

QoG

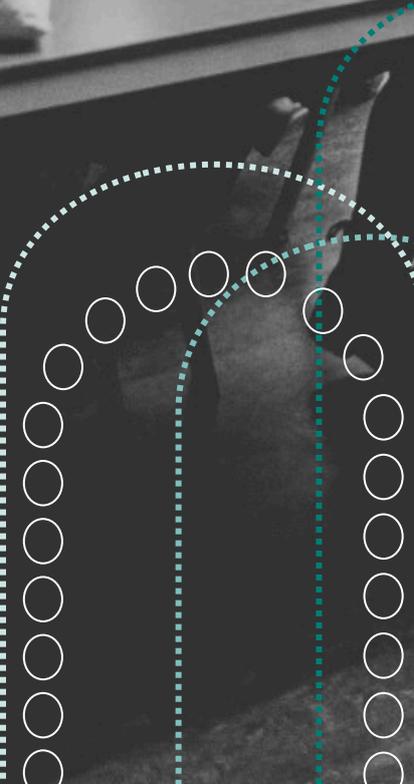
THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THE QUALITY OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE



The Quality of Government Institute

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Funding Agencies

Carl Bennet AB
The Swedish foundation for strategic environmental research supports research of strategic importance for a good living environment and sustainable development (MISTRA).
The Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet, VR)
The European Commission (EC)
Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ)
Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)

Social Media

Website: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government>
Facebook: facebook.com/QoG.Institute
Linkedin: linkedin.com/company/quality-of-government-institute
Bluesky: bsky.app/profile/qoginstitute.bsky.social
X: <https://x.com/QoGData>
QoG News: <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/about-us-0/qog-news>

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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 40 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.

While quality of government is our common intellectual focal point, we apply a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. The main objective of our research is to address the theoretical and empirical problem of how political institutions of high quality can be created and maintained. A second objective is to study the effects of quality of government on a number of policy areas, such as health, the environment, social policy, and poverty.

We approach these problems from a variety of different theoretical and methodological angles. 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.

To enable researchers, practitioners, and students to access high quality information about the quality of government and related areas, we also offer several open access datasets and data visualization tools.



“Our ambition is to close the gap between broader audiences and the research of QoG”

2025 at a glance

36

Team members

11

New grants



19

Peer-reviewed
articles

14

Visiting scholars



60660

Data downloads

69

Presentations



A Message from Our Director

“if I had to pick one highlight summarizing my interactions with so many different scholars from different parts of the world on what they think about the QoG Institute, I would say a “pleasant” or “solidaristic” research environment, where individuals seem to collaborate with a collective spirit, in a constructive way, towards a public good.”



Victor Lapuente

It has been an immense honour to be the director of the QoG Institute since 2024. I was on board of this ship since almost its initial steps, but the experience of being its head during this time has been even more rewarding than expected. Being in touch, both in person and virtually, with so many international colleagues interested in our research and data has been hugely satisfying. Yet, if I had to pick one highlight summarizing my interactions with so many different scholars from different parts of the world on what they think about the QoG Institute, I would say a “pleasant” or “solidaristic” research environment, where individuals seem to collaborate with a collective spirit, in a constructive way, towards a public good.

I am not good enough in causal identification strategies to discern the reason of such *modus operandi*. It might be the Scandinavian tradition of equality, or the long-term vision of the Department of Political Science, or the original view of the QoG founders, Bo Rothstein and Sören Holmberg, or its peer structure (decision-making lies in a roughly 15-member collegium), or the particularly engaging nature of our research. Or to a mixture of all these factors. Or to hard work. Or to pure luck.

Yet it has been a blessing to be its head during this time. Unfortunately, I need to step down before my term is over, because I am going to public service (at the Bank of Spain), to continue working on institutional quality. I cannot but expect a successful future for the QoG Institute, with the great people working inside, and with you, dearest colleagues, working outside for a world with better governments.

QoG in 2025

In 2025, the Institute had a highly productive year. Our researchers published in leading journals such as American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as in specialized outlets. Ongoing work was also disseminated through the QoG Working Paper Series.

The Institute secured several new research grants, further diversifying its funding base. A major achievement was funding from the MISTRA call “Corruption and Environmental Crime – Obstacles to Sustainable Development,” with the programme hosted by the Institute for Futures Studies and involving several QoG researchers.

We continued key activities, including the visiting scholar programme, seminar series, internal conferences, and the QoG Best Paper Award. Scholars presented widely at conferences and engaged with academic, policy, and public audiences.

Interest in the internship programme reached a record high, with outstanding interns from Sweden and abroad contributing significantly to our research.

The QoG data infrastructure remained central to comparative research, with increased usage and continued efforts to expand datasets and support users.



Our team

Director

Lapuente, Victor – Professor

Programme manager

Bågenholm, Andreas – Senior Lecturer

Programme coordinators

Johansson, Alice

Evertsson, Kajsa

Principle Investigator QoG Data

Sundström, Aksel - Professor

Data Managers

Alvarado, Natalia

Chen, Chuawei

Dalli, Cem Mert

Lopez Valverde, Rafael

Phiri, Victor Saidi

Management collegium

Agerberg, Mattias – Associate Professor

Alexander, Amy – Professor

Bauhr, Monika – Professor

Boräng, Frida – Professor

Broms, Rasmus – Associate Professor

Bågenholm, Andreas – Senior Lecturer

Charron, Nicholas – Professor

Cornell, Agnes – Associate Professor

Dahlström, Carl – Professor

Grimes, Marcia – Professor

Harring, Niklas – Associate Professor

Niklasson, Birgitta – Associate Professor

Nistotskaya, Marina – Professor

Persson, Anna – Associate Professor

Sundell, Anders – Associate Professor

Sundström, Aksel – Professor

Xezonakis, Georgios – Associate Professor

Founders

Holmberg, Sören – Senior Professor

Rothstein, Bo – Senior Professor

Other affiliated researchers

Dawson, Stephen – Postdoctor

Elia, Emily – Postdoctor

Gren, Simon – Doctoral Student

Gunderson, Jacob – Associate Senior Lecturer

Kyzym, Artem – Doctoral Student

Pfeiffer, Frederik – Doctoral Student

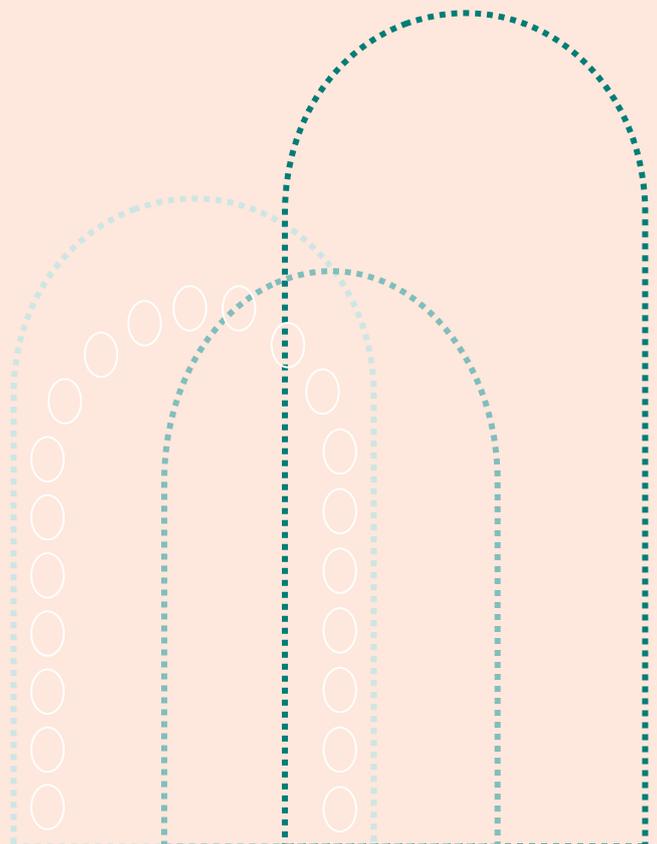
Povitkina, Marina – Researcher

Reicheneder, Leonie – Doctoral Student

Rodinova, Julia – Associate researcher

Schwenk, Jana – Postdoctor

Wängnerud, Lena – Professor



Publications

Highlighting our published research works in 2025



Peer-reviewed articles

Agerberg, Mattias & Wängnerud, Lena. (2025). [Why women's equal representation increases policy losers' consent: Revisiting the double-edged sword of procedural fairness.](#) American Journal of Political Science.

Alexander, Amy, Charron, Nicholas & Off, Gefjon. (2025). [Young men, gendered labour market competition, and opposition to gender equality policy across 27 EU countries.](#) West European Politics, 1–28.

Bauhr, Monika & Charron, Nicholas. (2025). [Autonomy or accountability? How meritocracy, patronage and gender balance affect perceptions of legitimacy.](#) Governance.

Bauhr, Monika & Charron, Nicholas. (2025). [Vote buying, turnout and trust: Democratic consequences of electoral clientelism in the Polish 2023 election.](#) Democratization, 0(0), 1–23.

Bauhr, Monika, Charron, Nicholas & Wängnerud, Lena. (2025). [What candidate will fight corruption? Gender and anti-corruption stereotypes across European countries.](#) European Political Science Review, 1–20.

