmus (2021). [Boxholm tea party: Taxation and voter turnout in a mature democracy](#). *Electoral Studies*, 71.

Broms, Rasmus (2021). [Good riddance to bad government? Institutional performance voting in Swedish municipalities](#). *Journal of Public Policy*, 1–26.

Carlitz, Ruth D. and Povitkina, Marina (2021). [Local interest group activity and environmental degradation in authoritarian regimes](#). *World Development*, 142.

Charron, Nicholas, Niklas Harring & Victor Lapuente (2021). [“Trust, regulation, and redistribution why some governments overregulate and under-redistribute”](#). *Regulation & Governance* 15 (1), 3–16.

D’Arcy Michelle and Marina Nistotskaya (2021). [A taxing issue: the constraining effects of historical state capacity on European property taxes today](#). *Journal of European Public Policy*.

Dahlström, Carl and Mikael Holmgren (2021). [Loyal Leaders, Affluent Agencies: The Budgetary Implications of Political Appointments in the Executive Branch](#). *The Journal of Politics*.

Dahlström, Carl, Lundberg, Erik and Pronin, Kira (2021). [No more political compromise? Swedish commissions of inquiry, 1990–2016](#). *Scandinavian Political Studies*.

Dahlström, Carl, Mihaly Fazekas, and David E. Lewis (2021). [Partisan Procurement. Contracting with the United States Federal Government, 2003–2015](#). *American Journal of Political Science*, 65(3), 652–669.

de Fine Licht, Jenny, Mattias Agerberg and Peter Esaiasson (2021). [It’s Not Over When It’s Over – Post-Decision Arrangements and Empirical Legitimacy](#). *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 2021; muab023.

Harring, Niklas and Krockow, Eva M. (2021). [“The social dilemmas of climate change and antibiotic resistance: an analytic comparison and discussion of policy implications”](#). *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 8.

Jagers, S, M. Sjöstedt, A. Sundström, A. Linell and H. Ntuli (2021). [Trust, corruption and compliance with regulations: Attitudes to rule violations in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park](#). *Social Science Quarterly*.

Johansson, M., Langlet, D., Larsson, O., Löfgren, Å., Harring, N., & Jagers, S. (2021). [A risk framework for optimising policies for deep decarbonisation technologies](#). *Energy Research & Social Science*, 82.

Ntuli, H. A. Sundström, M. Sjöstedt, E. Muchapondwa, S. Jagers, and A. Linell (2021). [Understanding the drivers of subsistence poaching in the Great Limpopo: What matters for community wildlife conservation?](#). *Ecology and Society*.

Porumbescu, Gregory A., Marcia Grimes, Stephan Grimmelhuisen (2021). [Capturing the social relevance of government transparency and accountability using a behavioral lens](#). *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, 4(1), 1–8.

Sjöstedt, M., & Linell, A. (2021). [“Cooperation and coercion: The quest for quasi-voluntary compliance in the governance of African commons”](#). *World Development*, 139.



## QOG WORKING PAPERS

2021:1 Sjöstedt, M., Sundström, A., Jagers, S.C., Ntuli, H. [Governance through community policing: What makes citizens report poaching of wildlife to state officials?](#)

2021:2 Nistotskaya, M., Dahlberg, S., Dahlström, C., Sundström, A., Axelsson, S., Dalli, C.M., Pachon, N.A. [The Quality of Government Expert Survey 2020. \(Wave III\): Report.](#)

2021:3 D'Arcy, M., Nistotskaya, M., Olsson, O. [Land Property Rights, Cadasters and Economic Growth: A Cross-Country Panel 1000–2015 CE.](#)

2021:4 Charron, N., Lapuente, V., Bauhr, M. [Sub-national Quality of Government in EU Member States: Presenting the 2021 European Quality of Government Index and its relationship with Covid-19 indicators.](#)

2021:5 Varraich, A. [Religious Clientelism. A theory.](#)

2021:6 Tengs, E. [Pre-Election Tax Enforcement in Sub-Saharan Africa.](#)

2021:7 Broms, R., Dahlström, C., Nistotskaya, M. [Provider Ownership and Service Quality. Evidence from Swedish Residential Care Homes.](#)

2021:8 Juménez-Sánchez, F., Ros-Medina, J.L., Villoria-Mendieta, M. [Disappointed Expectations. Does the Basque country really enjoy such a high level of quality of government -in European standards- when compared to a backward region such as Andalusia?](#)

2021:9 Dahlström, C., Lindvall, J. [Sweden and the COVID-19 Crisis.](#)

2021:10 Sundström, A., Wängnerud, L. [Sexual forms of corruption and sextortion. How to expand research in a sensitive area.](#)

Steffen-Stadelmann, I., Eder, C., Haring, N., Spilker, G., & Katsanidou, A. (2021). [A Framework for Social Tipping in Climate Change Mitigation: What We Can Learn from the Chlorofluorocarbons Phase-Out.](#) Energy Research & Social Science, 82.

Stockemer, D. and A. Sundström (2021). [Rule by the elderly: The absence of youth in cabinets of France, Germany and the UK.](#) French Politics.

Stockemer, D. and A. Sundström (2021). [The gender gap in voter turnout: An artefact of men's overreporting in survey research?](#) The British Journal of Politics and International Relations.

