

# Dr. Christoph Valentin Steinert

(\*July 20, 1991 - married, one daughter)

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Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Affiliated with the Chair of International Relations & the Center for Human Rights, University of Zurich.

## Post-doctoral employment

07/2024-present	University of Zurich, PI of the SNSF-funded project “ <i>An Empirical Study of the United Nations Human Rights Complaint Mechanisms</i> ”
03/2023-06/2024	University of St. Gallen, IPF-postdoctoral research fellow
01/2024-06/2024	University of Geneva, postdoctoral researcher in the SNSF-funded SPARK-project “ <i>Debating Human Rights</i> ”
02/2022-01/2023	University of Mannheim, postdoctoral researcher and co-project leader at the MZES (50%)
07/2022-01/2023	German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), evaluator for human rights (50%)

## Education

2022	Dr. rer. soc. Political Science University of Mannheim & Graduate School for Economic and Social Sciences Title: “An Empirical and Conceptual Study of Political Imprisonment” Committee: Sabine Carey (Supervisor), Simon Hug (Co-Supervisor), Thomas Bräuninger (Chair) Grade: <i>Summa cum laude</i> (awarded with the Prof. Bojanovsky Prize) Funded by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation
2018	M.Phil. International Relations University of Oxford (Somerville College) Thesis supervision: Andrea Ruggeri Grade: <i>Distinction</i> (thesis awarded with the Archibald Jackson Prize from Somerville College & the Aquila Ascendens Security Policy Research Prize)
2016	B.A. Political Science & Public Law University of Mannheim Exchange semester: Trinity College Dublin Grade: 1.1 (German GPA)

## Peer-reviewed articles

1. Risse T & **Steinert C.** (2026) “Trading arms, trading values? Attitudes toward arms exports among politicians and citizens in European democracies.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (conditionally accepted).
2. Eck K & **Steinert C.** (2026) “Public opinion on police misconduct: Discrimination and information resistance.” *Science Advances* (forthcoming).
3. **Steinert C** & Smidt H. (2025) “The backlash against civil society participation in international organizations: The case of human rights complaints mechanisms.” *British Journal of Political Science* 55: e92: 1-23.
4. Reinsberg B & **Steinert C.** (2025) “The French duty of vigilance law: Reconciling human rights and firm profitability.” *Review of International Political Economy* 32(6): 2213-2245.
5. **Steinert C**, Heucher A, Taube L, Smidt L, Polak T & Bruder M. (2025) “Perceptions of human rights