Boräng, Frida, Kalm, Sara & Lindvall, Johannes. (2025). [The 1951 refugee convention from a welfare-state perspective.](#) Journal of European Social Policy.

Charron, Nicholas & Bågenholm, Andreas. (2025). [Political corruption and voting in Romanian municipal elections: Why perceptions of collective action matter.](#) European Journal of Political Research.

Dawson, Stephen, Haass, Felix, Müller-Crepon, Carl & Sundström, Aksel. (2025). [The ethnic politics of nature protection in Africa.](#) Journal of Politics.

Dawson, Stephen, Schwenk, Jana & Xezonakis, Georgios. (2025). [The distribution of executive power and corruption: A meta-analytical review.](#) Comparative Political Studies.

Kolvani, Palina & Nistotskaya, Marina. (2025). On mechanisms of meritocratic recruitment: Competence and impartiality. Journal of Institutional Economics.

Kyzym, Artem. (2025). Civil-military relations in the aftermath of coups: How does coup failure affect counterbalancing in autocratic regimes? Journal of Conflict Resolution.

Marquardt, J., Pfeiffer, F., Blum, M., Daw, T. M., Dugasseh, F. A., Heitzig, J., ... Tønder, L. (2025). Reconciling democracy and sustainability: three political challenges and the role of democratic innovations. Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy, 21(1).

Michaelsen, Patrik, Sundström, Aksel & Jagers, Sverker C. (2025). Mass support for conserving 30% of the Earth by 2030: Experimental evidence from five continents. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Off, Gefjon, Alexander, Amy C. & Charron, Nicholas. (2025). Is there a gender youth gap in far-right voting and cultural attitudes? European Journal of Politics and Gender.

Persson, Anna, Boräng, Frida & Carlitz, Ruth. (2025). The power of ideational reach: A new approach to state capacity. Governance, 38(3).

Ponzo, Marta & Schwenk, Jana. (2025). Underneath the surface: Unpacking gendered dynamics in legislative oversight in Italian municipalities. Legislative Studies Quarterly.

Povitkina, Marina, Jagers, Sverker C., Rydén, Oskar & Sjöstedt, Martin. (2025). Political consequences of natural disasters: Accidental democratization? Democratization.

Stockemer, Daniel & Sundström, Aksel. (2025). Do young legislators face age-based discrimination in parliament? Views from young MPs across the globe. Journal of Youth Studies.

Working papers

Jesper Lindqvist, Mikael Persson, and Anders Sundell: [What Are the Economic Consequences of Aligning Policies with Public Opinion](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:1.

Natalia Alvarado, Sören Holmberg, and Bo Rothstein: [Correlates of the Good Society Index in the 2020s](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:2.

Report on QoG/Lancet Policy Day: [Policy Pathways to Sustainable Well-Being and Peace through Investments in Institutional Quality, Health Equity and Gender Equality under Crisis and Conflict](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:3.

Mirja Sund and Marina Nistotskaya: [Governing Corporate Accountability: Extraterritoriality and the Effectiveness of NCP Mediation](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:4.

Joakim Nilsson and Marina Nistotskaya: [Legal Clarity and Impartiality: A Global Experimental Study of Consistency in Bureaucratic Decision-Making](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:5.

Emily Elia, Aksel Sundström, and Stephen Dawson: [Climate Shocks, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:6.

Stephen Dawson: [Whistleblowing in Political Parties: The Moral Dilemma of Fairness and Loyalty](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:8.

Andreas Bågenholm, Stephen Dawson, Birgitta Niklasson, Jenny De Fine Licht, and Elsa Höök: [For Political Gain? Party Leaks and Whistleblowing in Swedish Print Media 2010–2024](#). QoG Working Paper Series No. 2025:9.

Book chapters

Bauhr, Monika, Petherick, Anna & Owasanoye, Bolaji. (2025). Sexual corruption: Emerging directions in research and policy. In Williams et al. (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Corruption*. Routledge.

Bauhr, Monika & Charron, Nicholas. (2025). Corruption and political trust: How the effect of societal cleavages on trust depends on the corruption context. In Six et al. (eds.), *Handbook on Trust in Public Governance*. Edward Elgar.

Dahlström, Carl & Lindvall, Johannes. (2025). Sweden's responses to COVID-19. In Moon & Kim (eds.), *Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Routledge.

Holmberg, Sören. (2025). Offentlig verksamhet skall vara opartisk. Chapter in I rörelse (SOM Institute annual volume).

Keudel, Oleksandra, Grimes, Marcia, Huss, Oksana. (2025). Political Will for Anti-Corruption Reform: Communicative Pathways to Collective Action in Ukraine. In Pozsgai-Alvarez, Joseph, Bratu and Roxana (eds.). Routledge Handbook of Anti-Corruption Research and Practice. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

Nistotskaya, Marina. 2025. "The Future of Bureaucratic Merit". In Geert Bouckaert, Annie Hondeghe, Trui Steen, Steven Van de Walle (Eds.) Futures for the Public Sector. Leuven: Leuven University Press. Pp. 289-307.



Other publications

Anter, Nora, Broms, Rasmus & Wittberg, Emanuel (2025). [Lika barn leka bäst – en ESO-rapport om politisering av kommunchefsposten](#). ESO Report 2025:6, Expertgruppen för studier i offentlig ekonomi.

European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Persson, A., Worth, M. och Jeney, P., [High-risk areas of corruption in the EU: a mapping and in-depth analysis](#), European Unions publication bureau, 2024.

Charron, Nicholas, Bauhr, Monika & Lapuente, Victor. (2025). [Measuring the quality of government at the sub-national level – European Quality of Government Index \(EQI\), Round 5, Part I: Technical report](#). European Commission.

Charron, Nicholas, Bauhr, Monika, Lapuente, Victor, Xezonakis, Georgios, Fernández-Vázquez, Pablo, Kotýnek Krotký, Jan & Kotýnek Krotká, Veronika. (2025). [Measuring the quality of government at the sub-national level – Part II: Select case studies](#). European Commission.

Nistotskaya, Marina & Kolvani, Palina. (2025). [Why meritocratic bureaucracy is good for business](#). Policy brief, LSE Business Review, August 27, 2025.



Sharing

Research grants

In 2025, QoG affiliated scholars succeeded in securing funds for several new projects. One major achievement was funding under the MISTRA call “Corruption and environmental crime – obstacles to sustainable Development.” The research programme is hosted by The Institute for Futures Studies, with involvement of several QoG researchers.



Research grants

Bjarnegård, Elin (Uppsala University): Research Environment on Sexual Corruption – UURESC. QoG Participants: Amy Alexander and Lena Wängnerud — SEK 18,000,000 (The Swedish Research Council).

Boräng, Frida: “Flooded Fortunes: How Property Ownership and Likelihood of Climate Events Shape Preferences on Climate Adaptation and Compensation” (with Haring, Niklas) — SEK 5,031,000 (The Swedish Research Council).

Charron, Nicholas: “Measuring the quality of Government at the subnational level: 2023 and 2026 data collections, studies and comparing results with previous editions.” (with Bauhr, Monika and Lapuente, Victor) — SEK approx. 41,000,000, of which a part is allocated to QoG (DG REGIO, European Commission).

Cornell, Agnes: “Unlawful influence in Swedish municipalities: Do social ties matter for bureaucrats’ vulnerability and ability to resist?” (with Kokkonen, Andrej and Erlingsson, Gissur [Linköping University]) — SEK 4,938,000 (Forte).

Duit, Andreas (Institute for Futures Studies): “MISTRA CLEAN. A Research Programme on Capture, Corruption, and Crime in Environmental Governance.” QoG Participants: Frida Boräng, Andreas Bågenholm, Niklas Haring, Sverker Jagers, Marina Povitkina, Bo Rothstein and Aksel Sundström — SEK 40,000,000 (MISTRA).

Elia, Emily & Schwenk, Jana: Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället research grant — SEK 45,000 (Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället).