Sundström, A. and D. Stockemer (2021). [Conceptualizing, measuring and explaining youths' relative absence in legislatures.](#) PS: Political Science & Politics, 54 (2), 195–201.

Sundström, A. and D. Stockemer (2021). [Political party characteristics and women's representation: The case of the European Parliament.](#) Representation.

Sychowiec, Maciej, Monika Bauhr, Nicholas Charron (2021). [Does corruption lead to lower subnational credit ratings? Fiscal dependence, Market Reputation and the Cost of Debt.](#) Business and Politics, 23(3), 364–382.

## OTHER WORKING PAPERS

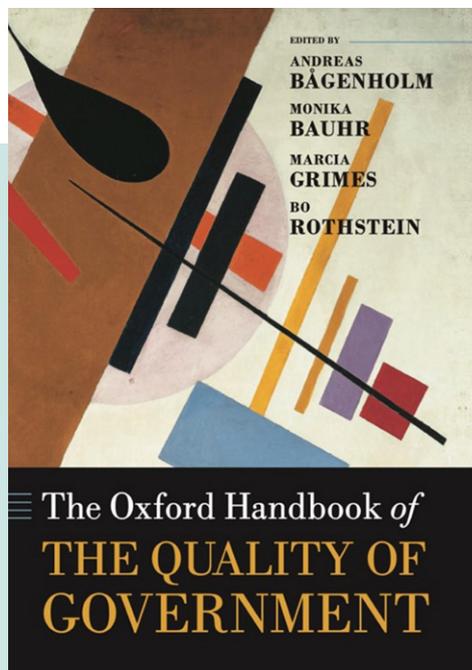
Nistotskaya, Marina and Michelle D'Arcy. 2021. No Taxation without Property Right: Formalization of property rights on land and tax revenues from individuals in sub-Saharan Africa. [WIDER Working paper 175.](#) Helsinki: UNU-WIDER. Read it here

# THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT

The Oxford Handbook of the Quality of Government, edited by Andreas Bågenholm, Monika Bauhr, Marcia Grimes, and Bo Rothstein, provides a thorough overview about corruption and the quality of government, featuring contributions from world leading scholars in the field. The book presents an overview of the most recent findings in the field and a new evidence-based analysis. It provides a diverse set of theoretical perspectives and points out avenues for future research on the quality of government.

*“QoG research investigates impartiality in the exercise of public power, professionalism in public service delivery, and ways to contain corruption patronage, favoritism, and nepotism. The idea of this book is to go beyond merely presenting the state-of-the-art. It also aims to serve as an authoritative guide for scholars, including those interested in venturing into this field of research”*

**Abstract:** Recent research demonstrates that the quality of public institutions is crucial for several important environmental, social, economic, and political outcomes, and thereby human well-being broadly conceived. The Quality of Government (QoG) approach directs attention to issues such as impartiality in the exercise of public power, professionalism in public service delivery, effective measures against corruption, and meritocracy instead of patronage and nepotism. The 38 chapters in this handbook offer a comprehensive, state of the art overview of this rapidly expanding research field and also identify viable avenues for future research. The initial chapters focus on theoretical approaches and debates, and the central question of how QoG can be measured. The remaining chapters examine the wealth of empirical research on how QoG relates to democratic accountability, ethnic diversity, human well-being, economic growth, political legitimacy, environmental sustainability, gender equality, social cohesion, and the outbreak of civil conflicts. A third set of chapters turns to the perennial issue of what contextual factors and policy approaches have proven successful (and not so successful) for increasing QoG. The QoG approach both challenges and complements important strands of inquiry in the social sciences. For research about democratization, QoG adds the importance of taking state capacity into account. For economics, the QoG approach shows that to produce economic prosperity, markets need to be embedded in institutions with a certain set of qualities. For development studies, QoG emphasizes that issues concerned with corruption are integral to understanding development writ large.



## CONTENTS

- Part I – Theory and Conceptualization
- Part II – Data and Methodological Approaches
- Part III – Democracy, Accountability, and Participation
- Part IV – Sustainability and Development
- Part V – International Policies and Global Strategies
- Part VI – Diversity, Social Cohesion, and Well-Being
- Part VII – State Structure and Policy
- Part VIII – State-Building and Breakdown

**Link to the book:** <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198858218.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198858218>

# BOOK CHAPTERS

## BOOK CHAPTERS IN THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT

Chapters in Bågenholm, Andreas, et al. (2021). The Oxford Handbook of the Quality of Government (2021). Oxford University Press:

Alexander, Amy C. "[Gender, Gender Equality, and Corruption: A Review of Theory and Evidence](#)".

Bågenholm, Andreas.

"[Electoral Accountability and Corruption](#)".

Bauhr, Monika and Marcia Grimes.

"[Democracy and the Quality of Government](#)".

Boräng, Frida and Marcia Grimes. "[Social Accountability and Quality of Government: Effectiveness and Recursive Effects](#)".

Charron, Nicholas. "[Measuring the Unmeasurable? Taking Stock of QoG Measures](#)".

D'Arcy, Michelle and Marina Nistotskaya (2021).

