



Request for research proposals

Institutional legacies of violent conflict

Background

The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) is requesting research proposals on the [Institutional legacies of violent conflict](#). Proposals for original research that speak to the core themes of this project and offer strong empirical or theoretical contributions will be considered.

One of the most critical challenges in international development today is to understand how best to support peace, security, economic recovery, and legitimate political authority in countries affected by political instability and violent conflict – where more than 1.5 billion people currently live. While peace and stability are central to the prosperity and security of countries and their citizens, we currently have a limited understanding of how and why violent conflicts persist in modern times, how and why their legacies endure across time and what can be done at the policy and practical levels to reduce the risk and impact of violence.

This project seeks to fill these gaps in knowledge and policy. The goal is to increase understanding among policymakers, academics and practitioners of how institutional dynamics that develop during violent conflicts shape state-building and economic development trajectories in the long run, in order to provide policy guidance on achieving SDG 16. The project will include theory-building combined with the use of empirical data at the individual, household, community, and national levels. Topics covered include (but are not limited to):

- Rebel governance in wartime and implications for peace- and state-building processes;
- The political legacies of armed conflicts in terms of voting attitudes;
- Preferences and political participation;
- The long-term human capital consequences of violent conflicts; and
- Citizen mobilization and implications for democracy, peace- and state-building in post-conflict societies.

We seek to commission research papers from researchers working in conflict analysis, peacebuilding, and related fields who would like to contribute to the project. We are particularly interested in papers with a strong empirical contribution on the broad theme of the long-term institutional legacies of violent conflicts, but welcome also strong theoretical contributions with relevance to this area of research. As part of the project, researchers are asked to take part in a UNU-WIDER workshop to take place tentatively in May 2022.

Offer and expectations

UNU-WIDER invites proposals from qualified researchers for papers examining the institutional legacies of violent conflict. The aim is that these papers will be published in high-quality journals in economics, political science, development studies, or related fields after publication in the WIDER Working Paper Series. The papers need to be written in English and should be limited to 10,000 words maximum (inclusive of text, tables, figures, footnotes, references).

Proposals from individuals (or groups of individuals) as well as non-profit organizations are welcome. Applications from women and developing country researchers are particularly encouraged.

Individual researchers will be issued UNU Consultant Contracts (CTC), while non-profit organizations will be issued UNU Institutional Contractual Agreements (ICA). A total research honorarium of US\$6,000 will be paid in two instalments: the first half after acceptance of the research proposal with methodology and data source, and the remaining half upon delivery of a final draft of a working paper¹. The first payment will be made following delivery of a satisfactory first draft paper, and the second payment will be made after submission and review of the revised full version of the working paper. The deliverables must be deemed acceptable by UNU-WIDER's project focal point before payment is made. The honorarium is expected to cover all expenses associated with the conduct of the proposed research (including data collection, research assistance, etc.). It is not required to submit a budget.

After payment has been made, researchers may be asked to respond to reasonable requests by the project co-ordinators and the UNU-WIDER Publication Team with respect to finalization of the working papers. While payments are thus made prior to journal publication, we ask that contributors make a professional commitment to submitting the paper to a peer-reviewed journal publication. After publication in the WIDER Working Paper Series, UNU-WIDER can transfer copyright back to the contract holder – any material published thereafter should carry due acknowledgement of UNU-WIDER as the original commissioning institute. One author of each successful proposal is expected to attend a project workshop in May 2022 (exact date and venue TBD). Costs of attending the workshop will be borne by UNU-WIDER in accordance with the United Nations University travel policy.

Dates (Eastern European (Summer) Time – EEST/EET)

1 June 2021	Launch of request of research proposals
15 July 2021	Final opportunity for questions on the request for research proposals.
30 July 2021	Proposal submission deadline
20 August 2021	Target date for informing on decisions.
15 March 2022	Target date for submission of first drafts of papers.
May 2022	Project workshop (exact date and venue TBD)
30 September 2022	Target date for submission of final papers

¹In cases of co-authorship the honorarium will be divided equally among the contributors.

Evaluation process and criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed for scientific merit and feasibility. Proposals will be selected on the basis of three criteria: (i) relevance to the research project, (ii) strength of theoretical or empirical contribution, and (iii) clarity of writing. Preference will be given to applications from early career and female scholars, as well as researchers from developing countries. Ideal applicants should hold a recent PhD in economics or a related field (or be near PhD completion). Only the final decision on whether to fund the proposal or not will be communicated to applying researchers. Applicants must not expect feedback on their proposals.

Other considerations

For successful proposals:

1. Researchers or their institutions (non-profit) will sign a consultant contract or an institutional contractual agreement with UNU-WIDER that follows the UNU conditions of service for Consultant Contracts (CTC), or Institutional Contractual Agreements (ICA).
2. Researchers/institutions will transfer copyright of research produced under the contract to UNU-WIDER. The purpose of this copyright transfer is to allow UNU-WIDER to effectively negotiate with editors of journals in order to seek the most desirable possible publication outlet for a related set of papers. If no (further) publication is to be expected by UNU-WIDER, the copyright can be transferred to the author(s).

Proposal submission details

1. Proposals for papers authored by one or multiple scholars will be considered. The proposal shall include: (1) an up-to-date CV for each author; and (2) an extended abstract of 500-1500 words that summarizes the research question, data, and proposed methods for the analysis in sufficient detail to warrant an evaluation.
2. Submission of proposals is done electronically by using the online application form on the RFRP announcement page. There are three forms to select from: one for individuals, another for groups of individuals, and a third for non-profit organizations. Details (such as address, gender, nationality, date of birth) of all researchers involved are to be entered onto the form. Please familiarize yourself with the form in advance.
3. Submission of a budget is not required for the proposal.
4. Any questions on the proposal process should be sent to researchproposal6@wider.unu.edu by 15 July 2021. All queries and responses will be published on the [RFRP announcement page](#). Selected answers will be updated on a rolling basis.