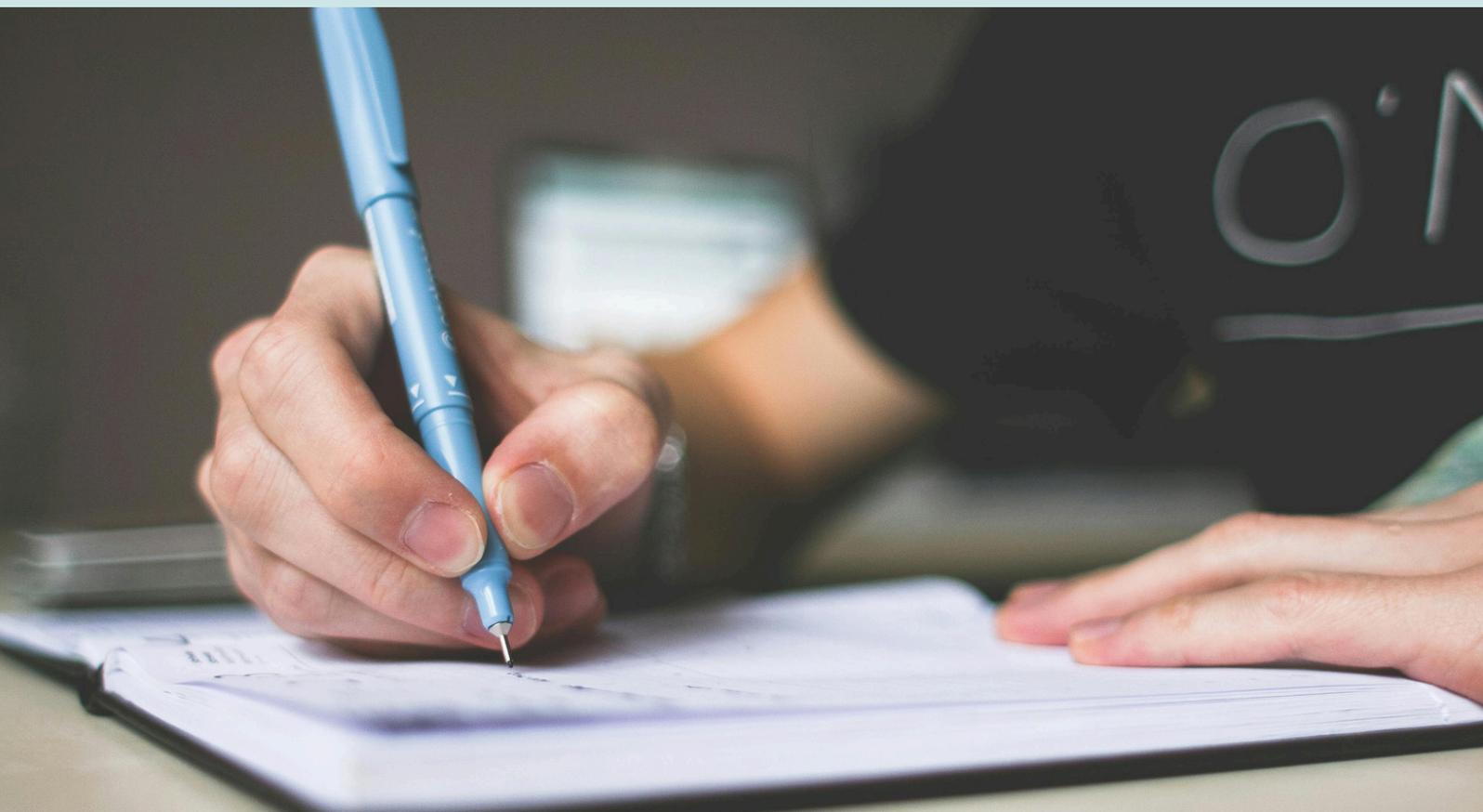
Elia, Emily & Schwenk, Jana: Stiftelsen Lars Hiertas Minne research grant — SEK 30,000 (Stiftelsen Lars Hiertas Minne).

Harring, Niklas: “Framing Collective Action: Media Influence on Public Support for Environmental and Health Policies” (with Shehata, Adam) — SEK 6,256,000 (The Swedish Research Council).

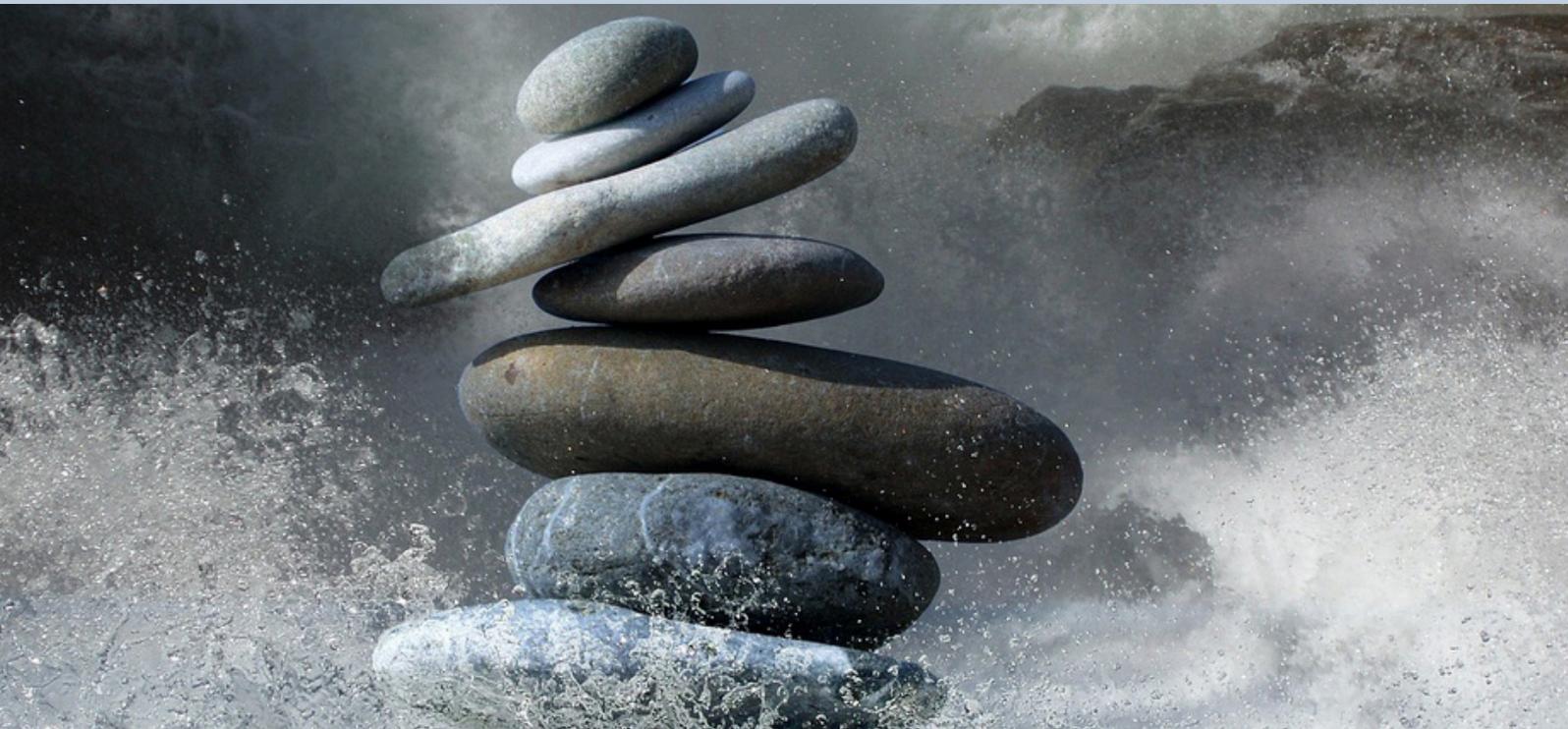
Kölln, Ann-Kristin: “The invisible hand of public opinion: The under-appreciated importance of political non-decisions” (with Agerberg, Mattias and Sundell, Anders) — SEK 5,001,000 (The Swedish Research Council).

Povitkina, Marina: INTRUST: Establishing causal links between institutional quality and social trust — NOK 8 million (FRIPRO, Research Council of Norway).

Sundell, Anders: “Are politicians really that bad at representing their voters?” (with Agerberg, Mattias) — SEK 4,665,000 (The Swedish Research Council).



Mistra CLEAN – Capture, Corruption and Crime in Environmental Governance



Mistra CLEAN is a research programme funded under the MISTRA call Corruption and environmental crime – obstacles to sustainable development.

Led by the Institute for Futures Studies, the programme examines how institutional shortcomings—such as regulatory capture, corruption, and crime—undermine Swedish environmental governance and harm the natural environment.

The programme has been allocated up to SEK 40 million over four years and combines national survey data with legal and institutional analysis to study both the causes and consequences of corruption-related risks. Mistra CLEAN seeks to move beyond narrow legal definitions of corruption by analysing a broad spectrum of harmful practices, from outright crime to institutional design and undue influence.

Researchers from the Quality of Government Institute involved in the programme include Frida Boräng, Andreas Bågenholm, Niklas Harring, Marina Povitkina, Bo Rothstein, and Aksel Sundström. The programme brings together interdisciplinary expertise from several Swedish universities and collaborates with international research networks, with the overall aim of strengthening trust in environmental protection institutions.

Research Environment on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC)

The Research Environment on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC) is funded by the Swedish Research Council and based at Uppsala University.

Building on the earlier project Sexual Corruption, the research environment focuses on advancing knowledge on how sexual corruption can be understood, measured, and prevented through effective governance and legal frameworks.

The research aims to develop consistent definitions, reliable measurement tools, and prevention strategies to ensure the legitimate use of power. Empirical work initially focuses on sexual corruption in higher education and the judiciary, with studies centred on South Africa and Scandinavia and later expanding internationally.

Researchers from the Quality of Government Institute participating in the project include Amy Alexander and Lena Wängnerud, while Aksel Sundström and Monika Bauhr serve on the advisory board. UU-RESC is carried out in close collaboration with the Quality of Government Institute, Transparency International, and the UNCAC Coalition.



Activities

In 2025, we continued our much-appreciated activities, such as our visiting scholar program, lunch seminar series, internal conferences, and the QoG Best Paper Award. QoG scholars also presented their work at several academic conferences and workshops and were engaged in a number of activities directed towards the academic world as well as the public and policymakers



QoG Conferences

We organized two internal conferences in 2025, one in Sweden and one in Hamburg, Germany.