- complaint mechanisms: The case of German international development cooperation.” *Journal of Human Rights* 24(2): 217-235.
6. **Steinert C** & Kazenwadel D (2024) “How user language affects conflict fatality estimates in ChatGPT.” *Journal of Peace Research* 62(4): 1128-1143.
  7. **Steinert C.** (2024) “Elitist remedies? Complaint resources and representation in international human rights bodies.” *International Studies Quarterly* 68(2). (\*Featured in a CSS Policy Perspective; shortlisted as finalist for the Early Career Award of the SAGW)
  8. **Steinert C** & Weyrauch D. (2024) “The Belt and Road Initiative and voting patterns in the UN General Assembly.” *Research & Politics* 11(1).
  9. **Steinert C.** (2024) “Policy-specific human rights shaming: Evidence from the Other Letters of the UN Special Procedures.” *Journal of Human Rights* 23(4): 385–403.
  10. Horz C, Marbach M, & **Steinert C.** (2023) “Environmental pollution and authoritarian politics.” *Journal of Politics* 85(2): 524-536. (\*Honorable Mention for the Joseph Bernd Award of the SPSA for the best paper published in JOP in 2023)
  11. Schulte F & **Steinert C.** (2023) “Repression and backlash protests: Why leader arrests backfire.” *International Interactions* 49(1).
  12. **Steinert C** & Dworschak C. (2023) “Political imprisonment and protest mobilization.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 67(7-8): 1564–1591. (\*Recipient of the Peace Science Society Will H. Moore III Prize & the NEPS medal 2023, featured in *Political Violence at a Glance*)
  13. **Steinert C.** (2023) “The impact of domestic surveillance on political imprisonment: Evidence from the former GDR.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 67(1): 38-65.
  14. **Steinert C.** (2023) “The duration of political imprisonment: Evidence from China.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 40(4): 349-372. (\*Featured in the *Uyghur Rights Monitor*; 2023 Glenn Palmer Prize for the best article published in CMPS)
  15. Weyrauch D & **Steinert C.** (2022) “Intrinsic or instrumental? Human rights alignment in intergovernmental organizations.” *Review of International Organizations* 17: 89-115.
  16. **Steinert C.** (2021) “Who is a political prisoner?” *Journal of Global Security Studies* 6(3). (\*Featured in the *Amnesty Journal*)
  17. **Steinert C** & Ruggeri A. (2020) “Who are our experts? Predictors of participation in expert surveys.” *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy* 26(4).
  18. **Steinert C.** (2019) “Trial fairness before impact: Tracing the link between post-conflict trials and peace stability.” *International Interactions* 45(6): 1003-1031. (\*Featured in *Political Violence at a Glance*)
  19. **Steinert C**, Carey S & Steinert J. (2018) “Spoilers of peace: Pro-government militias as risk factors for post-conflict recurrence.” *Journal of Peace Research* 56(2): 249-263. (\*Featured in the *Oxford University Politics Blog*)
  20. **Steinert C** & Yordanova N. (2016) “Alliance with the enemy: Why the CDU and the Greens formed their first coalition in a large German federal state?” *German Politics* 25(1): 54-72.
  21. **Steinert C** et al. (2016) “Impact of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UN-CRPD) on mental health care research – a systematic review.” *BMC Psychiatry* 16:166.
  22. **Steinert C.** (2014) “Globale Verantwortlichkeit und traditionelles Souveränitätsdenken – Gründe für die Haltung zur Responsibility to Protect von nicht-westlichen Staaten.” *MenschenRechtsMagazin* 2/2014.

## Other publications

1. **Steinert C.** (2025) “Wie die Sprache der Suchanfragen in ChatGPT Informationen beeinflusst.” *AlgorithmWatch Gastbeitrag*, January 31, 2025.
2. **Steinert C.** (2024) “Reprisals for UN cooperation: The plight of human rights defenders in repressive states.” *Foraus-Blog*, July 23, 2024.
3. **Steinert C.** (2024) “Politische Gefangene und ihre Befreiung.” *Für Vielfalt. Zeitschrift für Menschen- und Minderheitsrechte*, Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, 55, 3/2024.
4. **Steinert C.** (2024) “UN Human Rights Council members: Champions or challengers of human rights?” *Foraus-Blog*, May 6, 2024.

5. **Steinert C.** (2024) “How independent are independent human rights experts?” *Foraus-Blog*, January 12, 2024.
6. **Steinert C.** (2023) “Unequal access to UN human rights bodies.” *CSS Policy Perspective of the ETH Zurich Center for Security Studies*, Volume 11/6.
7. **Steinert C.** (2023) “Was ist politische Haft?” *Amnesty Journal*, 04/2023, pp. 60-61.
8. **Steinert C.** (2023) “Putting ideas behind bars: Here’s why it doesn’t work.” *Political Violence at a Glance*, January 5, 2023.
9. **Steinert C.** (2022) “Why do Russia and Ukraine exchange their prisoners?” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage*, May 28, 2022.
10. **Steinert C.** (2021) “Unknown identities: The political prisoners of Xinjiang.” *Political Violence at a Glance*, January 27, 2021.
11. **Steinert C.** (2020) “When states obscure illegal imprisonments.” *OpenGlobalRights* (published in English and Arabic), October 5, 2020.
12. **Steinert C.** (2020) “Freiheit für Kriminelle, Lebensgefahr für politische Gefangene in der Türkei.” *TAZ blogs*, June 16, 2020.
13. **Steinert C.** (2019) “Beware of victor’s justice.” *Political Violence at a Glance*, August 30, 2019.
14. **Steinert C.** (2019) “The Peacemaker’s Paradox: Pursuing Justice in the Shadow of Conflict.” By: Priscilla Hayner. Book review published in *Journal of Peace Research - Book Notes* 2019.
15. **Steinert C.** (2018) “Why pro-government militias spoil peace agreements.” *OXPOL: The Oxford University Politics Blog*, July 28, 2018.
16. **Steinert C.** (2017) “United People Organization. A vision for progress and a better world order.” *The Lighthouse Journal of the Oxford International Relations Society* Issue 14/ Hilary Term.
17. Schilling-Vacaflor A, **Steinert C.** (2017) “(Neo-)Extraktivismus statt nachhaltiger Entwicklung: Grenzen des lateinamerikanischen Wachstumsmodells.” In: *Entwicklungstheorie von heute - Entwicklungspolitik von morgen*. Burchardt et al. (ed.). Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlag.
18. **Steinert C.** (2016) “The impact of societal preferences on national monetary policy outcomes: A revival of economic pluralism.” *Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science* 31(2): 26-52.