"[State Capacity, Quality of Government, Sequencing, and Development Outcomes](#)".

Dahlström, Carl and Victor Lapuente.

"[Bureaucracy and Government Quality](#)".

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→ All our publications are available on our website: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/publications>

# OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Even though the pandemic put an end to most physical events in 2021, the transition to digital events enabled us to continue our much appreciated lunch seminar series. We also organized our bi-annual internal conferences in a digital form. These conferences allows participating scholars 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 published in peer-reviewed journals. In 2021, two conferences were held online in February and August, where 25 papers were presented and discussed.

When the restrictions eased in early autumn, we were also able to host a smaller number of visiting scholars, as well as the winner of the annual QoG Best Paper Award. Not the least, we gladly got the chance to organize a full day of seminars with invited guests in honor of Bo Rothstein, founder of the QoG Institute, who retired during the year.

Additionally to these internal events, QoG scholars 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 the public and policy-makers.

# LUNCH SEMINARS

**T**he QoG Lunch Seminar Series is a vital part of our Institute. We aim at inviting cutting-edge scholars who conduct studies on issues related to the research carried out at the QoG Institute, as well as experts from NGOs and other organizations. In 2021, our lunch seminar series continued to attract renowned and promising scholars from a range of countries. In total, we organized 17 lunch seminars, of which most took place digitally.

**Manoel Gehrke**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Bocconi University. *Title: Political Survival, Legislative Oversight and Enrichment after Anti-Corruption Audits.*

**Emanuel Wittberg**, PhD candidate, Institute for Analytical Sociology and the Centre for Municipality studies, Linköping University. *Title: Public procurement manipulation and firm performance. Evidence from Sweden.*

**Karin Hilmer Pedersen**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Aarhus University. *Title: When corruption hits the judiciary...*

**Amy Basu**, Doctoral Student, Political Science, Yale University. *Title: Bad Politicians, Good Bureaucrats: Modelling Public Sector Corruption and Bureaucratic Reliability*

**Antti Riih a**, Associate Professor and Postdoctoral researcher, Department of History and Ethnology, University of Jyv skyl . *Title: District court judges in Old Finland: Empirical observations of bad governance practices, ca. 1740–1780.*

**Nils K bis**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Humans and Machines, Max Planck Institute for Human Development. *Title: Bribing across borders: a large-scale international experiment in 21 countries*

**Guillermo Toral**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University. *Title: “The benefits of patronage: How political appointments can enhance bureaucratic accountability and effectiveness.”*

**Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Brown University. *Title: “Naming Policies: The effects of politicians labeling government benefits with their names”*

**Nelson A. Ruiz**, Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford. *Title: “When do Campaign Contributions Persist? Theory and Evidence of Sustained Political Giving”*

**Claes Sandgren**, Professor Emeritus, Stockholm Centre for Commercial Law, Stockholm University. *Title: “Swedish political scientists and corruption – a critique.”*

**Albana Shehaj**, Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. *Title: “Backsliding in a Landslide: How EU’s Fiscal Distributions Empower Corrupt Governments”*

**J hannes Stef nsson**, whistleblower and winner of the WIN WIN Gothenburg Sustainability Award 2021. *Title: “What can research learn from a whistleblower?”*

**Pablo Fern ndez-V zquez**, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences Carlos III at the University of Madrid. *Title: “Does Electing Women Reduce Corruption? The Impact of Legislative Gender Quotas in Spain”*

**Felix Haass**, Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo. *Title: “The Effect of Wartime Legacies on Electoral Mobilization after Civil War”*

**Hyeon-Suk Lyu**, Senior research fellow, Center for Public Safety and Integration at Korea Institute of Public Administration. *Title: “A Study on Civil Service Capacity Development Reflecting the Quality of Government in New Southern Countries”*

**Guillem Amatller**, predoctoral research fellow, IBEI and UPF, Barcelona. *Title: “State sponsored technology, population density and the role of Bourgeoisie”*

**Edoardo Teso**, Assistant Professor of Managerial Economics & Decision Sciences, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. *Title: Ideology and Performance in Public Organizations*

→ Check our our website for more information on previous lunch seminars: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/our-activities/qog-lunch-seminars>

# VISITING SCHOLARS

**T**he QoG Visiting Scholar Program is another vital part of our Institute. It provides intellectual impetus for the Institute and we aim at inviting cutting-edge scholars, as well as prosperous doctoral students, who do research on the topics related to the QoG research agenda. During 2021, the pandemic prevented us from hosting as many visiting scholars as during a normal year, but we were still happy to host four visiting scholars, of which two stayed for a few days and two for a period of several months.

**Guillem Amatller**, predoctoral research fellow, IBEI and UPF, Barcelona, and visiting scholar at the QoG institute, September–December 2021.

**Sergi Ferrer**, PhD Student, Department of Political Science, University of Barcelona, and visiting scholar at the QoG institute, September–December 2021.

**Pablo Fernández-Vázquez**, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences Carlos III at the University of Madrid, and visiting scholar at the QoG institute, 1–4 November, 2021.

**Edoardo Teso**, Assistant Professor of Managerial Economics & Decision Sciences, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and visiting scholar at the QoG institute, 13–15 December, 2021.