In Hamburg, we were joined by four researchers from Leuphana University in Lüneburg: Mathis Brinkmann, Research associate, Sarah Engler, Professor, Theresa Gessler, Professor, and Gefjon Off, Postdoctoral researcher.



During the two conferences, a total of 35 papers were presented and discussed. Some of these papers have or will be published in our QoG working paper series.



QoG visiting scholar programme and lunch seminar series

The QoG Visiting Scholar Program and lunch seminar series are core to our Institute. We invite leading scholars and outstanding PhD students working on topics aligned with the QoG research agenda.

In 2025, we hosted 14 visiting scholars, including one PhD student, each of whom presented at a lunch seminar. We sincerely thank our guests for the intellectual energy and engagement they bring to the QoG Institute.

Gabriela Lotta, Professor, Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) : Action and Reaction: Bureaucratic resistance facing Democratic Backsliding

Jeremy Bowles, Assistant Professor, University College Londo: Do Elites Know Best? Candidate Selection and Policy Implementation in Post-independence Tanzania

Marco Mazzoni, Professor, University of Perugia: The Tangentopoli Effect: When Corruption and Media Collide, Igniting Media Populism in Italy

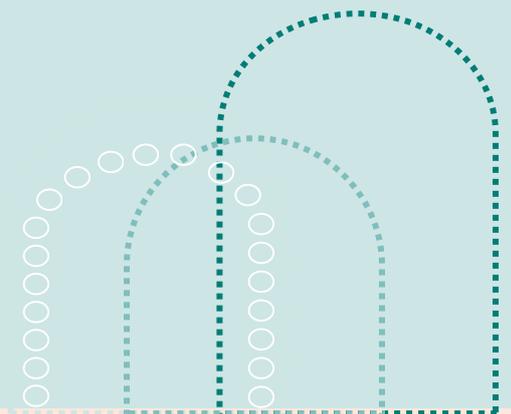
Maria Claudia Filippone, PhD Candidate, University of Perugia: Can red flag indicators, typically used to monitor corruption risks in public procurement, also help assess the systemic effects of regulatory reform?

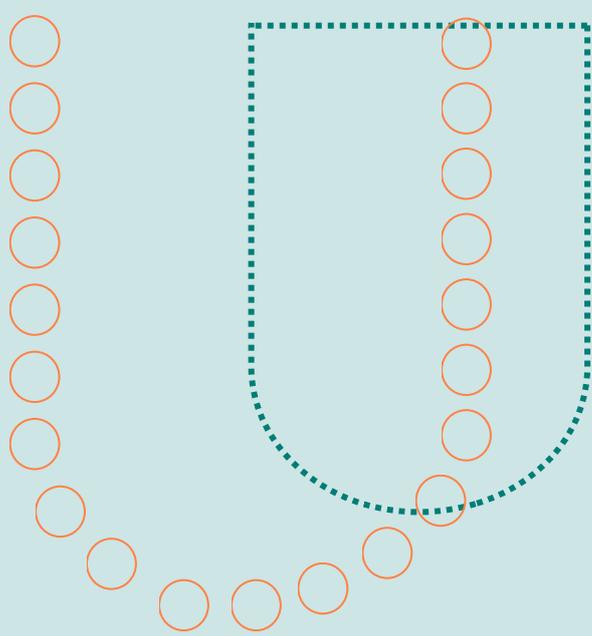
Corina Lacatus, Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary University of London: The Strength of Our Commitments: National human rights institutions in Europe and beyond

Gissur Erlingsson, Professor, Linköping University: The perils of a constitutionally unregulated relationship between politicians and bureaucrats in Swedish municipalities



Chong-Min Park, senior research fellow at the Institute of Comparative Governance at Korea University, giving a QoG lunch seminar talk





Mike Titterton, Senior International Expert, with expert missions on behalf of the EU, WHO, DFID, NHS Health Scotland, World Bank, and HALE: Pointers From The Field: Are We Helping or Hindering Government Competence In Central and Eastern Europe?

Stine Hesstvedt, Senior Research Fellow at Institute for Social Research: The Legitimacy of Expert Decision-Making: Comparing Attitudes among Bureaucrats, Politicians and Voters

Annekatriin Deglow, Assistant Professor, Uppsala University: Protecting or Threatening Electoral Integrity? State Security Enforcement and Public Confidence in Elections.

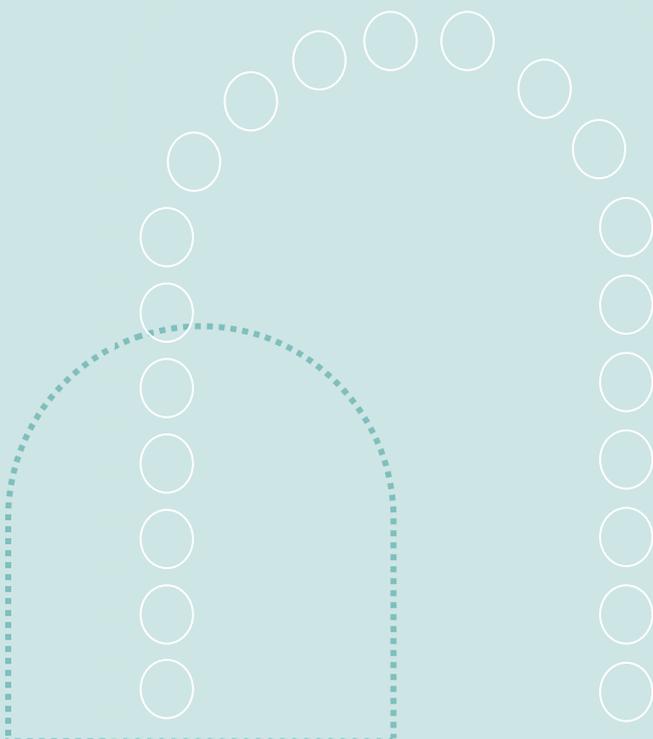
Gustavo Guajardo, PhD Candidate, Rice University (QoG Best Paper Award 2024 Winner): The Political Calculus of Anticorruption Reform.

Francisco Javier Gonzàlez Silva, PhD Candidate, University of Rostock: Unveiling Governance: Anti-Corruption Institutions and Informal Networks in Europe.

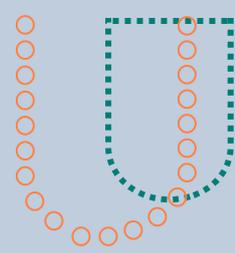
Elizabeth David-Barrett, Professor, Sussex University: More candid and yet still constrained: The International Monetary Fund's revised approach to tackling corruption.

Jan Stuckatz, Assistant Professor, Copenhagen University: Revolvers in the Corporate Elite.

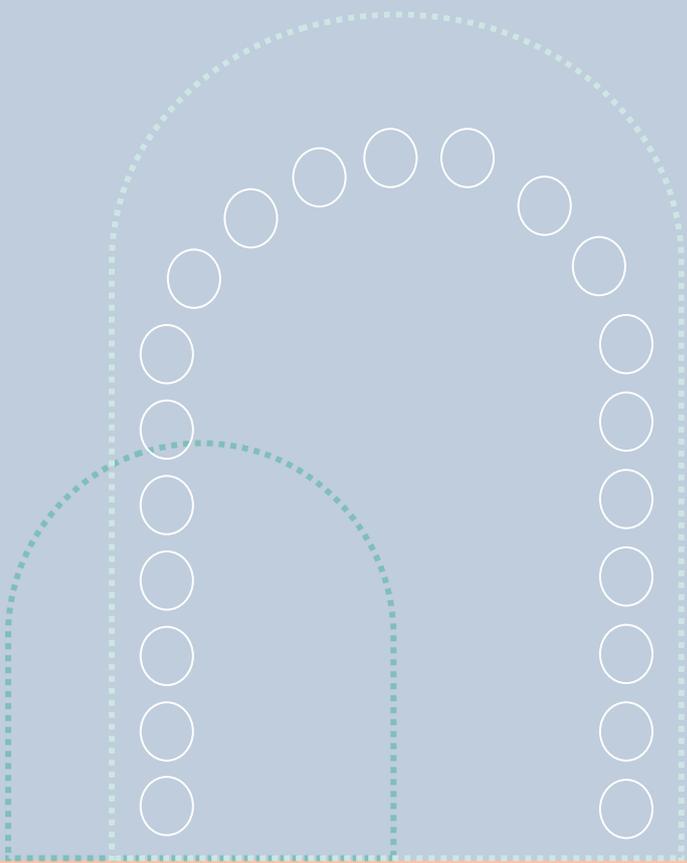
Robert James Gillanders, Professor, Dublin City University Business School and Co-Director of the DCU Anti-corruption Research Centre (DCU ARC): Sexualised Corruption in High-Income Democracies: Sub-National Evidence from the European Union.