## Working papers

<i>R&amp;R</i>	“Police abuse during protests: Ideology and public beliefs about misconduct.” (with <a href="#">Kristine Eck</a> ); <i>Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of Politics</i>
<i>Under review</i>	“The illiberal challenge to the liberal international order: Evidence from the UN Human Rights Council.” (with <a href="#">Valentin Lang</a> )
<i>Under review</i>	“When autocracies dominate in international organizations: Evidence from the UN Committee on NGOs.”
<i>In progress</i>	“A global human rights monitoring dataset: Tracking state evasion and obstruction.” (with <a href="#">Jana Lipps</a> & <a href="#">Gino Pauselli</a> )
<i>In progress</i>	“Emotions in international assemblies: Debating human rights in the UN Human Rights Council.” (with <a href="#">Simon Hug</a> & <a href="#">Jascha Grübel</a> )
<i>In progress</i>	“International complaint mechanisms and state respect for human rights.” (with <a href="#">Hannah Smidt</a> )
<i>In progress</i>	“Beyond borders: Experimental evidence on universalist and cultural relativist beliefs.” (with <a href="#">Tobias Risse</a> & <a href="#">Stefanie Walter</a> )
<i>In progress</i>	“Hiding or deterring dissent? Mapping the global prison population.” (with <a href="#">Melanie Sauter</a> )
<i>In progress</i>	“A latent variable measure of trust in repressive state institutions.” (with <a href="#">Christopher J. Fariss</a> & <a href="#">Kristine Eck</a> )

## Awards

1. NEPS medal for the best publication in Peace Science in 2023
2. Will H. Moore III Prize of the Peace Science Society for the best publication in 2023
3. Glenn Palmer Prize for the best article published in Conflict Management and Peace Science in 2023

4. Honorable Mention for the Joseph Bernd Award of the SPSA for the best paper published in the Journal of Politics in 2023
5. Prof. Bojanovsky doctoral dissertation prize in 2022
6. Aquila Ascendens, junior researcher prize for security policy, 2nd prize in 2019
7. Archibald Jackson Prize from Somerville College (Oxford) for academic achievements in 2018
8. Scheffelpreis, German essay award in 2011
9. Student competition of the German Federal Agency for Political Education, 3rd prize in 2010

### Conference and workshop presentations

2026	Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Congress
2025	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO) Conference at Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts, Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS) Conference in Barcelona, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Congress, Human Rights Council Workshop at the University of Geneva
2024	Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS) conference in Dublin, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Congress in St. Gallen, AFK Methods Workshop in Berlin, International Studies Seminar Series University of Konstanz, Research Colloquium University of Geneva, Research Colloquium Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights Vienna, Global Governance Talk Series at the Geneva Graduate Institute
2023	International Studies Association (ISA) in Montréal, Center for Security Studies Research Colloquium ETH Zurich, CCEW Symposium 2023 at the Center for Crisis Early Warning University of the Bundeswehr Munich
2022	European Political Science Association Conference (EPSA) in Prague, Comparative Politics Workshop at Texas A&M, Congreso Internacional de Sostenibilidad, Ibero University, México City
2021	International Studies Association Conference (ISA), European Political Science Association Conference (EPSA), Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference (NEPS), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Swiss Political Science Association Conference, AFK Workshop on Empirical Research on Peace and Conflict, University of Essex, Conflict Research Colloquium
2020	American Political Science Association (APSA) Conference, Workshop on Conflict Dynamics at Nuffield College Oxford, Essex Conflict Research Colloquium
2019	AFK Workshop on Empirical Research on Peace and Conflict in Bonn, Joint Annual Conference of the German & Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA) in Basel
2018	Centre for the Study of African Economies Conference at the University of Oxford (CSAE)