→ Check out our website for more information on previous visiting scholars: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/our-activities/qog-visiting-scholar-program>



Guillem Amatller



Sergi Ferrer



Pablo Fernández-Vázquez



Edoardo Teso

# SEMINARS IN HONOR OF BO ROTHSTEIN

**O**n November 12th, the QoG Institute organized a full day of seminars in honour of Bo Rothstein, founder of the QoG Institute, who retired during the year. A number of speakers were specially invited to talk about different aspects of Rothstein’s work, and the whole department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg were invited to the seminars and the following closing dinner.

## PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

### “The concrete activities of the state, legitimacy and popular support”: Political Institutions and Ordinary Citizens

- Staffan Kumlin, Professor, University of Oslo: “The Welfare State and Political Behavior”
- Marcia Grimes, Associate Professor, University of Gothenburg: “Citizens’ Efforts to Shape and Constrain Institutions”
- Dietlind Stolle, Professor, McGill University: “The Institutional Sources of Social Capital”

### “Political solutions to human problems”: Political Science and Human Well-Being

- Sheri Berman, Professor, Barnard College: “Bucking Trends and Tendencies: How Can Political Scientists Help Make the World a Better Place?”
- Johannes Lindvall, Professor, University of Gothenburg: “Political Science as Architecture”
- Anna Persson, Associate Professor, University of Gothenburg: “Political Science, Bo and the World’s Pressing Problems”

### “The serious theoretical shortcomings of the rational choice school”: Explaining Politics

- Cathie Jo Martin, Professor, Boston University: “Understanding Politics Through Literature”
- Sven Steinmo, Professor, University of Colorado: “An Irrational Man in a Rationalists’ World”



In 2021, one of the QoG Institute founders, **Bo Rothstein**, retired, which was celebrated with a day full of seminars with invited guests from Sweden and abroad.

### “Organization is crucial to the success or failure of a public policy”: Bureaucracy and Politics

- Victor Lapuente, Professor, University of Gothenburg: “Getting into the Bureaucrat’s Mind. Experimental Studies on Public-Service Values”
- Stefan Svallfors, Professor, Institutet för framtidsstudier: “Policy Professionals – Getting to a Research Problem”

### “If he had ‘acted otherwise,’ there would have certainly been a difference”: The Role of the Individual in the Life of a Scholarly Discipline

- Sören Holmberg, Professor emeritus, University of Gothenburg: “The Best and the Brightest”

# THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE'S BEST PAPER AWARD 2020

**T**he Quality of Government Institute's 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. The award includes a visit to the QoG Institute for a week as a guest scholar to present the paper or related research. In 2021, we were honored to host one the 2020 year's award winners, **Felix Haass** from the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, who was awarded the prize, together with **Martin Ottmann**, School of Government, University of Birmingham, for their paper "The Effect of Wartime Legacies on Electoral Mobilization after Civil War".

**Haass** from the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, who was awarded the prize, together with **Martin Ottmann**, School of Government, University of Birmingham, for their paper "The Effect of Wartime Legacies on Electoral Mobilization after Civil War".

**Motivation:** The authors advance a theory of how civil war legacies relate to post conflict electoral mobilization. They argue theoretically, and demonstrate empirically, that war-time civilian-insurgent linkages are transformed into peace time clientelistic exchanges. Organizational capacities established during the war serve as networks that distribute targeted benefits and monitor compliance. After the conflict's end, rebel leaders running for office are effectively using their former military organizations to develop party structures and mobilize voters at the local level. Discretionary control over resources ('peace dividends') during democratization, is the 'currency' through which those linkages are developed and sustained.

The authors use novel sets of data to test their hypotheses focusing on the first post conflict elections in the Indonesian province of Aceh in 2006. They combine georeferenced

information on violence during the war with post tsunami aid allocation data (from two different sources) in order to explore relationships between the main variables of interest. Their empirical strategy partly relies on a difference in difference design supplemented by various other analyses, robustness checks and a conscious effort to explore and rule out potential alternative explanations for their findings. The level of sophistication, creativity and due diligence of the empirical design is high and lends further confidence to their inferences.

Their work speaks to a variety of literatures from peace studies, post conflict democratization, state capture and clientelism. This research also carries important implications for research on aid allocation and control in post conflict and low QoG societies. Finally, through this contribution Haass and Ottmann further our understanding about the factors that can potentially lock societies into vicious cycles that ensure the persistence of suboptimal governance outcomes even after democracy takes hold.

#### The Committee Members:

**Stephen Dawson** (PhD Candidate)

**Marcia Grimes** (Associate Professor)

**Lena Wängnerud** (Professor)

**Georgios Xezonakis** (Associate Professor)

Read the paper "[The Effect of Wartime Legacies on Electoral Mobilization after Civil War](#)".

Previous award winning papers: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/our-activities/the-qog-best-paper-award>



Felix Haass



Martin Ottmann

# EXTERNAL EVENTS



## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

As usual, QoG researchers presented their work at a number of academic conferences and workshops. Below we list a selection of conferences and workshops attended by QoG researchers in 2021.

- Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference, January
- 2021 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, April
- Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) internal workshop, April
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), April
- Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series (APOSS), June
- The Annual Meeting of the Public Management Research Conference (PMRC), June
- Fiscal States – The Origins and Development Implications Workshop, UNI-WIDER, June
- Suffrage now! International Conference on Gender and Democracy, Stockholm University, August
- Nordic Political Science Association congress (NoPSA), August
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), August
- Annual meeting of the Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA), September
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, September – October
- Governance and Local Development (GLD) Fall Workshop Series, November

## INVITED TALKS

In addition to academic conferences and workshops, QoG researchers were also invited to hold talks at various universities. Below we list a selection of invited talks held by QoG researchers during 2021.

- "Higher Profit, Lower Quality? Evidence from Swedish Residential Care Homes", presentation at the Council for European Studies (CES), June (Carl Dahlström)
- "Higher Profit, Lower Quality? Evidence from Swedish Residential Care Homes", presentation at the University College London, June (Carl Dahlström).
- "Demokratisk stabilitet i kristider", presentation at the seminar serie: "Röster om samtiden" at Örebro University, September (Agnes Cornell).
- "State Making and Global Order in Historical-Comparative Perspective", presentation at a workshop on "Colonial Origins of Modern Bureaucracy: India and the Professionalisation of the British Civil Service", Lund University, September (Agnes Cornell).
- "Women and Leviathan: the Ideology of Demographic Power, Information Capacity and Childrearing", Lund University, September (Marina Nistotskaya).
- "Democratic Stability in an Age of Crisis. Reassessing the Interwar Period", presentation at a symposium titled "Stein Rokkan's Legacy: The Past and Future of Comparative Politics, following the Stein Rokkan Memorial Lecture of Lars Mjøset Commemoration of Stein Rokkan's 100th birthday," University of Bergen, October (Agnes Cornell).
- "Cleaners from Venus? Gender and anticorruption stereotypes across European region", presentation at Jaume I University, Spain, October (Monika Bauhr).
- "Institutions and governance after the pandemic: international perspectives", presentation at the Jaume I University, Spain, October (Monika Bauhr).
- "Brokering bureaucrats: How bureaucrats and civil society facilitate clientelism where parties are weak", presentation at the Political Science and Political Economy Research Seminar Series, London School of Economics, London, November (Agnes Cornell).
- "Youth without representation", presentation at the Core Research Seminar of the Political Science Department of University of Bergen, November (Aksel Sundström).
- "Provider Ownership and Service Quality. Evidence from Swedish Residential Care Homes", presentation at the University of Konstanz, December (Carl Dahlström).

## POLICY EVENTS AND TALKS

As usual, QoG researchers engaged in a number of activities directed towards the general public and policy makers. Below we list a selection of policy-related events that QoG researchers participated in during 2021.

- “Corruption and the environment,” presentation for members of Gothenburg Municipality at a session on corruption with Transparency International, January (Aksel Sundström).
- “The Importance of Well-functioning Political Institutions (QoG) (Vikten av välfungerande samhällsinstitutioner)”, presentation at Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), at the Launch of Myndighetsnavet at Myndighetsforum, March (Anna Persson).
- Discussion about corruption at Pustervik, Gothenburg, March (Andreas Bågenholm).
- “Corruption and environmental problems”, presentation at the Country Environmental Committee (Miljönämnden) of Västra Götalandsregionen, May (Aksel Sundström).
- ”Driftsform, personalsammansättning och storlek: Om strukturella faktorer och risk att smittas av och dö i covid-19 vid särskilt boende för äldre i Sverige”, presentation at The Swedish Corona Commission, Stockholm, June and September (Carl Dahlström).
- Presenter at UNODC Gender Equality Forum: The Gender Dimensions of Corruption, June (Lena Wängnerud).
- “Light and Shadows: Inquiring About Corruption, Anti-Corruption And Integrity”, co-organizer of the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum in cooperation with Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network and Global Integrity, June (Marina Povitkina).
- “How to Get Good Governance: The Role of Taxes”, lecture at the Swedish Tax Authorities OIP Day, September (Anna Persson).
- “The Importance of Good Governance”, lecture at the Swedish Tax Authorities OIP Day, September (Anna Persson).
- “How do we create a culture that stands up against corruption and protect the whistleblower?”, presentation at Agenda 2030 i Väst Annual Conference “Ett Västsverige där ingen lämnas utanför”, October (Anna Persson).
- “Gender Equality and Corruption”, presentation at the Medieinstitutet Fojo staff meeting, Växjö, October (Monika Bauhr)
- Talk on Gender Equality and Corruption at the EU week of regions 2021: EU Funds, Quality of Sub-national Institutions, Rule of Law and COVID-19 Recovery, October (Monika Bauhr)
- “Gender equality at local level? Women’s representation in Europe”, presentation at a hearing for politicians and officials, organized by Norrköping municipality, as part of EU-funded project “GEMIS: Promoting gender equality for an inclusive society”, November (Aksel Sundström).
- “The Relationship between Democracy and Well-functioning Institutions”, lecture at SIDA, November (Anna Persson).
- Experts’ Meeting on Integrating the Women, Peace and Security Agenda into the NATO Building Integrity Work, NATO/DCAF Building Integrity-Gender Project, November (Monika Bauhr)
- Keynote speech at the Latin American Centre for Public Administration and Development (CLAD), Bogotá, November (Victor Lapuente)
- ”Vill vi ha fler visselblåsare?” (Do we want more whistle-blowers?), Panel on Human Rights at the Human Rights day (Mänskliga Rättighetsdagarna), December (Birgitta Niklasson, moderator).
- “Scientific approaches to measuring corruption – recent trends and gender perspectives”, presentation at the UNODC 3rd Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, December (Lena Wängnerud).
- “Developing Fiscal States in Sub-Saharan-Africa”, policy panel, OECD-UN-WIDER, December (Marina Nistotskaya)
- “Shaping the future – Anchoring Gender in the UNCAC-Process”, panel organized by Sweden and Germany as a side event at the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, December (Monika Bauhr).
- “Politisering och korruptionsrisker”, presentation for the Minister for Public Administration Lena Micko, Gothenburg, October (Carl Dahlström).
- ”Varför är korruption ett så allvarligt samhällsproblem och vilka lösningar finns?” (“Why is corruption such a serious societal problem and what are the solutions to it”), talk at Alingsås municipality, October (Andreas Bågenholm).
- Dialogue with the Minister of Civil Affairs in Dialogue. On October 21, the Minister of Civil Affairs, Lena Micko, from the Ministry of Finance, visited the Quality of Government Institute at the University of Gothenburg. Micko is responsible for Sweden’s municipalities and regions, Swedish consumer policy, public procurement and public administration.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Elected board member of Transparency International’s Swedish chapter (Anna Persson).
- Expert advisor on the topic of “anti-corruption” to the 2021 Jury of the WIN WIN Gothenburg Sustainable Award, an annual 1 million SEK prize to benefit sustainability, June–October (Aksel Sundström).
- Reviewer for the Swedish Research Council’s Panel on Political science, Peace and conflict research, and Media and communications (Anna Persson).
- Selected expert for the Chandler Sessions on Corruption and Integrity, Oxford University (Monika Bauhr).
- Course development on theme “Corruption in Academic Research” for SIDA (Anna Persson).

## PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Anders Sundell:** Hans L. Zetterberg Prize in Sociology for 2021 for “for augmenting the field of political sociology by approaching it from a broad social science perspective”. <https://www.samfak.uu.se/research/zetterberg-prize/>

**Monika Bauhr and Nicholas Charron:** Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS)’s best article prize for the article “In God we Trust? Identity, Institutions and International Solidarity in Europe”. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jcms.13020>

**Aksel Sundström:** Wennergren Sabbatical scholarship from the Wennergren Foundation for International Research Exchange.

# QOG DATA

2021 was another productive year for QoG Data. We released new datasets, provided new tools to enhance our user experience and expanded our platforms for upcoming years. We released the 2021 QoG Data Compilations and released two new datasets. We also developed a new search tool. The DEMSCORE project, to which QoG Data is part of, started and will provide a wider platform for users looking for data bases from the major universities in Sweden.

# QOG DATA

**T**he year 2021 was another productive year for QoG Data, during which we released new datasets, provided new tools to enhance our user experience and expanded our platforms for upcoming years. As a yearly tradition, we released the 2021 QoG Data Compilations (Standard, Basic, and OECD datasets), where we have collected 2305 variables from 113 sources related to our core concepts.

Furthermore, we released two new datasets: the third wave of the QoG Expert Survey and the first edition of the QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset. Now we also have a new search tool, QoG Data Finder, to help our users find relevant data in political science. To close 2021, the DEMSCORE project, to which QoG Data is part of, started and will provide a wider platform for users looking for data bases from the major universities in Sweden.

Our comprehensive data collection was enriched with eight new data sources included in the compilation datasets. These are:

- Dataset of Electoral Volatility in the European Parliament elections (Emanuele et al., 2020). This dataset provides data on electoral volatility and its internal components in the elections for the European Parliament in all European Union countries.
- Information Capacity Dataset (Brambor et al., 2020). It offers an overall index of ‘information capacity’ for 85 countries from 1750 to 2015 based on five component indicators – when the country first established a statistical agency, whether the country had in place a civil register and a population register, and the graded indexes of census ability and yearbook ability.
- The Social Progress Index (The Social Progress Imperative, 2020). It measures social progress through a combination of 50 social and environmental outcome indicators that include data on health, safety, education, technology, and rights.
- Financing the State: Government Tax Revenue from 1800 to 2012 Dataset (Andersson and Brambor, 2019). This dataset presents historical central government revenues in Europe and the Americas from 1800 (or independence) to 2012.
- The WhoGov Dataset (Nyrup and Bramwell, 2020). It is the largest available dataset on government members across time and countries, providing bibliographic information, such as gender and party affiliation, on cabinet members at country-year level.
- IMF Government Finance Statistics: Expenditure by Functions of Government (COFOG) Dataset (International Monetary Fund, 2019). This dataset contains fiscal data for all reporting countries, specifying the expenditure in several functions of government such as defense, education, health, and social protection.
- The Property Rights Protection index (Ouattara and Standaert, 2020). It introduces a new index of property rights that focuses on a stricter definition of property rights, separately from other aspects of the rule of law.
- Youth Representation Index (Sundström and Stockemer, 2020). This dataset assesses the magnitude of youths’ under-representation across countries using the last year of election.