QoG Best paper Award



The QoG 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. In 2025, we hosted the winner of the previous year's award winner, Gustavo Guajardo, Assistant Professor at San Diego State, who won the price for his paper: The Political Calculus of Anticorruption
http://gguajardo.com/uploads/1/4/2/1/142122233/calculus_anti_corr_guajardo.pdf



Motivation by the QoG Best Paper award Committee

This study raises and addresses an intriguing puzzle: Why do politicians sponsor anti-corruption bills that might be costly for themselves? The author offers a sophisticated and insightful discussion of the competing incentives facing lawmakers—balancing public support for anti-corruption measures with potential backlash from political allies. The study sheds light on how external shocks, electoral motivations, and strategic legislative behavior shape politicians' decisions to engage in anti-corruption initiatives. The theoretical contributions are both innovative and consequential for understanding the dynamics of political accountability.

Empirically, the paper draws on an original, extensively and carefully curated, dataset covering anti-corruption legislation, political scandals, and legislator characteristics in Mexico. The analysis employs a compelling quasi-random design, motivated and enhanced by qualitative insights from interviews with policymakers and anti-corruption experts. Its findings, that politicians are more likely to sponsor laws after high-profile corruption scandals, when positioned to reap the benefits of doing so, and when the bill is unlikely to become law, provide important new insights into the study of anti-corruption legislation. As such, the paper provides a novel and significant contribution to the study of legislative behavior, corruption, and the Quality of Government at large.

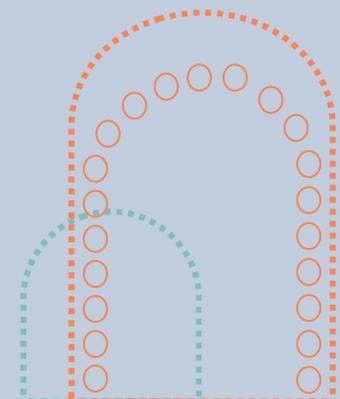
The Committee members

Frederik Pfeiffer (PhD candidate)

Jana Schwenk (Post doc)

Rasmus Broms (Associate Professor)

Stephen Dawson (Post doc)



A selection of academic activities

Bauhr, Monika: Aspiration and Absence in Policy and Law — Discussant, International Workshop on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC), Uppsala University, December 3–5, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: What candidates benefit from corruption? — Workshop presentation, “Preferences for Representation and Their Consequences for Political Behavior”, University of Basel, September 4–5, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: Corruption and democracy — Conference paper presentation, 9th Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN) Research Forum, Central European University, Vienna, June 12–14, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: The Quality of Government Institute and QoG data — Conference presentation, Demscore Conference, Wallenberg Conference Center, Gothenburg, June 9–10, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: What candidates will fight corruption? Women’s representation, legitimacy and different forms of corruption — Workshop presentation, “A Diverse Leadership for Accountable Institutions”, Ascona, Switzerland, April 28–30, 2025.

Bågenholm, Andreas: For Political Gain? Party leaks and whistleblowing in Swedish print media 2010–2024. Coauthors: Stephen Dawson, Birgitta Niklasson, Jenny De Fine Licht & Elsa Höök. Conference paper presentation, IWRN (International Whistleblowing Research Network) conference in Boulder, June, 2025.

Charron, Nicholas: Losing elections, losing trust? A causal investigation of the winner–loser gap on political trust (with Schwenk, Jana) — Conference paper presentation, European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference / European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece, August 2025.

Charron, Nicholas: Who votes for anti–corruption parties? (with Bågenholm, Andreas) — Conference paper presentation, European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference / European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece, August 2025.

Charron, Nicholas: Why do some capital regions perform better than others? Determinants of promotion and job performance in EU capital regions (with Bauhr, Monika) — Conference paper presentation, Annual QoG Institute Conference, Gullmarsstrand, August 18–20, 2025.

Charron, Nicholas: The geography of quality of government in Europe: Subnational variations in the 2024 European Quality of Government Index, trends over time and case studies (with Bauhr, Monika and Lapuente, Victor) — Conference paper presentation, Regional Studies Association (RSA) Annual Conference, Porto, Portugal, May 2025.

Cornell, Agnes: Institutional determinants of civil society organizations' demands and tactics: Experimental evidence from Peru – Conference paper presentation, Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association (EPSA), June 26–28, 2025.

Elia, Emily: Are All Competencies Created Equal? Gender Differences in Performance Voting in Argentina and Chile — Conference paper presentation, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 2025.

Elia, Emily: Environmental Disasters, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment — Conference paper presentation, Politics and Gender Conference, Rutgers University, May 2025.

Elia, Emily: Environmental Disasters, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment — Conference paper presentation, European Political Science Association Annual Conference, Madrid, June 2025.

Elia, Emily: Environmental Disasters, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment — Conference paper presentation, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, September 2025.

Elia, Emily: The Role of Voters' Prior Beliefs in Electoral Punishment for Corruption — Conference paper presentation, Italian Political Science Association Annual Conference, Naples, September 2025.

Elia, Emily: Measuring Voter Perceptions of Likely Perpetrators of Sexual Corruption — Workshop paper presentation, UU-RESC International Workshop on Sexual Corruption, Uppsala, December 2025.

Gren, Simon: Conference paper presentation, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Vancouver, Canada, September 11–14, 2025.

Gren, Simon: Conference paper presentation, European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, Madrid, Spain, June 26–28, 2025.



Gren, Simon: Invited talk, Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU), Uppsala, Sweden, May 28, 2025.

Grimes, Marcia: Mapping political finance in Europe: Red flags and reporting gaps — Invited talk, RESPOND Insights Seminar Series (International Anti-Corruption Day), December 9, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: Party Systems at Europe's Doorstep: Issues, Left-Right Alignment, and Party Conflict in the Western Balkans — Conference paper presentation, Swedish Network of European Studies, March 27, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: Party Systems at Europe's Doorstep: Issues, Left-Right Alignment, and Party Conflict in the Western Balkans — Seminar presentation, CERGU Research Seminar, April 22, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: Party Systems at Europe's Doorstep; Distance, Time, and Vote Switching — Conference paper presentations, European Union Studies Association (EUSA), May 8-10, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: A Gravity-Cleavage Theory of Voter Flow; Do participatory parties lose elections?; Broken Promises? The Impact of Intra-Party Democracy on Electoral Support — Conference paper presentation, European Political Science Association Conference, June 26-2, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: All in the family? A global approach to party classification and evaluation of the heuristic value of international party organizations — Conference paper presentation, ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments, July 2-4, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: Broken Promises? The Impact of Intra-Party Democracy on Electoral Support — Conference paper presentation, Summer QoG Conference, August 18-20, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: A Gravity-Cleavage Theory of Voter Flow; Broken Promises? — Conference paper presentations, Italian Political Science Association Conference, September 4-6, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: A Gravity-Cleavage Theory of Voter Flow; International Party Organizations and Party Positions — Conference paper presentations, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 11-14, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob: The Alignment of Intraparty and Interparty Division in a Volatile Age; Broken Promises? — Workshop paper presentations, Parties and Governance Workshop, November 3-4, 2025.

Lapiente, Victor: Their performance or your identity? An experimental study of citizens' evaluations of public services in the Basque Country (with Cornell, Agnes; Xezonakis, Georgios; Barandiaran, Xabier) – Conference paper presentation, 15th Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association (EPSA), Madrid, Spain, June 26–28, 2025.

Niklasson, Birgitta: For Political Gain? Party leaks and whistleblowing in Swedish print media 2010–2024 – Conference paper presentation (panel paper), IPSA World Congress, Seoul, July 12–16, 2025.

Niklasson, Birgitta: A Political Perspective on Whistleblowing – Workshop presentation, “Nye perspektiver: Whistleblowing from Multiple Perspectives”, Oslo New University College, October 21, 2025.

Niklasson, Birgitta: For Political Gain? Party leaks and whistleblowing in Swedish print media 2010–2024 – Seminar paper presentation, PRG Seminar, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, May 13, 2025.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Cadaster and economic development – Seminar presentation, Department of Economic History, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, April 30, 2025.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Merit vs loyalty in the bureaucracy – Seminar presentation, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Denver, Denver, USA, April 10, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: Scrutinising the legitimacy of citizen assemblies and their outputs – A comprehensive study of fairness assessments and political efficacy – Workshop paper presentation, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, March 20, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: Deliberative Democracy and Politics – Conference paper presentation, SNES Spring Conference, Dalarna University, Borlänge, March 28, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: Scrutinising the Relational Legitimacy of Citizen Assemblies – Conference paper presentation, 82nd Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 4, 2025.



Pfeiffer, Frederik: Politicians and Deliberative Mini-Publics — Workshop paper presentation, Centre for Environmental Political Studies Spring Workshop, May 23, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: The Legitimacy of Citizen Assemblies: Evaluating Fairness and Political Efficacy — Conference paper presentation, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, September 12, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: The Double Role of Ideology: The influence of democratic norms and policy-seeking on politicians' attitudes towards DMPs — Conference paper presentation, SWEPSA Conference, Växjö, October 2, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik. Research visit to the Political Science department, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz at the invitation of Prof. Claudia Landwehr, October – December 2025 .

Sundström, Aksel: Thirsting for women leaders? Droughts and public opinion in South Africa — Workshop paper presentation, Gender & Politics Workshop, Gothenburg, February 2025.

Sundström, Aksel: Thirsting for women leaders? Droughts and public opinion in South Africa — Workshop paper presentation, Gepop Workshop, February 2025.