### Grants, fellowships, and scholarships

11/2025	Grant	IPZ Inequality Research Fund for the project “Geography of Prisons” (9,672 CHF)
04/2025	Grant	GRC short grant of the University of Zurich for the project “How Autocracies Shape Civil Society Access to the UN” (1,740 CHF)
11/2024	Grant	Travel grant of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences for the PEIO conference at Harvard University (1,000 CHF)
09/2024	Grant	IPZ Research Grant University Zurich (1,300 CHF) for the project “Backlash against Civil Society Participation in International Organizations”
01/2024	Grant	Green Box Research Fund of the University of St. Gallen (10,000 CHF) for the research project “Attitudes Towards Arms Exports in European Democracies”
07/24-06/26	Fellowship	SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swiss transitional measure for Marie Curie Fellowships (115,276 CHF per annum)
06/23-05/26	Fellowship	External Fellowship at the Mannheim Center of European Social Research

03/23-02/25	Fellowship	International Postdoctoral Fellowship (IPF) University of St. Gallen (76,006 CHF per annum)
02/20-08/21	Scholarship	Doctoral Scholarship of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (17,400€ per annum)
01/18-08/19	Scholarship	Student Scholarship of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (13,600€ per annum)
2018	Grant	Somerville College Alice Horseman Grant
2018	Grant	Somerville College Development Award (£2000)
02/14-08/17	Scholarship	Friedrich Ebert Foundation (3,600€ per annum)
2011	Scholarship	Glemser Scholarship for Future Excellency, merit scholarship for best final grades in A-levels

## Teaching

University of Zurich

- 2026 BA tutorial 'Qualitative Methods' & lecture on 'The Logic of Case Selection'
- 2025 BA thesis colloquium 'Political Mobilization and Violence'
- 2024 MA seminar 'The United Nations and Human Rights'

German Institute of Global Area Studies (GIGA) Hamburg

- 2025 Data Visualization Course

University of St. Gallen

- 2023 BA tutorial 'Quantitative Methods' with lab sessions in R

University of Mannheim

- 2022 MA seminar 'Human Rights Politics'
- 2022 BA seminar 'Human Rights Violations during Peace & Conflict'
- 2022 BA seminar 'Varieties of Authoritarianism'
- 2021 BA seminar 'Autocratic Politics and State Repression'
- 2019 BA seminar 'Human Rights Violations during Peace & Conflict'

University of Innsbruck

- 2021 BA lecture 'Applied Quantitative Research Methods' with lab sessions in R

Oxbridge Summer School at the University of Oxford

- 2017 Introductory seminar 'Introduction to International Relations'

## Other academic activities

Peer review

American Journal of Political Science; International Studies Quarterly; Comparative Political Studies; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Review of International Organizations; Review of International Political Economy; Journal of Human Rights; Political Science Research and Methods; International Interactions; Journal of Global Security Studies; Research and Politics; International Peacekeeping; Social Movement Studies; The International Journal of Human Rights; Defence and Peace Economics; Ethnopolitics; BMC Public Health; PLOS ONE; Democratization; Security Journal; Global Policy; Journal of Contemporary China; International Journal of Public Administration; The International Trade Journal; Emerging Markets Finance and Trade; Medicine, Conflict and Survival; Conflict Resolution Quarterly; Cognet Social Sciences; Fulbright Junior Research Award

Departmental service

Volunteer in the Peer Mentoring Program at the University of Zurich (2025); Member of the selection committee for a PhD position at the Chair of International Relations at the University of St. Gallen (2024); Environmental policy co-officer at the Chair of Comparative Politics in St. Gallen (2023-2024); Volunteer in the Buddy Program at the University of Mannheim (2021-2022); Academic representative for

the appointments committee of the W3-professorship in Social Data Science at the University of Mannheim (2021)