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

In addition to the annual update of our Compilation Datasets, we released the third wave of QoG Expert Survey 2021 early this year, with significant methodological improvements for consistency and comparability of cross-country results. This dataset offers an insight into public bureaucracies and bureaucratic behavior for 117 countries for 2020/2021. For this iteration of the Expert Survey, the authors use anchoring vignettes and Item-Response Theory (IRT)-based aggregation techniques to produce point estimates that account and adjust for systematic differences in expert subjective assessments and variation in expert reliability.

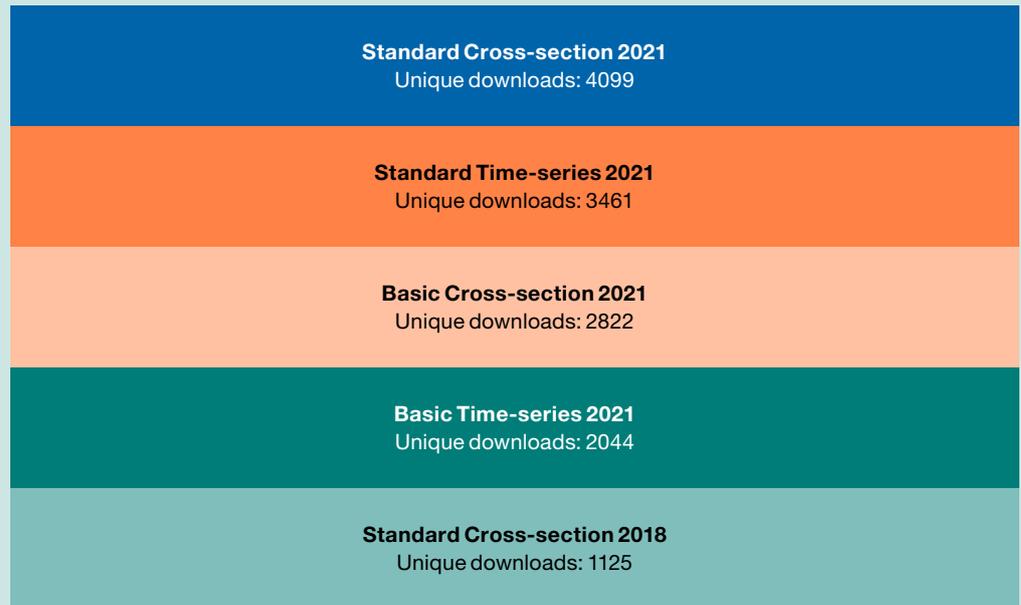
Moreover, our dataset catalog was also further expanded with two new datasets; the QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset, which collects major freely available indicators measuring the environmental performance of countries over time, and the PERCEIVE Survey data, this survey provides data intended to help researchers better understand the micro and macro-level dynamics that drive support (or lack thereof) of EU regional policies.

This year also brought improvements to the outreach of the QoG Databases and increased the accessibility of our publicly available data. One of the most important changes was the introduction of the QoG Data Finder. This tool allows the users to browse more efficiently through the metadata we have collected over the years for the QoG Datasets. With search functions at variable, dataset, and data source levels, and advanced search options for specific years and countries, we hope that finding relevant data will be much easier with our QoG Data Finder.

Last but not least, our involvement in the DEMSCORE research infrastructure, which brings together some of the world’s leading contextual research infrastructures and databases in political science from various Swedish universities, is another landmark for us. The joint effort of DEMSCORE member institutions will create a unique platform for social science data, and starting from the 2022 update, the QoG Datasets will also be accessible via the DEMSCORE website.

➔ Visit QoG Data at:  
<https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/qog-data>