Xezonakis, Georgios: Attitudes towards political violence in the Basque Country: An experimental approach (with Cornell, Agnes; Lapuente, Victor; Barandiaran, Xabier) — Conference paper presentation, 15th Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association (EPSA), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, June 26–28, 2025.

Pfeiffer, Frederik: Politicians' Perspectives on Deliberative Democracy — Conference paper presentation, Annual Meeting of the Analytical Political Theory Group (DVPW), Mainz, October 9, 2025.

Sundström, Aksel: Thirsting for new leaders? Drought shocks and public demand for women politicians — Conference paper presentation, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, August 2025.

Sundström, Aksel: Environmental Disasters, Gender, and Incumbency Punishment — Workshop paper presentation, Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (PECE) Workshop, Vancouver, August 2025.

Sundström, Aksel: Thirsting for women leaders? Droughts and public opinion in South Africa — Workshop paper presentation, Environment, Politics and Governance Workshop, Switzerland, June 2025.

A selection of policy-related activities

Bauhr, Monika: Aspiration and Absence in Policy and Law – Discussant, International Workshop (UU-RESC International Workshop on Sexual Corruption), Uppsala University, December 3–5, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: European Quality of Government Index 2024 – Presentation, European Commission, March 18, 2025.

Bauhr, Monika: Sexual corruption: Investigating new directions for anticorruption policy and practice – Workshop presentation, UNCAC Civil Society Coalition (Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Workshop), February 25, 2025.

Bågenholm, Andreas: Sveriges väg mot välstånd: Hur låg korruption påverkar samhällsutvecklingen. Presentation på Vetenskapsveckan i Ängelholm, 1 October, 2025.

Charron, Nicholas: Conference participant and speaker – LRCC Meeting and EU Network Against Corruption, Brussels, October 2025 (sponsored by Ecorys (NL) and the European Commission).

Dahlström, Carl: Presentation – Committee session (online), Finance and Public Administration Committee, Scottish Parliament, 2025.

Gunderson, Jacob : "Partifamiljer: Förr och Nu – Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Ungdomsförbund, 3 December, 2025 .

Persson, Anna: Kampen mot korruption – Webinar, Utrikesdepartementet (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), November 7, 2025.



Persson, Anna: Hur bekämpar man korruption? — Author talk, Bokmässan (Timbro Förlag's stand), Gothenburg, September 28, 2025.

Persson, Anna: Democracy in decline — Presentation, Sustainability Days (School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg), September 27, 2025.

Persson, Anna: Evidence-based anti-corruption? — Presentation, Utrikespolitiska institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs), Stockholm, May 25, 2025.

Persson, Anna: Hur ser ett effektivt anti-korrupsionsarbete ut? — Webinar, Sida, February 20, 2025.

Persson, Anna: Hur kan biståndet bekämpa korruption? — Presentation and panel, Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA), Stockholm, November 7, 2024.

Sundström, Aksel: Understanding public opinion on sexual corruption — Roundtable presentation, Uppsala, December 2025.

Sundström, Aksel: What does support look like to protect our nature? — Talk (public lecture), Sea and Society Talk Series, November 2025.



Awards , scholarships and other services to the profession

Bauhr, Monika, member of the advisory board for the Research Environment on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC).

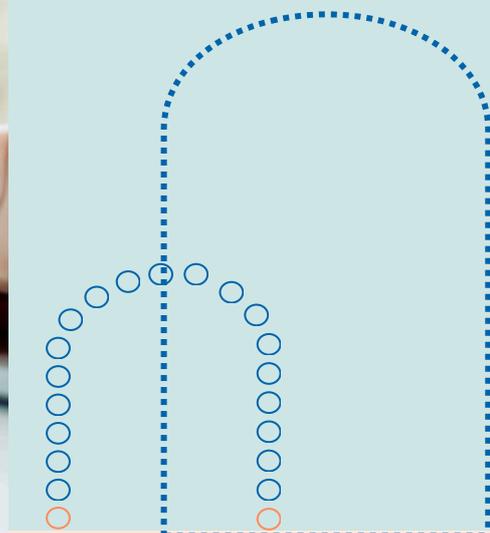
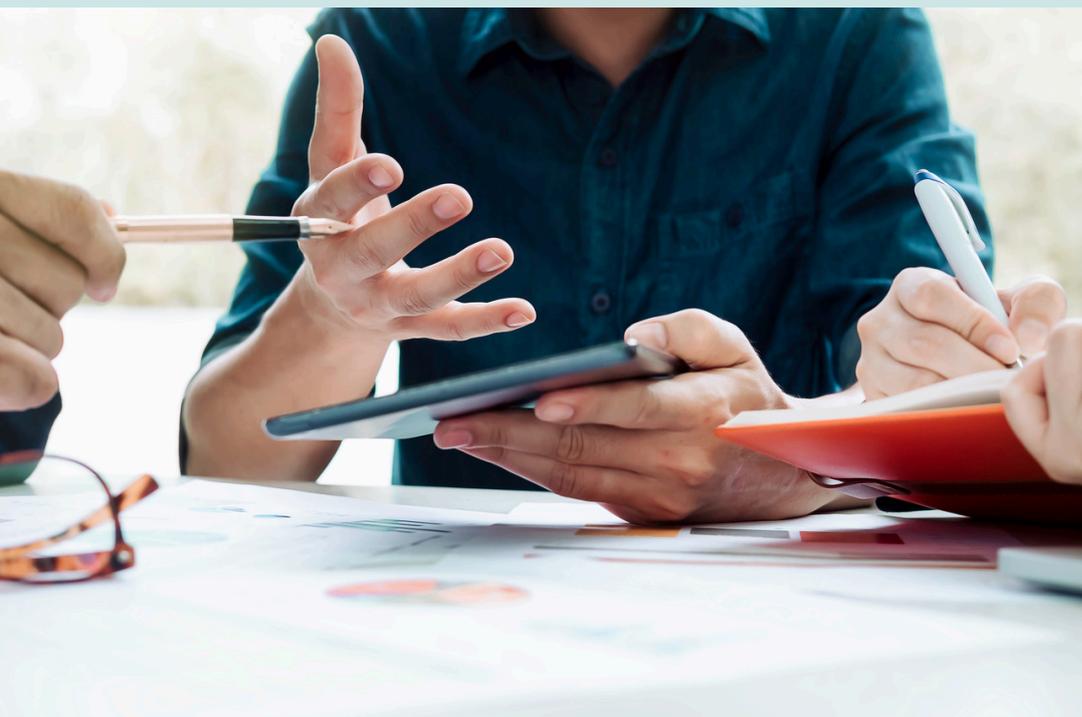
Nistotskaya, Marina: Visiting researcher, Center for Governance and Markets, University of Pittsburgh, USA.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Member of the reference group, Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA) project "Evaluation of Sweden's activities to strengthen state capacity in fragile situations."

Nistotskaya, Marina: Member of the advisory group, Tax Expenditures and the Fiscal Contract (TEFISCON) project.

Nistotskaya, Marina: Member of the steering group, REDEM (Rethinking Democracy) Research Platform, Malmö University.

Sundström Aksel, member of the advisory board for the Research Environment on Sexual Corruption (UU-RESC).



QoG Scholars Recognized Among World's Top Corruption Researchers

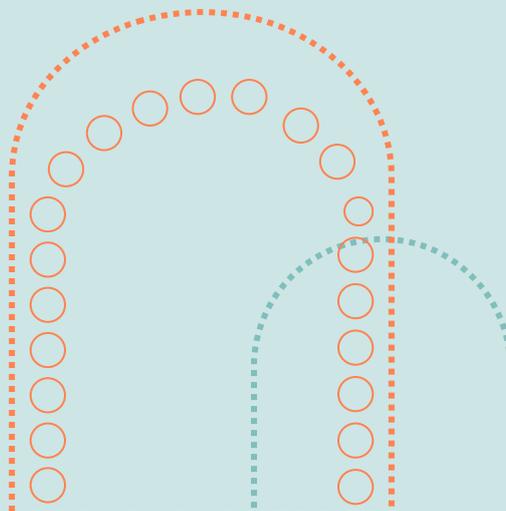


Monika Bauhr, Nicholas Charron and Mattias Agerberg have been ranked among the top 20 corruption researchers worldwide in the latest ScholarGPS rankings (Last 5 Years).

ScholarGPS identifies "Top Scholars" as those whose publication records place them within the top 0.5 percent of researchers globally in their specialty. Rankings are based on lifetime or recent five-year scholarly activity, with publications and citations weighted by authorship and self-citations excluded.