#### Workshops organized

External Relations Manager for the Oxford Transitional Justice Research Network (OTJR), co-organized a weekly seminar series on transitional justice research at the University of Oxford (2017-2018); co-organized the Conflict & Change Workshop at the University of St. Gallen (2023-2024)

#### Workshops moderated

Swiss Summer School in Democracy Studies at the University of Zurich (2023)

#### Professional roles

V-Dem Country Expert for Germany

### In the media

Radio Free Europe (2025) [Who is a political prisoner, and what types are there? \(in Kazakh\)](#)  
SRF (2025) [Lieferketten: Beeinflussen ethische Standards den Preis?](#)  
Umweltdialog (2025) [Lieferkettengesetze: Keine ökonomischen Nachteile laut Langzeitstudie](#)  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (2024) [Wie ChatGPT bewaffnete Konflikte befeuert](#)  
Bayrischer Rundfunk (2024) [ChatGPT und Konflikte: Sprache der Frage beeinflusst die Antwort](#)  
Netzwoche (2024) [Sprache verzerrt ChatGPT-Informationen bei bewaffneten Konflikten](#)  
RSI Radiotelevisione Svizzera (2024) [ChatGPT distorce le informazioni in base alla lingua](#)  
Radio Television Suisse (2024) [Les réponses de ChatGPT sur les conflits différent en fonction de la langue](#)  
Swissinfo.ch (2024) [Medio Oriente: ChatGPT distorce le informazioni in base alla lingua](#)  
Neue Luzerner Zeitung (2024) [ChatGPT informiert partiisch über kriegerische Konflikte](#)  
MSN Suisse (2024) [Selon la langue choisie, les informations de ChatGPT divergent](#)  
Handelszeitung (2024) [Sprache verzerrt Informationen von ChatGPT im Nahostkonflikt](#)  
MyScience.Org (2024) [User Language Distorts ChatGPT Information on Armed Conflicts](#)  
Scinexx Wissenschaftsmagazin (2024) [ChatGPT: Wie die Nutzersprache die Infos verändert](#)  
MDR Aktuell Hörfunk (2022) [Radio interview on prisoner exchanges between Russia and Ukraine](#)

### Selected professional experiences

German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)

07/22-01/23 Evaluator for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

07/18-09/18 Internship in the UN Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division

Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative & United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

05/18-07/18 Data Analysis for the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

German Institute of Global Area Studies (GIGA)

06/16-07/16 Research internship in the Latin America section

Human Rights Centre, University of Potsdam

07/14-08/14 Research internship with Prof. Norman Weiss

State Parliament Baden-Württemberg

01/14-02/14 Internship in the parliamentary consulting section

## Selected voluntary work

### Amnesty International

01/09-present Formerly elected as head of a student group, currently member  
Head of youth group in Ravensburg (2010-2011), press officer of student group in Heidelberg  
(2012-2013) & member of student groups in Oxford and Mannheim

### Caritas Buddy-Project for refugees

01/18-10/21 Language buddy for refugees from Syria and the Gambia  
Voluntary German lessons for refugees in reception centers of the city of Mannheim

### Student Initiative for Children

10/15-06/16 Elected as national deputy head  
Organisation of the student-run initiative that organises free tutoring by students for more  
than 1.000 socially disadvantaged pupils

### St. Christopher's School, Bristol (UK)

09/11-03/12 Voluntary service as teaching assistant in a school for mentally disabled children  
1:1-support of a pupil with autism; support of classroom and sports activities

## Skills

### Additional training

Certificate of University Teaching (Lehre Kompakt) at the University of Zurich

### Languages

German (native speaker); English (fluent); Spanish (fluent); French (basic knowledge)

### Software

R (advanced), Excel (advanced), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(advanced), Stata (intermediate), Python (intermediate), Github  
(intermediate), Qualtrics (intermediate), PostgreSQL (intermediate), QGIS (basics), SPSS (basics)

## References

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