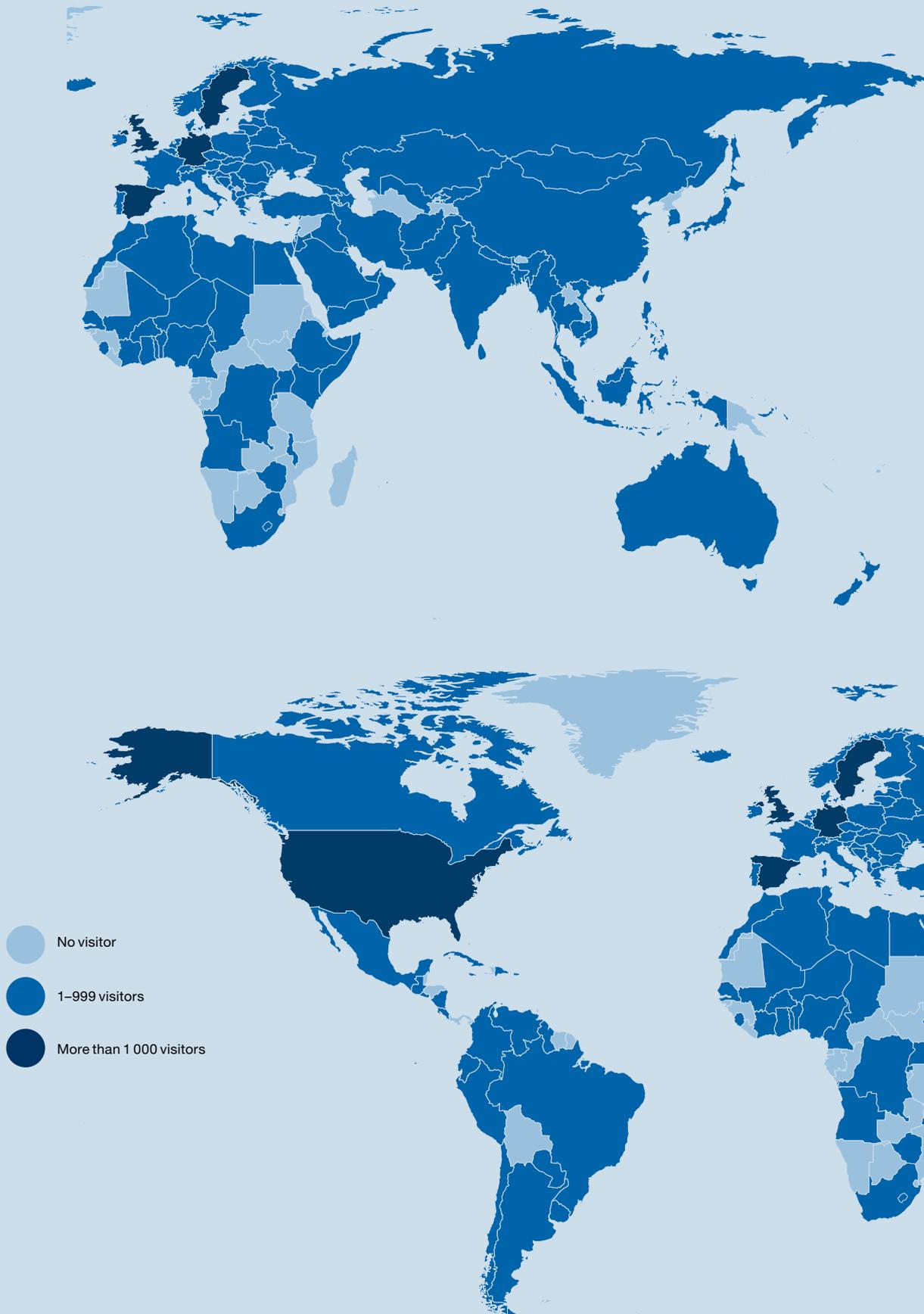
## 5 MOST DOWNLOADED DATASETS



## 10 MOST SEARCHED TERMS



**Countries using QoG data  
from January to December 2021**



# QOG FOR STUDENTS

# INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**T**he 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 2021, we accommodated six interns for a period of 10 or 20 weeks:

- Erik Binde, Master student in International Administration and Global Governance, University of Gothenburg
- Jan-George Knappe, Master student in Political Science, University of Gothenburg
- Jasmin Rath, Master student in Political Science, University of Gothenburg
- Joseph Akowuah, Master student in Political Science, University of Gothenburg
- Mie Sørensen, Master student in International Administration and Global Governance, University of Gothenburg
- Valeria Caras, Master student in Social Science, University of Helsinki



## INTERNSHIP PORTRAIT

**Valeria Caras, intern at the QoG institute, Spring 2021**

I have applied for an internship at the Quality of Government Institute (QoG) during the second year of my master’s studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. I was thinking to pursue a PhD career and gain working experience in research projects. This internship has enhanced my will and encouraged me to apply for a PhD in the future.

I was an intern at QoG during Spring 2021 and completed my internship in a remote format. Despite the specific character of the remote work, I had a very rewarding experience at the Institute. I felt the support from the programme’s supervisor and researchers. The weekly QoG breakfast made me feel an equal part of the Institute. During my internship, I had the possibility to plan my own time, manage the tasks I have to do, and communicate with researchers.

What I also liked during the internship is the diversity of tasks. I assisted in the literature review, data collection, data visualization, and drafting of a report. Being interested in data collection and analysis, I learned new techniques. I also had an opportunity to expand my knowledge by assisting in projects on media coverage and democracy, corruption, healthcare centers, and getting to know more about research in these areas.

In my view, the internship at QoG promotes the development of research skills that can be applied further in academia and beyond. I highly recommend the application for the internship.

→ Read more about our internship program on our website: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/qog-for-students-0/internship-at-the-qog-institute>

# MASTER'S COURSES

**M**aster students at the University of Gothenburg have an opportunity to take part in a 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 that will be 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 2021, 27 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 2021, 23 students were enrolled on the PERDEM course.

- Read more about the course **The Quality of Government in Comparative Perspective** at: [https://utbildning.gu.se/education/courses-and-programmes/course\\_detail?courseid=SK2212](https://utbildning.gu.se/education/courses-and-programmes/course_detail?courseid=SK2212)
- Read more about the course **The Performance of Democracies** at: [https://utbildning.gu.se/education/courses-and-programmes/course\\_detail?courseid=SK2211](https://utbildning.gu.se/education/courses-and-programmes/course_detail?courseid=SK2211)



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Wallenbergs  
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OCH SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAP

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