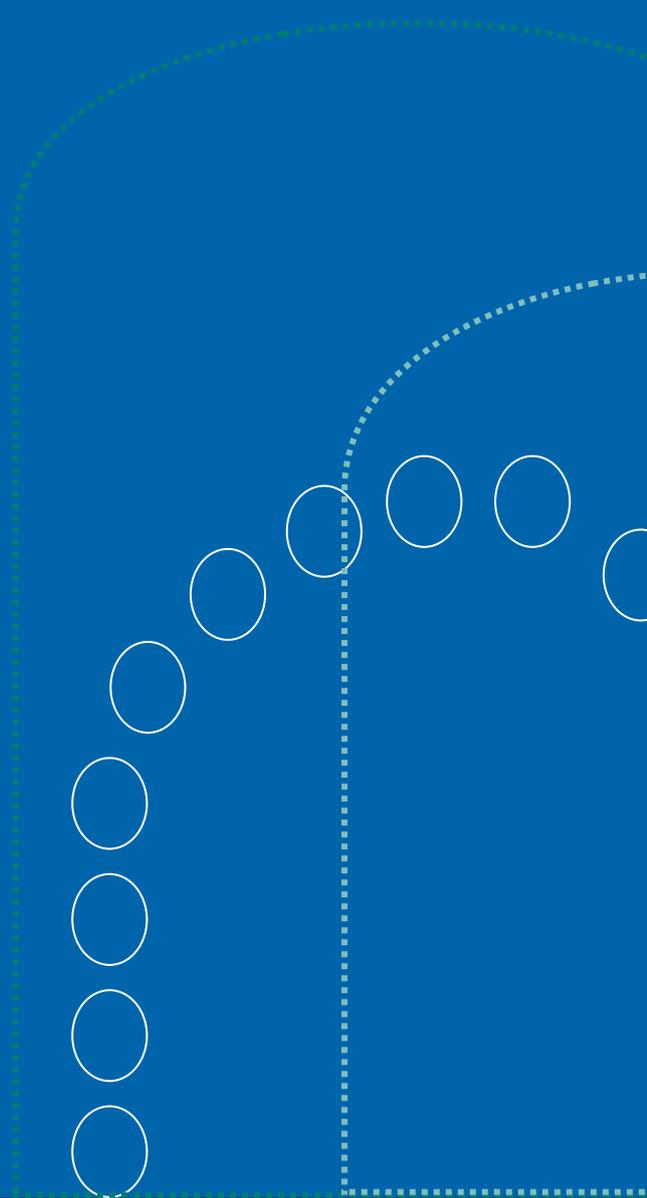
Congratulations to all three for this outstanding achievement!

[Read more about ScholarGPS Top Scholars](#)



Collaborations

DEMSCORE The QoG Institute is a partnering institute of the Demscore (acronym for research infrastructure for Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social policy, Conflict, and Representation), which is an innovative e-infrastructure that brings together some of the world's leading research infrastructures and databases, with the aim to provide free access to harmonized data from several of the world's largest datasets on Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social Policy, Conflict, and Representation. Demscore is a collaboration between the Universities of Gothenburg, Stockholm, Uppsala, and Umeå. The project is funded by the Swedish Research Council. In 2023, the first full version of the DEMSCORE platform was launched and research findings from DEMSCORE partners were presented through seminars, panel discussions, and workshops. Read more about the Demscore project: <https://www.demscore.se>



demscore

QoG for Students

Internships

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 2025, we accommodated 11 interns, each for a period 20 weeks. We sincerely thank all of them for their valuable work and dedication during their internship.

Aina Capó Martínez, Science Po.

Anders Josephson, Lund University.

Fariba Masoudi, Jönköping University.

Hanna Kalemba, University of Gothenburg.

Lena Jaensch, University of Gothenburg.

Lingyun Li, University of Gothenburg and Fudan University.

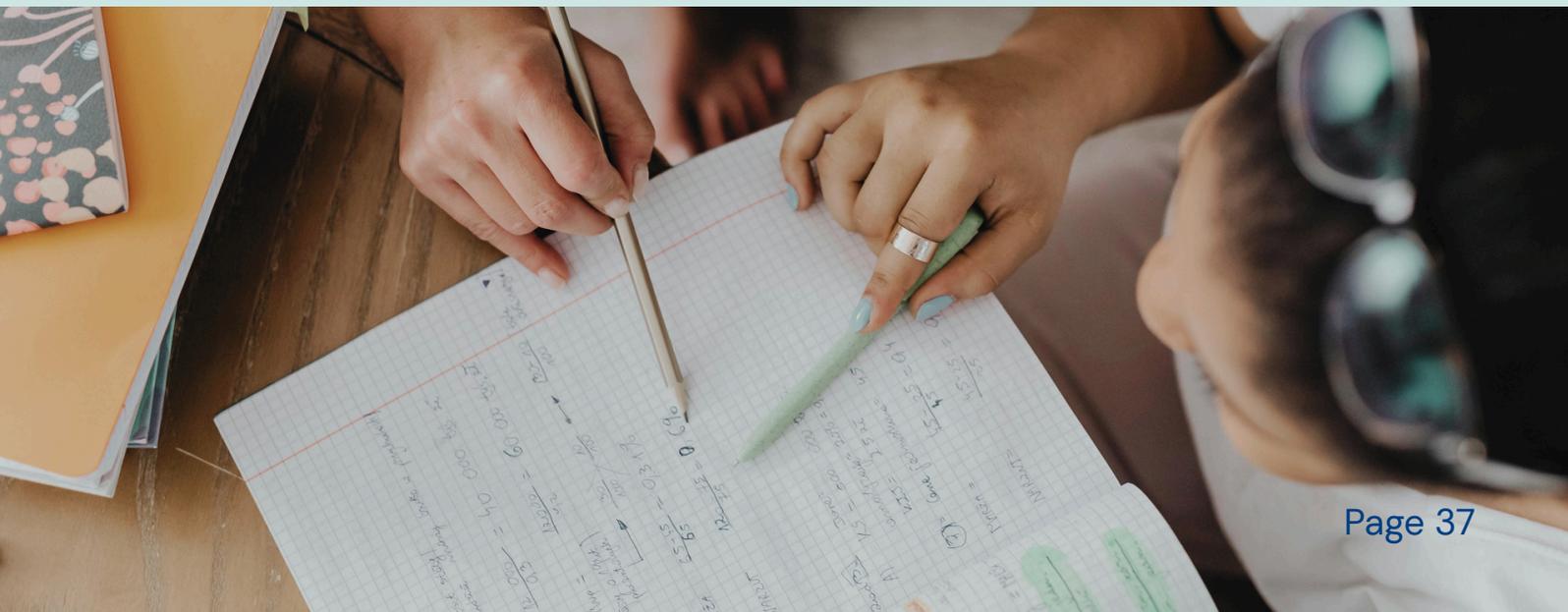
Manuel Pagura, University of Gothenburg.

Oleksi Polovnikov, Lund University.

Panagiotis Nikolakopoulos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Renée Clerc, University of Gothenburg.

Zhen Li, Linköping University.



Master 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 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 quality of ‘governance’ perspective, focusing on why and how democracies ‘succeed or fail’. You also get to study the implications that follow for citizen attitudes and democratic support. In 2025, 19 students were enrolled on the PERDEM course.

THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

The course addresses problems related to the quality of governance (QoG) and corruption in a comparative perspective. Today, there is consensus among social science researchers about the importance of high-quality government for economic and democratic development as well as for social and environmental sustainability. Government organisations that are trustworthy, reliable, impartial, uncorrupted and competent are currently seen as one of the most important factors of human wellbeing. Corruption is seen as having detrimental effects on economic growth, the public goods provision, the democratic processes and trust among citizens. The quality of governance is not a problem for developing countries only but exists also in economically developed democracies where trust in government institutions and the sustainability of welfare programs has been questioned. The central issues that we address in the course are: What is QoG? How can QoG be defined and measured? What explains the great variation between the countries in QoG? What do you get from high QoG and what are the mechanisms that give high/low QoG? In 2025, 33 students were enrolled on the QoG course.

QoG Data



QoG Data

As a key resource for researchers and practitioners, QoG Data offers ten 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 timeseries and in the most common data file formats.

Usage of the QoG data infrastructure increased during the year for both the main landing page (<https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government/qog-data>) and the Data Finder (<https://datafinder.qog.gu.se/>).

Overall, the QoG websites registered 124,403 visits, with 95,568 unique visitors recorded across the institute's data and web platforms. In total, 60,660 dataset downloads were registered in 2025, reflecting continued demand for QoG data among researchers, students, and policy analysts.

Compilation datasets

[Standard Dataset](#)

[Basic Dataset](#)

[OECD Dataset](#)

[EU Regional Dataset](#)

[QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset](#)

Original datasets

[QoG Expert Survey](#)

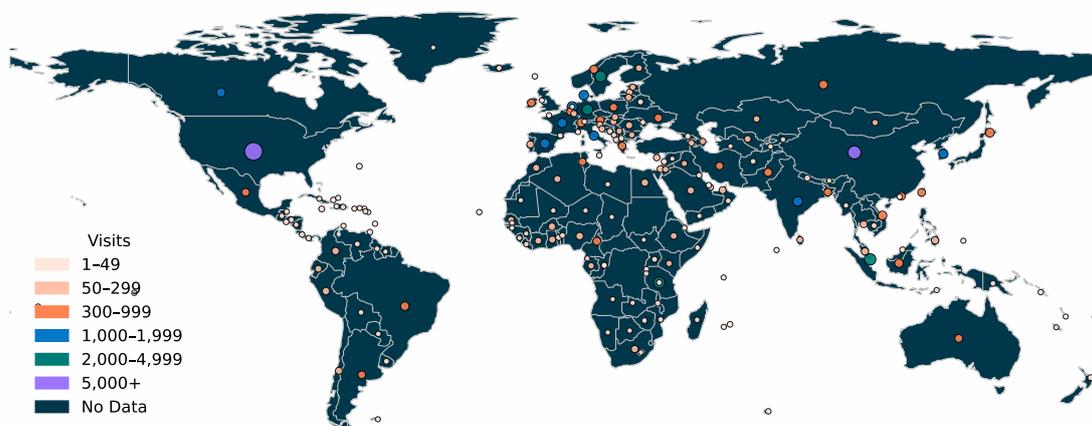
[European Quality of Government Index](#)

[Swedish Agency Database](#)

[Swedish Municipalities Dataset PERCEIVE](#)

[Survey dataset](#)

Country Visits



Circle size and color indicate the total number of recorded visits per country. Countries without available data are shown in dark blue.

QoG Data compilations

In addition to project-based work, several new external datasets were incorporated into the QoG data infrastructure during 2025. These include the World Population Prospects produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2024), which provides population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas based on analyses of historical demographic trends. The University of Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) dataset (Chen et al., 2024) was also added, bringing together more than 40 core indicators measuring vulnerability and readiness for climate adaptation across 182 UN countries from 1995 onwards. Further additions include the Worldwide Age Representation in Cabinet Dataset (Stockemer & Kolodziejczyk, 2024), which provides information on the gendered composition of national cabinets globally as well as the mean and median age of cabinet members, and the IDF Diabetes Atlas (International Diabetes Federation, 2021), which offers global data and analysis on the prevalence, impact, and trends of diabetes.

LoQoG

During the year, the Local Quality of Government (LoQoG) project made substantial progress in advancing research on municipalities research. A key outcome of this work was the development of a new typology of municipal border changes covering the period from 2014 to 2024. By systematically classifying different changes of municipalities, the typology provides a clearer analytical framework for studying subnational governance and demonstrates that municipalities should be understood as changing rather than fixed administrative units. This contribution will support more accurate empirical analyses and facilitates future research on local governance, institutional change, and territorial reform.

During the year, work on data development and maintenance at the QoG Institute continued to focus on expanding and consolidating the Local Quality of Government (LoQoG) project, funded by the The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Foundation (RJ). Project outputs and ongoing work were presented at the 2025 QoG Internal Conference and at the 64th ERSA Congress, both held in August 2025, contributing to the dissemination of the project within the institute and to external academic audiences.

Top 5 Searched Variables By number of searches

1	ICRG's Quality of Government	2,118
2	Expenditure on housing and community amenities	1,094
3	Colonial Origin	1,032
4	Cinema expenditure per capita	1,726
5	Ethnic Fractionalization	819

Top 5 Searched Datasets By number of searches

1	World Inequality Database	3,372
2	UNESCO's Feature Films and Cinema Data	22,623
3	KOF Index of Globalization	3,503
4	The Global Gender Gap Index 2006-2024	2,648
5	International Migrant Stock 2020	2,232

Top 5 Downloaded Variables By number of downloads

1	ICRG's Quality of Government	525
2	Global Gender Gap Index	434
3	Cinema expenditure per capita	372
4	Ethnic Fractionalization in the year 2000	297
5	Ethnic Fractionalization	276

Top 5 Downloaded QoG Datasets By number of downloads

1	Standard Time-Series 2025	20,856
2	Others	12,623
3	Standard Cross-Section 2025	5,230
4	Basic Cross-Section 2024	3,696
5	Standard Time-Series 2024	2,815

The QoG Institute's data activities continued to play a central role in supporting comparative research on QoG during 2025. Throughout the year, efforts focused on maintaining and expanding existing datasets, incorporating new data sources, and supporting users through ongoing updates and documentation. Furthermore, the team also expanded the work for LoQoG, a municipal-level view of Quality of Government. Demand for QoG data increased, reflecting its continued relevance for research, teaching, and policy analysis across a wide range of disciplines.

Interns

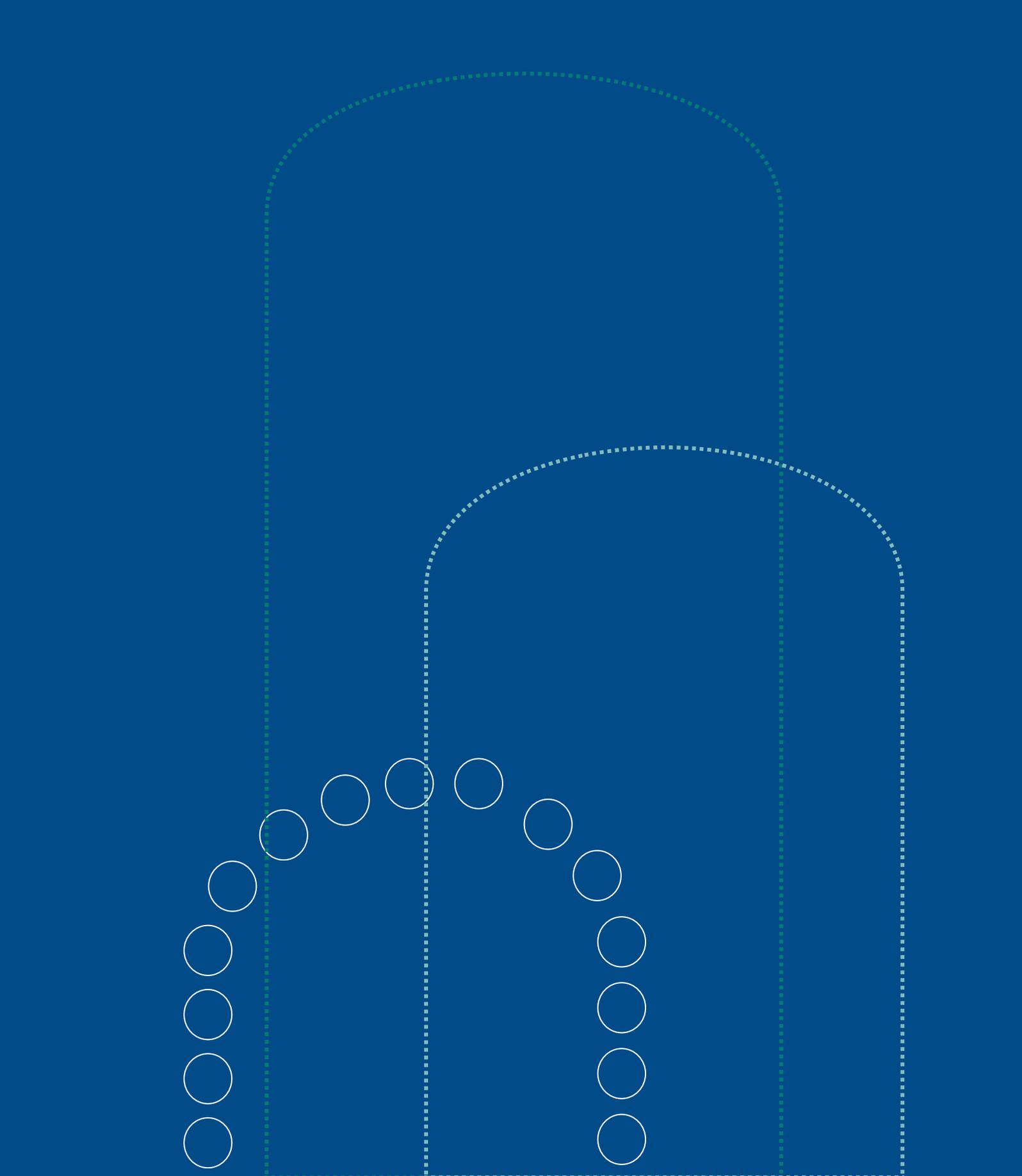
The institute also benefited from the support of several interns during the year. Aina Capó Martínez joined as a summer intern while pursuing a Master of Public Policy at Sciences Po and contributed to reviewing legislation for Spain, Belgium, and Portugal, as well as contacting authorities. Hanna Kalemba, enrolled in the MSc programme in Global Studies: International Administration and Global Governance at the University of Gothenburg, supported legislative review for Norway, Denmark, and Estonia. Fariba Masoudi, a student in the MSc in Applied Economics and Data Analysis at Jönköping University, contributed to reviewing legislation for the United Kingdom. Zhen Liu, pursuing an MSc in Computational Social Science at Linköping University, supported QoG Annual data updates.

Staffing Changes

In terms of staffing, Victor Saidi Phiri transitioned from Research Associate to Data Manager and Julia Rodionova to Research Associate; Chuwei Chen was hired as Data Manager, further strengthening the institute's data management capacity. During the same year, Cem Mert Dalli began his PhD studies at Aarhus University, and Stephen Dawson completed his Postdoc position. We thank both of them for their contributions to the institute and wish them well in their future academic work.

Research Associates

Several research associates contributed to the LoQoG project throughout the year. Natalia Natiska supported the collection and verification of legislation on municipal changes in Greece and Cyprus, including contact with relevant authorities to obtain and clarify legal information. Julia Rodionova contributed across multiple stages of the project, including legislative review, the development of the project's typology of municipal reforms, paper writing, the identification and processing of shapefiles, and communication with authorities. Tamara Köhler carried out similar tasks for German-speaking countries, focusing on legislative verification, typology implementation, and data validation.



Carl Bennet AB.



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